

Damascus United Methodist Church
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Damascus, OH 44619

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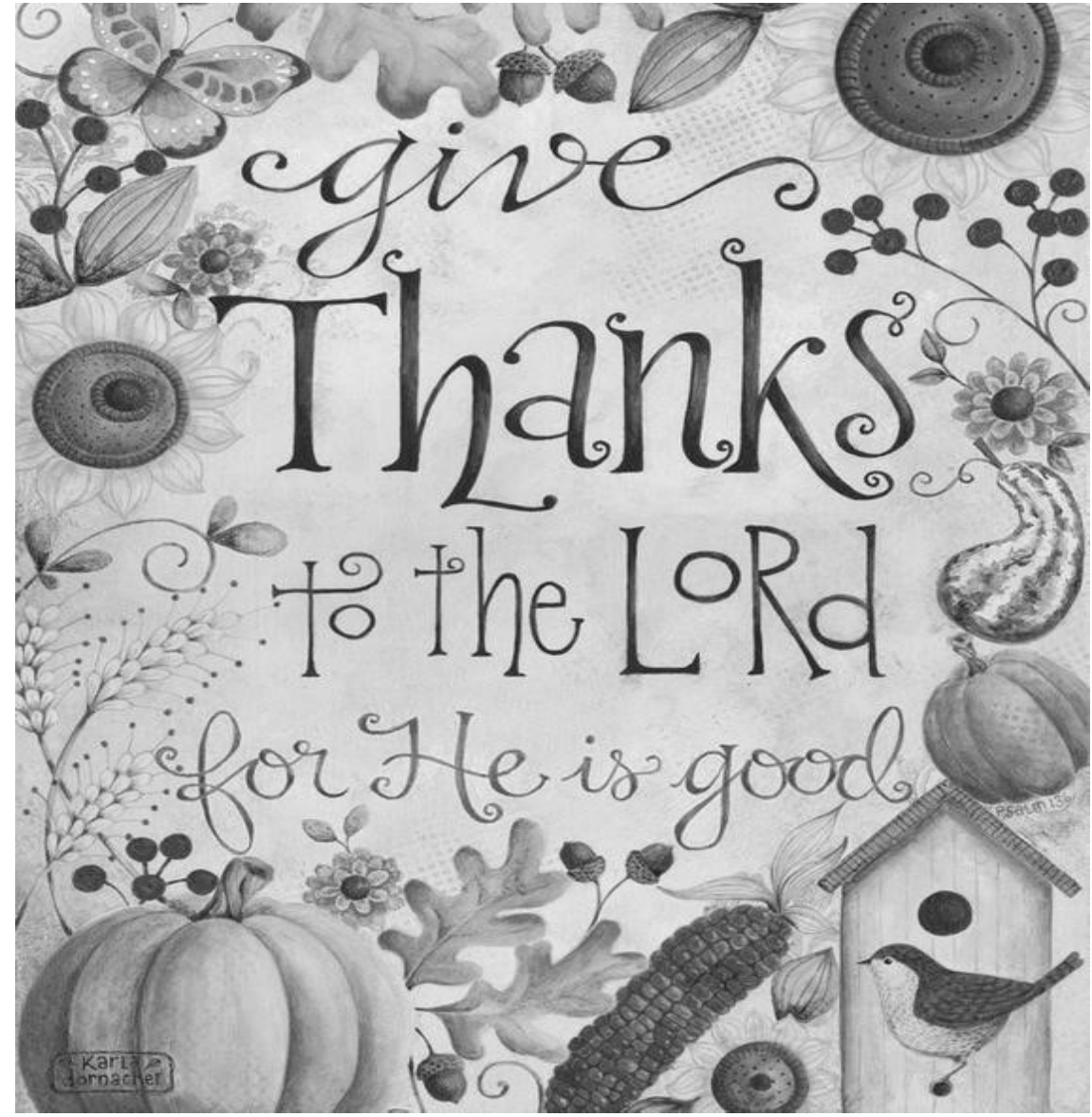
Office Email: office@dumcohoio.org
Pastor Wayne Clark: Church Email: pastorwclark@gmail.com

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

“Damascus Doings”

NOVEMBER 2020

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





PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVES



By the end of November we will have witnessed the crops of the fields stored safely for market or livestock food; the last of the God's beautiful fall color display and, hopefully, we will have raked the leaves and prepared our homes for winter's arrival. Plus, with God's blessing, we will have celebrated the most heavily traveled holiday of the year, Thanksgiving. Under normal circumstances more families make special effort, often traveling many miles, to gather with loved ones. Tables will be spread with a feast rivaling all other special gatherings. The month of November has so much to celebrate.

