

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

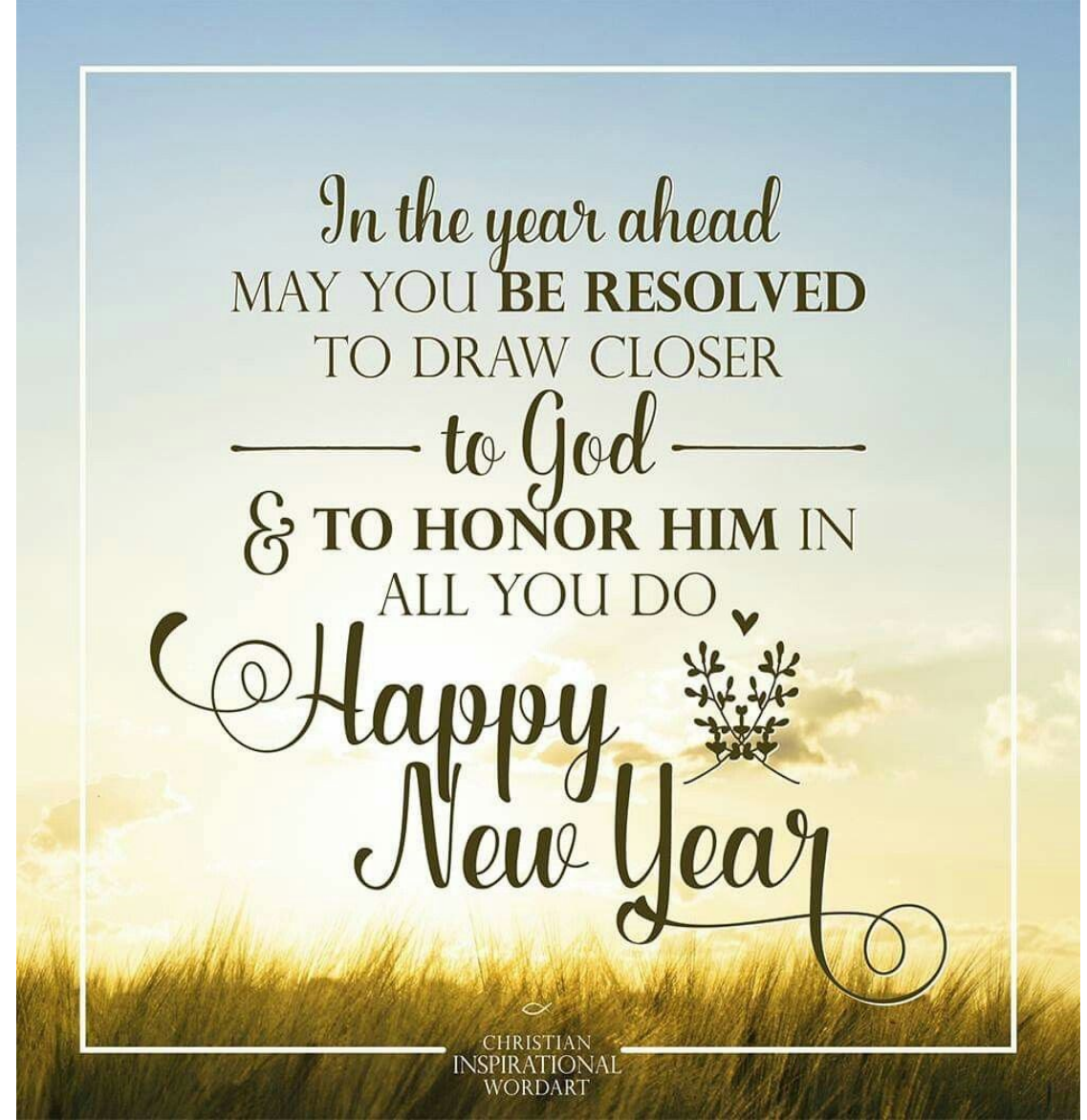
Church (330) 537-3031
Email: office@dmc.church
Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dmc.church
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

January 2025

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





“A New Year”

Isaiah 51: 11

Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Happy New Year Beloved Friends of Damascus Methodist Church!

WOW, 2025, I never thought that was a possibility to come charging in so fast and furious! It seems like yesterday we were celebrating Spring, Summer, & Fall!

New Years always is a time of reflection, resolution, and dreams of change & improvement for the new Year! I want to be a better Christian! I want to be healthier, exercise more, & be more active! I want to spend less and save more! And the Lists go on and on!

I want to focus on the First Resolution! I want to be a better Christ Follower!

I want to read the Bible More! I want to be involved with more studies, small groups, and Worship Experiences! I want to be Visibly Different in my Walk of Faith, not only walking in the Light of Jesus, but Having the Light of Jesus Shine Through Me!

