

Damascus Methodist Church
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Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

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Church Website: www.dumcoho.org
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

December 2023

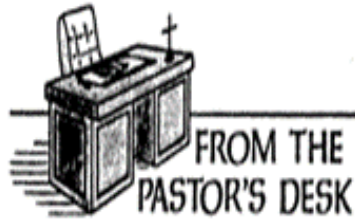
TO LIVE FOR CHRIST IS TO STRIVE FOR HOLINESS AND SEEK THE LOST

*“Let us
now go even unto
Bethlehem,
and see this*

*thing which
is come to
pass...”*



Luke 2:15



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVES
December 2023 Newsletter:
Pastors Moment
“ A Season of Unmerited Blessings”

Isaiah 7:14

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin^[a] will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).

Hello Church! I can’t believe that I’m sitting here typing a December newsletter insert! Wasn’t it just late June when we were moving here to Damascus? Didn’t we just celebrate the Fall, The Harvest, and Thanksgiving?

If it’s December, Oh My, there’s so much to do! Year End Reports, Income Tax Statements, Budget Analysis, Christmas Shopping, Family Gatherings, Social Get togethers, decorating my House, planning the Holiday Meals, and so on, and so on.

“Old Satan” would love us to get caught up in our own lives and forget the Journey of Advent and the blessing of the Christ Child. He would love to watch us “Melt Down” and “Pull Away” from the Advent Journey and the True Blessing of Christmas!

Beloved, we can’t let that happen! We Need to take this Journey, there are too many young, old, and in between minds that need to be guided to that Star in the East, to that Little town of Bethlehem, to that grungy manger of all places, where the Savior of the World Awaits us all!

Let’s make a Promise to God, to Jesus, The Church, and to One Another to take this Journey together so that we might be the Church of Tomorrow where the Light of Truth and Life Shines!

Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night! Guide me to that perfect Light!
We Are Christ Seekers, Do Not Be Afraid, Come and See what God is Doing!

Immanuel Is HERE!

We are Wishing Everyone a Blessed & Merry Christmas Season!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Jon & Jenny

Isaiah 9:6

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor,^[a] Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Souls After Living Truth News

The year 2023 is steadily winding down. With it comes reflection of all the youth have done. As I put together the yearbook, it became especially apparent that the youth were busy! Here’s a recap of our activities and our spiritual journey. Three youth willingly and joyfully were baptized - Abby Heverly, Ally Zion and T..J. Greenfield! *"Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."* Acts 2:38

The youth saw *The Jesus Resolution* movie in N. Canton and were quite moved. And, on another N. Canton trip to Center Ice Sports Complex we had a fun evening of ice skating. Camp Asbury Retreat was held in March. Bradley Detweiler, Ethan Detweiler, Kaylea Pinkerton, and T.J. Greenfield traveled to Hiram for three days of spiritual enlightenment on prayer and growing closer to God. All enjoyed wonderful fellowship and fun with the other youth. It was such a special time and we are blessed with wonderful memories!

A car wash was held in the spring and the youth presented the proceeds to Troy and Eric from the Jonathan David Foundation in support of Ukraine relief. It was a bittersweet ceremony to recognize our seniors, David Earnst, Ally Zion, and Kaylea Pinkerton. *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”* Isaiah 30:21. Seniors, you are forever in our hearts!

Summer and early fall were filled with swimming. The youth enjoyed a pool party at the Rohrer’s. Not even thunder dampened the day! Thank you, Terrie and Bruce! We also made an outing to Waldameer Amusement and Waterpark and Presque Isle State Park. With the help of the ‘kitchen ladies’, the youth held a well-attended spaghetti dinner. The youth personally presented a check to Clothed in Righteousness in Alliance.

The youth did some hiking in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The splendor of God’s handiwork is so awesome. We were even blessed with a ‘sign’ on the trail to show us the way. *So you see, God is with us.* 2 Chronicles 13:12
Fall brought fun with pumpkin carving and two sweet youth who came dressed as ‘a carton of milk and a chocolate chip cookie’ and passed out candy to all! The youth also helped with Operation Christmas Child by building and filling shoeboxes. There were many fun activities during game time and, of course, the new GaGa ball pit was a highlight!