Of all the things we can expect, Thanksgiving is on my mind and in my heart most of all. Although many have forgotten the reason this holiday exist, it was initially observed as a way of giving thanks for God's abundant blessing. The Pilgrim's gave thanks for surviving an extremely hard winter and for the kind help of their Indian friends. Without God's blessing of their guidance the new colony would surely have starved in winters to come.

2020 has provided its share of difficulties for us, but God has answered the problems with the bless of His presence. As we prepare for our individual Thanksgiving celebrations, it is my prayer that each of us will make room at the table for our Heavenly Father; giving thanks and sharing His blessings with those who are yet to know Him as Lord of Life.

A part of our “giving thanks and sharing God's blessing” is our faithful commitment to the support of the ministry of Damascus United Methodist Church. Please remember and support your Church on Stewardship/Pledge Sunday, November 22nd.

Your Pastor and friend,

From your Lay Leader

The Only Thing We Have to Fear is ???

November 2020

These days there is an entire industry of fear. The media sensationalizes absolutely everything, some politicians make everything out to be a crisis in the effort to get their agendas passed, other politicians encourage the population to be afraid in order to gain more power. Right now, there is a full-blown campaign to make the population afraid of the novel coronavirus. The reason it is called the “novel” coronavirus is because coronaviruses have been around for many many years and this is a new strain of human coronavirus. The first human coronavirus strain was found in 1965 and caused symptoms similar to the common cold. Other strains cause respiratory illnesses such as MERS and SARS. This new virus is a different strain that sometimes causes a new illness named COVID-19. The virus and new illness were discovered in late 2019 which is why it was named COVID-19.

Since it was new, governmental agencies were rightfully concerned knowing only that it is a fairly highly contagious virus and some were getting very sick very quickly. When the now defunct model came out that predicted that as many as two million people would die from this coronavirus in the first part of 2020 in the USA alone if we shut down and implemented social distancing was completely wrong. As the saying goes, garbage in-garbage out. A model is only as good as the data that it is based upon. Logic and hindsight should provide a clear indication that the cure was worse than the disease...

If we knew then what we know now, we would have done things differently. We now know that children are not at great risk even if they get COVID-19, healthy people are not at great risk even if they get COVID-19, the average age of people that succumb to the disease is about the same as the average life expectancy. Even the risk for people that are in the high-risk category is not nearly as high as the early models suggested. Although this coronavirus may be more contagious than influenza, the death-rate is about the same. All of these facts that we now know should relieve our fears. However, as followers of Jesus Christ, we have another much larger reason to find peace.

I say all of that to say this: **Ecclesiastes 1:9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.** Our Father in Heaven that created the heavens and the earth is not surprised by anything. He knows the beginning and the end and everything in between. The Apostle Paul said in **Philippians 1:21-24 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.** If we truly believe this, we should be encouraging our family, friends and neighbors with this kind of peace and assurance.

By giving in to the fear without faith, we have failed as a church. Yes, the virus is real and the fear that we may have of the virus is real (especially if we are compromised) but God is also real. God is not a concept that we read about. Jesus Christ was not a profit in history. The Holy Spirit does not bring us fake news. If we believe **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** Then we will go to The Bible and prayer to renew our own confidence and spread the peace that passes all human understanding to all. People are hurting and need Jesus now more than ever. My prayer is that we are allowing ourselves to be the vessel that leads them to not only salvation but also peace and comfort in spite of a world that would rather sow chaos and contempt. Amen

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



SALT NEWS

Greetings from S.A.L.T.!

