

Damascus Methodist Church
PO Box 307 (300 Valley Road)
Damascus, OH 44619

Church (330) 537-3031
Email: **office@dmc.church**
Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dmc.church
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

April 2026

TO LIVE FOR CHRIST IS TO STRIVE FOR HOLINESS AND SEEK THE LOST





April Newsletter 2026 It's Not Over, It's Just Beginning!

Luke 23: 45-47

*The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, “**Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!**” And with those words he breathed his last. When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.”*

In the heat of the day, after the torturous walk to Golgatha, Jesus died. For the non-Believer that was the end to this troublesome man. To the Disciples, they had witnessed so much. Miracles, Healings. Resurrection, and now Betrayal, Torture, and Death. And to the Jewish Pharisees and Sadducees, life was back to normal. The Pest was Gone!

But God had another Plan! Death was not the final breath! The Grave Could not contain him! And SUNDAY WAS COMING!

Yes, when God wants the Righteous to prevail, Big Change Happens!

Sunday morning Came, the Grave was empty, and Jesus was not there? What could have happened? Did they steal the Body? Why would they do this after such a Horrible Death?

The emotions were raw and the pain and anguish must have been overwhelming? How much more could the Believers Take?

Then the Angel Came! **“Do Not Be Afraid!”**
Everything Changed! JESUS IS ALIVE!

Because HE LIVES, We know what Love Is! We have Hope in our darkest times, We have one another because he made us all his children, and he's gone to prepare a place for us all. It's Called Paradise! GOD IS SO GOOD!

Happy Easter! Happy Resurrection Day! HE LIVES!

Matthew 28: 5-6

Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don't be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY Wednesdays 6:30—8:00 pm



April is gearing up to be a busy month for the youth group. We have plans to participate in various service opportunities both within and outside the church — including washing the church bus when the weather gets a bit warmer. Along with these opportunities, we will also attend the Encounter Youth Conference in Marengo, OH on April 24th-26th. With all that said, please be praying for all the students and adults who will be engaging in these activities!

In other youth group news, at the request of the teenagers, we have just now started a study into the book of Revelation. With everything going on the world, studying Revelation gives us the occasion to be reminded that every generation of Christians believed that they were living in the end times. In a sense, they were correct. Since Jesus ascended into Heaven and promised to return (Acts 1:6-11), we have been living in the end times — waiting in eager anticipation for the return of our Lord. Studying Revelation also reminds us that no matter how wicked the world becomes, no matter how terrible things may be, the Lord Jesus Christ will come and right every wrong and heal every wound of those who follow Him. As Jesus declared to John at the end of Revelation, “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End” (Rev. 22:12-13, NIV). We can be encouraged by the fact that the Lord will always be with us until the end of the ages (Matt. 28:20). We serve a God Who is holy and loving, and Who will not leave His people to suffer on their own and will not allow evil to exist forever. In other words, sin and evil in this world do not get the final word. To quote one of my professors from Asbury, “God bats last, and He's a slugger”.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, “*For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing*” (NIV).

Blessings,
Sam Bryan



Prayer Requests

World Peace

First Responders, military, veterans and families
Emily Brooks Milstead surgery for tumor (Sam)
Joyce Krahling still prayers for healing
Jan Buell prayers for health
Chris & Deb shivers lost house in fire

We will be soon be starting a new visitation list for our Shut-ins and those recovering from surgery/accidents, etc. If you are able to call them, send cards, or possibly visit in person, please consider doing this. Stay tuned for more information.

