

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

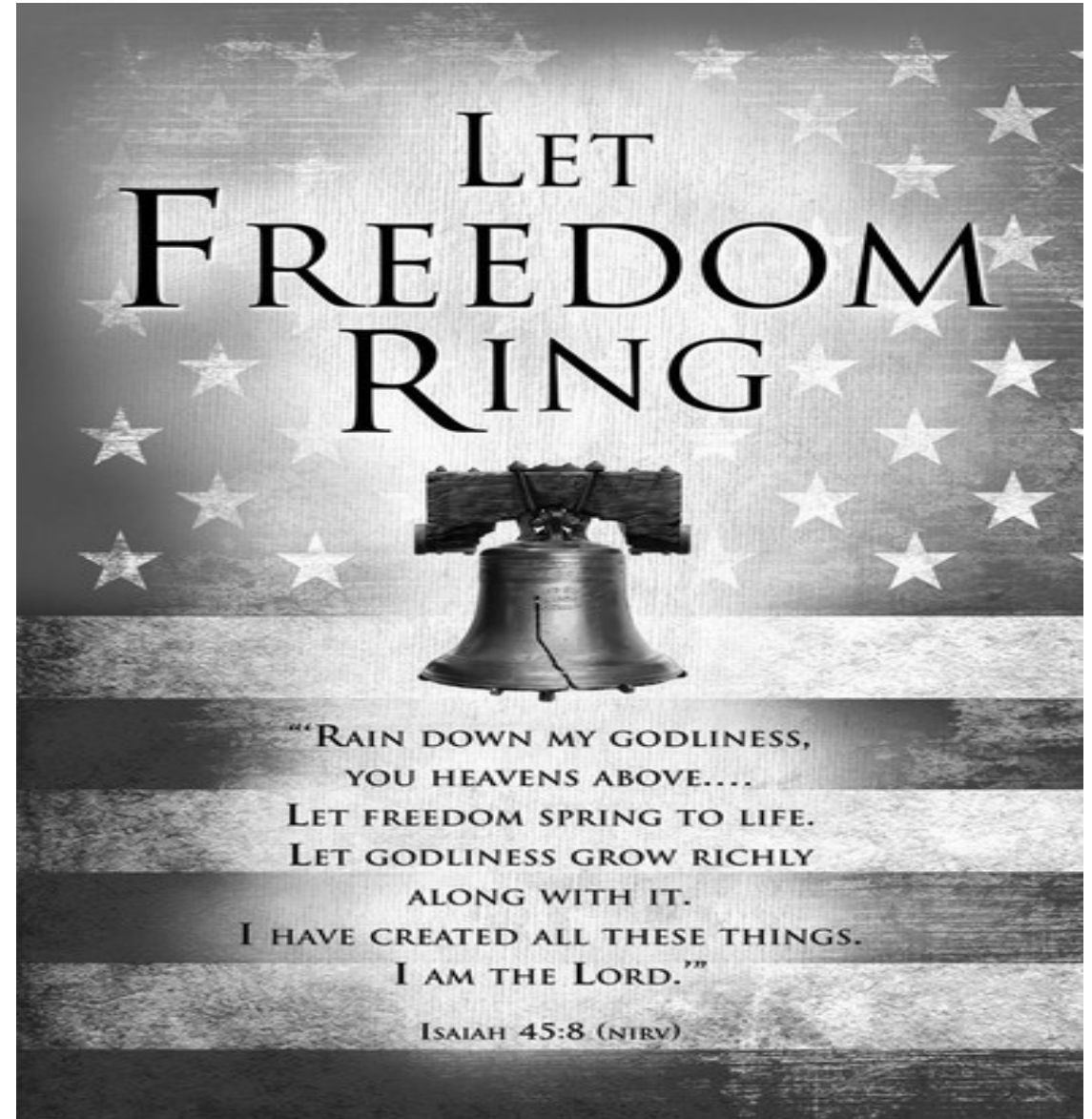
Church (330) 537-3031  
Email: [office@dumcohoio.org](mailto:office@dumcohoio.org)  
Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066  
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

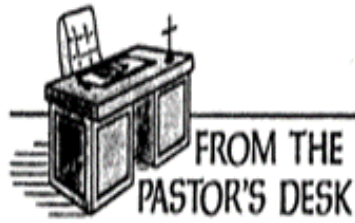
Fax (330) 537-3032  
Church Website: [www.dumcohoio.org](http://www.dumcohoio.org)  
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

# “Damascus Doings”

JULY 2023

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





## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVES July 2023

### “A Season of Change”

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 “A Time for Everything”

*For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.*

*A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.*

*A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.*

*A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.*

*A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away.*

*A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.*

*A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.*

*A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.*

My Beloved Church,

This scripture has embedded itself in my heart and mind now that the Vote for Disaffiliation is over. We stand at a crossroads in our Faith Journey that calls us to Examine, Embrace, and Live out our identity as Christians. To Look forward and begin a New Journey of Bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ into the world!

