

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 – Wednesdays 6:30-8

“Damascus Doings”

August 2026

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

**Learn more about your church and
how it operates! Join a committee
and you will be blessed!**
**Also consider helping with our Community
Breakfast Outreach!**





“Those Dog Days of Summer”

Psalm 107: 1-2

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

Greeting in the name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! It’s hard to believe that I sit here on a late July morning thinking about the speed of time and seasons. We are deep into the Summer season right now, Heat, Rain, crops, and vacations are filling our calendars with so much to do! So I come to you as your Pastor and ask you to remember Christ’s Church. As we travel and keep busy with life please remember to help Christ’s Church continue to be strong and working. The Summer lull in giving really set the church back for preparing for the Fall and Winter. So prayerfully consider digging deep and remember your Church when paying those bills. Secondly give directly to the General Fund. While it’s wonderful to give to Special projects and designated funds, it is also essential to keep the lights on, the staff paid, and the needs of the Church going strong. Designated giving should be our second mile giving, after General Funds. Thank you for prayerfully continuing your support of The Damascus Methodist Church!

Secondly, Let’s bathe the Church in Prayer during this season of Change and Transition. A lot is happening between now and late October when I retire. We have a New Young Pastor in Sam Bryan, coming with his lovely wife and daughter and God has blessed us with a chance to receive a new way forward with Youth, vitality, and strength. Please cover them in Prayer as this season of transition begins. I truly believe that Sam & Molly were a gift from God to help guide The DMC into the future. I beg you to cover them in prayer and support.

Finally, Please also lift Jenny and I up in prayer as we begin a new season on ministry in our lives down in South West Florida. I know God has a plan and I am excited to see what he will be doing, yet our hearts are broken as we leave all of you that have blessed us these last 3 + years. Please continue to stay strong, Trust in God’s plan, and be apart of the future of Damascus Methodist Church as we move forward!

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Jon

Psalm 37: 3-5

Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm Young Adult Group (YAG) Tuesdays 6:30-8

The summer here at Salt Youth has been both a busy one and a relaxed one. In June, the students had the opportunity to have a lot of fun and serve. During the week of VBS, since the teens couldn’t meet in their regular spot, Molly took them to Kast Iron Soda Works in Salem. I am told they had loads of fun and were able to have good candid conversations about how the Lord is working in their lives. That next week, several students of the youth group and I performed various tasks at the church like washing the church bus and van, putting up a snow fence near the tree line to catch balls, cleaning up around the church, etc. As a reward for their hard work, I took the teens to Chick-Fil-A for youth group that night, and we got to study the Word while enjoying a delicious meal. At the time of writing this, youth group has been on hiatus for about two weeks due to the birth of my daughter. The plan is to relaunch Salt Youth on August 12th and jump right back into things. With that said, if you are a teenager, you’re invited to youth group, and if you know a teenager, send them to youth group!

One of the last lessons I taught the kids before we went on hiatus had to do with what we are ultimately called to do as Christians. Mark 12:29-31 reads, “²⁹ Jesus answered, ‘The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (ESV). All Christians are called to love God with their whole beings. There is not a part of our lives that should be kept from God. That is why Scripture so describes this love as encompassing mind, soul, heart, and strength; it covers every aspect of our being. This is what it means to live a holy life. We are not made holy by simply following rules or social conventions. We are made holy when the love of God so fills our hearts that sin loses all its appeal. The natural consequences of being so filled by the love of God is that we will love our neighbors as ourselves. If God loves us completely and unconditionally and if He has filled us with that love, we can’t help but love each other. If we are to be perfect as the Heavenly Father is perfect (Matt. 5:48), we must love like God. This means we will the good for other people, serve them, and call them to repent and believe the Gospel. We serve a God who desires to make us holy and overflow our hearts with His love. We just have to seek Him out.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, “²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” (ESV).

Blessings, Sam Bryan

**Congrats to Sam and Molly on the birth of their
daughter, Rosalynn Grace!**

Praise Reports
5 DMC children attended Camp Carl!

Prayer Requests



World Peace, First responders, military, veterans and families

Ralph Landon home after hospital stay

Larry Zielke recovering from procedure

Rev Buell recovering from stroke symptoms

Family of Shirley Steer who passed 7/17/26

Family of Gail Murphy who passed 7/18/26



**THE FORGE PICNIC is coming on Thursday,
August 20th at 6:00pm!**

Our Men’s Study group is having a FAMILY PICNIC to celebrate God’s
Love in our lives! Forge Family Members and **anyone else interested in
Joining the group are welcome to come!**

Youth Outing!



