

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

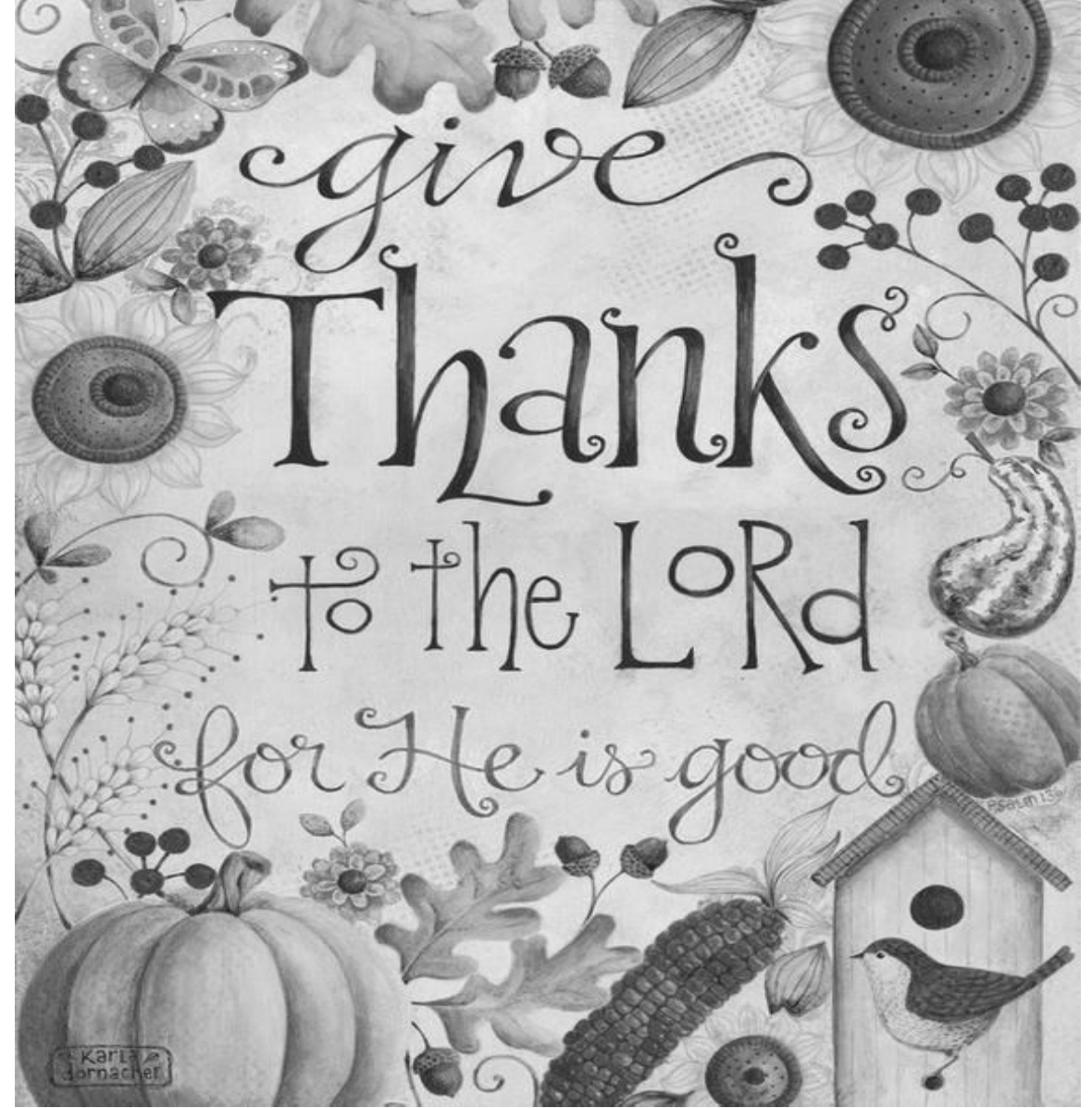
Church (330) 537-3031
Email: office@dmc.church
Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

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

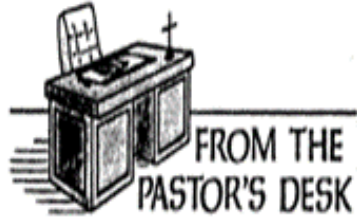
“Damascus Doings”

NOVEMBER 2023

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



PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVES



NOVEMBER Newsletter 2023
“Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving”

Psalm 107: 1-2

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

How quickly time flies by, it seems like just yesterday I looked out my office windows and admired the beauty of Summer, the flowers, the birds, the glorious sunshine. Yet this morning the leaves are falling fast, cool weather is approaching, and snow flurries are in the forecast. WOW! It is late October and on the Horizon is a Season of Thanksgiving and Praise!