Here we are in November, with the Thanksgiving holiday rapidly approaching, yet you've probably seen the way advertisers neglect it in favor of Halloween and Christmas. It makes a certain sense: there's more money to be made by stoking people's greed than their gratitude. The sad truth is that we're a broken race, more inclined to reach for what we don't have than reflect on what we've got, more likely to chase sweet temptations than deny ourselves and do what's right. It's been that way ever since Eden. But because of Jesus Christ, it doesn't have to *stay* that way. He makes it possible for us to become a people of praise. How? By changing the way we think. This theme appears repeatedly in Scripture. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds" (Ephesians 4:22-23). "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you" (Ezekiel 36:26a). "But we have the mind of Christ" (I Corinthians 2:16b). So, how does this transformation take place? How do we step into this new way of thinking? Is there anything required of us? "Come near to God and he will come near to you" (James 4:8). "The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth" (Psalm 145:18). "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven . . ." (II Chronicles 7:14a). When we seek God this way, He *will* respond and we *will* be changed. His praise and thanksgiving will begin to flow freely from our hearts and mouths, and the people around us, for whom gratitude is so difficult and foreign, will see that we are different. Maybe, when enough of us have been transformed in this way, the Thanksgiving holiday will grow into something richer and brighter than it's ever been.

Blessings,

Phil



Preschool News

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Ephesians 5:20

We are thankful for all the good things God provides for us. Our families, God, pets, toys, trees, food and homes are a few of the things listed we are thankful for.

The preschool would like to thank Bruce and Terrie Rohrer for the beautiful flowers around "the big rock". We have enjoyed the many colors and watching them grow. Many of our parents in car line comment on how pretty they look.

Once again we collected Ivory Soap and wash cloths for OCC shoeboxes. As I write this article so far we collected 206 bars of soap and wash cloths. As a preschool our goal is to collect 100 soap/wash cloth combinations each year. This year Miss Lois let us know that there was a need for 75 more combos. After a one call to our families we collected 206 combos. Thank you to our preschool families.

We miss getting ready for our annual Christmas Program. Hopefully next year!

We would like to thank everyone for all their support. Whether you support our fundraisers, donate supplies or "stuff", or most importantly pray for us, we appreciate you! We are blessed to have such a caring church family. Continue to pray for our preschool students, families and staff.

Blessings,
Andrea, Amy, Phil, Julie, & Courtney



Becky Foster phoned and in the midst of a pandemic she would love to shower Pastor Mick with cards on his **70th Birthday on November 14!** Their new address is:
542 Easy Street NE
New Philadelphia, OH 44663



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Calling all kids and youth!
Calling all kids and youth!

It's time to start practicing for our annual Christmas Program! All kids and youth are invited to participate in this year's program. Rehearsals will begin on Sunday, Nov. 8, during the worship service. Our program will be presented on Sunday, December 13th, during the worship service. Questions??? Please contact Brittany Sprague or Lois Niederhiser.



From the Finance Committee:
We will be handing out pledge cards for 2021 on Sunday, November 8th. In order for us to finalize our budget for next year, it is necessary for your pledge card to be returned back to the church on pledge Sunday, November 22nd. If you are unable to be at church (either in person or in the parking lot service) on pledge Sunday, please either mail the card back in or return it to the church office before the 22nd.
We appreciate everyone's co-operation in this very important church task.



Thank you, Thank you!!!
Once again you, the folks of Damascus, have touched our lives and our hearts with your kindness. Pat and I find ourselves overwhelmed. We've only been with you a few months ... not even long enough for us to get to know each other ... yet, we've been blessed by the way you have received us.
Words fail us! We are truly unable to express our appreciation for your care and concern for our well-being. Our simple "Thank You" is much deeper than two words. We feel loved.

Pastor Wayne and Pat



STEWARDSHIP Page

Praises

Patty (Gail Murphy's daughter-in-law) surgery went well, in home rehab
Dave Zeigler- clean bill of health after all tests
Jonny Sprague- no injuries after landing in a corn field with engine failure.



Prayer Requests

Joyce Krahling's daughter's friend Polly, who had a stroke.
Judy Davis-spot on her lung
Sheila Lucas- tests, healing
Ellie Cosma (Dick and Carol Flickinger's grand daughter- broken arm
Donny Heverly- brain surgery number five 10/30
Our country as the election approaches
Jim Miller (Treva's Son)- healing, successful laparoscopic surgery of abscess in lung
Barb Jones- healing, strength
Maddie Heverly and Evan Hill- tested positive for Covid19
Rylee Hardy (former Preschool Mom)- health issues
Jim Coy (Joyce Krahling's brother-in-law)- broken hip, in rehab at Auburn.
Marie Hernandez (Harold Wilson's daughter)- back surgery in Florida (herniated disc while on vacation)
Linda Travis (friend of the Lucas's) hip replacement 10/28



