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– Wednesdays 6:30-8

“Damascus Doings”

October 2026

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



Celebrate with Pastor Jon and Jenny Sunday, October 4th during Worship and afterwards for Lunch!



"The Son Rises on a New Day"

Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Well now, As I sit here on a cool September Morning, I am drawn to the memories and blessings of the last 3 plus years with my flock here at Damascus Church. I came broken in Spirit and very weary of organized religion. Yet God was telling me there was more for me to do. He was not ready to let me run away and hide. Our God is So Good! You see he brought us here to this wonderful church in a community I knew nothing about and as always rained down his grace on Jenny & I. It was quickly apparent that this was God's doing and that there was enough in our tanks to Glorify Him together with all of you.

So it Began, we laughed, cried, praised, and worshiped him as his Church in a new and exciting Mission Field as a Global Methodist Church. He blessed us with great leadership, new ministry opportunities, and wonderful new faces every Sunday to share the "Good News" of Jesus Christ with the World! We are no longer a Church with a revolving door of Pastors. No, We are a Church with Mission, With Vision, and with a New and exciting Family to lead us forward. Damascus please do your thing in loving and praying for the Bryan Family as they take the reigns and follow God's will for DMC. Sam and Molly are here because God has made it so! He brought Sam & I together to plot a course forward for the Revival of His Church going into the Future. I believe with all my heart that God is in this New Transition for DMC. I believe if we all come together as a United Church following Gods word and Spirit that nothing is impossible. I know we were sent here to get us ready for this New Blessing and New Start in rebuilding God's Kingdom as Damascus Methodist Church!

Jenny & I will miss you all terribly, yet we know God's plan for us and for all of you is a New SON RISE for TOMORROW! We Thank You for Your Love & Kindness! We Praise God for Your Willingness to Follow & Serve! And we shower you in Our Prayers for the Future and all that lies ahead for you and DMC. We will stop and visit from time to time to check on you all and follow you on social media. So, Lean in, and Serve with all you have. There is a Great Blessing Coming in Jesus and the whole world needs to Hear about Him!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jon & Jenny

Galatians 5: 22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

"DAMASCUS DOINGS"

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm Young Adult Group (YAG) Tuesdays 6:30-8

We are on the cusp of some big changes here at Damascus Methodist. October is the last month that I will be serving as the youth pastor here at DMC. With Pastor Jon's retirement at the end of the month, I will be officially stepping into the role of lead pastor on November 1st. I can't begin to describe how excited I am about this opportunity to serve, and I am thankful that the Lord has brought me and my family to this church! I'm praying that the Lord uses me however He sees fit during my time of service here.

However, with this exciting news comes a certain level of uncertainty about what the future of Salt Youth looks like. We are currently seeking out someone to replace me as the youth pastor. Whoever this person is, I ask that we as a church wash them in prayer long before they walk through the door. As a church, if we are to thrive and be obedient to the will of God, we must be a praying church. Therefore, please be praying for all of us in leadership as we seek out the person to take over this position and be praying that the Lord brings someone to us who will be faithful and true to Him in all that they do.

With all that said, I would like to leave us with a word of encouragement on what the future holds. The God we serve is faithful, powerful, and abounding in love. As Christians, we never have to worry about what the future holds because we know that the Lord is ultimately in control of it. God is sovereign over all things, and it is through Him that all things are created and sustained. There is a reason why Jesus told us not to worry about the future. The Lord will provide for His people (Matt. 6:25-34)! As we step into this next phase of our church's life, we can rest easy in the fact that we serve a risen Savior and that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8, NIV). Our Lord does not change, and He will surely be with us until the end of the age (Matt. 28:20).

1 Chronicles 29:10-13, "*David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, 'Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name*'".

Grace and Peace, Sam

Praise Reports

A great Worship Service with Dan Gildner!
Loren Shaver home VA clinic Cleveland!