Our God is So Good and we truly have so much to be thankful for, AMEN! Look at the blessings of 2023 so far.

1. We have survived Disaffiliation and are thriving in the Global Methodist Church!
2. You have a New Pastor and his Wonderful Wife, and we are so excited and thankful for God bringing all together!
3. There are so many new and exciting ministries that are waiting for God’s Church to Embrace!

And finally, but not the least, December brings the Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ! So, from the Long Family to all our Damascus Family, we give Thanks to God for all these blessings and look forward to the exciting future he has in store for his church!

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope. ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen.

**In Christ’s Love, and with Thanksgiving,
Pastor Jon & Jenny**



Save the Date: Start your Thanksgiving Week off with a time of Worship & Thanksgiving. Pastor Jon and the West Branch Ministerial Association invite you for an evening of Worship and Reflection here at Damascus Methodist Church on Sunday November 19th, at 7:00p.m as we celebrate Thanksgiving together! Join us as we search God’s Word and Praise him for all the blessings of being One Beautiful Community of Faith!

Souls After Living Truth News

“Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God – truly righteous and holy.” Ephesians 4:23-24.

This new nature refers to our new identity as the unified body of believers of Jesus who live in love. We are created in God’s image, to resemble Him here on earth. Since the beginning of time, God has desired to bless us and enjoy close fellowship with us, and for this reason He made us like Himself.

We have each received special talents from God through the Spirit to build up the unified body of the church. In turn, we shine God’s light to the world and do the works that God’s prepared for us long ago. Do we doubt our talents? Absolutely! But, being in the Word continually refreshes our outlook and bolsters us through the difficult challenges. By God’s provision, we continue to build each other up in the new identity that God has given us because of His grace, through faith.

Please enjoy some photos of the youth enjoying a fall weenie roast and carving pumpkins!

Blessings,

Linda Henderson



"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Donna Lutz– home! Staying with her son John
 Pauline Wayne– home
 Charge Conference went well 10/7
 Young girl rescued from abduction while camping
 GMC first Annual Conference was truly “Holy Conferencing” Praise the Lord!!!
 341 OCC shoe boxes packed and counting
 Women’s Emmaus Walk #56 was a success



Government officials around the world
 First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families
 Lane Heverly (9 years old) – cyst on his brain- surgery November 10th
 Sue Johanson– hospice care
 Liz Black (Dina’s sister) – healing and strength

Wendy– dealing with eye issues
 Bob Crites– bladder cancer
 Pastor Brandon Keck– stomach cancer
 Israel and Palestine
 Bullying in schools
 Dorothy Walther– severe back pain
 Triston Beagle– stomach issues
 Debbie Hawk– back pain will be having MRI
 Travel mercies for Sandy Dearth
 Russ McDermott– health & healing
 Joe Cadile– health & healing
 Men’s Emmaus Walk #56
 Kathy Landon– healing & strength



Family of Doug McPeck (Friend of Pastor Jon and Jenny)
 Family of young man who lost his life in a hunting accident
 Tracey W. loss of her mother
 Family of Nancy Dean (Ralph Landon’s sister)



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COMING SOON! SUNDAY, DEC. 10 DURING 10:00 SERVICE

Calling all kids and youth! Calling all kids and youth!
 It’s that time of year again! It’s time to start practicing for our annual Christmas program! This is such an exciting time of year. The kids and youth will be working hard to present a program proclaiming the Messiah’s birth! Practices will begin Sunday, Nov. 5 during the junior church/ wee worship time. We will also be practicing on select Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 7:30 for the few weeks leading up to the program. We will be passing out folders, cd’s and schedules and talking about this exciting day. Please plan to be a part of it all. Questions??? Please see Lois



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK

Mon. NOV. 13 – Mon. Nov. 20 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. each night
 (Mon. Nov. 20 9:00 – 12 noon)
 Once again, our church has been asked to serve as a drop-off location for Operation Christmas child. During this week, individuals and local churches will be bringing their filled shoeboxes here. Then, they will be counted, placed in large cartons, and prayed over as they begin the next part of their exciting journey! Please keep this week in prayer as churches all across the nation work together to reach this year’s goal of over 11 million Gospel opportunities! If you are willing to help during this week, there is a sign-up sheet on the welcome center. If you have any questions, please see Lois Niederhiser.



