

Damascus Methodist Church  
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Damascus, OH 44619

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Email: [office@dmc.church](mailto: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](http://www.dmc.church)  
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

# “Damascus Doings”

## March 2026

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



**Sunday, March 8th**

**First day of Spring  
March 20th**



**Sunday, March 29th**



March Newsletter 2026

**Ephesian 6: 10-12 NLT**

*A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

**Greetings in the Name of Our Victorious Savior Jesus Christ!**

As I sit early in the morning looking out into a world that is desolated by winter, broken branches, dead grass, and grey surroundings, it's very easy to get up from the table and go back to my easy chair, cover up and ask God for a do over. Winter has that effect on us when the grey overshadows the light bright sun! Then I walked over to the church and there it was, a beautiful purple, yellow & white, snow crocus, Standing bright against all the dead of winter.

**God is Good! Amen**

We are in the midst of our Lenten journey with Jesus all the way to the cross! If we are successful, all the death of winter that is in our lives will be crucified with Jesus and our souls will be made perfect and as White as Snow!

**Again I Say, God is Good!**

And better yet Our Lord prepared us for this Journey by giving us “His Full Armor” to guide and protect u on this Lenten Journey. So, Fear Not, or as Jesus would say, “Do not be Afraid!” because I am with You!

He Lives! He has defeated Death! The Tomb is Empty, The Stone Rolled Away, and there he stands, hands open and side exposed and all he asks of us is to “**Simply Believe.**” Are you ready for this new life that only comes in Jesus? I know you are, so let's take it together. Let's walk the trials, the challenges, the temptations of this dark world as one, and find together the Glorious Victory in Jesus that is promised to ALL who Simply Believe!

I can't say it any Better, GOD is GREAT!

Let's roll Church, and break out of the Dark Grey world around us and be transformed into everything God has prepared us to Be!

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

**Romans 6:20-23 NLT**

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

**SALT YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Wednesdays 6:30—8:00 pm**



This has been a busy season here at Salt Youth Group. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, the youth hosted a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner for the church. During this dinner, the teens had the opportunity to serve alongside the men of the Forge and provide for the church wonderful service and a delicious meal. The proceeds from this dinner are going to support the youth group's trip to the Encounter Youth Conference in April. This conference is designed to be a time for youth within Allegheny-West to meet and engage in “holy conferencing” — having times of worship, learning, and adventuring. On behalf of all the members of Salt Youth, I'd like to extend a hearty thank you to all who attended and/or supported this dinner.

With all that said, I think it would be wise to discuss the main reason we had the kids do this dinner — engaging in service. Serving others is a fundamental aspect of our faith as Christians. In a stunning act of humility and service, Jesus set the example what was expected of disciples regarding serving each other. John 13:14-15 reads, “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (NIV). During Jesus' time on earth, it was not culturally acceptable for a prominent person to wash the feet of their subordinates, yet Jesus, the Lord God Almighty, bent down to wash the feet of His creation. Out of His deep love for us, Jesus humbled Himself to the point of a brutal death on the cross for our sake (Philippians 2:5-8).

This is all to say, Christians are to follow the example of Jesus — humbly serving those around us for the sake of Christ. Therefore, as a part of one of the core tenets of Salt Youth to disciple kids into mature Christian adults, they must serve as Jesus served. It is imperative that they have these opportunities to love their neighbors as themselves through good works. This dinner also had the added benefit of helping to teach the kids responsibility. I communicated to the kids that if they wanted to have the church financially support their attendance at the Encounter Youth Conference, they needed to participate in this dinner. That way, the students were able to earn their way without putting financial strain on their parents. This was a wonderful opportunity for them not only to earn money for a fun trip but give back to the church who has done such a wonderful job supporting them. Thank you again to all who helped, attended, and/or supported the youth in this endeavor.

James 2:14-17, “*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>1</sup>If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead*” (NIV).

