

Damascus Methodist Church  
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Damascus, OH 44619

Church (330) 537-3031  
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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](http://www.dmc.church)  
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

# “Damascus Doings”

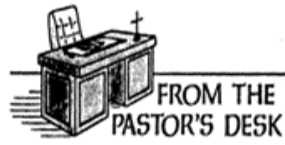
February 2025

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



Anyone who does not  
love does not know God,  
because God is love.

1 John 4:8 ESV



**February 2025**

**“A New Season of Love & Hope”**

**Galatians 5: 22-23**

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

**Greetings in the Name of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!**

I sit here in my office gazing into a blinding landscape of white, this is the 1<sup>st</sup> in a long time that I can truly remember a real winter. When it's cold and snowy like January has been it's too easy to be tempted to stay home, stay warm, and shelter in comfort. That's sounds so familiar to our “Faith Walk” doesn't it?

Life as a Jesus Follower/Believer is very hard. Our message isn't readily accepted, people avoid us because we talk, live, and function as disciples of Jesus. That's not what we see on TV. That's not what we hear in Pod Casts, in Best Sellers, in a World immersed in darkness and self-indulgence without consequence for others. We are an Anomaly! We are Different! We are Christ's World! While all that seems to be overwhelming at times, we are given promises from God of Our Impending Victory. And what I find is one of the “Best First Steps” in living my Faith Out loud is simply being Kind. Sharing in His love & grace, peace & patience, kindness & Faithfulness, and Gentleness & Self Control. The World around us is lacking in these traits, so the more I live like Christ, the more the World will See Him in Me!

It Simply begins with abandoning anger, power, & control, and Simply begins Loving one another the way Christ loved us! Imagine being kind & grateful in the Drive Through? Imagine holding the door for a stranger when entering a building? Imagine walking someone to their car when it's raining, snowing, or dark outside? Imagine Simply calling someone and asking them how they are and telling you love them before you hang up?

These little things are what I call RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS AND LOVE! Lord, I want to be Like Jesus, Teach me how to Love Like You! Then the World will know of Your Love!

**John 13: 35**

*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”*

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jon

**SALT YOUTH MINISTRY**

Memorizing can be difficult for many people. In ancient days, most Hebrews didn't have the written Word. It was expensive to produce and the people heard the scriptures recited by the religious elite. The people memorized the scriptures they heard. We, in modern times, probably find this awe-inspiring and even hard to believe. But, it's true.

Today we can open our concordances and look up what we need in our Bibles. We can even consult Google to quickly find what we need. Does that mean that we no longer need to memorize scripture? Not at all! Memorization is an important way to get God's Word inside our hearts so that it can transform us and strengthen us. With God's Word in our hearts, we are better able to understand the will of God. And, we can speak the Word to others easily.

The youth were presented with a challenge: memorize the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments and celebrate with a trip to a hockey game (which will be happening soon!) Memorizing is an accomplishment, but for some, the courage to try ranks right up there, as well. We have a great bunch of youth who are not afraid of a challenge. They now walk away with God's Word tucked inside their hearts, by the Spirit who encouraged and guided them. Memorization can be life-changing - not only for a sense of accomplishment but to renew our thoughts and apply daily in our lives.

Blessings, Linda Henderson



### Praise Reports



Pauline Wayne has moved back to Grace Woods Asst Living  
Tom Knoedler is recovering from his back surgery and infection  
Hannah Sprague is healing after Appendectomy  
Jay and Sheila Lucas are feeling better after health issues  
Gail Murphy has moved to Copeland Oaks Asst Liv Rm #7-315



World Peace, Government officials around the world  
First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families  
Charlie Weber, Friend of Zielke's, dealing with cancer  
Ralph Landon dealing with back pain  
Jade Paptic surgery on 1/31  
Kaitlyn Bondoni, Barb's Granddaughter, had thyroid surgery 1/29  
Mark Bara knee surgery 1/28 (Joann Dobbs' neighbor)  
Joan Pontius dealing with health/anxiety  
Helen Mincks having surgery on Feb. 14th

