

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

Church (330) 537-3031  
Email: [office@dumcohoio.org](mailto: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    Youth Group 6-8pm

Fax (330) 537-3032  
Church Website: [www.dumcohoio.org](http://www.dumcohoio.org)

**“Damascus Doings”**  
**JUNE 2023**

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

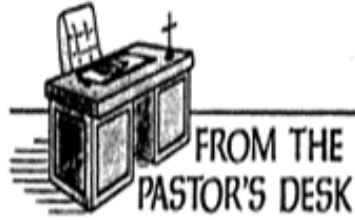


**I**  **VBS**

**Happy  
Father's  
Day!**



**PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVES**  
**June 2023**



Dear Friends at Damascus UMC,

Krista and I have been greatly blessed to have served the Lord and been involved in His work along with you all.

As you move into a new denomination and we move to a new ministry setting, and are somewhat parted from you, we nevertheless hope to stay in touch.

May the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

With affection,  
John and Krista

**Souls After Living Truth News**



High School graduation is when our young adults make all kinds of decisions as they enter the next phase of their life. Will they go where God is leading; and will they follow through on what He has in store for them? It sometimes may be hard to navigate, but it is also a very exciting time!

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” James 1:5-6. In other words, believe in the Lord and do not doubt. He will show you the way!

Three of our youth, Kaylea Pinkerton, Ally Zion, and David Ernst were each presented with a devotional containing God’s promises for them and to be a reminder of the truth that we know they have stored in their hearts. God bless each of you! We love you and will cherish the time that we had with you in youth group!

We also made an outing to Cuyahoga Valley National Park for a hike with a stop for ice cream on the way home. We were blessed with a beautiful spring day and a sign on the trail that God was with us!

Blessings,  
Linda Henderson



**Worship Schedule**

- June 4: Pastor Fitch preaching (Graduation Sunday)
- June 11: Pastor Wayne Clark preaching
- June 18: Lay Speaker Chris Lydic preaching (V.B.S. Sunday)
- June 25: Lay Leader Steve Sprague preaching



"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Fred McPherson and family welcomed their first great grandson Reese Marowsky in the Atlanta area to parents Laurie McPherson/ Marowsky and Jeff Marowsky baby boy is 6.5pounds and 20.5 inches long



Ukraine– Shelter Plus  
Government officials around the world  
Jay Lucas– second knee surgery 4/17  
Sheila Lucas– upper scope 5/3  
Donna Lutz– healing and strength  
Bethany Kholos- in need of prayer

Pauline Wayne– rehabilitation at Auburn

Lane Heverly (9 years old) – surgery to remove cyst from his brain

Barbara Baird– started dialysis

The civil unrest in the village of Churhandpur in Manipur India. Pray for Christians being targeted. Tens of thousands displaced, thousands injured and killed, homes and churches destroyed. This is where the members of the India Children's Choir live.

Chuck Sprague– healing and strength

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

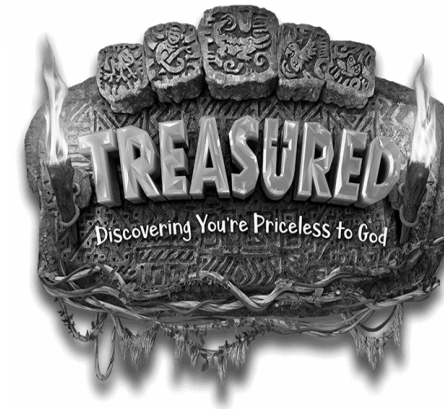
Drew Orion– healing and strength after complications following knee surgery

Nancy Welch– recovering from surgery

Sawyer and Sutton– premie babies born to Kayla (daughter of Julie in the annex) & Matt



Family of Dick Fletcher  
Family of Whitney Mercer  
Family of Bev Kelly



**IT'S TIME FOR V.B.S!!!  
TREASURED!**

**DISCOVERING THAT YOU ARE PRICELESS TO GOD!**

Thank you to so many who have answered, “Yes, Lord!” and are serving as leaders for this year’s V.B.S. It will be held on Sunday, June 11 – Thursday, June 15 from 6:00 – 8:30 in the evenings. It is for ages 3 – those who have finished 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Also, there is a sign-up sheet at the welcome center for snack donations. Beginning Sunday, June 4, we will be transforming the church to a Treasured theme for VBS! Come and lend a hand for an hour or two, (or more!) We will be working most days from 8:00 – 1:00 and from 5:00 – 7:30. Feel free to call or text first before coming in. Since we like to keep our big week an exciting surprise for the kids, set-up is for adults only! We will be working for just a short while after church on June 4, to rearrange the stage area and carry in some boards. Thanks in advance for all of your help with this very important outreach! Questions? Call or text Lois anytime @ 330-727-6841.



