

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.

Worship 10:00 A.M.

Praise and Worship 11:15am

Fax (330) 537-3032

Church Website: www.dumcohoio.org

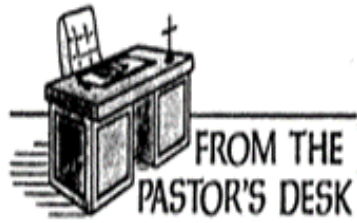
“Damascus Doings”

JANUARY 2023

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



PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVES January 2023



I thought we had a lovely time at church this Christmas.

The people were so hardy to come out in inclement weather Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Many faithful people, in good judgment, decided not to come for good reasons of safety.

Several of our visitors told us they were looking for a church that was still open because theirs was not.

We had around 44 Christmas Eve and 41 Christmas Day. The worship was very sincere and enthusiastic. No doubt the Holy Spirit was blessing us.

I would like to thank my church family for the generous gifts, monetary and otherwise, to Krista and me this Christmas season.

I think we are having a splendid time with Damascus Methodist Church, and greatly look forward to the new year in fulfilling our Lord’s commission.

Please pray that our selection of a new name will be theologically and spiritually attractive to folks, and that our search for affiliation or independence will be “God-led.”

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

Yours in Christ’s service,
Pastor John Fitch

Praise
Worship
Service



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.

Souls After Living Truth News

SALT News December 2022



While we have not met as regularly as every week due to the hustle and bustle of the end of the year, we still managed to have a great get together right before Christmas.

The youth, along with Pastor John, Krista and Diana, volunteered to ring the Salvation Army kettle bell at Giant Eagle in Salem. It was a very cold and windy day, but all endured for a couple hours with bell ringing, caroling, fellowship and imparting good cheer and blessings to those who graciously gave monetarily and stopped to visit.

We even saw a few DUMC shoppers!

After, we went back to the church for a Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed a lasagna dinner and a Happy Birthday Jesus cake (and also birthday blessings to two of our youth!).

There followed music, games and prizes and a white elephant gift exchange.

All are invited to stop in the youth room and check out the 2022 yearbook on the table below the tv. The yearbook is a photo collection of all the activities our youth were involved in the past twelve months!

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1:23

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from the S.A.L.T. Youth Group!



Blessings,
Linda Henderson



"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



The Weingart family and the birth of Weston James on 12/5



Ukraine– Shelter Plus
Government officials around the world
Sue Johanson– healing and strength
Jay Lucas– healing and strength
Sheila Lucas– healing and strength
Pat Gottschalk– serious health concerns
Holly Morrow– healing after knee surgery
Chris Zion– ankle pain



Family of Lee Althouse
Family of Ramon (Ray) Lora
Family of Donald McCandless (Andrea Altenhof’s brother)
Jane Patterson (Mandy Zion’s aunt) and family who lost a
25 year old family member to an overdose
Family of Randy Mosher (Debbie Hawk’s brother)
Family of Paul Getty
Family of Mary Hawk (Debbie Hawk’s mother in law)



THANK YOU...THANK YOU... THANK YOU!
A HUGE thank you to all of the kids, youth, and adults who worked so hard to present this year’s program, Finding Christmas! And a special thanks to the parents and grandparents for adjusting their busy schedules to accommodate date changes, too. The

message came through loud and clear in a new and different way! God sent His one and only Son as a tiny baby to save each and every one of us. It is our prayer that you will find room in your heart for Jesus.



Congratulations to Carey and Jamie Weingart on their new baby boy: Weston James Weingart who arrived December 5, 2022.



Hello Church Family, We would like to invite you to Ella's Wild One Birthday Party. The party will be January, 7th 2023 from 2pm-4pm in the fellowship hall. There will be Jungle Water, Lion Dip, Cupcakes and Cookies!

Please let Brittany know if you can make it.
(234) 600-0706



**Red Cross Blood Drive January 10th
from 1:00pm—6:00pm**



Membership Care Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items for our family soldiers. We packed the boxes very full and sent them on their way. We as a committee feel very strongly that this is a very important outreach. Thank you all and God Bless you all during this special time of year.

—Helen Mincks, Chairperson



Thank you from the bottom of my heart for remembering me at Christmas as your church secretary.
God Bless you all! - Dina Sprague

Praise Band



The Praise and Worship Band played live music at Auburn Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation 6-8pm on December 22nd. The residents truly enjoyed it.

From your Lay Leader ...

January 2023

New Year = New Commitment

After 2020, we all wanted to get to 2021 like nobody’s business. The year 2020 brought us huge lockdowns, restrictions and other terrible reactions to a new virus. We thought that 2021 had to be better and it was. 2021 brought a vaccine to the new virus and restrictions SLOWLY lifted. As 2021 came to a close, we all had high hopes that 2022 would be well, back to some sense of normalcy. Unfortunately, 2020 and 2021 had left one large scar. The restrictions that were left finally went away, which is awesome, but the fear has remained.

