

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”

September 2026

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





“Getting Ready for a New Frontier”

1 Thessalonians 5:5

For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night.

I can't believe I'm sitting down and writing a September Newsletter Moment! Time is flying by and all our prayers and dreams are centered on getting Our Church ready for the future. I need your help in getting us strong for the road ahead as Sam & Molly begin their service to DMC as the new pastoral team. I know in my heart that the Lord has led them here and in planning a great revival going forward! With these truths, please consider being a part of the future of DMC. We need more help now more than ever as we focus on fulfilling the Great Commission in bring new people to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

It seriously takes a Village to Rise up against the Evil One and be United in Prayer, Vision, & Work to Glorifying God! We need help in Leadership, Service, Support, and Financial Blessings. There are a few maintenance issues like our parking lot and general HVAC concerns and maintenance that require resources. But most of all WE NEED YOU! To be here and be a part of the new ministry that the Lord is blessing DMC with. Please be in deep prayer for Our Future. Please be a part of attending and supporting the change in leadership as Jenny and I are called south to serve God in a new adventure.

Let's all come together and seek a NEW START at DMC and allow our service and worship for God to guide us forward! Trust in the Lord with all your heart and he will again bless his people and show us a path forward! We will be back to visit you all soon! Let's make this a wonderful reunion of Love, Faith, and Growth as a Church on the Rise!

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

Acts 20:28

“So, guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders.

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY

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

The beginning of the school year is upon us, and the students of Salt Youth are settling into their new way of life that each new grade brings. Along with this, some of the students are making big jumps like moving from middle school to high school and high school to college. With this in view, we celebrated our friend, Elizabeth Martin, beginning her freshman year of college this week. As a youth group, we threw a party for her and told her just how much we were going to miss having her! In the wake of all this, it made me begin to think about once again the purpose of the youth group.

The whole point of us doing youth group at DMC is to disciple young people into a deeper walk with Christ, to prepare them to stand on their faith with their own two feet, and to call them to a life of holiness. The world will attempt to sell to these students that the “good life” completely revolves around selfishly only looking after yourself and only doing what makes you happy, successful, etc. Therefore, the entire point of youth group is to proclaim the truth of Jesus to these teens and help them discern the lies fed to them through every sinful power or institution or even individual. It is to help them understand that true freedom only comes from serving Christ. As John writes, “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free’... Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed’” (John 8:31-32, 34-36, NIV).

To be a disciple of Christ may be costly and require discipline and even sacrifice, but it is far and away better to serve Christ fully than to be apart from Him. Teens must be prepared for this reality as they step into adulthood. This is why youth groups and other service/Bible study groups are so important for teenagers to be a part of — it gives them a chance to grow in their faith and be supported by their peers before having to face the world as adults.

Hebrews 6:1-3, *“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits”.*
Grace and Peace, Sam Bryan



Praise Reports

Jenny’s final bible study coming!



Prayer Requests

- World Peace, First responders, military, veterans and families
- Joyce Bush having Pacemaker put in on 9/1
- Bonnie McDermott in rehab at Shepherd of the Valley
- Brody Fisher in Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
- Art’s BIL, Bob, to have open heart surgery
- GMC General Conference in Africa
- Joann Dobbs friend, Judy dealing with shingles and pain

Save the Date!
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!

Meetings for September

Tuesday, Sept. 1st	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg
Tuesday, Sept. 8th	5:30 pm	Finance Committee
	5:30 pm	Summer Mission Trip Meeting
Monday, Sept 14th	6:30 pm	Nominating Committee Mtg
Tuesday, Sept 15th	6:30 pm	Missions Comm Mtg
Friday, Sept. 18th	7:00 pm	Worship Gathering w/Dan Gildner
Monday, Sept. 21st	6:30 pm	Administrative Council
Monday, Sept. 28th	6:30 pm	Trustees Meeting

Save the Dates: Friday, Sept. 18th at 7:00 pm
Dan Gilder, our Allegheny West Assoc. Conference Superintendent



******Sunday, October 4th** during Worship and lunch afterwards.
Come and celebrate Pastor Jon’s retirement!

Requirements for 2026 DMC budget per week: \$4039.00	
Offerings received so far 8/23/26	\$150,475.06
Expenses so far for 2026	<u>-\$146,791.15</u>
Balance of General Fund	\$3683.91

Mission Trip News

Fall is coming and so is planning for next Summer’s Mission Trip! We will be having a meeting Tuesday Sept.8 at 530pm at DMC to gather interest for next Summer. The trip is tentatively planned for June 20-26. We are exploring sites including the area we have been to lately. We are excited to have some new Youth eligible to go! Hopefully we can gather some parents and other adults! NOW is the time, mark your calendar for next June and consider committing to going with us on the Trip. I guarantee you will never forget your experience. Come help us be a part of helping others!

Important date to remember:
Tuesday September 8 at 530pm at DMC
FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MTG FOR 2027 MISSION TRIP

Ministry Survey for Damascus Methodist Church.

Dear church family, God calls each of us to Serve his Church and Kingdom in different ways. As we continue to grow and vision ourselves for the future, we need individuals who can step up and help in many areas of church leadership and service. Below are some examples of Ministry teams that we need to increase numbers in for the **2027 year**. Please prayerfully consider where you can help be part of the future of God’s Church.