**Summer Mission Trip  
June 25 – July 1, 2023**

Our group is extremely excited about this year’s trip. I am very excited about some more new faces on the trip. The old faces are exciting too! We have made our decision. We will be returning to Cluster 13 Ministries in Camden, NY. Cost is only \$100.00 each for those who have been helping with the Breakfasts or any other fundraisers. Wow!

All our trips have been very successful and thrifty, even with high fuel costs. Please pray for those who have made the commitment to participate and give of their talents and time. It will be a life changing event for all!

Building and repairing for Christ,  
Lenny



**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

Saturday June 17th

7:00AM-10:30AM

Donation Only

(change will be available)

**Congratulations To Our High School  
Graduates**



West branch high school graduate **Lleyton Uphold** is the son of Troy and Shaunda Uphold. Lleyton participated in football & track and was a member of National Honor Society and The Society of Christian athletes. He was also selected as the Honored Student of Month for May at West Branch High School. Lleyton will be working for Bodo Surveying & plans on attending Akron University in the fall and majoring in Surveying and land mapping.

**From your Lay Leader ...**

**Is Your Church Falling Apart?**

**June 2023**



A few weeks ago, we had a trustee work day at the church. We are very blessed to have such a capable and willing trustee committee here at DUMC. While spreading mulch early in the day, a rock kicked up through the tines of the rake. Or, so I thought – actually it was a part of a brick. Our church has beautiful brick walls that are sort of a unique color. This brick had to have come from the church. It looked to me like it may have been part of the window ledge. I thought (jokingly), this church is falling apart. However, I searched but could find no missing or broken brick. I’ve thought about this a lot ever since. I believe God speaks to us primarily through His Holy Bible but throughout history he has used situations and circumstances to lead and speak to His children. That piece of brick could have been laying in that mulch bed for years. However, it showed up now at this particular time, kicked up by the rake at the end of my hands. Surely there is a message here. The comment about the church falling apart was a joke but who hasn’t had similar thoughts over the last few years about our local church, our denomination and others and maybe even The Christian Church as a whole. The Church has been under attack since the beginning. After exponential growth through the centuries, church attendance has been greatly reduced in recent history. Our own denomination is in the midst of a split and our own church has gone from a couple hundred to often a few dozen on Sunday mornings. All of this can tempt depression. On the other hand, God is not done with His Church and He is certainly not done with this church. We may currently be smaller in numbers but we are mighty in following The Holy Spirit. This little church is doing a ton of missionary work around the world. There will certainly be untold numbers of new believers saved from eternal hell as well as experiencing a better life now through missionary ministry. Our church is still welcoming new families. We are standing up for the truth of The Word of God while having compassion for all. We are feeding the hungry with food and feeding the spiritual hunger by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ as we always have. We are financially healthy as we have stepped out in faith in our transition to a new denomination. God has provided in ways that none of us could have dreamed. His provisions are leaving our finances much stronger than we anticipated through this transition. All of our faith should be stronger as a result of this mana. Your church will soon change names slightly but rest assured family, we are not falling apart. Quite the opposite. We are serving Jesus Christ as His hands and feet as a fully functioning body. No family, we are not falling apart. God has a plan and we are excited to live it out, welcoming all the sinners and saints alike as we travel our Christian journeys. **Jeremiah 29:11-13 For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.** Keep praying, seeking and serving family, and watch with amazement at what God will do.

