

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

Church (330) 537-3031  
Email: [office@dumcoho.org](mailto:office@dumcoho.org)  
Rev. Vernon Palo Email: [vippastor@yahoo.com](mailto:vippastor@yahoo.com)

Sunday School: 9:00am Worship: 10:10am  
Church Website: [www.dumcoho.org](http://www.dumcoho.org)  
Fax (330) 537-3032

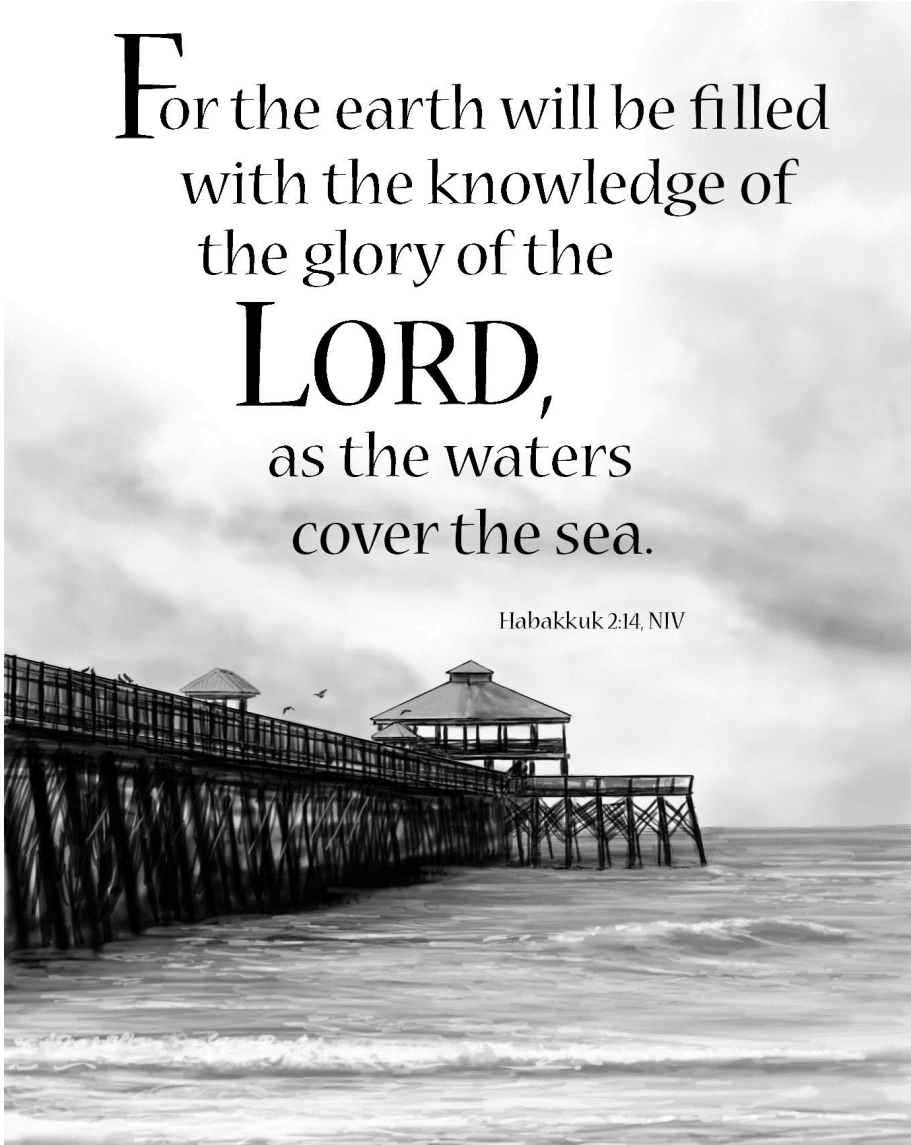
“Damascus Doings”

JULY 2019

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

For the earth will be filled  
with the knowledge of  
the glory of the  
**LORD,**  
as the waters  
cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14, NIV





**AS WE WELCOME A NEW PASTOR:**

Welcome Pastor Matthew Wilson, and wife Crystal and children Jasmine, Katelynn, Tyler, and Sarah. It is with love and joy that we welcome you to Damascus, your new home. Your church family is excited to show you around and to get to know you. While it is much easier for each of us to get to know you, we will give you time to get to know each one of us. In the meantime, we are all here to help you in any way that we can.