Finally, each youth who led our devotion time and for all who participated, we were able to grow in our love of Christ Jesus. *Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace.* 2 Corinthians 13:11
Our youth enrich us in so many ways! You are all loved!
Blessings,
Linda Henderson

"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Men's Emmaus Walk #56
 West Branch Football Team doing well in playoffs
 West Branch had a state qualifier in cross country
 Pauline Wayne, Cathy and Rob Tedrow were in church
 Carol Harper has a new place to live
 Kathy Landon is home
 190 served at breakfast 11/18
 Lane Heverly (9 years old) – discharged home
 Shawn Heverly– no evidence of Crohn's at last colonoscopy



World Peace
 Government officials around the world
 First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families
 Sue Johanson– hospice care
 Liz Black (Dina's sister) – healing, pain relief
 Israel and Palestine
 Donna Lutz– strength
 Kathy Landon– healing & strength
 Pauline Wayne– healing & strength
 Sheila Lucas- health & healing
 Amabeli Family– changes and moving
 Len Niederhiser- beginning chemo for Hodgkin's Lymphoma



Family of Bev Karlen
 Family of Fedora in the Ukraine
 Family of Joe Yoder (Ruth Bruderly's brother)
 Tusk Valley families effected by the bus accident



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

Come and join us for a special celebration on Sunday, Dec. 17 during junior church and wee worship! We will come together and enjoy a Happy Birthday party for Jesus!
 (***) Please note that we will NOT be having Sunday School on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK A HUGE SUCCESS!!!



Thank you, church family for your wonderful support of Operation Christmas Child! Even as you are reading this, millions of shoeboxes are being processed and prepped for transport to continue their journey!
 Praise God for the 358 shoeboxes filled here at DMC! As a local drop-off, we collected, cartonized, and delivered 1,552 shoeboxes to the central drop-off in Poland, Ohio.
 Last year's central drop-off collected 10,999 shoeboxes.

This year's projected goal was 12,801. We are so thrilled to hear they collected 13,842!!!
 Please continue to pray for these Gospel opportunity shoeboxes as they continue on their journey to a special child God has chosen to receive this gift.
 We have already begun shopping and preparing for next year's shoeboxes! A special fund is established for Operation Christmas Child. Please prayerfully consider giving to this throughout the year so that we are able to pack even more shoeboxes!

In Christ, Your OCC Team



OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS ALMOST HERE! SUNDAY, DEC. 10 DURING 10:00 SERVICE

It's that time of year again! It's time for our annual Christmas program! This is such an exciting time of year. The kids and youth will be presenting an Out Of The Box Christmas on Sunday,

December 10, during the worship service. Come and enjoy this music-filled message that puts a unique twist on the telling of the Christmas story. We have a lot of kids and youth from the smallest to the tallest that have been practicing for weeks to prepare for this day!
 Invite your friends and neighbors to hear the Message proclaimed loud and clear! A special thank you to the adults who are helping to prepare for this special service, and to the parents and grandparents who are bringing their kids to the practices. And thank you, church family for supporting our program. The kids have all been doing a super job and are truly excited to share the Good News!

Clothed In Righteousness



December is our biggest month to receive donations. We are doing our best to make it a little easier by expanding our donation drop off days and times.

Please keep in mind, we don't accept household, home decor, christmas decor, expired food, and used undergarments.
BUT We will gladly accept gently used clothing, shoes, blankets, purses, backpacks, hygiene, laundry soap and nonperishable food items.



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Saturday December 16th
7:00AM-10:30AM
Donation Only
(change will be available)

Advent Series “The Songs of Christmas”



Dec 3rd: “Joseph”
“Come thou Long Expected Jesus”

Dec 10th: “The Shepherds”
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Dec 17th: “ The Wise Men”
“What Child is This”

Dec 24th: “The Nativity”
“Silent Night”

From your Lay Leader ...



Epic Year

December 2023

There was a time not too long ago when all the kids described nearly everything as epic. The phrase was “Epic Dude.”

The term has evolved in its meaning over the years but in most recent colloquialism it is synonymous with outstanding, fabulous or impressive.

Let me say this past year has been one epic year for Damascus Methodist Church. This year will stand out in our history as a time when we reaffirmed our commitment to God’s Word as we hold true to The Holy Bible.