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



**June Birthdays**

- 3: Mary Ann Evans  
Andrea Heverly  
Chris Lydic
- 4: Kathy Knoedler  
Ralph Landon
- 7: Bo Altenhof
- 8: Lucas Herold  
Ed Lydic
- 11: Louise Case
- 13: Chris Heverly
- 17: Darlene Kelly
- 18: Lois Mountz
- 19: Dina Sprague
- 21: Mandy Zion
- 22: Jeff Karlen  
John Karlen
- 23: Loraine Carr  
Daryl Dettweiler  
Linda Henderson  
David Miller  
Aaron Moser
- 24: Adam Lydic
- 30: Denise Linder



**June Anniversaries**

- 6: Bruce & Terrie Rohrer
- 11: Rev. Bill & Janet Buell
- 16: Adam & Katie Niederhiser  
Leo & Barb Zura
- 17: Bobby & Monica Altenhof
- 21: Tom & Kathy Knoedler

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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  
&  
Grace Williams

**Bus Driver**

Steve Sprague

**Children’s Rotation**

**Sunday School**

- 4: Linda Henderson
- 11: Lois Niederhiser
- 18: Lois Niederhiser
- 25: Shaunda Uphold

**Junior Church**

- 4: Brittany Sprague  
& Abby Heverly
- 11: Lois Niederhiser  
& Ally Zion
- 18: VBS Sunday
- 25: Troy Uphold  
& Ethan Dettweiler

**Wee Worship**

- 4: with Jr Church
- 11: with Jr Church
- 18: VBS Sunday
- 25: Shaunda Uphold

**Nursery**

- 4: Amy Shoaff
- 11: Terrie Rohrer
- 18: Barb Karlen
- 25: Denise Linder

**Acolytes**

- 4: Kara Zion
- 11: None
- 18: None
- 25: Lane Loving

**Congratulations To Our High School Graduates (Cont.)**



**Mitchell Coffee**, graduate of West Branch plans to major in finance at Mount Union while continuing to play football. Mitchell enjoyed WBHS academics in NHS and sports for 4 years playing football, basketball & track. This spring he debuted as a "Townsperson" in the play Frozen.



**Ally Zion** is a senior valedictorian and commencement speaker for the West Branch graduating class of 2023. During her time in high school, she has participated in girls’ varsity tennis, marching band, jazz band, concert band, 4-H, National Honors Society, and church life at Damascus Methodist Church. Within the church, she has been an avid participant in the praise band as the bassist, touring all over the area and playing for people who need the Word of God. Ally has also received many awards and honors for her activities, such as earning 1 st Team All-EBC Girls Tennis,

holding two school records as the girls’ tennis first singles player, playing in the District 5 Honors Jazz Ensemble, graduating with honors and the Presidential Award, earning multiple superior ratings as Solo and Ensemble Competition, and achieving ELKS Teen of the Month for April. In addition to her activities, she has also been employed as a counter attendant at Subway for a little over two years. Ally plans to continue her education at Youngstown State University to study Dental Hygiene in a four-year undergraduate program. She still plans to remain an active member of her church during and following her further education.



**David Ernst** is a member of the West Branch High School graduating senior class of 2023. Spending most of his time online during his high school experience, he is happy to say he will be able to close this chapter of his life and open a new one in the fall when he goes to college. He has been employed for almost two years at Subway as an assistant manager and has recently been a regular in the Damascus Methodist Church, attending Saturday confirmation class meetings, traditional Sunday services, Praise and Worship services, the youth group, and Thursday night praise band traveling adventures. David plans to attend Kent State University’s

Salem location to pursue an associate degree in Radiologic Imagery Technology to become an MRI technician. He plans to remain an active member of the Damascus Methodist Church family both during and following his pursuit of further education.



# Damascus United Methodist Church

## June 2023



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

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

				<b>1</b> 9:30am TOPS 6:00pm Praise Band Practice	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>5</b> 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30am TOPS 6:30pm Ruritan Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Ally Zion's Graduation Party 3:00pm– 7:00pm
<b>11</b> <b>V.B.S. 6:00-8:30pm</b> 9:00 am Sunday School/10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>12</b> <b>V.B.S. 6:00-8:30pm</b>	<b>13</b> <b>V.B.S. 6:00-8:30pm</b>	<b>14</b> <b>V.B.S. 6:00-8:30pm</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30am TOPS <b>V.B.S. 6:00-8:30pm</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast
<b>18</b> <b>V.B.S. Sharing</b> 9:00 am Sunday School/10:00 Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Church Council	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30am TOPS	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:15am Praise & Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30am TOPS	<b>30</b>	