Bennett Memorial Scholarship Update

The Bennett Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce \$4,000 was dispersed and awarded to four students for the Fall Semester 2026. Recipients attend the following universities: Luther Seminary, Ashland Theological Seminary, Mount Vernon University, and Malone University. We also dispersed \$1,000 to the Global Methodist Church Scholarship Fund.

The Bennett Memorial Scholarship was established in 1982 in memory of Lea “Dutch” Bennett and also in 1996 in memory of Barney Bennett., and 2024 in memory of Janice Bennett. This scholarship provides financial assistance to undergraduate students or seminary students who are pursuing service in Christian ministry such as pastoral ministry, missionary service, religious education, youth ministry, or music ministry. In 2025, \$3,000 was dispersed and awarded to six students attending Asbury Theological Seminary, Luther Seminary, Ashland Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary, and Malone University.



2027 Budget Requests:

All committees and others who have submitted budget requests in the past are being asked to submit their 2027 Budget Requests to the Finance Committee on or before Monday, August 31, 2026. These requests can be placed in the Finance mail slot in the workroom or given to Dave or Amy. Thank you in advance for your timely response.

Next Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday, September 8, 2026 5:30 pm

Requirements for 2026 DMC budget per week: \$4039.00

Offerings received so far 7/27/26 \$130,390.56

Expenses so far for 2026 -\$128,374.65

Balance of General Fund \$2015.91

Mission Trip 2026

This year’s trip was cancelled due to an unexpected death of an immediate family member of one of our members. This incident put our Member total too low to successfully commit to fully finishing the projects they had planned for us. We decided to cancel rather than start something we could not finish. We fulfilled our monetary commitment to the Jackson Area Ministries for the projects planned. We were able to work with our local contact there to coordinate other local groups to fulfill our commitment. Our group is planning on a new Trip in the summer of 2027. We are actively needing new Members for the trip and help for the Monthly Breakfast. Please contact a Member or Lenny at (330) 550-8733. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful support!

Breakfast Help

Our Monthly Community breakfast is in immediate need of help. We serve on the third Saturday of the Month. We have been blessed to be serving ever increasing crowds of locals. This outreach is a huge part of what we as the Damascus Methodist Church represents as an Outreach Church. Please consider giving us what time you can to help. We need runners, table cleaners, and even cooks. Our dream is to have a couple of full crews to work different months to make the commitment easier. The workday lasts from 0700-1130. This includes cleanup. Please contact a team member or myself at (330) 550-8733.

Ministry Survey for Damascus Methodist Church.

Dear church family, God calls each of us to Serve his Church and Kingdom in different ways. As we continue to grow and vision ourselves for the future, we need individuals who can step up and help in many areas of church leadership and service. Below are some examples of Ministry teams that we need to increase numbers in for the **2027 year**. Please prayerfully consider where you can help be part of the future of God’s Church.

Endowment Team:

Finance Team:

We Care Ministries Team:

Church History Team:

Missions Team:

Nominations Team:

Staff Parrish Relations Team:

Bennett Scholarship Team:

Trustees Team:

Worship Team:

If You would like to talk about or serve on one of these teams, just Check an X beside the teams that interest you and leave your name and phone number and we will be in touch to answer any questions.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

From your Lay Leader ...

Conference Highlights

July/August 2026

As I write this article, we are just returning from the 2026 Annual Conference of the Allegheny West Conference of the Global Methodist This was officially the third Annual Conference, however it was actually the fourth gathering of the whole conference if we count the inaugural annual conference. At the inaugural conference, the provisional Allegheny West Conference of the Global Methodist Denomination, or as Bishop Webb calls it – The Global Methodist Movement. I like that descriptor much better than “denomination.” Anyway, the theme at the inaugural conference was “Holy Conferencing” and it truly was. We were leaving the old way of annual conferencing and now had a new way to do it. It was and still is Holy Conferencing. The conferences are Holy Spirit filled, Holy Spirit lead, filled with Love and – can you believe it? – unanimity. After the inaugural conference, I thought “It will never get any better than this. Perhaps that thought comes out of denominational woundedness, but the old man in me did have the underlying thought (or fear – more on this later) that it couldn’t possibly get any better than that first conference. Both Pastor Jon and I had tears of joy. I know... hard to believe, right?

This got me thinking. Am I the only one in church that has a certain distrust for organized religion? This may be a strange question coming from a church newsletter but if you do, please rest assured that you are not the only one and your concerns are valid. In short, we deserve it. Ever since the reformation, we (the Church) has done plenty to erode the trust that we should have with congregants. However, I can say with confidence that The Global Methodist Movement is rooted in the God-inspired Scripture, Holy Spirit lead and all about spreading the Good News Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are very intentional about staying that way, never straying from The Truth and The Mission.