Coming Events:

Good Friday Services on April 3rd at Damascus Methodist @ 7:00 pm
Easter **Sonrise** Breakfast on Sunday, April 5th at DMC
8:45-9:45 am

April 7th Missions Mtg @ 6:30 pm
April 14th Bennett Scholarship Mtg @ 6:30 pm
Saturday, April 18th Community Breakfast
Sunday, April 26th Dinner & Concert with “Renewal” @ 4:30 pm



Sunday April 26th at 6:00pm
Damascus Methodist Church
300 Valley Rd.
Damascus, OH 44619
Come join us for a great night of Gospel Music!!!
Food will be served at 4:30
For more information;
Call or text 330-323-7066 or 330-519-7720

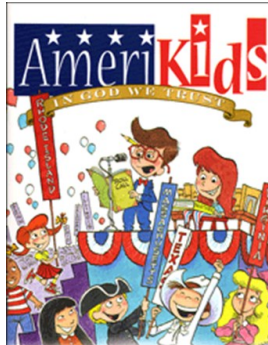
COMING SOON: VBS June 7-11, 2026
6:00-8:30 pm



Save the Date...Sunday, May 17th

The kids will be presenting a Spring musical called

“Amerikids...In God we Trust” in celebration of America’s up-coming 250th birthday! Come and join the annual AmeriKids Convention in progress as delegates Yacky Doodle (Convention Chairman), Miss Dorian (Historian), Pip Squeak (from Rhode Island) and others learn about the faith that made our country great. Hear seldom-heard words from such historical figures as Benjamin Franklin, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and learn of the early 18th-century AmeriKids’ faith in the Bible, in prayer, in God’s protection and in salvation through Jesus Christ. The musical will also include and recognize those who have served and are serving in our armed forces. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details about this event.



From your Lay Leader ...
Defense Is The Best Offense

April 2026

Baseball Season is Alive and Well! We have patiently waited the whole brutally long winter for that sure sign of Spring known as Baseball – America’s Favorite Past Time. Those of us who care about the best sport in the world know two things for sure. First: “Baseball is the only sport in the world where the defense has the ball.” And second: “Pitching and defense wins championships, kid.” These two facts were drilled into our heads from the time our tiny hands grew big enough to throw and catch a regulation size ball. When our kids were little, I had Hannah on Jonny’s team when I coached. She was far better a player than most of the three-year old boys on the team... but I digress. At some point all of us get told that we “cannot play baseball anymore.” If we love the game though, we still play as some level, still study the game and still watch as much of it as we get the opportunity to. The Christian life is different. We are never too old, too infirmed or too anything to serve Christ in some way. We are all unique and have been prepared in unique ways to have just the right message to just the right people set in our path by The Creator of The Universe.

Recently, we had the opportunity to attend the “Apologia Conference” that was put on by the Battle Creek Friends Church and hosted at Salem First Friends Church. Our own Sam Bryan conducted two of the breakout sessions. It was very insightful and we learned a lot. The word Apologia means “speaking in defense” in Greek. We learned many ways that archeology is discovering (or literally uncovering) proof of the claims of The Bible. We learned how to recognize false teachers and false prophets (thanks Sam) in today’s world. All-in-all we learned how to give a defense for the Faith we have, just as it says in 1st Peter and elsewhere in God’s Word. **1st Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”** It’s the “always be ready” part that many of us struggle with. One time I had a chance to take a long car ride with a colleague. If you spend more than an hour with me, most of the time Jesus will come up in some form or fashion. This day was no exception and I came to realize (because he told me in no uncertain terms) that this guy, who I thought I had known for a few years, was an atheist. Well, when someone you know and respect tells you that their faith is in nothingness... it’s time to go to work for Christ. I don’t remember hardly anything that I said that day but I know that God had a message for my friend and he was using my mouth as a vessel to deliver that message. They say that experience is the best teacher and that experience has never left my memory. I remember that I had more questions than answers at the time but all of the questions were rooted in solid faith and confidence in what Jesus Christ did on that cross. In all the years since that encounter, I have worked to build a better defense and a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ. It is through prayer, worship, studying His Word, spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ, and learning events like the one we just had that we grow our relationship with Christ and firm up our defense in order to build a strong and un-breakable Faith in Jesus Christ. Always be ready, Friends.

