

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”

January-February 2026

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





“There is Room in His House”

Psalm 15: 1-5

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts.

Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts. Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.

Greeting My Beloved Church Family. I can't believe I'm sitting here in mid-January thinking about how fast the Lenten Season approaches. As you read this newsletter we are only weeks away from our Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Dinner, then Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Journey.

In Psalm 15, David seeks clarity on who's able to enter the Lord's Kingdom and live and worship in His Presence. The answer seems very simple at first glance. Those who enter are transformed in heart, soul, mind, & strength. They no longer live by worldly standards but strive to aspire to the ways and laws of the Lord. SIMPLE? I don't thinks so! Our world has lost its way and that is the EXACT reason we approach OUR Lenten Journey with Excitement & Great Expectation! You See we approach the Lenten season longing to repent of our sins, seek the wonder of God's Grace, and begin a journey of Transformation that is crowned in the Life, Death, and Glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ Our King!

It's God's plan once again to Right the Wrongs and Restore His Glory in the Lives of All Believers! Let's get Ready Church, Our Journey to Golgotha begins soon and God is waiting to Set us Free! Let's Go together and Rejoice in His Love!

Galatians 2: 20

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Jon

So, Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

Wednesdays 6:30—8:00 pm

The New Year is upon us here at Salt Youth, and we have officially gotten back into the swing of things! We are kicking off 2026 with a study in the book of James in which the kids are learning how to become doers of the word rather than merely listeners. As Christians, we are sometimes lulled into believing that just by saying the right things or thinking the right things, our actions don't matter all that much. We may believe that just because we said “the Sinner's Prayer” at some specific point in our lives, we have done everything we needed to do to be right with God, and there is nothing else that we can or should do. However, while we are indeed saved by grace through faith in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), we are called to *live* out that faith. Just a verse later in Ephesians 2:10, the Apostle Paul declares, “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life” (Berean Standard Bible). A fundamental aspect of the reality of us being made into new creations is our dedication to living out the commands of Christ and doing good works. Keeping in line with this thinking, James boldly asserts that faith is not just ineffectual or benign but *dead* without doing what God has commanded (James 2:26). With this in mind, we are called as Christians to not simply intellectually agree with what Scripture teaches *only* but to practice what Jesus preached. We are called to imitate Him in all that we do and serve Him where we can. We are called to purge the sin from own lives and give everything to Christ. We are commissioned to be holy as the Lord our God is holy (Leviticus 19:2).

In the spirit of doing good works and living at our faith, on February 17th, Salt Youth will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner here at DMC. The youth will be serving to help raise money to cover the cost for them to attend the Encounter Youth Conference in April. This conference is a time for youth within Allegheny-West to take time to gather in fellowship, study the Word, and grow deeper in their walks with Christ. We would love it if you could come and support the youth!

John 15: 9-10, “*As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love*”.

Blessings, Sam Bryan



Praise!

Julia Landon home and feeling better

Prayer Requests



World Peace

First Responders, military, veterans and families

Lois Niederhiser travel mercies to Dominican Republic

Zielke's and others fighting flu and winter bugs

The Damascus Youth Group

Invites You to
Come and Join us for Our
Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

When: Tuesday February 17th, 2026 from 4:30 -6:30 pm

Where: Damascus Methodist Church

Why: To Celebrate the Beginning of Our Lenten Journey
and support the Damascus Youth at the
Encounter Youth Conference



Coming Events!

February 2nd @ 5:30 pm SPR Meeting

February 3rd @ 5:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

New Women's Bible Study starting Feb 12th @ 6:30 pm

**Charge Conference after Church February 15th
Also Red Hot for Jesus Sunday! Wear Red or Pink!**

**Tuesday, Feb. 17th 4:30-6:30 pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner—Youth Fundraiser**

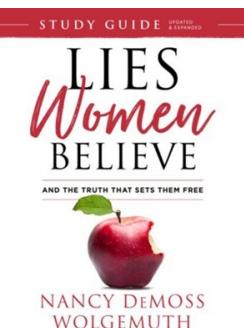
Wednesday, Feb. 18th @ 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service at DMC

Saturday, Feb. 21st Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am

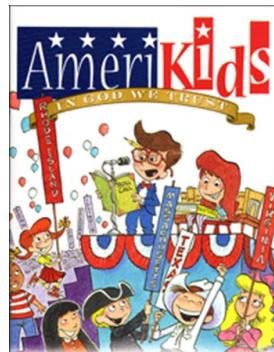
Tuesday, Feb. 24th 1-6 pm Blood Drive at DMC

**DMC Community Breakfast
Saturday, February 21st
7-10:30 am**





New Women's Bible Study starting Thursday, February 12th at 6:30 pm. Please sign up so we can order books. This will be a 10 week study. Cost of Book is \$20.00.



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 ...

What About Rest?