Our Christian Sympathies to the

Family of 13 year old- (Dick and Carol Flickinger's son Rick's wife
Tonya's nephew)
Family of Rick (Sue Johanson's Niece's husband)
Family of Robert Altenhof Sr. (Bob's Father)
Family of Dave Deutsch (Nancy Brunner's Friend)



November

Birthdays

- 1: Emily Tedrow
- 2: Brett Butcher
- 4: Gail Murphy
- 7: George Zeigler
- 8: Jamie Weingart
- 9: Shawn Heverly
- 13: Marsha Coffee
- 17: Brian Coffee
- 19: Michael Landon
Pauline Wayne
- 20: Bev Kelly
- 23: Bobby Altenhof
Carl Phillips
- 26: Pat Clark
- 28: Jody Plocher
- 29: Aaron Grimm



Anniversaries

- 2: Gerald & Helen Mincks
- 10: Lee & Norma Althouse
- 16: David & Bonnie Drake
- 17: Harry & Pat Hancock
- 22: Bill & Pat Humphreys

Worship Assistant

MaryKay Heverly

Lay Speaker

Carolyn Caldwell

Coach/Van Driver

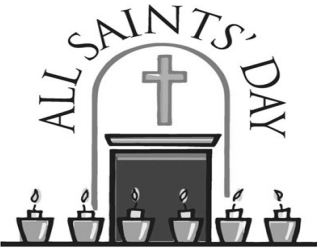
Scott Papic

Counters

Kathy Knoedler &
Carol Flickinger



Dear Damascus friends.
I wanted to thank everybody for your prayers and thoughts. I know that some of you have tried to call but answering those calls has been difficult. Barb is very weak and grows tired quickly. I have tried to answer some questions when able. But I never have enough time and we honestly have few answers. Barb is now in the hospital for the third time. We have a specialist working with her for the first time. Today they put in a temporary feeding tube through her nose. The Doctor saw her yesterday and immediately sent her to the ER with orders to admit. She was dehydrated and malnourished even though this is her third hospital stay and her fifth time in the ER. Until they stabilize her health we will not know how they will be able to help her. To send her notes I suggest you email her at djones6900@aol.com or if you have her cell phone number send her a message. Again, thank you for your prayers. Don Jones



We Celebrate the life and witness of:

Lois Greenamyre	02/11/1927 - 11/21/2019
Ben Heverly	04/05/1933—02/25/2020
Jack Ramsey	12/03/1929 – 03/29/2020
Paul Whipple	03/17/1924 – 05/15/2020
William Murphy	09/03/1961- 05/15/2020
Ida Baddeley	08/05/1933 – 05/19/2020
Gilbert Ronald Pumphry	04/16/1937 – 05/23/2020
Martha Wilson	07/18/1927- 07/05/2020
Marion Peters	08/20/1943 – 07/11/2020
Catherine Baird	08/28/1925 - 08/15/2020
Willie Martsolf	08/29/1934- 08/25/2020
Eleanor Kampfer	02/07/1937- 09/1/2020
Darla McMath	07/09/1949- 09/08/2020
Robert Altenhof Sr.	08/24/1932- 10/18/2020
David Deutsch	08/14/1945- 10/18/2020



We are a drop-off location for OCC.

Nov. 16th– Nov. 23rd.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

Nov 16-22 from 3:30pm to 7pm. Drop off open 4-7
Nov 23 from 8:30am to 12pm Drop off open 9-12 See Bonnie Michalek.



ENDOWMENT FUND

All Committees:

If you need to request funds from Endowment please submit your written request (forms in the Endowment mail slot in the work-room) to Gary Mercer before November 16, 2020.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE Daylight Saving Time ends All Saints Day 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	2 6:30pm SPRC Meeting-- Cancelled	3 No Preschool	4	5 9:30 am TOPS 7:00pm Church Bible Study	6	7
8 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	9	10 1:30pm– 7:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm Nomination Committee Meeting	11 6:30pm PAC Meeting	12 9:30 am TOPS 7:00pm Church Bible Study	13	14
15 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	16 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	17	18	19 9:30 am TOPS 7:00pm Church Bible Study	20	21
22 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	23 7:00pm Trustees Meeting	24 6:30pm Finance Meeting	25 No Preschool	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED No Preschool	27 No Preschool	28
29 INDOOR & OUTDOOR SERVICE FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT 10:00 am Worship 6-8pm SALT	30 No Preschool					