Steven Sprague – Lay Leader
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Birthdays April

4/9 Walt Pontious
4/10 Ida Ford
4/10 Abby Heverly
4/10 Brittany Sprague
4/12 Andrew Coffee
4/13 Barb Zura
4/14 Adalynn Mossow (1)
4/15 Marylee Blasiman
4/16 Michelle Papic
4/18 Wanda Book
4/21 Pam Denny
4/22 Troy Uphold
4/23 Codey Dettweiler
4/24 Jahmaray Williams
4/26 Janice Glaspell
4/28 Zachary Westover II



4/22 Don & Barb Jones

Please inform the church office if your birthday or anniversary has ever been omitted from the Damascus Doings

Counters

Art Johanson
& Barb Karlen

Bus Driver

Steve Sprague

Acolytes

4/5 Triston Beagle
& Kara Zion
4/12 Max Weingart
& Elise Smith
4/19 Sawyer Anderson
& Stella Smith
4/26 Wyatt Schulze
& Addie Zion

Children's Rotation:

Sunday School

4/5 "Son Rise" Breakfast
4/12 Linda Henderson
4/19 Lois Niederhiser
4/26 Shaunda Uphold

Junior Church

4/5 Lois Niederhiser
4/12 Program Practice
4/19 Program Prac
4/26 Program Prac

Wee Worship

4/5 Shaunda Uphold
4/12 Abby Heverly
4/19 Grayson Anderson
4/26 Abby Heverly

Nursery

4/5 Denise Linder
4/12 Terrie Rohrer
4/19 Amy Shoaff
4/26 Samara Anderson

Floater

4/5 Andrea Altenhof
4/12 Jamie Weingart
4/19 Vicky Smith
4/26 Katie Tedrow

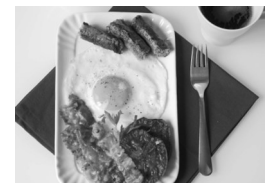
Summer Mission Trip June 21 – June 27, 2026

Our group is extremely excited about this year's trip. I am very excited about some more new faces on the trip. The old faces are exciting too! We have made our decision. We will be returning to Jackson Area Ministries in Jackson, OHIO. Cost is only **\$100.00** each for those helping with the Breakfasts. Wow! All our trips have been very successful and thrifty, even with high fuel costs. Please prayer fully consider coming on the trip this next summer. Our plan is to stay at the Haverhill UMC as last year. The Church there provides great kitchen, showering and sleeping arrangements. I can guarantee you will not regret your decision to join us! Our fundraisers are already in full swing with the Community Breakfast every third Saturday at our DMC. Stay tuned to your Sunday bulletin and listen for special announcements regarding the trip and fundraisers!

Building and repairing for Christ, Lenny

P.S. We need adults, both men and women! Please consider coming along. Remember its NOT too late to go...the trip is open to all Youth and Adults...grade 7 and up!!!!

DMC Community Breakfast
Saturday, April 18th
7-10:30 am



DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

April 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	2 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's & Women's Bible Study MAUNDY THURSDAY	3 Good Friday Service @ DMC 7:00 pm	4
5 Easter SONRISE Breakfast 8:45 am Happy Easter! 10:00 am Worship	6	7 8:30 am WB Minis Mtg YAG 6:30 pm Missions Comm 6:30	8 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	9 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's & Women's Bible Study 6:30 Ruritans	10	11
12 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	13	14 YAG 6:30 pm Bennett Scholarship Mtg 6:30 pm	15 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	16 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's & Women's Bible Study	17	18 Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am
19 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	20 No Council	21 YAG 6:30 pm Blood Drive 1-6 pm	22 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	23 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Bible St Women's Bible St	24	25 Houshour Wedding At DMC
26 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship Dinner & Concert 4:30	27 7:00 Trustees Mtg	28 YAG 6:30 pm	29 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	30 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Bible St Women's Bible St		