Prayer Requests

World Peace, First responders, military, veterans and families

Brody Fisher in Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Jerry Menough dealing with health issues

Joyce Krahling still needs prayers for dealing with pain

Darin Dustman dealing with burns from accident

Tiffany, Art's daughter, to have collar one repair surgery 10/8

Missions

2026 Missions Giving

Local Missions	$17,500.00	Endowment Income	$29,200.00
Foreign Missions	$14,525.00	Envelope Income	$3532.00
Family Support	$ 2500.00		
Total Givings	$34,525.00	Total	$32.732.00

Meetings/Events for October

Sunday, October 4th Pastor Jon's Retirement Party after Worship
Monday, October 5th 6:30 pm Nominating Comm Mtg
Every Tuesday 6:30 pm Young Adult Group
Every Wednesday 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group
Every Thursday at 6:30 pm Women's & Men's Bible Study
Saturday, October 17th 7-10:30 am Community Breakfast
Sunday, October 25th Pastor Jon's Last Sunday
Monday, October 26th 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 27th Blood Drive DMC 1-6 pm

All Saints Day Sunday, November 1st
If you wish to honor someone, please fill out paper and return to office.



Save the Date: Community Thanksgiving Service:
Beloit Friends Church Sunday November 8th at 7:00 pm

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Requirements for 2026 DMC budget per week: $4039.00

Offerings received so far 8/21/26	**$164,659.91**
Expenses so far for 2026	**-$160,656.00**
Balance of General Fund	**$4003.91**

It's here!
Sunday October 4th, 2026
Celebration Sunday!



Come and Join us in a Wonderful Worship service that Celebrates our time serving God together! We have been blessed in almost twenty years of service to the Lord's Churches and I want us to celebrate a "Big One" Together before Jenny & I take off for Florida!

We will worship @ 10:00 a.m. and afterwards have a Luncheon to Celebrate God's Love Together!
Please RSVP and Drop these in the Box in the Narthex. We want to make sure we are set up and have enough Food for the Celebration!

Monthly Community Breakfast at DMC
Saturday, October 17th 7-10:30 am
Come and enjoy the fellowship!



"DAMASCUS DOINGS"

From your Lay Leader …

Fill Your Mind with Christ

Like many of us, I have lots of memories from childhood of Halloween. Fortunately, it was all about the candy. We would always try to fill up as many pillow cases as we could. It's a wonder we didn't all develop diabetes. Dad would always have to "check the candy" for safety. I'm not sure why but candy checking seemed to consume a lot of candy… I wonder how Dad's blood sugar was doing during the first part of November back in those days?

In the years since then, there has been many discussions about what is really meant by Halloween and whether Christians should partake. For some people, it is their favorite "holiday". One of my customers turns his whole property into a giant "haunted house" celebration. They start decorating in the first part of September and not one square inch goes undecorated. He must spend a ton of money in the effort.

1st Peter 3:15-16 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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. Only God knows a man's heart. My customer and I have had brief seed planting conversations about Jesus and the last time we met, I was able to give him one of our Forge Group coins, so seeds have been sown.

The older I get the more I am aware of the evil that surrounds Halloween. Yes, most of it is done in innocent fun (like pillow cases full of candy), but it is definitely a time that we must guard our hearts and minds. My son and daughter-in-law have come to a decision to avoid the "celebration" altogether. We must all make our own decisions but theirs is a "As for me and my house, we will serve The Lord" kind of decision that is admirable. Besides, I will be sure and load the grandkids with all the candy they can handle. Sorry, Brittany.

1st Corinthians 2: 10-16 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But, we have the mind of Christ.