Endowment Team:

Finance Team:

We Care Ministries Team:

Church History Team:

Missions Team:

Nominations Team:

Staff Parrish Relations Team:

Bennett Scholarship Team:

Trustees Team:

Worship Team:

If You would like to talk about or serve on one of these teams, just Check an X beside the teams that interest you and leave your name and phone number and we will be in touch to answer any questions.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

From your Lay Leader ...

Pre-Harvest Inventory

September 2026

I was talking to a farmer the other day who was telling about the way that they check corn this time of year and try to predict what the yield will be once they harvest. The process involves finding a “typical acre” in a field, picking out a “typical stalk” with “typical ears”, counting the kernels on those chosen ears and extrapolating that average number across the whole field. Back in the spring, when they planted the corn, they had hopes for a certain yield. They put a lot of money into the ground in the form of labor, seed, fertilizer and diesel fuel. The prices of all of these things have risen tremendously over the past few months. They will spend more money harvesting that crop soon. The goal is to have enough corn per acre at the harvest to repay all the money spent and hopefully make some money in the process. We’ve had a great growing season and the harvest will be plenty. God is Good! In this case, the results are looking like the farmers are getting the answer to prayers that they hoped for.

Several years ago, Garth Brooks sang a song titled “Unanswered Prayers”. The story line in the song was looking back over his life and realizing that the things that didn’t turn out the way that he may have wanted them to in the past were actually better than he could have ever hoped for. God is Good! In farming, the factors that affect the crop harvest are too long to list if we really think about it. The factors that affect our lives are more numerous than the grains of sand in the desert. While we try our best, there is simply no way that mere mortals can have the forethought to know what will happen in the next minute, let alone the next year and longer. We make plans, and we need to do that, but what we need to do more than making plans is to truly turn those plans and every detail of our lives over to God. Looking back on our lives from time to time, with prayer, can help us see the results that we probably missed at the time. God knew what would happen in the future, we did not. By looking back, we can see in retrospect what He knew all along.

Being a Christian is not just believing in Jesus, it is believing Jesus. If we believe Him, we believe in His word and live our lives as if we agree with Him. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 that Our Father in Heaven cares about every detail in our lives. What we need to do is to seek Him first, trust Him daily and let our lives be molded into living more and more like Jesus every day. **Matthew 6: 26-34 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? “Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**



9/1 Mitchell Coffee (22)
9/7 Amy Shoaff
9/9 Barb Jones
9/10 Bill Houshour, Sr.
9/11 Bruce Rohrer
9/12 Don Jones
9/13 Luci Knepper
9/21 Sally Wilson
9/27 Sawyer Anderson(10)
9/27 Elise Smith (10)
9/29 Stella Smith (12)

Counters
Art Johanson &
Jane Menough

Bus Driver
Jerry Menough



9/4 Ralph & Kathy
Landon
9/9 Troy & Shaunda
Uphold
9/14 Jonny & Brittany
Sprague
9/28 Dave & Amy
Shoaff

9/6
9/13
9/20
9/27

Acolytes

Children’s Rotation:

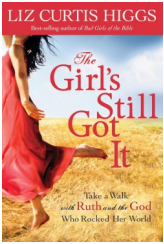
Sunday School
9/6 Lois Niederhiser
9/13 Lois N.
9/20 Linda Henderson
9/27 Shaunda Uphold

Junior Church
9/6 Steve Sprague
9/13 Lois Niederhiser
9/20 Lois N.
9/27 Troy Uphold

Wee Worship
9/6 Grayson Anderson
9/13 Abby Heverly
9/20 Abby Heverly
9/27 Shaunda Uphold

Nursery
9/6 Terrie Rohrer
9/13 Amy Shoaff
9/20 Denise Linder
9/27 Samara Anderson

Floater
9/6 Andrea Altenhof
9/13 Katie Tedrow
9/20 Vicky Smith
9/27 Jamie Weingart



**Join Jenny and DMC women for
the Fall Adult Bible Study!**
Starts Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 pm.
Cost of book is \$15.00.
Sign up sheet in Narthex!

Come & Celebrate!
**Join our Super “Sundae” celebration as we
celebrate baptisms, new Bibles, and more!**
“Sundae” September 13th
We are having an “Ice Cream Social” right after Worship!
Celebrate God’s Blessings @ DMC and
Enjoy Faith, Family



**&
“ICE CREAM”**
Let’s Truly Make This A Bring A Friend “Sundae!”
Everything Is Provided & Served By The We Care Ministry Team!



**Sunday, September 13th
During Worship**

******* If anyone would like to be baptized or remember your baptism
on this Sunday,
please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Sam.**

DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

September 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 pm Worship Comm Meeting 6:30 pm Young Adults	2 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	3 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study	4	5
6 9:00 SS 10:00 Worship	7 LABOR DAY— Office closed	8 5:30 pm Finance MTG 5:30 pm Mission Trip 6:30 pm Young Adults	9 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	10 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study & Women's Study 6:30 Ruritans	11 9:00am Light Up Damascus Mtg	12
13 Sunday School Kickoff and Baptism Sunday	14 Nominating Comm Mtg 6:30 pm	15 6:30 PM Missions Mtg 6:30 pm Young Adults	16 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	17 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study & Women's Study	18 District Worship Gathering Meeting 7pm w/Dan Gildner	19 Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am
20 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	21 6:30 pm Council Mtg	22 6:30 pm Young Adults	23 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group	24 9:30 am Tops 6:30pm Men's Study & Women's Study	25	26
27 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	28 6:30 pm Trustees MTG	29 6:30 pm Young Adults	30 6:30 pm Salt Youth Group			