### Attention: Men and boys of DMC

**“Gather” for Dinner and a Movie and be Blessed!**  
**Thursday, February 13th @ 6:00 pm**



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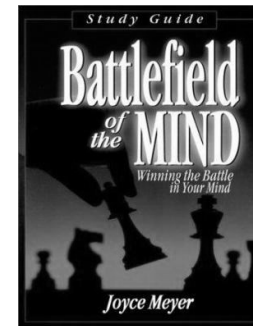
### Attention: Ladies of DMC!

**Women's Bible Study starting Thursday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m.**  
**“BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND”**

**BY Joyce Meyer**

**Jenny Long will again lead our Ladies Bible study and will  
last approximately 9 weeks.**

**Cost of books will be \$17.00**



**Please sign up on counter in Narthex**



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP COMING SOON!**

In just a little while, I will be going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. While there, I will be leading a VBS team and traveling to multiple villages and teaching to over 800 children! It is a blessing to go and I have been preparing for this year’s trip since returning home last year! The need there is great for so many, many things. Donations of clothing, medical supplies, building materials, VBS teaching materials, toys, crafts, and candy have already been received. Thank you for your donations of those yummy candy treats! And thank you to all that have helped with the many crafts that are all ready to go! Thank you so much for your continued love and support and especially your prayers as we go and do what God has called us to do. I look forward to sharing with you when I return. **Jesus te ama!**

**In Christ, Lois Niederhiser**

**Praising God for a record-breaking collection of shoebox gifts!**

The numbers are in! Your incredible efforts in 2024 yielded 11,927,439 Gospel Opportunities that were packed, collected, and prayed over, including 10,574,805 in the U.S., an all-time high. Praise God! Because of your commitment 11,927,439 children will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and know Jesus. Millions of these boys and girls will go on to complete The Greatest Journey discipleship program, learning from faithful Ministry Partners in their communities about how to follow Christ and share the Gospel with friends and family.

Please continue to pray with us. Pray that God would prepare the heart of each shoebox recipient to respond to the Gospel in faith, embrace discipleship, and become a disciple-maker. Pray also for the safe delivery of shoebox gifts and the ministry of our National Leadership Teams and Regional Leadership Teams.

From your Lay Leader ...

**Bitter Cold**

**February 2025**

Well Northeast Ohio, we have something this year that we haven’t really had in quite some time. It’s called winter. For the last few years, we have had to do very little in the way of moving snow out of the way and temperatures have been very mild. That is certainly not the case this winter. We are reminded of the winters of the late ‘70s. The high today is 12° after a low this morning of -17°. Ed Lydic told me that in weather this cold, they must wrap the cows’ tails around the electric fence to make it’s easier to get them started in the morning. Dina read me something from her Facebook feed that said, “If you were waiting until hell froze over to do something, you will need to put that task on your to-do list now.”

**(Steve and Ed always have us on our toes-LOL!)**

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

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**Breakfast and Mission Trip Doings**

**Hello from the breakfast crew and Mission Trip Members!** We are extremely excited about the kitchen renovations and the “rebirth” of the new and improved Community Breakfast. We have been doing this for over 20 years now. The event started through our patriarch members to help the Youth Director fund. The duties then went to the Mission Trip Committee because no other group wanted the responsibility. Breakfast has since paid for about 12 yearly trips at an average of \$10000 per trip. What a blessing! So, remember to mark your calendars for **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. We are hoping to resume our once-a-month Community Outreach with Breakfast Food featuring our newly renovated kitchen.