We give God all the thanks for blessing us and sending you our way. He has a plan and we are here together with your family to share, invest our time, energy, and passion so that we can be one body in Christ and do God’s work. Take your time, get to know your new surroundings and friends and together we will start our new journey together.

With love and blessings, Your church family



Dear friends;

Letting go of certain things in life for me has never been easy, such as those you hold precious and dear. When Karen and I came to Damascus in the summer of 2015, it was our first appointment without family joining with us. We gave it little thought as we attempted to get to know an entire church family and at the same time marry off all three of our children in four and one half months. As you can imagine after the last wedding in November we wanted to know nothing but Damascus.

By the time of the last wedding we had both turned 56 and assumed that it was very likely that Damascus could be our last church and we would retire out of Damascus. But as each of you know our timing is not always Gods timing. Karen and I have been blessed to have been a part of this Faith community. Christ had a ministry for three years, many thought three not enough, we have had four here. When we were appointed, we did not know how long it would be. An individual stated that I have an unwavering faith in our denomination. No, I have deep bedrock faith in the One true God who is unwavering in His support to His faithful.

More than just a willingness to Go when God called 30 years ago, but also that of stepping up and doing something when something needed to be done. People of this world, and by that I mean people who have money or only want what the world has to give, cannot understand that God's ways are not man's ways. Not everything is solved by throwing money at it or by cutting the funding. God does so often work more from the heart, often a broken heart and one gentle and receptive to His moving.

In two of my previous appointments I experienced grumbling, first my own. A new addition had been added to this older parsonage with all windows on the east side, and no shade. As you can imagine the house heated up very quickly early in the day. (On a side thought here, at some point in our lives we will each be unhappy about something. How we respond is the ultimate test. We can choose to get involved, do something and make a difference or complain and leave things the way they are.)

**From your Lay Leader ... (Cont.)**

We are not all necessarily called to go out but we are all called to help make that happen. We all must answer our callings in different ways but for sure we can and must help by intentionally welcoming our new pastoral family. For some of us, this will come naturally. We are blessed to have many in our body that have a real gift of hospitality. For most of us, we will have to be more intentional. Think about it and do what you are led to do. A friendly smile, a warm handshake, a hug, ask how things are going and what you can do to help. Most of all, have understanding and give the “benefit of doubt”, knowing that good intensions are the motivation of our newest family within our family.

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



**SALT NEWS**  
**SOULS AFTER LIVING TRUTH**

**JULY SALT**

**7/7 SALT 6-8 pm**  
**7/14 SALT 6-8 pm**  
**7/21 SALT 6-8 pm**  
**7/28 SALT 6-8 pm**



**DUMC Community Breakfast**  
**Saturday, July 20 7:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.**

Public welcome. Proceeds will go to the Mission Trip.  
Mark your calendar and plan to come! Thanks for your support!

## From your Lay Leader ...

Welcoming Heart

July, 2019

Let the hugs begin. In 2007 Our family moved from Eastlake to the Alliance area. We had been members of Hope Ridge United Methodist Church for many years and were not looking forward to finding a new church home.

Our Joey was to enter pre-school that year and Damascus United Methodist Pre-School was recommended by a close friend. Since Joey would be attending school here, we thought we would give the church a try. The DUMC family was so welcoming and showed our family so much Christian love, that we did not need to look anywhere else. We were home. Our family will be forever grateful to our church family at DUMC.

Some of us live our whole lives within a few miles of where we were born. However, many families find that they have to move for a variety of reasons. Those of us that have grown up in a military family have moved dozens of times over their lifetime. Families that answer the call to pastoral ministry in The United Methodist Church (and many other denominations) are called to be “itinerant”. According to the UMC Interpreter “Itinerancy refers specifically to the commitment by pastors to go and serve wherever their bishops send them.” John Wesley travelled from town to town for his entire ministry. In the days of Francis Asbury, pastors were circuit riders that were assigned to half a state or more. Their appointments were for three months. Today, the appointments are actually for one year and must be either renewed or re-assigned each year.