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Saturday November 18th
 7:00AM-10:30AM
 Donation Only
 (change will be available)

Clothed In Righteousness



Urgent Need:

- Men's gently used jeans size 30-36
- Medium and large sizes are needed urgently for men's and women's underwear.
- Adult sweatshirts of all sizes are needed for men and women.
- Men's T-shirts in all sizes
- Mylar Blankets
- 1 or 2 person tents
- Large bottles of sanitizer
- Hand, foot, and body warmers

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



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.



SPRC: Our committee has been at work making decisions with much Prayer which were and are for furthering the Lord's Kingdom. Many of the decisions up until now have been very difficult, but in the end, best for all involved. We are now in search of a secretary to replace Dina Sprague who has handed in her resignation which will be effective December 29, 2023. Dina will be very difficult to replace.

Please keep the SPRC along with all our church community in your prayers as we move forward in the work of our Lord, exhibiting Jesus 'example as we go. Blessings to you all. SPRC Chair, Mary Kay Heverly



Tuesday Nov.14, 1:00-6:00pm: American Red Cross Blood Drive.

From your Lay Leader ... One Couple's Story of Financial Stewardship

November 2023

We were a typical young couple. We had both drifted away from our relationships with Jesus Christ. Eventually, we started attending church in an attempt to raise our kids in a church family. However, we were not trusting God. We were in control and were not relinquishing any of it to God. Also, as it is with most young couples, we struggled financially. Giving to our local church was an afterthought. We might give because we thought we should occasionally but it was always well after all other obligations were paid and never planned. The Holy Spirit started working on me first. It seemed like the message was everywhere. I had begun listening to Moody radio and the Biblical messages on giving seemed to have been written for me. The same for sermons. I was increasingly bothered by our lack of giving. I still had no idea what God was trying to teach us, though.

Years earlier, I had made a confession of faith acknowledging that Jesus Christ had died for the forgiveness of my sins and invited Him to "come into my heart (whatever that means)." We aren't doing our kids any favors with this type of alter call... but I digress. Although, I had acknowledged Jesus Christ was my Savior and knew that I had needed to be saved, I hadn't given my life to him. I had not surrendered. My surrender would be a long process.

The pressure of conviction grew and after some prayer, I decided that we needed to start giving and that ten percent would be our plan. I announced to my young bride that we would be giving ten percent of our income to the church. However, there was a problem. We didn't have it. We would look at our budget and see that we did not have enough to give ten percent to the church as I had planned. We were giving pretty regularly but just not ten percent because we just didn't have enough. What we were doing was a half-hearted attempt to follow Jesus. What we hadn't realized was that Jesus wants us to give our all.

Every week it was the same thing. "This is what we can afford to give. We'd like to give ten percent but this is what we have so this is what we can give." It was true. What we were giving was all that WE could give. We still were not trusting God. I believed that Jesus Christ had the power to save me from hell and make a way instead for me to live forever in Heaven but didn't trust that The God that created all and owns it all, could take care of us if we were obedient to this thing that I knew He wanted us to do. Then I started to get this message. Every time, we discussed what we would, or more accurately, wouldn't be giving because we didn't have it, I would think "but we did have it before we gave it away for other purposes." Ten percent was a percentage of our income. It wasn't a specific dollar amount that could possibly be more than we had.

Finally, I gave in. I said, we had the money before we paid this or that. We aren't putting God first. Let's try trusting Him for a change. God's economy is different than ours. Nothing was made without Jesus Christ. We think we invented math but all that mankind knows is simply discovering God's Creation. Let's write that check before we write the others. We've trusted in ourselves for our finances long enough. Let's try trusting in God.