We can point fingers, blame others, get mad and whisper, or we can embrace our decisions and seek unity, grace, forgiveness, and a SEASON of HEALING.

My Prayer is that we earnestly seek the Seasons of Love, Planting, Healing, Building, & Mending as we move forward. All this begins with Prayer, Prayer, and More Prayer.

That is where God has called me the last year in dealing with who I am as a Minister of His Word.

So, Beloved let us band together and begin the New Seasons that lie ahead of Damascus Church.

Let us Trust in Jesus with All Our Hearts!

Let us Love One another the Way Christ has Loved Us!

And may we ALWAYS Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness!

**In Christ's Love, Pastor Jon**



## Souls After Living Truth News

Summer is here and all are busy - graduations, sports, Vacation Bible School, and camps! So much so that the youth only met one time in June. However, we held a car wash which was a great success. Thanks to all who supported the youth! Monies collected were donated to the Jonathan David Foundation in support of the children's home in Manipur, a state in northeast

India, where much upheaval is currently being experienced. Troy and Eric who spoke at our church, were deeply grateful for this donation as well as the donation made from Vacation Bible School. Eric, as some may remember, was part of the India's children's choir and sang at our church many years ago as a child and is now in his thirties. He has agreed to come back and speak to the youth at a later date; and we look forward to welcoming our friend for another visit!

In addition to Sunday evening youth meetings, we have begun a Bible study group. Each participant receives a small workbook for their daily reading and study; and on Saturday mornings we get together to discuss. We have just begun a study of the book of Daniel and welcome any youth who wish to join in on Saturday mornings from 9 – 10 am.

For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12



Blessings,

Linda Henderson



## "STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Donna Lutz– discharged from Cleveland Clinic, spending some time with her sister



Ukraine– Shelter Plus  
Government officials around the world  
Jay Lucas– healing and strength

Sheila Lucas– healing and strength

Lane Heverly (9 years old) – cyst on his brain

Bethany Kholos- in hospice care

Yvonne Getty– peace and the Lord’s comfort in her grief

Landon Stittle– out west doing field study for her geology degree

For all graduates

Pastor Jon & Jenny and Pastor John & Krista in transition to new shepherding roles

Civil unrest in India

Barb Baird– healing and strength

Ella Sprague- healing and strength



Family of Charles Sprague  
Family of Eleanor Shaver  
Family of Craig Snay  
Family of Phillip Murphy  
Family of Finn Smith



## TREASURED VBS

Thanks be to God for an amazing week at Treasured VBS! We had more than 55 children, youth, and adults coming together to be reminded that they are priceless to God! The energy was incredible as we shared His love with each and every one that came! Thank you to so many who helped to make this all possible! It truly was a team effort! From your help with decorating and tear down, to snack donations, teaching and leading, participating, and especially praying for our week. We were especially excited to see some new faces this year! From the smallest to the tallest...it was “priceless”!



**Join Us For  
Breakfast**

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**  
Saturday July 15th  
7:00AM-10:30AM  
Donation Only  
(change will be available)



The Worship Committee will be meeting  
July 5th at 6:30pm. If you have a role in the  
worship service please come.

*Worship Committee*



**Tuesday July 11, 1:00-6:00pm: American Red Cross Blood Drive.**

Clothed In Righteousness– New Needs:



**Urgent Need:**

- Canned goods (with ring top lids)
- Bottled Water
- Tuna (with ring top lids)
- Protein bars
- Cereal Boxes (Individual)

- Fruit Cups (Individual)
- Juice pouches or boxes
- Crackers (peanut butter)
- Plastic spoons and forks

CIR will be using monetary gifts to pay rent (\$700 per mo.) and utilities. This means they will not be purchasing food for the needy and homeless. The shelves get bare quickly– 30 grocery bags plus 10 boxes of groceries twice a week are given out.– Please donate above items to help during this dry period. Thank you - Terrie Rohrer

**From your Lay Leader ...**

**New Denomination, Same Church**

July 2023

GMC has for almost a hundred years meant General Motors Corporation and it still does today. Many of us are fans of their trucks. However, as we now know, GMC now has a new meaning as well. Most of us have been United Methodists for several decades and it is a bit strange to no longer be a United Methodist. The UMC special general conference of 2019 was meant to solve some issues that have burdened the UMC almost since the beginning in 1968. Unfortunately, the result of the 2019 conference was not acceptable to the national leadership of the UMC and the plan that came as a result of that conference was never fully implemented. Paragraph 2553 was written into the book of discipline to provide a “way forward” or exit plan for churches that wish to leave the denomination. 2553 lays out a financial plan and allows churches to retain their properties after paying connectional responsibilities to the UMC. The plan requires churches to vote to leave the UMC by a super majority. Our vote was nearly unanimous. The plan also requires exiting churches to pay an extra year of apportionments and pension. In our case, we were going to have to take money from our endowment funds in order to meet these responsibilities. God always provides. He never fails and He not only provided all of the money we had budgeted for disaffiliation, He provided it in a way that did not require taking one dime from the endowment fund. The endowment fund is built from donations from estates that are meant to last indefinitely allowing for missions work to go on and reach souls with The Saving Gospel message for generations to come. This is proof positive confirmation that we are aligned with God’s Will in this move. Section 1. of paragraph 2553 describes the “basis” for which the paragraph was written. It states –

Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self—avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow. The decision to leave the UMC has many reasons but none of them are “reasons of conscience”. The Bible is very clear about sin and how we are to treat it. Jesus meets sinners where they are. His ministry as a human on earth was noted by His hanging out with sinners that religious people would have nothing to do with. Jesus loves all of us enough to save us but he also loves us enough to desire that our lives are changed as a result of our relationship with Him. His desire is that we are to be sanctified and not left condoning our sins. As a result of the sanctification process, our sins begin to disturb us so that we may commit them less and less. This is called conviction. A more comfortable reaction to conviction is to ignore parts of the Bible or seek to change it to fit your life. The obvious problem with this is that you are disagreeing with God who inspired His Bible. Disagreeing with God can only lead down a dark path, one which we do not wish to go. The wording of 2553 could lead some to believe that disaffiliating churches would turn away homosexual persons or not affirm them. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are a welcoming church that loves all people. Our desire is that all will be saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, repent and accept His forgiveness. Damascus Methodist Church has always been a loving church family and we will always be a loving church no matter the name.



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



**July Birthdays**

- 1: Carey Weingart
- 3: Donna Lutz
- 4: Rev. Bill Buell
- 5: Jean Phillips
- 10: Eldon Morckel
- 11: Gary Mercer
- 12: Zachary Coffee
- 13: Billy Altenhof
- 14: Barb Heverly
- 20: Alex Morrow
- 22: Pastor Bob Amey
- 24: Caden Zion
- 25: Lenny Niederhiser
- 27: Juanita Gardner  
Jay Lucas



**July Anniversaries**

- 4: Brian & Marsha Coffee
- 10: Bob & Andrea Altenhof
- 15: Jay & Sheila Lucas
- 18: Billy & Elizabeth Altenhof
- 19: Jeff & Holly Morrow
- 26: Ed & Chris Lydic

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

**Counters**

Gary Mercer  
&  
Jane Menough

**Bus Driver**

Jerry Menough

**Children’s Rotation**

**Sunday School**

- 2: Lois Niederhiser
- 9: Linda Henderson
- 16: Lois Niederhiser
- 23: Shaunda Uphold
- 30: Linda Henderson

**Junior Church**

- 2: Lois Niederhiser & Ally Zion
- 9: Brittany Sprague & Abby Heverly
- 16: Lois Niederhiser & Ethan Dettweiler
- 23: Troy Uphold & Abby Heverly
- 30: Steve Sprague & Ethan Dettweiler

**Wee Worship**

- 2: Holly Morrow
- 9: Linda Henderson
- 16: Holly Morrow
- 23: Shaunda Uphold
- 30: Linda Henderson

**Nursery**

- 2: Terrie Rohrer
- 9: Amy Shoaff
- 16: Barb Karlen
- 23: Denise Linder
- 30: Amy Shoaff

**Acolytes**

- 2: Kara Zion
- 9: Max Weingart
- 16: Stella Smith
- 23: Lane Loving
- 30: Kara Zion



Reminder: Anytime you have questions, concerns, or want information about what is happening at your church, there are various ways to get answers and several people you can talk with. Our Church Council meetings are open to members and non-members, so you are always welcome to attend. The current Council Chairperson is Ed Lydic. You can also contact the SPR Chairperson, who is currently Mary Kay

Heverly, to be put on the SPR Meeting agenda. The current SPR members are Ralph Landon, Denise Linder, Bruce Rohrer, Steve Sprague, and Amy Shoaff. The current Trustee Chairperson is Jerry Stitle, and the current Finance Chairperson is Amy Shoaff. A Leadership Index for all committees is available by contacting the church office. Please know that your church leaders are as transparent as possible, but on occasion there are sensitive topics and situations that we are not able to discuss outside of specific committees. Also remember anytime you would like to be a part of a committee, to be involved with making church decisions, you can make your desire known to the Pastor, who is the Nominations Committee Chairperson.



There will be a luncheon July 9th after worship to welcome Pastor Jon and Jenny. Food and drinks will be provided. All are welcome, please come.



# Damascus Methodist Church

## July 2023



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

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Welcome Pastor Jon and Jenny Long 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship NO SALT Youth Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:30am TOPS	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship After Worship Welcome Luncheon 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>10</b> 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	<b>11</b> 1:00pm– 6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30am TOPS	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Church Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30am TOPS	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Sunday School/10:00 Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30am TOPS	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Sunday School/10:00 Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>31</b>					