The powers that be told a nation that they could not – among other things – gather to worship God in the ways that we are taught to do. Christians are called to worship by gathering, praying, singing and fellowshiping with fellow believers. Now we are told by the world that it is too dangerous to do so if someone has the slightest hint of the sniffles. While the world tells us in more and more ways that we should be afraid, the Bible tells us to not be afraid at least three-hundred and sixty-five times. The purpose of this is to remind us that we serve a God that is greater than any fear we could possibly come against. We serve the God that parted the Red Sea. We serve the God that raised Lazarus from the dead. We serve the God that was tortured and died on the cross, only to rise three days later just as He himself as well as antient profits foretold. We serve the God that created the Heavens, Earth and everything on it including even us. God created us with free-will so that we would have to choose Him. The choice just as clear now as it ever has been. The world teaches that God does not exist but rather we should “worship” many other gods.

In the Old Testament, people literally bowed down to statues. Today, the idols are more concepts than actual statues. We can all come up with our own lists but high on that list is the fact that there are so many things competing for our time on Sunday morning. If we are not worshipping, being fed by good teaching and fed by other strong Christian brothers and sisters on a regular basis, we will tend to fall away from our faith. Fear can be a good thing. We should have a healthy fear of and sense of danger. God built that into us and His engineering is truly amazing. That kind of fear is primal and exists in all mammals.

However, we need to turn to and develop our discernment. Fear that causes division and is irrational even temporarily is not what God has planned for His children. The devil is pleased whenever the Church of Jesus Christ is tempted to turn away from worship in any way. He is pleased when the followers of Jesus Christ are afraid and turn away from worship even an inch. Instead, we should rest in the full knowledge that “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21)

This year, let’s commit to throwing away any fear built over the last couple years that tends to lead us away from worship. Remember that we serve a God that is bigger than anything and in Him there is no fear of even death if it means spreading His Gospel.

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



January Birthdays

- 2: Dave Shoaff
- 4: Ella Sprague
- 12: Ethan Dettweiler
- 13: Curt Mosher
- 15: Maxon Weingart
- 19: Sheila Lucas
- 26: Leo Zura
- 27: Joann Dobbs
- 28: Patricia Pumphry
- 29: Jemma Heverly
Steve Sprague

January Anniversaries

- 8: Jay & Denise Linder

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

Counters

Gary Mercer
&
Linda Henderson

Bus Driver

Steve Sprague

Acolytes

- 1: Kara Zion
- 8: Richey Hill
- 15: Max Weingart
- 22: Codey Dettweiler
- 29: Ethan Dettweiler

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School

- 1: None
- 8: Linda Henderson
- 15: Lois Niederhiser
- 22: Shaunda Uphold
- 29: Steve Sprague

Junior Church

- 1: None
- 8: Brittany Sprague
Ethan Dettweiler
- 15: Lois Niederhiser
Ethan Dettweiler
- 22: Troy Uphold
Lleyton Uphold
- 29: Steve Sprague
Ally Zion

Wee Worship

- 1: None
- 8: Linda Henderson
Richey Hill
- 15: Nancy Cadile
- 22: Shaunda Uphold
Codey Dettweiler
- 29: Holly Morrow

Nursery

- 1: None
- 8: Amy Shoaff
- 15: Terrie Rohrer
- 22: Denise Linder
- 29: Barb Karlen



The Women of Faith spread holiday cheer by packing 31 female and 9 male gift bags for the residents of Auburn Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation. We thank you for your donations and hope you had a very Merry Christmas. Happy New Year and see you January 5th at 9:30am in the church library for our next meeting.



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Saturday January 21st
7:00AM-10:30AM
Donation Only
(change will be available)

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



Performed Christmas music on December 6th with Bill Shilling– folk singer.

Circuit Riders next meeting:

Tuesday, January 10th at 3:30pm for worship music, message and communion in the Williamsburg Lounge.



Thank you to our Church family for all the concern, prayers and cards for the passing of my Mother, my Brother and my Mother-in-law. It has been a difficult time, but with all of your prayers and my faith, we are moving on. We are blessed with loving family all around.

Hopefully, we can all have a great 2023.



Damascus United Methodist Church

January 2023



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

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT		8:30am West Branch Ministerial Meeting	7:00pm Choir Practice	9:30am Women of Faith 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 6:30pm Bible Study		2:00pm Ella Sprague's First Birthday Party
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT	6:30pm SPRC Meeting	1:00pm– 6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 3:30pm Circuit Riders at Copeland	7:00pm Choir Practice	9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Ruritan Meeting		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT	6:30pm Church Council		5:30pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 6:30pm Bible Study		7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT	7:00pm Trustee Meeting		7:00pm Choir Practice	9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice 6:30pm Bible Study		
29	30	31				
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT						