

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

Church (330) 537-3031
Email: office@dumcohoio.org

Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

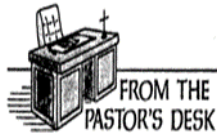
Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dumcohoio.org

“Damascus Doings”

JANUARY 2021

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





PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVES JANUARY 2021



As we enter into a new year there are many firsts we will experience:

- Meeting and learning about who you are and how you do ministry in your life.
- My first message to you.
- Our first set of meetings: planning services, programs, and mission opportunities.
- The end to Covid restrictions.
- The rebuilding of church family traditions and making new memories.
- Exploring the community, attending school events and community events.

As we connect and grow spiritually together new ministries will evolve and transform us. As we walk through life following the path that Jesus taught in the scriptures; our light will shine from within us and as we serve others, we will bring peace and comfort to those that can see and feel our joy. 2020 has been a year of building strength and learning new ways to teach, preach, and share the gospel of the Lord.

In 2021 we will be able to use new skills, technology, and wisdom we have gained and spread the Word of God by building upon the foundation that is laid down. A foundation of tradition using John Wesley's practice of living your theology by learning, growing in the Holy Spirit, and doing the work you have been called to do.

Lin and I look forward to sharing our thoughts, time, and talents with you as we work together to make each other better Christians.

Your Partners in Christ
Pastor Frank and Lin



Souls After Living Truth News

Hello from S.A.L.T. (Souls After Living Truth), the DUMC youth:

A new year has begun! In light of the turbulence of 2020, I'm sure plenty of people are wondering what unpleasant twists these next twelve months might bring. I'm also sure many people are still carrying problems from last year: the pain of loss, the scars of hardship, the spectre of fear, the anger of helplessness. Even though the calendar has changed, it's impossible for people in that position to truly experience a fresh start unless they stop lugging around those soul-crushing pieces of the past! I'm reminded of the gospel account of Jesus and the invalid at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15). The invalid had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus knew about the man's past but didn't ask about it. He simply asked the invalid if he wanted to be well. What an interesting question! Shouldn't it be obvious that someone who had suffered so much for so long would desperately desire a new start? Oddly enough, however, the man responded to the question not by stating such a desire but by bringing up his past – his frustrating experiences and his reasons for rejecting the hope of healing. He was so stuck on his old problems that he couldn't see the opportunity offered by the Problem-Solver standing in front of him! The invalid needed deliverance from more than his physical affliction; he needed freed from his past! How did Jesus help? He immediately directed the man's attention to the present, assigning him an action to take right then in that moment: "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" (John 5:8). And in that moment, the man took his eyes off his failures and excuses and simply did what Jesus said. The invalid obeyed and discovered he was finally able to rise and move forward. What about you? Could you use a new beginning? Are you carrying still carrying cumbersome pieces of the past that need to be set aside? You don't need to rehash your frustrations and fears to Jesus. He knows all about them. If you want to be rid of those things, ask Him what He requires of you right now. Turn your eyes from your past to the Savior standing before you in the *present*. Lift your gaze from your old problems to your loving Problem-Solver. What action is He telling you to take? Obey Him in faith, and, like the former invalid, you'll find yourself free to move forward.

Blessings,

Phil



"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"

Jim Miller clean bill of health at last Dr appt.
Jennifer (George and Marge's daughter) back to work after Covid
Roger & Donna Hanson- better after Covid



Barb Jones- continued healing
Sheila Lucas- carotid artery surgery 12/30
Mary Ann Evans- unstable on her feet
Roger Stitle- healing
Mike- (Barb Karlens former son in law) continued prayers
Carol Bozoni- fell, healing
Becky Wilson (Harold's daughter)- on ventilator with Covid
Pastor Frank Zugaro and wife Lin and family- our interim pastor beginning in January
Beverly Cameron Rummel- hip replacement 12/11
Nelson & Nancy Walter George & Marge' neighbors)- health issues
Linda Tuel (friend of Joann Dobbs)- cancer
Bob Yagellow- rehabilitation
Janice Ward- noninvasive surgery 12/23



Family of Dale Ward
Family of John Thomas
Family of Ila Jean Paxson
Family of Irene Morckel
Family of Ed (Etta Shively's son)
Family of Pastor Roy Walther
Family of Mark Menough (Jerry's brother)
Family of Bob Beeson
Family of Susan Wilson

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Claudia Criss and Tyler Grubb on the birth of Harper Lyn Grubb on November 26, 2020 at 5:03pm. She weighed 8 pounds and 11 ounces.
Proud grandparents are Missy Criss and Fred Criss, proud uncle is Heath Criss.



We at DUMC are certainly used to change and 2020 has taught us to be flexible in many ways but, the most amazing gift God has given us is each other. Through all the changes we have been blessed to take care of each other, call each other, check on each other, send cards and be there with our smiles and God's love.

We are saddened to see Pastor Wayne leave but at the same time we were so blessed that he fostered us for six months. He and Pat will always be in our hearts. We send them off with love and blessings for a third time retirement for Wayne. He has certainly answered God's call.

At DUMC we know how to use our Godly talents to show our love to one another and we are ready to do that again as we welcome Pastor Frank and Lin to our family. Please help the SPR committee to welcome our new pastor. Put on those smiles and let them know that they have joined the loving family of the Damascus United Methodist Church. I did share with Treva (our pie maker) that Pastor Frank's favorite pie is cherry! Blessings to all and may the Lord be with us and guide us.

Carolyn Caldwell, SPR Chair



Greetings from Preschool

Christmas 2020 is one we will always remember. Many of our traditions had to be adjusted, but we still celebrated the birth of baby Jesus. We are looking forward to settling into our routine again.

We are accepting registration for our 2021-22 school year. If you know of someone that might be interested, please share our information.

Continue to lift us in prayer as we head to the end of another school year, and begin to plan for next year. May we always seek God's will.

Blessings, Andrea, Amy, Phil, Abby & Courtney



A special thank you to the kids who participated in the Children's Christmas program "What Does This S.T.U.F.F. Have To Do With Christmas". Now we all know what all the "stuff" represents. If you were not able to attend please watch it online. Go to our website www.dumcoho.org, click on Sermon Videos and find December 13, 2020. Enjoy! You will be Blessed!



The Membership Care Committee would like to thank anyone who donated items for the military Christmas boxes. Thank you andrea and all who helped the preschool children color pictures for our soldiers. Also for all the goodies. A special thank you to Treva Miller who baked homemade cookies along with myself. Also a thank you to Sandy Dearth who helped me pack the boxes and get them mailed. We sent to four of our church family who are serving our country.

Thank you very much. —Helen Mincks, chairperson

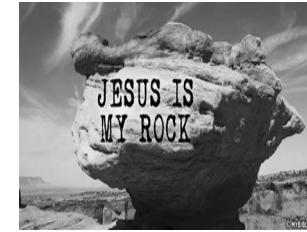


Beverly Mosher phoned to say thank you all so much for the Christmas cards sent to Copeland!

Praise God we could send some CHRISTmas cheer at this difficult time.



We are planning to collect an **item a month** so that next November we will have a wide variety of beautiful items! **January item** are stuffed animals, hats and gloves.



From your Lay Leader ... Like a Rock

January 2021

Remember the Chevrolet Motors "Like a Rock" ad campaign? Personally, I liked the "Baseball, Hotdogs, Apple Pie & Chevrolet" ad better... Anyway, I digress.

Last year's January newsletter article mentioned that 2020 may not be that much different than 2019... Boy was I wrong! Who knew? Two thousand twenty was different than any year before and hopefully any year to come. Amongst all of the abnormalcy (that is now a word) there were some highlights to 2020. Rental cars are now extra clean when you rent them – even Enterprise. Hotels are cleaner as well, although some do not clean your room daily once you're in it. We are all experts at ordering EVERYTHING online. More people than ever have experienced Zoom meetings. Let's hope that doesn't catch on. In a year when our pastoral families have changed three times and we have resorted to drive-in services, we got to see a kid's Christmas program indoors and outdoors simultaneously. I stood in the narthex and watched it in stereo.