Blessings,  
Sam Bryan

# Praise!

Becky Vignon is now “Brace Free after healing!  
Jim Miller had successful eye Surgery

## Prayer Requests



### World Peace

First Responders, military, veterans and families

Bill Williams having Rotator cuff and repair surgery 3/4

Sheila Lucas dealing with digestive issues

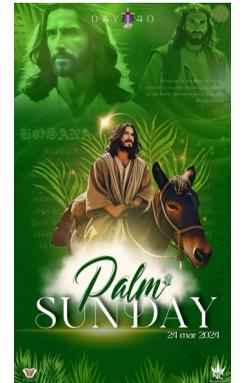
Donna Harper dealing with cancer treatment complications



## Lenten Sunday Topics:

Sunday, March 1st  
March 8th  
March 15th  
March 22nd  
March 29th

“Blessings & Obedience”  
“His true Identity...The Great I Am”  
“Darkness gives way to “The Light”  
“Death gives way to Life”  
“Palm Sunday”



## Coming Events:

Good Friday Services on April 3rd at Beloit Friends Church

Easter Sunrise Breakfast on Sunday, April 5th at DMC  
8:45-9:45 am

April 7th Missions Mtg @ 6:30 pm

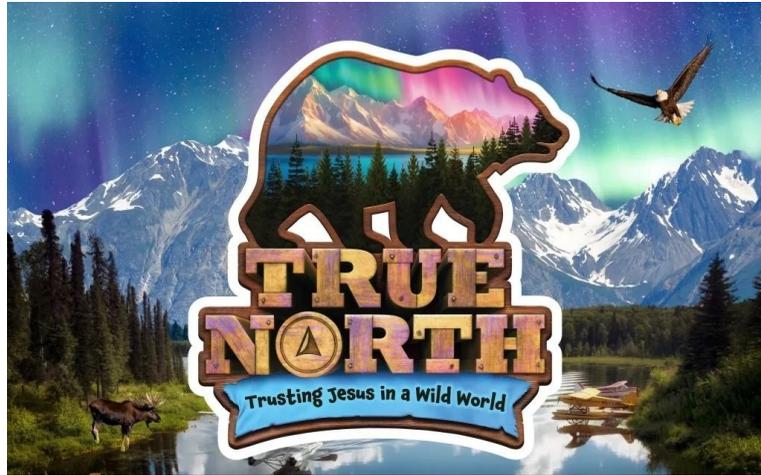
April 14th Bennett Scholarship Mtg @ 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 26th Dinner & Concert with “Renewal” @ 4:30 pm

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\*\*\*In an effort to enhance Safety & Security, the Auto-Lock door at the north entrance of the church will be open from 9:00 am-6:00 pm daily. It will lock automatically at 6 pm daily.

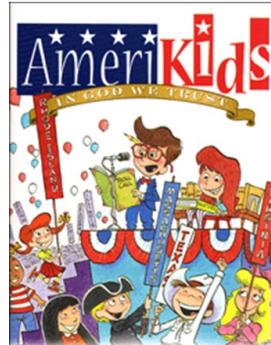
COMING SOON: VBS June 7-11, 2026  
6:00-8:30 pm



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 250<sup>th</sup> 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 ...

Out of the Freeze

March 2026

WOW! What a winter it has been. In this crazy super-hyped-up media world we live in it has been an “un-precedented” winter. Those of us old enough to remember and those of us that care to study history know that this winter is anything but un-precedented. We have been really fortunate for the last few years and haven’t really had much of a winter until this year. It’s been a good old-fashioned winter like the ones we used to have and since we didn’t move to Florida (well some of us), we are here to freeze through it. Is this strong (normal) winter some sort of climate change phenomenon? Good question. I’m glad you asked. Well, some things are certain. God – God The Father, God The Son and God The Holy Spirit – created the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh. He created climates and everything on the earth. Sixteen-hundred years later, He flooded the earth, which changed everything and the climate hasn’t stopped changing since. God is in control.