Steve Sprague—Lay Leader Stevespra@gmail.com 216-789-4650



10/3 Zach Crouse
10/3 Jean Zion
10/3 Kara Zion
10/8 Melissa Criss
10/10 Fred Criss
10/10 Drake Lohnes
10/15 Gerald Mincks
10/18 Lois Niederhiser
10/22 Grayson Anderson
10/23 Judson Weingart
10/24 Tom Knoedler
10/28 Samara Anderson
10/29 Treva Miller
10/30 Pastor Jon Long
10/31 Pat Hancock
10/31 Art Johanson



10/2 Brooks & Mary Weingart
10/5 Walt & Joan Pontious
10/16 Bill & Grace Williams
10/28 Shawn & Barb Heverly

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
Steve Sprague

Acolytes

10/4 Sawyer Anderson & Elise Smith
10/11 Wyatt Schulze & Kara Zion
10/18 Ruth Crouse & Triston Beagle
10/25 Max Weingart & Addie Zion

Children's Rotation:

Sunday School
10/4 Shaunda Uphold
10/11 Lois Niederhiser
10/18 Shaunda Uphold
10/25 Linda Henderson

Junior Church
10/4 No Jr. Church
10/11 Lois Niederhiser
10/18 Troy Uphold
10/25 Steve Sprague

Wee Worship
10/4 Shaunda Uphold
10/11 Grayson Anderson
10/18 Shaunda Uphold
10/25 Abby Heverly

Nursery

10/4 Terrie Rohrer
10/11 Samara Anderson
10/18 Amy Shoaff
10/25 Denise Linder

Floater

10/4 Abby Heverly
10/11 Andrea Altenhof
10/18 Vicky Smith
10/25 Jamie Weingart

"DAMASCUS DOINGS"

National Collection Week for OCC
Monday, November 16th-Monday Nov. 23rd

Fellowship Hall for Drop-off
Hours TBD (usually 4:30 –7:30 pm)
Might be different hours on Sat/Sun 12-2
Also last Monday 11/23 will be 10am-12 pm

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE:

And that's a wrap on our all church packing party! Thank you to those that came and packed shoeboxes! In just four sessions, **we packed 514 shoeboxes**! Praise God! This is our highest number yet. Now, we need to send those shoeboxes on their way into the hands of an awaiting child! Would you prayerfully consider adopting a box (or several) **by paying the needed postage?** Each box costs just $10 to send to a waiting child in more than 110 different countries or in hard-to-reach areas. In addition to the postage, this $10 also includes the child's own Gospel storybook as well as the needed teaching materials for each location. Each child who receives a shoebox will be receiving the most important gift of all…the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ and His amazing love for each one of them! And considering how much postage is to just send a simple package to the next city or state, this is really a minimal cost!

Also, for your convenience, you may pay for your boxes online or by writing a check and sending it in a postage paid envelope. Just let us know how many boxes you are adopting by indicating on the chart in the narthex. And to make it even easier, you may opt to pay the postage fees at a later date. Just let us know now so that we can keep an accurate count. Or, maybe you would like to fill your own shoebox with your personally chosen items! That's great, too! Empty shoeboxes are waiting to be filled and are available at the table. Just return your fun, full, and personalized shoebox to the church during National Collection week which runs from Nov. 16-23. And We are happy to be serving as a drop-ff location again this year! And finally, and most importantly, please remember to PRAY for your shoeboxes as they begin their important journey!!!

Questions???? Please contact Lois Niederhiser at 330-727-6841.
Oh, the power of a simple gift!

In Christ, Lois Niederhiser

DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

October 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study **& Women's Study**	**2**	3
4 9:00 SS 10:00 Worship **Pastor Jon's Celebration after church**	5 **6:30 pm Nominating Mtg**	6 6:30 pm Young Adults	7 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	8 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study **& Women's Study** 6:30 Ruritans	9	10
11 9:00 SS 10:00 Worship	**12** **Columbus Day**	13 6:30 pm Young Adults	14 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	15 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study **& Women's Study**	16	17 **Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am**
18 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	19 **No Council**	20 6:30 pm Young Adults	21 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	22 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study	23	24
25 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship Pastor Jon's last Service	26 **6:30 pm Trustees MTG**	27 6:30 pm Young Adults **Blood Drive 1-6 pm**	28 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	29 6:30 Forge Men's Study	30	31