

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

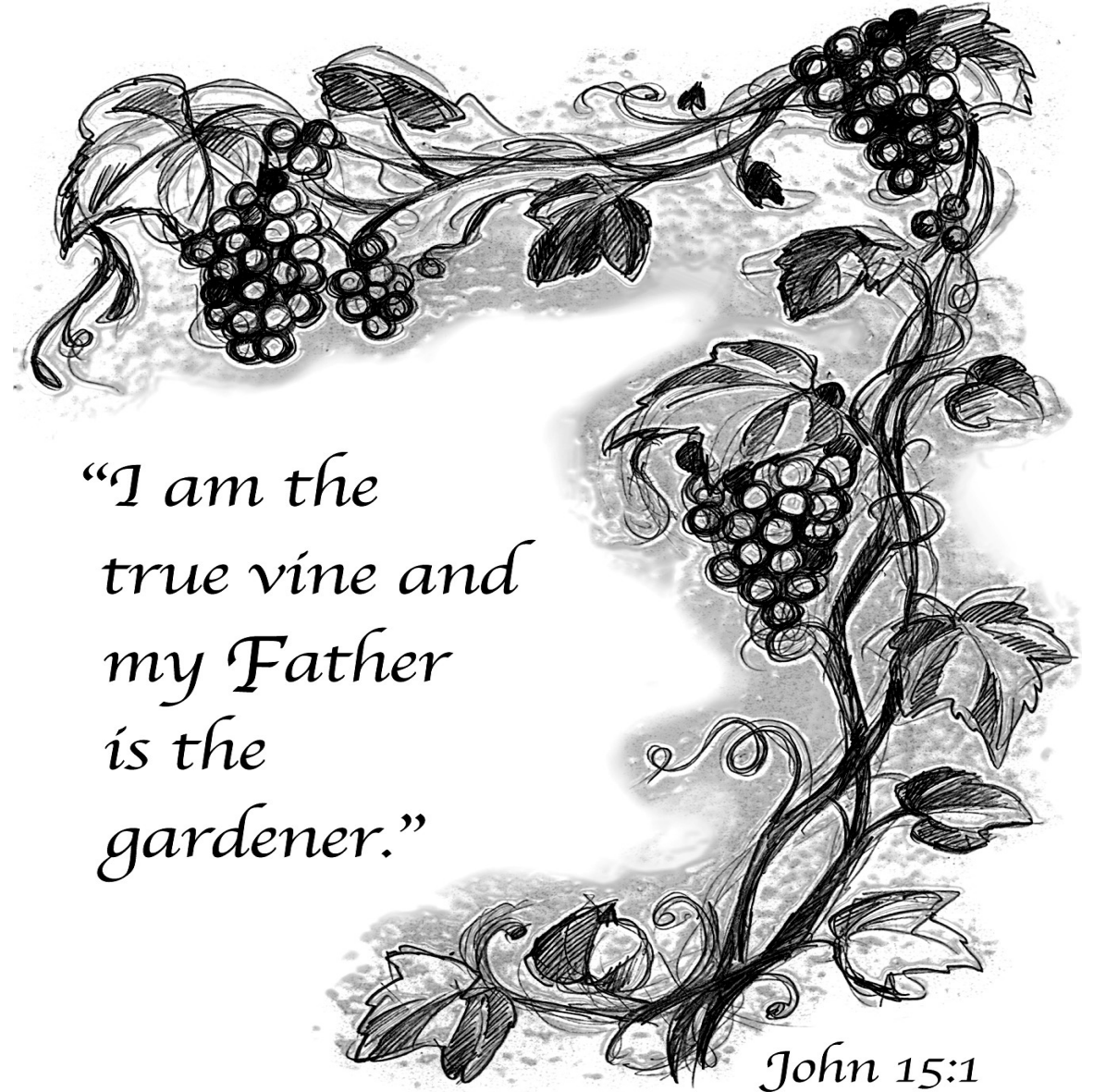
Church (330) 537-3031
Email: office@dumcohoio.org