So, was the inaugural conference that best ever? Well, it certainly was but I am very please to say that it was surpassed this year. This year’s theme was “Multiply”. A very short summarization of this year’s conference can be found in the miracle in **Matthew 14:13-21 When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.** Only God can multiply in this way. We can and will come up with programs and whatever else we might do in an effort to reach the lost but it is only God that can accomplish His multiplication. It is our hope that through prayer and obedience to His callings that we see the miracle of a multiplied indwelling of The Holy Spirit. We have this Hope not in the worldly definition of hope but in The Godly definition of Hope. The confident expectation that God will do abundantly and exceedingly more than we can ever imagine with whatever little we offer to Him for the furtherance of The Kingdom. Blessed Assurance.



8/7 Sam Bryan
8/8 Carol Flickinger
8/9 Chris Zion
8/10 Scott Papic
8/12 Graham Lohnes (16)
8/12 Katie Tedrow
8/15 Carolyn Caldwell
8/15 Ruth Crouse (8)
8/16 Jenean Lamos
8/18 Kathryn Landon
8/19 Janice Hoover
8/22 Dalton Mincks
8/24 Barb Karlen
8/25 Bob Altenhof, Jr.
8/28 Grace Williams

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

Counters

Gary Mercer &
Barb Karlen

Bus Driver

Steve Sprague



8/5 Chris & Mandy Zion
8/13 Zach & Kayla Crouse
8/13 Carey & Jamie Weingart
8/15 Jerry & Tracie Stitle
8/20 Steve & Dina Sprague
8/22 Scott & Michelle Papic
8/27 Ray, Sr. & Mary Kay Heverly (65)

8/2 Triston Beagle/
Stella Smith
8/9 Addie Zion/
Wyatt Schulze
8/16 Sawyer Anderson/
Kara Zion
8/23 Max Weingart/
Elise Smith
8/30 Triston Beagle/
Lane Loving

Acolytes

Children's Rotation:

Sunday School

8/2 Lois Niederhiser
8/9 Lois N.
8/16 Shaunda Uphold
8/23 Lois N.
8/30 Linda Henderson
Junior Church
8/2 Steve Sprague
8/9 Lois Niederhiser
8/16 Troy Uphold
8/23 Lois N.
8/30 Brittany Sprague

Wee Worship

8/2 Grayson Anderson
8/9 Abby Heverly
8/16 Shaunda Uphold
8/23 Abby Heverly
8/30 Lois Niederhiser

Nursery

8/2 Terrie Rohrer
8/9 Amy Shoaff
8/16 Denise Linder
8/23 Samara Anderson
8/30 Amy Shoaff

Floater

8/2 Andrea Altenhof
8/9 Katie Tedrow
8/16 Vicky Smith
8/23 Jamie Weingart
8/30 Katie Tedrow

Come & Celebrate!

Join our Super “Sundae” celebration as we celebrate baptisms, new Bibles, and more!

“Sundae” September 13

We are having an “Ice Cream Social” right after Worship!

Celebrate God’s Blessings @ DMC and

Enjoy Faith, Family

&

“ICE CREAM”

Let’s Truly Make This A Bring A Friend “Sundae!”

Everything Is Provided & Served By The We Care Ministry Team!



******* If anyone would like to be baptized on this Sunday, please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Sam.**

CFF (Community Fellowship & Food) dinner at St. Ann’s Church
Monday, **August 10th** from 5-6:30 pm. This is a free dinner to those attending—This week will be sponsored by DMC Forge and WeCare.
If anyone is available to help with this, please see Denise Linder or Pastor Jon.

Alliance Pregnancy Center Open House!

Thursday, Aug 13, 2026 5-7 pm 75 Glamorgan St #104

Light Refreshments provided—RSVP by 8/6 330-821-7283

Save the Dates: Friday, Sept. 18th at 7:00 pm

Dan Gilder, our Allegheny West Assoc. Conference

Superintendent will be here.

***** Sunday, October 4th** during Worship and lunch afterwards.

Come and celebrate Pastor Jon’s retirement!

DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

August 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 SS 10:00 Worship	3 6:30 pm Nominating Comm Meeting	4	5	6 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study	7	8
9 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	10 CCF Dinner at St. Ann's Sebring—Sponsored by DMC Forge & WeCare	11	12 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	13 6:30pm Men's Bible 6:30 Ruritans Alliance Pregnancy Open House 5-7 pm	14	15 Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am
16 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	17	18 YAG 6:30 pm	19 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	20 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's FORGE picnic	21	22
23 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	24 6:30 pm Trustees Mtg	25 YAG 6:30 pm Blood Drive 1-6 pm	26 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	27 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	28	29
30	31					