2020 taught us that nothing on this earth is very certain. Thankfully we worship God who is not of this earth. **Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and FOREVER.** While we may not yet fully comprehend "forever", we can rest in the knowledge that, like an unmovable rock, Jesus is unchanging, sure and always there no matter what we do or what happens in this world. I have given up making predictions about the new year but know this; God hears our prayers and no matter how bad things get or what changes are to come, He will take care of His children. **Romans 14:8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.** Remember that the answer to prayers may not always be the answer that we might choose, God knows what we need and will take care of us perfectly. While epidemiologists change their minds daily on what we should and should not do, we can trust in the rock that is our Lord and Savior.

Doesn't that make you want to praise and worship Him even more? Let's make worshiping our Lord a priority this year. **2 Timothy 3:1-2 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. The world does not consider worship something to have any importance at all, nothing is sacred but we know different. Make Him top priority this year and God will honor that. Amen?**

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



January Birthdays

- 2: Dave Shoaff
- 12: Ethan Dettweiler
- 13: Curt Mosher
- 15: Maxon Weingart
- 19: Paul Getty
Sheila Lucas
- 20: Angie Mountz
Terri Strawn
- 22: Debra Rine
- 24: Sam Plocher
- 26: Alli Mossow
Leo Zura
- 27: Joann Dobbs
Kirsten Plocher
- 28: Patricia Pumphry
- 29: Jemma Heverly
Steve Sprague



Anniversaries

- 8: Jay & Denise Linder
- 28: Todd & Jody Plocher



Love. Grow. Serve.

Worship Assistant
Carolyn Caldwell

Lay Speaker
Dina Sprague

Counters
Kathy Knoedler &
Jane Menough

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

A Pastor’s Farewell



It seems like such a short time ago that I wrote my first article for Damascus Doings but 6 months passes quickly. Now the January 2021 edition contains an article from your new pastor, Pastor Frank, and one from your “old” pastor.

The old pastor wants to convey my deepest appreciation for the warmth of the Damascus United Methodist congregation’s acceptance of Pat and me as your pastoral family. It is as hard for Pastors to find their way into a healthy relationship with a new church as it is for the church to find one with their new pastor. You made it much easier for us and we pray you will do the same for Pastor Frank.

I have served some wonderful congregations and Damascus ranks high on the list. However, while I may brag about some of the things a particular church did or does, I refuse to name a “favorite” among them. It is my hope you will do the same when remembering and talking about former pastors. For just as churches have differing strengths or weaknesses Pastors do too. I have observed that every pastor who preceded me had the gifts and graces for a particular ministry needed in that church. It may take time to discover those gifts but I trust you will look for them and encourage them.

Pat and I want you to know that we have appreciated the love and generosity you have so freely shared with us. The cards, gifts and kind words will never be forgotten ... no not forgotten but please don’t ask us to describe our feelings. If I could have done that this article would have been much shorter. Just let me say, “You have shown us Jesus in your actions.” Thank you for allowing us to be a part of DUMC.

We will keep the Damascus Church and Pastor Frank in our prayers. May God richly bless your ministry together and may the new year be wonder-filled for you all.

Blessings,
Pastor Wayne and Pat



Damascus United Methodist Church

January 2021



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day No Preschool Church Office Closed	2
Epiphany Sunday 3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship SALT 6-8pm	4 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	5	6	7 9:30am TOPS Meeting	8	9
10 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship SALT 6-8pm	11	12 1:30pm-7:00pm Red Cross blood Drive 6:00pm PAC Meeting	13	14 9:30am TOPS Meeting	15	16
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship	18 Martin Luther King Day No Preschool 7:00 pm Church Council	19	20	21 9:30am TOPS Meeting	22	23
24 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	25 7:00 pm Trustees	26	27	28 9:30am TOPS Meeting	29 No Preschool	30
31 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship SALT 6-8pm						