This decision was not without stress. We were struggling. How was this ever going to work? I didn't fully understand what God was trying to teach us. Giving first was stepping out in faith. God is always faithful. Despite our stress and despite the math, we did it anyway. What we found is that we could do more with the ninety percent than we ever could with 100%. We found that the stress over money was not a thing as long as we trusted God. We found that we really could trust God even when we could not see a way. We found that we do not need to know the way, we just need to trust the way maker.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November Birthdays

- 1: Emily Tedrow
- 4: Gail Murphy
- 8: Jamie Weingart
- 9: Shawn Heverly
- 13: Marsha Coffee
- 17: Brian Coffee
- 19: Pauline Wayne
- 22: Mary Weingart

Happy Anniversary

November Anniversaries

- 2: Gerald & Helen Mincks
- 17: Harry & Pat Hancock

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

Counters

Kathy Knoedler
&
Jane Menough

Bus Drivers

Steve Sprague
& Jerry Menough

Acolytes

- 5: Elise Smith & Stella Smith
- 12: Corianna Haueter & Triston Beagle
- 19: Lane Loving & Max Weingart
- 26: Addie Zion & Kara Zion

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School

- 5: Lois Niederhiser & Linda Henderson
- 12: Brittany Sprague & Lois Niederhiser
- 19: Lois Niederhiser & Linda Henderson
- 26: Brittany Sprague & Shaunda Uphold

Junior Church

- 5: Program Practice
- 12: Program Practice
- 19: Program Practice
- 26: Program Practice

Wee Worship

- 5: Program Practice
- 12: Program Practice
- 19: Program Practice
- 26: Program Practice

Nursery

- 5: Denise Linder
- 12: S.S. Nancy Cadile
Terrie Rohrer
- 19: Holly Morrow
- 26: S.S. Amy Shoaff
Amy Shoaff



Pine Ridge Boys Concert. Sunday November 12th, 2023. Join us for a light & refreshing dinner from 4:00 -5:30 in the fellowship hall! (Donations for Dinner Appreciated) Then be prepared to be amazed as the southern gospel group the Pine Ridge Boys share an evening of praise & worship with their music and witness with their testimony. (A free will offering will be taken during the intermission of the concert to bless the Pine Ridge Boys!)



Our church has been blessed in many ways this year. One of those ways was through the Jenkins Trust. Ed and Elizabeth Jenkins were residents of Winona, where they operated a nursery and attended the Winona Methodist Church. After retirement, they built a new home on Valley Road next to the David Denny property and started attending our church until the time of their deaths. This last year we were notified by their trust company that we had been named as one of four recipients to receive funds from their trust. This year we have received checks totaling \$114,939.31 from that trust. This money came at a time when we were going to have to vote to take money from our Endowment fund to pay for our disaffiliation fee. Thankfully we were able to pay the fee and have money left over to be used in our Endowment fund to help with projects in the coming years. Damascus Methodist Church thanks the Jenkins’ for remembering us and for their substantial gift.

My Long & Winding Road



It's been over a year now since I started down this path! I thought everything was going so well and I was on my way to healing and recovery. **“I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me”** – (NKJV Philippians 4:13). But then, a few weeks ago, I heard the words from God recalculating - **“We're making a hard right 'U' turn”** and God made the decision for me to choose to go to Hospice. So, please continue your prayers for me and especially Art.

THANK YOU Church Family for ALL the beautiful cards, delicious food and **Loving Prayers**. This has been a very humbling experience. Without Art, and **all of you**, I would be a lost wandering soul. God Bless ALL of you!!
In His name. Sue Johanson



Damascus Methodist Church

November 2023

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



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship—Kids Play Practice 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	6:30pm SPRC Meeting	8:30am West Branch Ministerial Meeting 10:00am Light Up Damascus Meeting		9:30am TOPS 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study		TOPS RALLY
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Veterans Day New Member Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship- Kids Play Practice 4:00pm – 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Pine Ridge Boys Gospel Quartet	OCC Collection	7:00pm Choir OCC Collection	OCC Collection	9:30am TOPS OCC Collection	OCC Collection	7:00am– 10:30am Church Breakfast OCC Collection
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship - Kids Play Practice 7:00pm West Branch Ministerial Service OCC Collection- Load the trailer	6:30pm Church Council OCC Collection and deliver			Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed	
26	27	28	29	30		
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship - Kids Play Practice 4:30pm– 6:00pm Y.A. Bible Study 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	7:00pm Trustee Meeting	7:00pm Choir		9:30am TOPS		