

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”

May 2024

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

As a
mother
comforts her child.
so will I comfort
you.



ISIAH SIXTY SIX THIRTEEN



May 2024 Newsletter: Pastors Moment
“Rejoice in the Lord Always!”
Isaiah 61:10

I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bride-groom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels.

Good Morning Church!

Can you believe we are on the beginning of another month in 2024, its May. When I look back and reflect on the Joy, I find in the last year May jumps of the calendar at me.

It was the month in which many UMC churches had to stand on the TRUTH and INTEGRITY of God’s word and make the difficult choice to leave. It was a month in which I too had to make those same decisions about my future or lack of one as a UM pastor.

It was one that a late evening phone call on May 14th, 2023, called me to take and adventure to Damascus, Ohio to hear where God was calling me to continue in his work. Yes, it was May 16th, 2023, in a room known as the Library that our journey together began! Rejoice, Again I Say Rejoice!

Beloved, what a ride we have shared in 10 plus months together! GOD is GOOD! Those are just the beginning blessings for what God is planning for us as we follow Jesus together!

Remember these things! (VBS, Fall Kick-Off, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, Easter, the 24-Hour Prayer Vigil, Bible Studies, Youth Activities, and our Wonderful Childrens Ministry! Our Community Breakfast, Chili Cook-off, Son-Rise Family Breakfast, just to name a few!)

God is GOOD! Again I say REJOICE!

So then, how do we top that? It’s Simple, TRUST in the Lord with ALL your Heart and lean not on your own understanding! Seek the Face of God, and he will make your path known! **It’s Our Time Church! Let’s Roll!**

John 15:11

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!
In Christ’s Love, Pastor Jon

We will be Recognizing our 2024 Graduates on Sunday, May 19th, 2024 during worship service. Please turn in any names and school of graduation for those in this category. We don’t want to forget anyone!

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

Over the past several weeks devotional time has centered around Jesus and his Sermon on the Mount. How can we live a righteous life? What does righteousness even mean? Can we be righteous but avoid being self-righteous?

During the time of Jesus on earth, the Pharisees and Scribes, considered the religious elite, thought they had the answer to righteous living. They meditated on the Torah and the Prophets written centuries earlier. But, there was a problem in that the laws weren’t complete. So they made their own interpretation. Jesus challenged their thinking, with the Pharisees responding that he wasn’t taking God’s law seriously. But, in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Don’t suppose that I have come to dismantle the Torah or the Prophets. I haven’t come to dismantle them, but to fill them full.” Matthew 5:17

Jesus came to fulfill the laws. He revealed God’s wisdom in his Sermon on the Mount so that all can love God and also love and do right – live righteously – with our neighbors.

While it’s not easy to live a righteous life, the youth were shown how they have so much more than the Israelites did – they have the rest of the Bible which tells of Jesus’ life on earth and provides the greatest example to us of righteous living. SALT Youth Ministry traveled to Seneca Hills Bible Camp in Polk, PA, for the Youth Encounter Conference April 26-28.

Blessings, Linda Henderson

Note, there will be no Salt Youth Ministry on May 12 and 19th

We would like to give a big thank you to those who helped publish our new DMC Directory !!



Samara Anderson—Photographer

Art Johanson—Coordinator

Linda Henderson—Technical Advisor

Thanks for all your dedication and time to make this happen!

We hope to be able to update this more often!

If you didn’t get one yet, there are still copies available (even if You aren’t in it this year)



STEWARDSHIP PAGE

Linda and Steve took 4 youth to GMC Retreat
Abby Heverly received Salem Alumni Scholarship
Amanda Lydic healing from a horse and eye accident



World Peace

Government officials around the world
First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families
Pray for Buell's for travel mercies—Move to Copeland Oaks by end of May
Jane Menough having back surgery 5/3
Phil Bush put on Hospice Care
Louise Case at Crandall in Hospice Care
College students need prayer for final exams
Fred McPherson back to Crandall after hospital stay—prayers for clarity
Nikki Beagle hospitalized with bleeding and allergy issues
Family of Bob Goodwin, friend of Pastor who passed away
Prom season prayers for safety
Prayers for UMC General Conference
Kathy Tedrow is dealing with health issues and also taking care of Pauline Wayne—please keep both in your prayers

Drivers wanted!

The **We Care Ministry team** is looking for **volunteer drivers**. We recognize the fact that some in our church family are no longer driving, or are not comfortable driving at night, during snowy weather, in the city, etc. We want to help! Therefore, we are looking for a list of volunteer drivers who are willing to help meet this need! There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome center for drivers. Please indicate if you are willing to drive during the day, night or both! Once the list is compiled, it will be made available to our church office and our church family. This will allow those needing a ride to reach out to someone on the list! Please prayerfully consider signing up so that we can extend this much needed service to our church family.