Although the process was very involved and arduous, it was a necessary step. The best thing now though is that it is over and we can move forward without fear of reprisal from within our own organization.

We have not changed and will not change our strongly held conviction that **All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.** (2nd Timothy 3:16-17).

Besides changing denominations, we have become closer as a church family and reaffirmed our commitment to serving Jesus Christ.

Now that disaffiliation from the UMC and affiliation with the GMC is complete, we are excited to be moving forward, and moving forward we are indeed.

These are exciting times here at DMC. We are re-invigorated and raring to go.

We are reaching out to our community in new ways and expanding our existing outreach. We continue to support foreign missionaries in the pursuit of spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

We are blessed to hear challenging and encouraging messages every week that motivate us to serve while our faith walk is strengthened for the coming week. Now is a great time to invite a friend to come and see what they are missing.

Steven Sprague – Lay Leader
stevespra@gmail.com
cell 216-789-4650

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December Birthdays

- 1: Bradley Dettweiler
 Brienne Waggoner
- 4: Joey Sprague
- 5: Hannah Sprague
 Weston Weingart
- 8: Shirley Steer
- 11: Bonnie McDermott
- 13: Dick Stoffer
- 15: Ray Heverly
- 18: Landon Coffee
 Debbie Hawk
- 19: Mark Muckleroy
 Nikki Polley
- 25: Holly Morrow
- 27: Alan Cope
 Connor Linder



December Anniversaries

- 26: Dick & Shirley Stoffer
- 30: Rich & Jean Yoder
- 31: Daryl & April
 Dettweiler

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

Counters

Art Johanson &
Linda Henderson

Bus Drivers

Steve Sprague

Acolytes

- 3: Elise Smith &
 Stella Smith
- 10: Christmas Program
- 17: Corianna Hauter &
 Triston Beagle
- 24: Max Weingart &
 Lane Loving
- 31: Addie & Kara Zion

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School

- 3: Lois Niederhiser &
 Linda Henderson
- 10: Brittany Sprague &
 Lois Niederhiser
- 17: Lois Niederhiser &
 Shaunda Uphold
- 24: No Sunday School
- 31: No Sunday School

Junior Church

- 3: Program Practice
- 10: Program
- 17: Happy Birthday Jesus
- 24: No Jr Church
- 31: Steve Sprague &
 Abby Heverly

Wee Worship

- 3: Program Practice
- 10: Program
- 17: Happy Birthday Jesus
- 24: No Wee Worship
- 31: Brittany Sprague

Nursery

- 3: Denise Linder
- 10: Program
- 17: Holly Morrow
- 24: No Nursery
- 31: Amy Shoaff



Light Up Damascus Saturday, December 9th



Our church again is part of the Community Christmas Season Celebration. Barb Karlen is in charge of the vendors that will be here to sell at our Craft Show. Denise Linder will be handling the cookie sale, along with a delicious lunch counter. She is looking for helpers and cookie bakers. So mark your calendar for a great way to begin the holiday season. See your Flyer for a list of Community events.



Christmas Eve Breakfast at Damascus Methodist Church at 8:00 a.m. on December 24th. Join us for food and fellowship. Provided by the Staff of DMC.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th. Come and Light the World for the Birth of our Savior!





Damascus Methodist Church

December 2023

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



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1	2 8:30-11:30am TOPS In Ruritan Room
3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship—Kids Play Practice Staff Recognition Sunday 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	4 8:30am Light up Damascus Meeting 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	5 8:30am West Branch Ministerial Meeting 6:00pm to 7:30 pm Kids Practice 6:30pm Missions Committee Meeting	6	7 9:30am TOPS	8 Craft Show Set Up	9 Light Up Damascus 9:00 am –2:00 pm Craft Show 10:00am -11:30 am Kids Program Practice
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Kids Christmas Program 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	11	12 8:30am Mens Breakfast	13	14 9:30am TOPS 6:30pm Ruritans	15	16 7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	18 No Council Meeting	19	20	21 9:30am TOPS	22 Church Office Closed	23
24 8:00 Breakfast, (No SS) 10:00 Worship 7:00 Candlelight Service	25 Church Office Closed No Trustee Meeting	26	27	28 9:30am TOPS	29 Church Office Closed	30
31 No Sunday School, 10:00 Worship						