Shine When I'm apart of the Church!

Shine when I'm away from the Church!

Shine when I'm with Family & Friends!

And Most of all, SHINE because He Lives In ME!

The Truth in all these Resolutions and hope for changes is Simple!

Proverbs 3: 5-6 *Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart and Lean not on your Own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will Show you the right path to take!*

God is Good, All the Time!

Matthew 25: 21

“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Wishing You All a Happy New Year
In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Jon & Jenny Long

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth devotions during the 2024 Advent season were readings and discussions to prepare for the coming Messiah. We learned about Hope and keeping watch because we do not know when Jesus will come. We talked about the kind of Peace that comes only from Jesus and of the Joy of seeing the days of redemption. And finally, Agape, the highest kind of love – God’s love for us and our love for God. The Christmas season is the most wonderful time of the year!

The youth rang bells for the Salvation Army at Giant Eagle in Salem. Many lovely people gave graciously and were curious about who we were and spoke such kind words to the youth. And, we ended 2024 with our Christmas party where all enjoyed pizza, games and exchanging of gifts.

We look forward to a Christ-filled 2025 and wish you all the same!

Blessings, Linda Henderson





May all have a Blessed and Safe 2025!
Grayson and Elaina protected from serious injury after accident



World Peace, Government officials around the world
First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families
Family of David Johnson— Dwight Johnson’s father
All families struggling through the Holiday season

Income/Expenses for 2024

Income: \$162,992	(Includes Envelope giving, interest and misc)
Payroll (Pastor + Staff)	\$74,202
Utilities, Insurance	\$2,714
Trustees	\$10,075
Office, Sound, Worship	\$22,699
Apportionments, Taxes	\$24,831
Aprox TTL	\$157,521.00

(These totals are not all inclusive, there are many other expenses of the daily church expenses.)

Average Monthly Attendance for Worship Services 2024:

Jan	71	Jul	98
Feb	93	Aug	96
Mar	106	Easter	85
Apr	90	Oct	88
May	97	Nov	102
Jun	103	Dec	104

Average for 2024 (94)

Average for 2023 81

Average for 2022 71

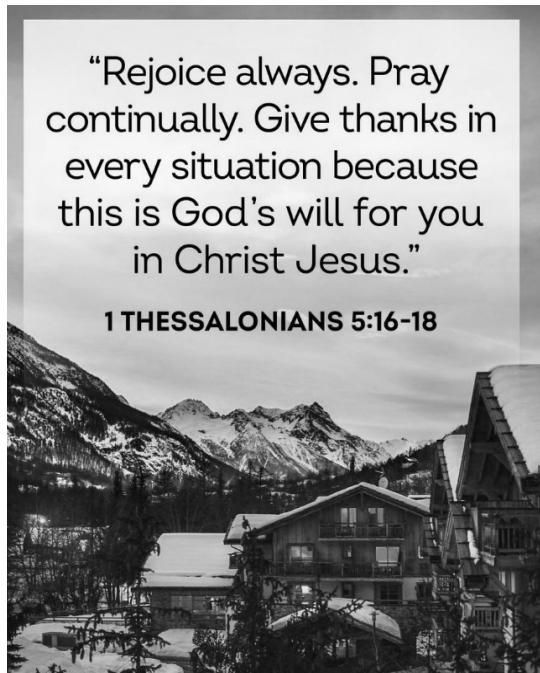


HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you to all of our kids, youth, and adults for all of their hard work and dedication for this year’s Christmas program! The story of Jesus and His amazing love was told loud and clear! How wonderful it is to carry the Good News into the new year!

The next week, we had a wonderful time celebrating Jesus’ birth at our all church breakfast and then our Happy Birthday Jesus party! Christmas Eve provided a worship service time to celebrate being together as the family of God!

And finally, thank you for all of the love and support that you have shown and continue to show to the youngest members of our church family and to their entire families! And especially for your prayers as we journey into a new year filled with opportunities to minister to these amazing kiddos!



From your Lay Leader ...

Wishing Our Lives Away

January 2025

As I write this, we have just passed the winter solstice, which officially marks the beginning of the 2024/2025 winter. Of course, here in Ohio, the cold weather arrived at least a month ago. Many of us are not thrilled about the cold weather and are wishing for summer even here at the start of winter, me included. My brother recently reminded me that, by wishing for the next season, we are wishing our lives away... He is absolutely correct and it was a great reminder to be thankful for every day that Our Lord gives.

