

Damascus United Methodist Church
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Damascus, OH 44619

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Pastor Wayne Clark: Church Email: pastorwclark23@gmail.com

Sunday School: 9:00am
Worship: 10:00am
Church Website: www.dumcohio.org

“Damascus Doings”

DECEMBER 2020

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

*“Let us
now go even unto
Bethlehem,
and see this
thing which
is come to
pass...”*



Luke 2:15



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVES



Dear Damascus Friends,

December, in some ways, seems like a time of “winding down” after a busy fall season. In other ways, December marks a beginning. The season of Advent, which is more than a time of preparation for Christmas, begins the 1st Sunday after Thanks-giving and marks the start of the Christian Church year. It is an important time for the Church but often gets lost in the rush to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Advent is about preparing for the Coming of Christ, first as the Baby we think of and sing about. But in the Church it serves as a reminder that He will come again as a Liberating King who will battle against Satan and his evil in this world. The early church constantly faced the resistance of Satan and his evil as it went about its everyday effort to share the Good News of God’s love and His gift of Jesus. Faithfulness to that effort often led to persecution and death.

These saints of God grew weary and were probably quite frightened; they needed reassurance. They needed to be reminded that God was aware of their struggles ... just as He had been aware of humanities need for a Savior. They needed to know that, just as our Savior was born at the right time, God would send Him to Liberate His people in the future. It was this future Jesus spoke of in Matthew 25:31-46 where He spoke of the final judgement when the righteous were separated from the wicked and received the reward of entering God’s kingdom. So while we prepare, as we should, for the Birth of our Savior, let us remain prepared for His return.

May you have a Merry Christmas and a future which is happily “prepared for His return.”

Your Pastor and friend,



We will be caroling Damascus at our Drive In Service this Christmas Eve at 6:30pm. The Christ candle will be lit and we will shine our candles and sing our favorite carols. Hope to see you all there to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior!

From your Lay Leader

What Can You Control?

December 2020

*Faith
is having the courage
to let God
have control.*

Alcoholics Anonymous has a famous prayer called “The Serenity Prayer” that reads like this: God Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. These days, society encourages us to believe that there is almost nothing that we cannot change – almost

nothing that we cannot control. We are constantly bombarded with the religion that says we have the power to change even the climate. Humans are an amazing creation but we are certainly not God. This year we are even being told that we have the power to control a virus even in the face of all the evidence in the world that we cannot. The Bible is full of wisdom that we can lean on and The Holy Spirit and reveal it to us as we seek understanding as we read. **Proverbs 20:24 A person’s steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way? Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.**

Thank You God!

Pastor Wayne’s Thanksgiving Sermon entitled “Thanksgiving – More Than a Feeling” reminded us all to **INTENTIONALLY** give thanks for not only what we have in all situations. God provides for His children. His provisions are exactly what we need and the good thing about that is that He knows what we need better than we could ever know ourselves. As we move through Christmas and bring this year finally to a close, remember that part of that provision is God’s plan for our salvation. In order for Jesus to be sacrificed on the cross and take the punishment that I deserve, he had to be born on earth and live as a human being, experiencing everything that we experience all while remaining pure without sin. This Christmas, remember that the gift of Jesus’ birth was just the beginning and we all have to choose whether we accept that gift of His sacrifice or not. I had to make that choice. You had to make that choice. Your children have to make that choice. Your friends have to make that choice. Only you are uniquely qualified to be the messenger of this message to someone. This season, be open and willing to spread the message as we celebrate and come together as friends and family and as a part of the church family.

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



Greetings from S.A.L.T.,

SALT NEWS

2020 has been a bleak year. Things once taken for granted have grown uncertain. Fear and anger have swept through the streets. Grief and loss have stalked the neighborhoods. Isolation and loneliness have darkened homes and hearts. And, as autumn fades to winter, the bare trees and bitter winds mirror the state of far too many hearts. Where can people find the peace they so desperately need? Where can they get comfort and joy, or hope for the future? Some look to medical science. Some put their trust in politicians. But “it is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes” (Psalm 118:9 NIV). Why? Well, not only is He infinitely more powerful than human authorities, but He is far more accessible. “The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth” (Psalm 145:18). He is Immanuel: “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). Why would Almighty God want to be near us? In a word: love! His compassion moved Him to step from heaven into this dark and damaged world. Jesus came “to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1b). He brought rescue and redemption, healing and hope, peace and joy. And even though two millenia have passed since His arrival, His gifts have never stopped changing lives. His power and love are as real and wonderful today as they were on that silent Bethlehem night so long ago. This Christmas, may you experience through Jesus a thrill of hope, and a rejoicing that washes away your weariness.

Blessings,
Phil

P.S. – Did you notice the references to three well-known Christmas carols?



Mission Trip Update

Our trip planned for this past Summer was cancelled due to the Pandemic. We would love to be able to plan a trip for this coming Summer but it is far too soon to know what this Summer will bring or allow. Many people have inquired about whether we are going somewhere and as of now the answer is “NOT YET”. Our fundraisers have also been put on hold as you know. Hopefully with a lot of prayers and patience we can get back to our somewhat normalness. Further updates will be provided when they are available. Thanks again for your continued support, thoughts and prayers.



Preschool News

“Maybe Christmas (*he thought*) doesn’t come from a store.
Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more.” —
The Grinch

To say our 2020 Christmas celebrations are a little different is an understatement. We miss getting ready for our annual Christmas program and cookie reception. We are excited that we can still listen to Christmas music in our classrooms and sing along.

We are sad we won’t be having a big Christmas party with all our friends and family in the fellowship hall. We are glad we can have a small celebration in our classroom.

We are disappointed movie day will look different this year. But we are happy we can still do movie day in our classroom.

No matter where we are, or how small our gathering is, we are happy that we can celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We are partnering with All The Things at Butler Grange to make gift baskets for the residents of Auburn Nursing Home. We collected fuzzy socks and will coloring some Christmas pictures for the baskets.

Continue to pray for our preschoolers, their families and our staff.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Many Blessings,

Andrea, Amy, Phil, Abby & Courtney

CHRISTMAS Program

“What Does This S.T.U.F.F. Have To Do With Christmas”



It’s time to enjoy the children’s Christmas Program! This year’s presentation of “What Does This S.T.U.F.F. Have To Do With Christmas” will take place on Sunday, December

13th during the morning worship service. We will of course be doing it a little different due to COVID-19. There will be social distancing and wearing of Masks. I am also very excited to announce that we will be able to do an outside visual for those in the parking lot as well. The

kids have been practicing very hard to present this very important message. Come enjoy watching and listening as the children and youth remind us all to celebrate the Savior’s birth! If anyone has any questions feel free to contact me at my cell phone which is (234)600- 0706.

-Brittany Sprague

"DAMASCUS DOINGS"



Offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick-up following the December 27, 2020, worship service. Envelope boxes will be on the table in the narthex, arranged alphabetically.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU USE ONLY THE NEW BOX OF ENVELOPES YOU WILL BE RECEIVING FOR YOUR OFFERINGS as some contributors will be issued new numbers. To distinguish from any old envelopes, the new ones will also be white, but will have a dark green border around them. The counters will be trying to do their part in making sure each individual gets credit for their offering, but we do ask that you help us by using only your new envelopes. Thank you for your help & also your continued support of our church with your tithes & offerings. If anyone has any questions, please contact me. -Pat Hancock

***For contributions to be accepted for the 2020 fiscal year, money, if mailed, must be in the church office by 12:00 p.m. on Dec. 30, OR in the collection plate on Sunday, Dec. 27. Statements will be available after January 21, 2021. Any contribution received after Dec. 30, will be posted for 2021.



Operation Christmas Child a Huge Success!

Thanks to all of you who helped to adopt, pack, and pray for the Christmas shoeboxes and the children who will receive them! We are thrilled to report that we sent our highest number of shoeboxes ever, 244! Praise God!! Keep an eye out for those after-Christmas shopping bargains and start saving items for next year's boxes! We are planning to collect an item a month so that next November we will have a wide variety of beautiful items! Stay tuned for more information! And we were happy to serve as the area collection center again this year! How exciting to have so many area churches and individuals bring their filled shoeboxes all week long. This year, we collected 884 shoeboxes! Thank you again for helping to bless a child in Jesus' name! Oh the power of a simple gift!