January 2026

As we begin a new year together and look at the forecast (not the farmer’s almanac), it’s looking like another busy year. For DMC it’s going to be a year of transition. We are building a new audio/visual booth and replacing the tired equipment that has served us well, and well passed what it should have. There are other changes set to take place at the church this year as well. More on that to come. We all have a lot going on. Some of us are busy raising kids, making sure they are housed, clothed and fed, taking them to music, sports and play practice, etc. Some of us are busy trying to eek out a living, planning projects, making deadlines, seeing that schedules are made and kept, sweeping the floor just before the inspection just because it needed to be done, all while trying desperately to fulfill the promise of a future. Some of us are busy just trying to keep up with all the doctor’s appointments. To quote an old Dolly Parton song, “It’s enough to drive you crazy if you let it.”

The start of a new year is often a time when many of us make promises or “resolutions.” After making and failing to fulfill many resolutions, I resolved one new year to never make new year’s resolutions again. On that one, I have so far succeeded in keeping that resolution. Seriously though, I think now (whenever “now” happens to be) is a good time to start instead of waiting for the new year to begin. All that being said, beginning or kicking off or starting whatever it is, needs to start with rest. Resting our tired feet and broken-down bodies is great, but the kind of rest we need is resting in the confidence of faith. If the business of life has left us lacking in the daily prayer devotional time, then we are just too busy. Time management is important. We are all allotted twenty-four hours each day and we must spend some of that time sleeping. That leaves us with roughly two-thirds of that day left to do the things. If doing the things, prevents us from seeing friends and family, at some point we rectify that and take a vacation. We put off everything else and just go. It’s that important. However, spending time each day alone with God is even more important.

God’s economy is different than our own understanding of resources and just like how finances work much better when we put Him first in our money budgets, our schedules also work much better when we put Him first with our time budgets. Let’s take time to rest. Let’s begin each and every day with some amount of time devoted to spending time in prayer and reading His Word. While we rest, we can also rest in the confidence of faith that God never rests. **Ready, Set, STOP! And then go.**

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



Birthdays January

- 1/19 Sheila Lucas
- 1/23 Silas Landon
- 1/26 Leo Zura
- 1/27 Joann Dobbs
- 1/28 Becky Pinkerton
- 1/28 Allen Vignon
- 1/29 Steve Sprague

February:

- 2/1 Jerry Stitle
- 2/4 Jay Linder
- 2/5 Joyce Bush
- 2/6 Joyce Krahling
- 2/6 Glen Wilson
- 2/9 Jonny Sprague
- 2/12 Jane Menough
- 2/15 Rich Yoder
- 2/19 Andrea Altenhof
- 2/24 Sandy Dearth
- 2/24 Shirley Stoffer
- 2/25 Janet Buell
- 2/29 Richard Flickinger



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

Special Announcement:

There will be a Special Church Charge Conference held on Sunday February 15th, 2026, at 12:45 pm.

Join us for a Delicious Lunch after Church as we hear from the Endowment Committee regarding the approval of a special withdrawal for the purpose of Salary coverage for Our New Youth and Adult Education Director. (Sam Bryan)

The Purpose of a Charge Conference is to properly approve the use of designated funds for this one-time special project. Lunch will be served after Worship in the Fellowship Hall and then the presentation of the proposal and vote for approval.

This meeting will be presided over by the GMC Presiding Elder Byron Bufkin from Salem 1st Methodist Church.

Please plan on attending as this is a special step forward for the Future of Damascus Methodist Church.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Jon

Children's Rotation:

Sunday School

- 2/1 Linda Henderson
- 2/8 Shaunda Uphold
- 2/15 Linda Henderson
- 2/22 Lois Niederhiser

Junior Church

- 2/1 Steve Sprague
- 2/8 Troy Uphold
- 2/15 Brittany Sprague
- 2/22 Lois Niederhiser

Wee Worship

- 2/1 Linda Henderson
- 2/8 Shaunda Uphold
- 2/15 Grayson Anderson
- 2/22

Nursery

- 2/1 Denise Linder
- 2/8 Amy Shoaff
- 2/15 Samara Anderson
- 2/22 Terrie Rohrer

Please Consider these Donations for the Homeless at CIR:

Hooded Sweatshirts	Heavy Coats (Men)
Sweatpants	Thermal Socks
Thermal or waterproof Gloves	Stocking Caps
Thermal Underwear	Blankets
Large bottles of Hand Sanitizer gel	Small propane Heaters
Small Propane Bottles	Snow Boots
Winter face covering/masks	Handwarmers
Mylar Blankets	Flashlights



DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

January-February 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
25 January 9:00 am SS 10:00 Worship	26 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	27	28 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	29 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men Bible Study	30	31
1 FEBRUARY 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	2 5:30 pm SPR Meeting	3 8:30 am WB Minis Mtg 5:30 pm Finance Mtg	4 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	5 9:30 am Tops 6:30 Men's Study	6	7
8 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	9	10	11 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	12 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Bible St Ruritans New Women's Study 6:30	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship Lunch/Charge Conference RED HOT FOR JESUS!	16 President's Day NO COUNCIL	17 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 4:30-6:30 pm	18 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm DMC	19 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Bible St Women's Bible St	20	21 Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am
22 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 1st Sunday of Lent	23 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	24 1-6 pm Blood Drive	25 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	26 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Bible St Women's Bible St	27	28