James 4:13-15 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” Some of us are blessed to have our vapor of a life last into very long lives, by human standards. Aunt Janice (as Treva’s children knew her) Bennett was blessed with 100 years. She lived those 100 years well and taught us to cherish every day as if we are not guaranteed the next. Our Joey will always remember that Aunt Janice always had candy in her purse and a hug. She had more than enough patience to enjoy church service with a fidgety little boy without the hint of complaint. Our lesson, going into 2025, is to live with that type of gratitude and gusto for life. Seek God’s Will for every step and pray without ceasing.

Some of us have been blessed to see a lot of this great country and some even see a lot of the world. Some of us practically never leave the county of their birth. Seeing God’s creation is wonderful but the real gifts are in the people we meet and the relationships that we build. God is able to bless us with relationships whether we are travelling or staying put. He is faithful to provide and it is His will to reach all hearts so sending people our way is always a good thing for which to pray. As a church, we bathed our denominational decisions with lots of prayer and Our Lord blessed us with Jon and Jenny Long. They are a great example of being a friend to everyone and seeking God’s Will with every step.

As we move into a new year, let’s be ever more careful to cherish the time we are given and live with intentional love toward our friends – which includes everyone that God sends our way. Spend at least twice as much time listening as we do talking. Always be ready to help, despite the minor inconveniences it may cause. Above all, let’s spend more time in prayer. As **1st Thessalonians 5:16-18** reminds us, “**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**”

Let’s resolve to not make resolutions this year. Rather, let’s let go of the control we think we have and let ourselves be molded more and more like Christ everyday this year and going forward. Paul wrote these words to Timothy in **Philippians 1:6** “**And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**” And that is a promise that we can all receive.

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



Birthdays

- 1/2 Dave Shoaff
- 1/4 Ella Sprague
- 1/12 Ethan Dettweiler
- 1/13 Curt Mosher
- 1/13 Jan Zielke
- 1/14 Pat Hoover
- 1/15 Maxon Weingart
- 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

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

Counters

Art Johanson & Barb Karlen

Bus Driver

Jerry Menough

Acolytes

- 1/5 Addie Zion/
Triston Beagle
- 1/12 Elise Smith/
Maxon Weingart
- 1/19 Kara Zion/
Lane Loving
- 1/26 Stella Smith/
Addie Zion

Children’s Rotation

Sunday

School*Combined**

- 1/5/25 Brittany S/
Linda Henderson
- 1/12 Lois Niederhiser/
Linda Henderson
- 1/19 Brittany Sprague/
Lois Niederhiser
- 1/26 Lois Niederhiser
Shaunda Uphold

Junior Church

- 1/5 Steve Sprague/
Jahmaray Williams
- 1/12 Lois Niederhiser
- 1/19 Brittany Sprague/
Codey Dettweiler
- 1/26 Troy Uphold/Ethan
Dettweiler

Wee Worship

- 1/5 Abby Heverly
- 1/12 Linda Henderson
- 1/19 Grayson Anderson
- 1/26 Shaunda Uphold

Nursery

- 1/5 Amy Shoaff
- 1/12 Samara Anderson
- 1/19 Denise Linder
- 1/26 Terrie Rohrer



Anniversaries

- 1/8/25 Jay & Denise
Linder

Breakfast NOT Happenings!

As you can see our renovations to the church kitchen are in full swing. The Monthly Community Breakfast is taking a break during the remodel for January and February. **However, we are planning on returning better than ever in March!** Just in time to celebrate Spring. Mark your calendars for the **third Saturday in March** and stay tuned for further updates.

As you can see, **the Kitchen renovation project** has begun! The kitchen will be closed for January and February and all items will be moved to the fellowship hall. Therefore, **Use of the fellowship hall** will be limited. Please inquire if the hall might be needed.

****Copies of the DMC Leadership Index for 2025 can be found on the wall in Narthex**

“One Call” phone number changes/additions:

One Call is the way a lot of information is shared regarding our church and church family...prayer requests, events, meeting reminders, among many other things. Although you can be added to or have your phone number changed anytime throughout the year, **December is when the One Call** system is completely updated for the following year. We wanted to remind you, if you would like to change or add your home and/or cell telephone number (s) within the One Call system **please fill out a Phone Number Change form** located in the information rack in the narthex. Please return it to Amy Shoaff or the church office. Thank you.

DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 No Bible Study	3	4
5 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 6-8 pm SALT	6	7 8:30 am WB Ministerial 7:00 pm Choir Practice	8	9 9:00 am Tops 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Ruritans	10	11
12 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship **Take down decorations after church *** 6-8 pm SALT	13	14	15	16 9:00 am Tops 6:30 Bible Study	17	18 No Breakfast until construction is done— March 15th?
19 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 6-8 pm SALT	20 Council? 6:30? Martin Luther King Day	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22	23 9:00 am Tops	24	25
26 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship 6-8 pm SALT	27 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	28	29	30 9:00 am Tops	31	