

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

Church (330) 537-3031
Email: office@dumcohoio.org
Pastor John Fitch: Phone: 419-651-7244
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M.

Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dumcohoio.org
Praise and Worship 11:15am Youth Group 6-8pm

Worship 10:00 A.M.

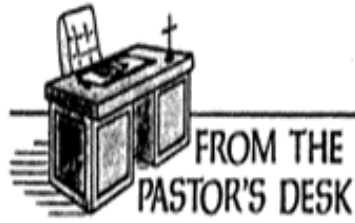
“Damascus Doings”

FEBRUARY 2023

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



PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVES February 2023



Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2 NIV

We all need friends and we need to be loved and appreciated by others as well as having an opportunity to reach out in true friendship of the kind that being in a church family offers. The great thing about having a church family and being involved is that we know the standards of how to do that better than any other human kind of gathering. This is because our Bible tells us to be completely humble. It's nice to meet a humble person and talk and relate with them.

Visiting over at Copeland Oaks yesterday I met a fellow pastor and also a Christian woman from this church and had such delightful conversations with them and I sensed their humility. Our talk was characterized by gentleness, and we patiently listened to each other, and we empathized with each other in stories of our times in life – things past – and it was ever so pleasant.

I had just helped the people to online view through Facebook Pat Gottschalk's memorial service from Pennsylvania. Elaine Tuel of Copeland Activities nicely set up the screen and laptop and various friends of Pat's gathered. Overall, it was just wall to wall good will, decency, pleasantness, good motives, clean consciences, loving memories, goodness to trust in the Lord, and great fellowship in the Holy Spirit.

Things like this happen when people are truly committed to the teachings of Paul, a prisoner of the Lord, as he says in Ephesians 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Souls After Living Truth News

SALT News January 2023

How much fun can you have with balloons? Apparently a lot! The youth got lots of mileage out of Ella Sprague's leftover birthday balloons during a recent Sunday get together. Relay races carrying one, then two and up to four balloons at a time! And teams trying to sweep or bat balloons across the line into the opponent's side using pool noodles. Plus, who doesn't like to pop a balloon? The youth also helped count and package candy for Lois Niederhiser's upcoming Dominican Republic mission trip. Their many hands made short work out of organizing bubble gum, suckers and smarties! The youth are looking forward to an outing this month of ice skating at the Kent State University rink. And, they don't all know how to skate! But, that won't stop them from having fun trying. Plans are also underway for an overnight retreat to Camp Asbury this March. The focus of the retreat will be prayer. The S.A.L.T. Youth Group has sponsored kids to attend Camp Asbury in the past. And, now the next generation of youth will have the opportunity to experience this amazing, life changing event. We welcome boys and girls, sixth grade through high school to check out the S.A.L.T. (Souls After Living Truth) Youth Group. We meet Sunday evenings from 6-8 PM at the church. A typical evening includes youth-led devotions and prayer time, a short lesson, food, games and activities. There are also once a month outings or special events. Please contact me or Pastor John for more information and come join the fun!

Blessings, Linda Henderson



"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Ben Winter is home after serving Shelter + in Ukraine
Holly Morrow– doing well after knee surgery
Josh Baker (Donna Lutz’s grandson) - home, long road ahead
Sheila Lucas– good results from echocardiogram



Ukraine– Shelter +
Government officials around the world
Sue Johanson– healing and strength
Jay Lucas- healing and strength
Sheila Lucas- healing and strength
Jordan– 14 years old, intestinal issues
Jim Bruderly– hospice care

Gabe Ernst (Jane Beck’s grandson) - Paraguay missionary work with World Gospel Mission
Lucy Esther– severely burned toddler in Dominican Republic



Family of Pat Gottschalk



HEY KIDS....

COMING SOON...

SHARE THE LOVE DAY...

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

We will be having a special day celebrating God’s love for each and every one of us! Did you know that the word love is mentioned more than 300 times in the Bible? Come and celebrate with us as we share the love of God with our church family! We will be preparing special treats to share with our family here, and then we will take the church van to deliver some special treats to the area nursing homes and to some of our church family! And to celebrate even more, we will enjoy lunch at McDonalds before heading home! Permission slips are available on the welcome center and we will need one for each of you! There is NO cost for this special day.

Just plan to be a part of it all!

Questions? See Lois Niederhiser

1 John 4:16

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

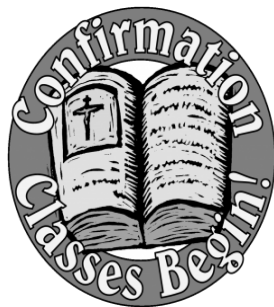




COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Saturday February 18th
7:00AM-10:30AM
Donation Only
(change will be available)



There is a praise and worship service following our regular service from 11:15am to 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome for a great time of worship and fellowship. We hope to see you there.



Pastor John Fitch will be offering a Confirmation Class Sunday February 19th, from 6:00pm– 8:00pm and Monday, President’s Day 9:00am - 12:00 noon. Location to be announced.

**From your Lay Leader ...
Heaven on Earth**

February 2023

A while ago, I heard someone that I trust as a strong and mature Christian brother say something like “What are you waiting for? Heaven is here right now.” I immediately got uncomfortable as I thought about what he was saying. Obviously, Heaven is perfect and this world is far from perfect. In Heaven there is no pain, no sorrow and no tears. Here we have these things in droves. I have listened to this man pontificate on the Bible for years. How could a strong mature Christian be so wrong?

Christians can and will disagree on minor issues. As long as we are in agreement on the main things such as **“John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** and of course John 3:16, we can be sure that we are Christian siblings and will see each other in Heaven after death. This concept of somehow something like Heaven here on Earth seems like a big deal though. If someone says something like “God will return every dollar you give to him ten-fold and they mean that literally, you don’t have to spend much time thinking about it. The Bible doesn’t say that, so it isn’t so. Don’t get me wrong, you cannot out-give God and He always provides for our needs but strictly monetary prosperity is not a promise from God. It is usually a promise from a rich TV preacher. This was different though. I had to really ponder this concept. How do we ponder Biblical subjects? We turn to the Bible. When Jesus taught us a pattern with which to pray in Matthew 6, He said to pray for The Father’s Kingdom to come, for His Will to be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. We are to pray for God’s Will to be done here on Earth. He said to be straight and to the point. God knows what we need before we ask. It is when we agree with Him that we are truly living the life that He intends for us to live. He also reminded us to serve God first before worrying about money. In fact, He told us not to worry about life because the One that cares for even the least of creatures will certainly care for us. Are you ever happy when you are worrying? Worrying will certainly steal your joy.

Joy also comes from generosity. **Matthew 6:22-23 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”** Jesus taught about having a healthy eye. The Greek for the word translated healthy here is haplous or generous. Unhealthy can be translated ponēros or stingy. In other words, holding back generosity, puts us in a dark place. It eats at us when we know of a need and do not use God’s gifts to fulfill it. On the other hand, using His gifts to help someone brings great joy indeed. It is God’s Will that His children utilize the gifts He has given them.

But you might say “What do I have to give?” There is another sure sign of The Kingdom on Earth found in **Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”** If we repent (know that we need forgiveness and change our ways) and believe in The Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are free to spread that Good News to others. Many of us have been told that we do not have to speak to spread the good news but which of us can keep good news to ourselves? Pray that The Gospel message brings us the same kind of excitement that we feel over a new baby being born. Who has trouble telling their friends all about the name, weight, length and excitement in the family when a baby is born? Do you want to have a little “Heaven on Earth”? Trust in Jesus and know that kind of joy.

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



February Birthdays

- 1: Jerry Stitle
- 4: Jay Linder
- 6: Joyce Krahlung
Glen Wilson
- 9: Jonny Sprague
- 11: Landon Stitle
- 12: Jane Menough
- 15: Michael Mincks,
Rich Yoder
- 19: Andrea Altenhof
- 24: Sandy Dearth
Shirley Stoffer
- 25: Janet Buell
- 28: Jean Yoder
- 29: Dick Flickinger



February Anniversaries

- 2: Rich & Debbie Hawk
- 4: Joe & Nancy Cadile

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

Counters

- Kathy Knoedler
&
Barb Karlen

Bus Driver

- Jerry Menough

Acolytes

- 5: Kara Zion
- 12: Max Weingart
- 19: Richey Hill
- 26: Codey Dettweiler



Love. Grow. Serve.

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School

- 5: Linda Henderson
- 12: Lois Niederhiser
- 19: Shaunda Uphold
- 26: Steve Sprague

Junior Church

- 5: Brittany Sprague
& Abby Heverly
- 12: Lois Niederhiser
& Ally Zion
- 19: Troy Uphold
& Lleyton Uphold
- 26: Steve Sprague
& Ethan Dettweiler

Wee Worship

- 5: Linda Henderson
& Codey Dettweiler
- 12: Nancy Cadile
- 19: Shaunda Uphold
- 26: Holly Morrow
& Richey Hill

Nursery

- 5: Amy Shoaff
- 12: Terrie Rohrer
- 19: Denise Linder
- 26: Barb Karlen



The Women of Faith will meet February 2nd at 9:30am in the church library for our next meeting.

**The Damascus Methodist
Circuit Riders Monthly
Gathering at Copeland Oaks**



Performed music on January 10th.

Circuit Riders next meeting:
Tuesday, February 14th at 3:30pm for worship music, message and communion in the Williamsburg Lounge.



Membership Care

Membership Care Committee will be Remembering our college students again this year. While they are away from us we need to keep them in our prayers and support them as much as we can. We will be collecting small treat items to send them in a couple of weeks. It’s mid term testing for a lot of them and to receive a snack package from their church family would surely help. If you would like to donate, there is a box next the welcome center. We will collect until February 12th so they can be mailed before Valentine’s Day. Thank you in advance.

-Helen Mincks, Committee Chairperson



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Choir Practice	2 9:30am Women of Faith 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice	3	4
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT	6 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	7 8:30am West Branch Ministerial Meeting	8 7:00pm Choir Practice	9 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 6:30pm Ruritan Meeting	10	11
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship Kids Outing 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT	13	14 3:30pm Circuit Riders at Copeland	15 7:00pm Choir Practice	16 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice	17	18 7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm Confirmation Class	20 9:00am– 12:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Church Council	21	22 7:00pm Choir Practice	23 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice	24	25
26 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT	27 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	28				