While some of the UMC practices these days are worldly and not biblical in nature, the idea of the itinerant pastor certainly is. Jesus often taught the first disciples through parables. In Luke 14:12-24, Jesus told the story of “The Great Banquet”. The lesson was that we need to minister to those who need it – most often strangers – more than each other. Luke 14:23 “And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’” The entire Bible points to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and it is written for all Christians to live by. That being said, we are all called to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (from Matthew 28:16).

(Cont...)

*Welcome*

**From The Pastor (Cont.)** As for myself I decided to plant a hearty shade tree whose roots grow deep. We prayed that young tree would grow to be large enough to one day provide plenty of shade for the house and on a hot sunny day.

In my very first appointment, a church that will celebrate their 200 anniversary this August, when I was there- we celebrated their 175 anniversary and in the months prior, as old pictures were being brought out, it was evident that in the late 1800's and early 1900's the church had been surrounded by many young trees, but by the spring of 1994 there was only one left. What to do? Join the grumbling crew, or find a solution? In the end we planted 14 hard wood red maples around that white church. All donated in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Like the saplings that are far from fully grown and whose full benefit will not be realized until some time in the future, so too is your love that has been planted within Karen and this Pastor and we pray our love within each of you. We recognize that it is not easy in going and we know that it is not easy for many of you to let us go. We have all grown like the tree with roots of faith that go deep for support, with trunks that are solid and strong to withstand the fiercest of storms- roots that reach out in love to others. Each is stronger, more mature and continuing to grow in the grace of our Lord. Our challenge now is to continue growing- For you a new pastor and family to love - for us a new congregation. With the overriding, all encompassing love of our Lord nurturing us, we can do it.

As Christians, and as a church, we are enjoying the hard work of people that have lived and served before us. Just over three years ago I met Rev. Bill & Janet Buell who started their ministry here in Damascus roughly 50 years ago. The church is here today because they and many others said YES! to God's call and in the Buell's case are still saying YES. Generations to come will benefit from our labors for the Lord. Our Christian duty is unto the Lord and for reaching future generations for Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul stated that as Christians we are not in this work for Christ alone, but are in this thing together. He writes, "I planted the seed, Appolas watered it, but God made it grow, So neither he who plants or he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his/her own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." 1 Cor 3:6-9

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be into our new appointment of Mt. Pleasant and Pastor Matthew Wilson and Crystal & Family will be serving the Damascus Church. Our church and parsonage address will be listed separately. I/We will always treasure the time we have had together. We will also be close enough for you to visit if you so desire. Know that the door is always open for drop-ins.

Although we hope to one day visit you as a full body, for a least a year please know that I will not initiate any contact, it is important for you to realize that I am no longer the pastor. Pastor Matt Wilson, is your Spiritual Director, he is the one to call for weddings, funerals, and all pastoral care. I trust you will welcome him and his entire family with the same graciousness with which you received Karen and I four years ago.

This letter has been long but let me close with the words Paul used at the end of his letter to the Thessalonians: " Encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seeks to do good to one another and to all... The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. -Pastor Vernon Palo



## Rummage Sale Is Coming!!! Friday, Aug. 3 and Saturday, Aug. 4

The Women of Faith of our church plan to hold their annual rummage sale on August 2nd and 3rd, 2019 and will be receiving donated items beginning July 1. Please no large furniture, large exercise equipment, or TVs. Also, please make sure any clothing you donate is in good clean condition. Proceeds are used for needs and missions.



## Library News

For those of you who missed Sue Thomas speaking when she was in town, the library has a copy of her story “Silent Night”. There is also the first three volumes of Ken Ham’s “The Answer Book for Kids”-covering questions about God, creation, dinosaurs, etc. In Christ, BJ and Gayla



**July 11-21, Sebring Holiness Camp:** 895 McKinley Ave. Sebring (www.sebringcamp.org) for children of all ages. (\$60 for 10 days of camp)

**Summer Music Camp-July 22-26, 9am-Noon:** This free 6th annual camp for children going into grades 2nd-6th is held at Christ United Methodist Church, 470 East Broad St., Alliance. 330-823-7136 secretary@cumcalliance.org There is more information on our church bulletin boards. Contact Christ UMC for more registration forms. Cost: FREE (Limited to 40 children who register by July 12). There is a closing program on Friday evening.