Don't Forget Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12th!



Love Offering for the Buell's

For the past several weeks, we have been praying for Jan Buell and her health concerns and for Rev. Buell and the family as they have been making some big decisions. They have decided to be in Ohio and move to Copeland Oaks before end of May. We are still planning on helping with moving expenses and medical expenses. **STILL A SURPRISE!**

We will be collecting for this offering until May 19th. If writing a check, just put “Buell's” in memo line. Thank you for your willingness to give back to a family that has given so much to our church for so long.

THANK YOU!

We wanted to express our sincere gratitude for all the prayers, thoughts and Cards that Amy and I have and are continuing to receive through My health issues. I finished my Chemo treatments for Classic Hodgkins Lymphoma in February and recently spent a week in the hospital due to severe shortness of breath caused by complications from that treatment regimen. I am doing much better and getting stronger as time goes on. My wife and I cannot begin to tell you how much our Church and fellow members mean to both of us, especially in times like these. Thank you again for everything!

God Bless you all! Lenny and Amy Wagner-Niederhiser





**COUNTDOWN TO LIFT-OFF FOR VBS!!!
SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – THURSDAY, JUNE 13
6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. (CHECK-IN 5:45)
AGES 3 – 103!**

THREE, TWO, ONE, BLAST OFF FOR VBS!!!!!! Countdown to lift-off has begun for Stellar- the VBS where we discover what it means to shine Jesus' light! Our exciting VBS is only a few light weeks away! Thank you to so many who have answered “yes, Lord,” to help out! Look for a sign-up sheet near the welcome center for snack donations. Set-up will begin on Sunday, June 2! Come and lend a hand whenever or wherever you can! It's always a lot of work but also a lot of fun as we join together for this exciting time!

Congrats to James Mincks and Mitchell Hofmann!!

West Branch juniors James Mincks and Mitchell Hofmann won the **Adirondack Chair Competition** from the Builders Assoc of Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. **James** earned a \$1000 gift card to Power Tool and Supply for his **1st place** chair and Mitchell earned a \$500 gift cart for 2nd place. The chairs took 3 weeks to build. This was during Mr. Sharp's Construction class. This is the first competition the two have entered. Keep up the good work boys!



Congratulations also to James for Being inducted into National Honor Society at West Branch High School!

Congrats!!

From your Lay Leader ... May 2024

MOTHER MAY I?

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

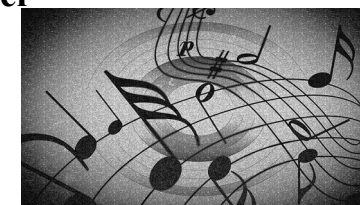
Our whole lives are chock full of rules. From the time we are babies, our Mothers begin to set boundaries on what we can and cannot do. She knows what is best for us so she does not allow us to do things that will hurt us. Soon enough, Dad joins in on this rule making and enforcement. These two are soon joined by teachers, administrators, employers, spouses, government and more. As long as we stay within the rules, we are free to do whatever we want... as long as we are fulfilling our obligations. When we break the rules, there are consequences. Some rules come with clear cut consequences for not following them. If I get caught speeding, I must pay the requisite fine. Others are less well defined, but husbands all know that if we forget to take out the trash, there will be a penalty and perhaps a long memory letting us know about it years later.

The Jewish people needed a set of rules or laws because, on their own, they ran amuck (some of us still do). God made the rules clear in Exodus 20 when He gave us The Ten Commandments. Pretty much all of our laws stem from The Ten Commandments. If we followed all of these rules, we wouldn't hurt anyone and we would save ourselves from pain as well. God wrote the ten commandments because He knows that they are what's best for us and that we inherently want rules. It's simple, follow all of God's law perfectly for our entire life and we go to Heaven to be with God forever. Break the law and there's hell to pay - literally.

All of us make mistakes and sometimes we even break rules intentionally. The law of Exodus was also written to show us that none of us can follow it perfectly. We all need mercy. Jesus came to make a new covenant. He came to make a way for us to be right with God by paying the penalty that we deserve for not following the law. If we accept the forgiveness that Jesus offers and give our lives to following Him, we are free from the ultimate penalty of sin.

Jesus summed up the entire list of commandments by saying that what we really need to do is love. He showed us how to love by example because He first loved us even when we did not deserve it. When we give our lives to Jesus, we no longer ask “may I do this or not do that”. We allow ourselves to be shaped by Jesus and our love for our neighbor becomes what we want to do rather than what we have to do.