As we shovel out of these last winter storms, we look forward to the joy of spring that will remind us of renewal, awakening and revival. Yes, we are literally entering a new season but Damascus Methodist Church is entering a new season as well. I’ve been telling everyone for the last couple weeks that “Old Man Winter” is not done with us yet. While this may be true, it is also true that God is not done with us yet. We worship The Living Jesus Christ and we will be faithful to serve Him in whatever old AND new ways that He leads us. So, let us not hinder His plans with our own limited ideas of what is possible and what is impossible. **Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

Have you ever struggled for the words to defend your faith? **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.** Always being prepared to give an answer should make us ask the question “How do I prepare to give an answer?” If we want to compete in running a 5K or marathon, we run and train our bodies to run well. We listen to others that have won and use their methods. If we want to win a debate event, we research and practice the debate. We use proven debate tactics to get our points across. If we want to lead others to Christ, one way to open the door is apologetics (strategic, reasoned defense of the Christian faith). We need to research and listen to others that have successfully answered the questions people have about Christianity and practice answering those questions as well. Our own Sam Bryan will be speaking at the 2026 Apologia Conference at The Salem First Friends Church in Salem, Ohio on March 20-21, 2026. Go to <https://bcfriends.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3298686> and register today.

Steven Sprague – Lay Leader  
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**Birthdays March**

- 3/8 Terrie Rohrer
- 3/8 Colton Weingart
- 3/10 Charlene Henderson
- 3/11 Brian Pinkerton
- 3/12 Jane Beck
- 3/12 Helen Mincks
- 3/12 James Mincks
- 3/14 Lleyton Uphold
- 3/15 Harry Hancock
- 3/16 Bob Denny
- 3/17 Addie Zion
- 3/18 Mary Kay Heverly
- 3/22 Nancy Cadile
- 3/22 Dakota Murphy
- 3/23 Colleen Martsolf
- 3/24 Jerry Menough
- 3/26 Becky Vignon
- 3/28 Marge Zeigler



- 3/17 Jerry & Jane Menough

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**

Jerry Menough

**Acolytes**

- 3/1 Triston Beagle/  
Kara Zion
- 3/8 Stella Smith/  
Max Weingart
- 3/15 Sawyer Anderson/  
Lane Loving
- 3/22 Addie Zion/  
Triston Beagle
- 3/29 Wyatt Schulze/  
Max Weingart

**Children’s Rotation:**

**Sunday School**

- 3/1 Lois Niederhiser
- 3/8 Lois N.
- 3/15 Lois N.
- 3/22 Shaunda Uphold
- 3/29 Linda Henderson

**Junior Church**

- 3/1 Steve Sprague/Codey
- 3/8 Lois Niederhiser
- 3/15 Lois N.
- 3/22 Troy Uphold/Ethan
- 3/29 Brittany Sprague

**Wee Worship**

- 3/1 Lois N.
- 3/8 Grayson Anderson
- 3/15 Abby Heverly
- 3/22 Shaunda Uphold
- 3/29 Abby Heverly

**Nursery**

- 3/1 Abby Heverly
- 3/8 Samara Anderson
- 3/15 Terrie Rohrer
- 3/22 Amy Shoaff
- 3/29 Denise Linder

# Summer Mission Trip June 21 – June 27, 2026

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 Jackson Area Ministries in Jackson, OHIO. Cost is only **\$100.00** each for those helping with the Breakfasts. Wow! All our trips have been very successful and thrifty, even with high fuel costs. Please prayer fully consider coming on the trip this next summer. Our plan is to stay at the Haverhill UMC as last year. The Church there provides great kitchen, showering and sleeping arrangements. I can guarantee you will not regret your decision to join us! Our fundraisers are already in full swing with the Community Breakfast every third Saturday at our DMC. Stay tuned to your Sunday bulletin and listen for special announcements regarding the trip and fundraisers!

Building and repairing for Christ, Lenny

**P.S. We need adults, both men and women! Please consider coming along. Remember its NOT too late to go...the trip is open to all Youth and Adults...grade 7 and up!!!!**

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



# DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

## March 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am SS 10:00 Worship	2	3 YAG 6:30 pm	4 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	5 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's & Women's Bible Study	6	7
8 <b>Turn clocks up 1 hour</b> 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	9	10 8:30 am WB Minis Mtg YAG 6:30 pm	11 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	12 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's & Women's Bible Study 6:30 Ruritans	13	14 <b>Ruritans Swiss Steak Supper at DMC 4-6 pm</b>
15 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	16 Council Mtg 6:30 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day YAG 6:30 pm	18 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	19 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's & Women's Bible Study	20 1st day of SPRING!	21 <b>Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am</b>
22 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	23 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	24 YAG 6:30 pm	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
29 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship <b>Palm Sunday</b>	30	31 YAG 6:30 pm				