**NOTE: (March 15th could still be a tentative date for Kitchen completion!)**





**Birthdays**

- 2/1 Jerry Stitle
- 2/4 Jay Linder
- 2/5 Joyce Bush
- 2/6 Joyce Krahlung
- 2/6 Glen Wilson
- 2/9 Jonny Sprague
- 2/12 Jane Menough
- 2/15 Richard Yoder
- 2/19 Andrea Altenhof
- 2/19 David Ernst
- 2/22 Kim Izenour
- 2/24 Sandy Dearth
- 2/24 Shirley Stoffer
- 2/25 Janet Buell
- 2/28 Jean Yoder
- 2/29 Richard Flickinger, Sr.



**Anniversaries**

- 2/2 Rich & Debbie Hawk
- 2/4 Joe & Nancy Cadile
- 2/16 Allen & Becky Vignon

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

**Counters**

Kathy Knoedler & Linda Henderson

**Bus Driver**

Steve Sprague

**Acolytes**

- 2/2 Addie Zion/  
Triston Beagle
- 2/9 Elise Smith/  
Maxon Weingart
- 2/16 Kara Zion/  
Lane Loving
- 2/23 Stella Smith/  
Elise Smith

**Children’s Rotation**

**Sunday School**  
**\*\*Older Class**

- 2/2 \*Lois Niederhiser/  
Linda Henderson
- 2/9 \*Brittany Sprague/  
Amy Shoaff
- 2/16 \*Brittany Sprague/  
Denise Linder
- 2/23 \*Linda Henderson/  
Shaunda Uphold

**Junior Church**

- 2/2 Lois Niederhiser
- 2/9 Brittany Sprague/  
Jahmaray Williams
- 2/16 Steve Sprague/  
Codey Dettweiler
- 2/23 Troy Uphold/  
Ethan Dettweiler

**Wee Worship**

- 2/2 Linda Henderson
- 2/9 Abby Heverly
- 2/16 Grayson Anderson
- 2/23 Shaunda Uphold

**Nursery**

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

**Kitchen Expansion Project**

PER TRUSTEES of DMC

1/27/2025


**The following is a breakdown of the progress / proposed for the Kitchen Project to date:**

- Foundations and floor slab complete
- Rough wall and roof framing complete
- Shingles installed and tied into existing roofing
- Demolition of the existing cabinets, ceiling and exterior wall complete
- Demolition of existing window system complete
- Door / window infill with drywall complete
- FRP installed on all walls except South wall
- Exterior walls and new portion of the roof insulated
- Plumbing sanitary tied into existing
- Water lines tied into existing and insulated
- Gas line extended from above the janitor’s closet into kitchen space
- Electrical demolition complete
- Electrical wall and ceiling rough-in complete
- New electrical panel set with conduits extended into ceiling space
- Windows being delivered January 29<sup>th</sup>
- Casework has been field measured and in production
- Finish FRP and stainless panels under the hood
- Stainless tables for equipment under the hood have been ordered
- Stainless island is in stock
- Review potential of installing floor tile and some cabinetry then protecting during balance of construction

**The hood continues to be an issue** with various discussions with The State. We are currently looking to alter the design to meet their requirements and have the exhaust vent through the roof and not the sidewall. This would solve several issues, but we have limited headroom and need to complete the engineering to make this happen. Once approved the hood is 4 weeks out for delivery. Several scopes of work depend on the hood being in place prior to being able to complete the next task so this will hold up the schedule. **With this back and forth with The State and design, we may be going into March for completion of the interior space and exterior will be completed as weather allows.**

# DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

## February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 6-8 pm SALT	3	4 8:30 am WB Ministerial	5	6 9:30 am Tops	7 Snow Camp 7th-9th Youth Group Lois leaving for Dominican Republic	8 Snow Camp
9 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	10	11 5:30 pm Finance Mtg	12	13 9:30 am Tops 6:00 pm Men's Dinner & Movie 6:30 pm Ruritans	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 	15 No Breakfast until construction is done— March 15th?
16 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 6-8 pm SALT	17 President's Day Office Closed 6:30 Council Mtg	18	19	20 9:30 am Tops	21	22
23 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 6-8 pm SALT	24 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	25 1-6 pm Blood Drive	26	27 9:30 am Tops	28	