Summer is coming! Do you know someone that would like to use their talents of music or other Talent for a special Sunday? Please let office know or talk to Chris Lydic!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May Birthdays

- 5/4 Ally Zion
- 5/6 Lane Loving
- 5/12 Gayla Houshour
- 5/13 Triston Beagle
- 5/16 Tracie Stittle
- 5/16 Janice Ward
- 5/17 Harold Wilson
- 5/18 Bill Williams
- 5/21 April Dettweiler
- 5/24 Randy Murphy
- 5/24 Shaunda Uphold



May Anniversaries

- 5/1 Larry & Jan Zielke
- 5/19 Pastor Jon and Jenny
- 5/27 Jack & Linda Henderson
- 5/27 Bill, Sr. and Gayla Houshour

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

Counters

Kathy Knoedler & Linda Henderson

Bus Drivers

Jerry Menough

Acolytes

5/5 Elise Smith/
Maxon Weingart

5/12 Stella Smith/
Lane Loving

5/19 Corianna Hauter/
Addie Zion

5/26 Kara Zion/
Triston Beagle

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School**older class

Junior Church

- 5/5 Steve Sprague/
Ethan Dettweiler
- 5/12 Lois Niederhiser/
Codey Dettweiler
- 5/19 Troy Uphold/Abby Heverly
- 5/26 Lois Niederhiser/
Richey Hill

Sunday School

- 5th ***Linda Henderson/
Denise Linder
- 12th ***Brittany Sprague/
Linda Henderson
- 19th ***Brittany Sprague/
Shaunda Uphold
- 26th ***Lois Niederhiser/
Linda Henderson

Wee Worship

- 5th Holly Morrow
- 12th Brittany Sprague
- 19th Shaunda uphold
- 26th Linda Henderson

Nursery

- 5th Terrie Rohrer
- 12th Nancy Cadile (SS)
Holly Morrow
- 19th Amy Shoaff (SS & worship)
- 26th Denise Linder

Summer Mission Trip June 23 – June 29, 2024

The Summer trip is rapidly approaching! We are getting ready to return to Jackson to work with the local area. Jackson is in the lower Central Ohio Appalachia area. The rolling hills and wooded areas are very beautiful and very challenging for its residents! We are hoping to help with some handicap ramps and outside home repairs. Our projects have not been finalized yet. There is still time for you to join our wonderful group. The cost of our trip is very low at \$100. I guarantee you will never regret making the decision to come along and share your talents and show the residents that someone cares!

Important Mission Trip Dates:

Monday May 13th \$25 Deposit Due Meeting at DMC at 5:30pm. Bring ID and Medical Card for forms, under 18 bring adult!
Tuesday June 18th FINAL payment DUE and final trip schedule at DMC at 5:30pm.

Community Breakfast

Saturday, May 18th 7:00am –10:30am



Damascus Men’s Day Out!

Saturday June 15th, 2024

Join as as we journey together to remember the Golden Era of Steam and its role in WWII. We will be traveling to the Steam Roundhouse Museum in Sugarcreek, Ohio and reliving history as given through the Rail Roads of Ohio integral part in winning WWII.

Let’s meet at the church @ 7:00am. Join in the Missions Breakfast and depart for Sugarcreek by 8:00am. We will carpool or take the Church Van/Bus! **Men and Boys/Youth are invited!** Tickets are \$20.00 each. Sign up Sheet is on the Welcome Center!

PLEASE SIGN UP BY May 19th.



DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH



May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 National Day of Prayer 9:30am TOPS	3	4 OCC Celebration Event 10-12:30am
5 8:45-9:45 am Gathering 9:00am SS, 10am Worship 6:00pm- 8:00pm SALT	6	7 8:30am WB Ministerial mtg Blood Drive 1-6 pm	8	9 9:30am TOPS 6:30pm Ruritans 6:30pm Men's Warrior Bible Study	10	11 8:00am All Church WORKDAY
12 8:45-9:45 am Gathering 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship No Salt Ministry Group HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	13	14 7:00 Choir Practice	15	16 9:30am TOPS	17	18 7:00-10:30am Church Breakfast
19 8:45-9:45 am Gathering 9:00am SS, 10am Worship No Salt Ministry Group Honoring Graduates	20 6:30pm Council Mtg	21	22 Pastor Jon away at Allegheny Conference Wed-Sat (Chris & Steve)	23 9:30am TOPS Allegheny Conference	24 7:00pm West Branch Graduation Ceremony Allegheny Conference	25 Allegheny Conference
26 8:45-9:45 am Gathering 9:00am SS, 10am Worship 6:00pm- 8:00pm SALT Salem Graduation 2:00pm	 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	27	28 7:00pm Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm Choir Practice	29	30 9:30am TOPS	31