Membership Care will be collecting items to send a special Christmas box to our church family service members. We will collect from November 29th until December 10th. There will be a box in the Narthex for donations. Our service men and women have enjoyed our boxes in the past. It makes them happy to know their home town church remembers them. Thank you- Helen Mincks, Chairperson

"DAMASCUS DOINGS"



STEWARDSHIP PAGE

Praises

Jim Miller- released from Dr. to follow up in one year
Donny Heverly- home, doing well
Linda Travis (friend of the Lucas's)- successful hip replacement
Sheila Lucas- all endoscopy biopsies were negative
Barb Jones- successful surgery, home
Jim Coy- having therapy at home
Pastor Roy and Dorothy are now in assisted living together
Roger Stitle- home from the hospital

Prayer Requests



Sheila Lucas- 2nd carotid artery surgery 12/9
Barb Jones- healing
Irene Morckel- hospice care
Maryann Evans- unstable on her feet
Joann Dobbs- bronchitis
Mike (Barb Karlen's former son in law) back in the hospital
Brian Altenhof- tested positive for Corona virus
Mike Altenhof- many health issues
Pauline Wayne- fall, healing
David Wetzel (Amy & Ed's cousin)- tested positive for Corona virus
Jennifer (George & Marge's daughter)- tested positive for the Corona virus



Our Christian Sympathies to the

Family of Don Schultz (Steve Sprague's Best Friend's Brother)
Family of Donna Snyder (Longtime friend of Treva Miller)
Family of Patty Linger



Auburn Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation is looking for people willing to "Adopt A Grandparent" Please see the flyer in the foyer outside of the Narthex if you are interested.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

Birthdays

- 1: Bradley Dettweiler
Brianne Metts
- 2: Olivia Mossow
- 4: Joey Sprague
- 5: Dee Fletcher
Phil Lucas
Hannah Sprague
- 7: Ed Baddeley
- 8: Shirley Steer
- 11: Bonnie McDermott
- 13: Dick Stoffer
- 14: Phoebe Chepke
- 15: Ray Heverly
- 17: Chelsea Krol
- 18: Landon Coffee
Debbie Hawk
- 19: Mark Muckleroy
- 20: Brandi Phillips
Roger Stitle
- 22: Ryder Santee
- 27: Connor Linder
Ruth Weaver
- 31: Ed Steer

Happy Anniversary

Anniversaries

- 26: Dick & Shirley Stoffer
- 30: Rich & Jean Yoder
- 31: Daryl & April Dettweiler



Worship Assistant

Barb Karlen

Lay Speaker

Chris Lydic

Counters

Art Johanson &
Barb Karlen



We welcome new members Curt and Beverly Mosher.



As you do your holiday shopping you can support DUMC. If you shop at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), please sign up at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), choose Damascus United Methodist Church in Ohio (there is one in Maryland), and the church will receive 1% of your purchases. On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. If you already have an [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) account, you will use the same account for AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. This does not cost you anything! Also, please tell your friends to sign up to support DUMC. If you have questions, see a member of the Finance Committee. The Church has received \$63.30 already this year from AmazonSmile from those who have already signed up to use this program.

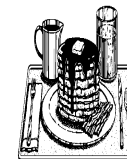


Unfortunately due to Covid 19 the Women of Faith will not be able to put the Christmas Card files out this year.



Ruth Weaver is turning **100!** on December 27th! Let's shower her with cards: 800 S. 15th Street #4-421 Sebring, OH 44672

Community Breakfast Update



Our Community Breakfast has been cancelled until further notice. The Pandemic keeps us from safely preparing and serving food in our kitchen. This truly upsets not only our Church Family but our Community Family. Fellowship together is a very valuable and needed process of life. Please continue to pray for light in this tunnel of darkness. WE WILL COOK, SERVE, EAT and SHARE FOOD again in our Church. Thanks for you care and support.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 10:00 am TOPS 7:00pm Church Bible Study	4	5
6 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT 10:00 am Worship After Worship— Church Council Meeting 6-8pm SALT	7 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	8	9 6:30pm PAC Meeting	10 9:30 am TOPS 7:00pm Church Bible Study	11	12 Light Up Damascus— Tree Lighting Only
13 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT 10:00 am Children's Christmas Program 6-8pm SALT	14	15	16	17 9:30 am TOPS 7:00pm Church Bible Study	18	19
20 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	21 No Preschool	22 No Preschool	23 No Preschool 6:00pm Children's Ministry Meeting	24 OFFICE CLOSED No Preschool 6:30pm Candle Light Outdoor Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED No Preschool	26
27 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	28 No Preschool 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	29 No Preschool	30 No Preschool	31 No Preschool		