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Bobby Altenhof and Monica Gutierrez-Altenhof are the proud parents of a son, Robert Clemente Gutierrez Altenhof. Bo was born June 7, 2019 in Charlotte NC. Bo weighs 6 pounds 7 ounces and is 20.5 inches long. Bob and Andrea Altenhof are the proud Grammy and Pops. Cards to: Bobby Altenhof & Monica Gutierrez-Altenhof 8539 Woodford Bridge Drive Charlotte, NC 28216



## STEWARDSHIP PAGE

### Praises

Paul Webb, finally on road to recovery following open heart 4 way by pass  
Amy Shoaff, successful surgery 6/14  
Our young people at camp or going to camp this summer  
Philip Lucas has been hired as Damascus Youth Director  
The ministry of Pastor Vernon & Karen Palo 2015 - 2019  
Pastor Matt & Crystal Wilson & Family accepting God's call upon their lives  
God's Work & Love never ending

### Prayer Requests



Vacation Bible School may yet come together for summer of 2019  
That a Christian Ed. Director might be found and hired.  
Our service men and women & their families & loved ones  
Nancy (Hospice) & Bob Coffee Peace & Comfort Care (Both at Auburn)  
Amy Shoaff, healing and strength  
Adrianna, chiari malformation, healing & peace  
Ron Pumphry, continued steady stability, health & strength  
Sally Wilson, multiple health issues  
Jack Ramsey, continued healing & strength  
Mary Imhoff, healing & strength  
Martha Wilson, continued healing & strength  
Cathy, Tracie Stittle's mom, Lymphoma  
Jan Hoover, cancer Surgery, 6/21/19  
Rosey Zeigler, health issues Deborah Adams, treatment at Boston Institute of Sight  
Trudy Dixon, stage 4 Lung cancer  
Jack Welch, Health Issues, C. Clinic  
Janet Sturrett, Mercy Hospital  
Glenn Marshall Family,  
Family of Jim Keener, 6/10/2019  
Family of Fred Bock, 6/09/2019  
Traveling Mercies Mission Trip to Camden NY 6/30 - 7-6-2019



### HAPPY "65th" ANNIVERSARY TO ED & SHIRLEY STEER

Married 6-20-1954

Married in the old church up on the hill

Cards of Congratulations may be sent to 1930 Valley Rd. Salem Ohio 44460

### HAPPY “60th” ANNIVERSARY TO RON & PAT PUMPHRY

Married 6-26-1959

Cards of Congratulations may be sent to: 800 S. 15th St. #1-501 Sebring OH 44672



## Workers

### July Birthdays

- 1: Carey Weingart
- 3: Donna Lutz
- 4: Rev. Bill Buell
- 5: Jean Phillips
- 8: Etta Shively
- 10: Eldon Morckel
- 11: Gary Mercer
- 12: Zachary Coffee
- 13: Billy Altenhof  
Heath Criss
- 14: Barb Heverly
- 16: Kati Wright
- 18: Joseph Kenneally
- 22: Pastor Bob Amey
- 25: Lenny Niederhiser  
Linda Johnson
- 27: Juanita Gardner  
Jay Lucas
- 28: Norma Althouse
- 29: Bryce Butcher
- 31: Bonnie Drake

### Anniversaries

- 2: Pastor & Karen Palo
- 4: Brian & Marsha Coffee
- 10: Bob & Andrea  
Altenhof
- 15: Jay & Sheila Lucas
- 18: Craig & Maryah  
Herring  
Billy & Elizabeth  
Altenhof
- 22: Dave & Charlotte  
Caywood
- 26: Ed & Chris Lydic
- 30: Aaron & Kealie Grimm

### Nursery/Wee Worship

- 7: Jamie Weingart &  
Katie Tedrow
- 14: Tracy Muckleroy &  
Shaylee Muckleroy
- 21: Barb Heverly  
& Abby Heverly
- 28: Shaunda Uphold  
& Lleyton Uphold

### Jr. Church

- 7: Lois Niederhiser  
& Landon Stille
- 14: Troy Uphold  
& Andrew Coffee
- 21: Steve & Joey Sprague
- 28: Lois Niederhiser  
& Katie Tedrow

### Child Safety Monitor

- 7: Carey Weingart
- 14: Brian Coffee
- 21: Mark Muckleroy
- 28: Mike Mincks

\*\*\* If you are unable to serve in your time slot please find your own replacement

### Worship Assistant

Steve Sprague

### Lay Speaker

Carolyn Caldwell

### Coach/Van Driver

Troy / Family

### Counters

Gary Mercer &  
Carol Flickinger



## Preschool News

Things are pretty quiet at the preschool now. Please continue to pray for our 2019-20 school year. Pray for our staff to have a peaceful and blessed summer. Pray for our future students and their families.

We are still in need of 2 teacher's aides for next school year. If you know of anyone that might be interested please contact Andrea 330-428-1536.

We are sad to announce that Michelle Zumbar has resigned as our PreK teacher. We wish her all the best at her new job. We are happy to announce Amy Shoaff will be moving up to teach the PreK class and Hannah Schultheis will be moving up to teach the 3-4 year old class.

We still have spots available. If you know of anyone interested in pre-school, please give them the church number or give me their number. I will be happy to talk with them.

The Preschool is one of our largest outreach to the community. When we have events the sanctuary is full. We want to keep reaching out to the community but can always use some help. We offer reduced rates and in some hardship cases free tuition to those in need. One way we fund these is by your support with our fundraisers. But did you know you can donate to the preschool through your envelope giving? To sponsor a child you can give any amount. Note on your giving envelope it is for account 213 (preschool assistance) or to donate to the preschool to use for any area that they may need help, 08-101 (Preschool Envelope Offering). Most of our supplies are in good shape; however we can always use craft supplies (buttons, felt, fronts of old greeting cards, etc.), reams of white paper, 5 ounce Dixie cups, band aids, and Clorox wipes.

Enjoy your summer! Thank you again for all your prayers and support. We appreciate all you do for us.

Many Blessings,  
Andrea, Amy, Hannah & Linda



# Damascus United Methodist Church

## July 2019



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

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
|   | <b>1</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>Mission Trip                   | <b>2</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>Mission Trip                        | <b>3</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br>8:30am Men's Breakfast<br><br>Mission Trip | <b>4</b><br>Office Closed— Independence Day<br><br>Mission Trip<br>6:30pm Church Bible Study                   | <b>5</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>Mission Trip | <b>6</b><br><br><br>Mission Trip returns<br><br>7:00pm Bible Study at the Lucas Home            |
| <b>7</b><br>Pastor Matt Wilson's First service<br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:10 am Worship<br>6-8pm SALT  | <b>8</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>7:00pm SPRC Meeting            | <b>9</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-7:00p.m. | <b>10</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations  | <b>11</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>6:30pm Ruritan Meeting<br>6:30pm Church Bible Study | <b>12</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations                    | <b>13</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>7:00pm Bible Study at the Lucas Home |
| <b>14</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:10 am Worship<br>6-8pm SALT                                       | <b>15</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>7:00pm Church Council Meeting | <b>16</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations   | <b>17</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations  | <b>18</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>6:30pm Church Bible Study                           | <b>19</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations                    | <b>20</b><br>DUMC Community Breakfast 7-10:30am<br><br>7:00pm Bible Study at the Lucas Home     |
| <b>21</b><br>9 am Sunday School<br>10:10 am Worship<br>6-8pm SALT                                       | <b>22</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting    | <b>23</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations   | <b>24</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>12:00 Noon Lunch with the Wilson's    | <b>25</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations<br><br>6:30pm Church Bible Study                           | <b>26</b><br>Garage open for Rummage Sale Donations                    | <b>27</b><br><br><br>7:00pm Bible Study at the Lucas Home                                       |
| <b>28</b><br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:10 am Worship<br>6-8pm SALT<br><br>Move Rummage Sale Donations | <b>29</b><br>Rummage Sale Set-up   | <b>30</b><br>Rummage Sale Set-up  | <b>31</b><br>Rummage Sale Set-up   |  |  |   |