Drive In Worship: 9 :00am
Church Website: www.dumcohoio.org
Fax (330) 537-3032

“Damascus Doings”

AUGUST 2020

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



*“I am the
true vine and
my Father
is the
gardener.”*

John 15:1



PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVES



Greetings in the Name of Jesus the Christ,

According to the Mahoning Valley District Superintendent, I have been appointed as Pastor of the Damascus Untied Methodist Church as of July 1, 2020. That is true for the record of our Conference, however, due to previous commitments, I have only been “at work” since the 14th and have only preached once. That being said, “the new kid on the block” hasn’t really gotten into the swing of things here in Damascus, but I am trying. Until we can get to know one another more personally, let me share some of my background and my passion for ministry.

I was encouraged to consider pastoral ministry by the Pastor of the Gilman Ave. UMC in Marietta, OH (it was a Methodist Church at that time and my wife, Pat, and I were teaching a jr. high Sunday School class and helping with the youth program). I was flattered by his confidence that God was calling me. I, on the other hand, had not heard God’s call ... so I pushed my pastor’s encouragement to the furthest regions of my mind for 10 years. During the time of what I now think of as my running away, I worked in sales and sales management as a distributor and sales counselor with Pepsi Cola and 7-Up and as a store manager with Sears. I worked with all kinds of people in the public.

While managing a Sears catalog store in Illinois, God spoke to me in real terms about serving Him. There is much more to the story, but I’ve shared the basics of my call.

At age 33, I started college and served as a student pastor of the Ninth Street UMC in Hamilton, Oh. until graduation from Miami University and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Oh.

My passion in ministry is much like the Apostle Paul’s. *Paraphrasing* Romans 10:1: **“Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel (please substitute Damascus) to be saved..”** It is important for the ministry of DUMC, to read the challenge of verses 2 - 4; to really struggle with what it teaches and to share the Gospel with those who do not know our Lord with love until He becomes their Lord and Savior, too.

So, while we are getting acquainted, please be patient with me ... but also to hear the Word, God wants me to share. AND, may the Blessing of the Lord be with you.

Pastor Wayne



Hello from S.A.L.T., the D.U.M.C. youth!

Have you ever faced a stressful situation? Of course you have! Who hasn’t? Maybe you struggled with an overloaded schedule. Perhaps you had difficult people around you. You may have suffered from fatigue or sickness, or emotional burdens like worry or heartache. Whatever the case, you probably looked forward to getting past your problem, escaping those tough circumstances, stepping into a time of relief and rest – a vacation, a new job, a day with friends, etc.

I’ve been there! I’ve thought that way, too. But what if we’ve been looking at things the wrong way? What if we don’t need to wait for the situation to change in order to be free of our stress? Nehemiah 8:10 says “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” What an interesting statement! Is strength needed by someone in perfect circumstances? No, the people in need of strength are the ones facing challenges! If the Lord’s joy is meant to give His people strength, as Nehemiah asserts, than that joy must be available during hard times!

But who was Nehemiah to make such a statement? What kind of life did he live? What kind of person was he? He was someone who understood stress! He and many of his fellow Jews lived in exile. Their homeland had been conquered, and they had been forced to live in the land of its conquerors – the Babylonians. Nehemiah returned to his people’s former capital city – Jerusalem – to undertake the monumental task of rebuilding its ruins. As if that wasn’t enough, he also faced continual harrassment and threats from enemies opposed to Jerusalem’s restoration. Nevertheless, he persevered, leading a group of fellow Jews in the rebuilding effort and succeeding in reconstructing the city’s wall. Could he have carried out this task without God’s help? Definitely not! And I believe one of the most significant ways God helped Nehemiah was by strengthening his heart, giving him not just resolve but peace and joy even in the midst of his hardships. When Nehemiah exhorted his countrymen with the his statement “the joy of the Lord is your strength”, I think he spoke from personal experience.

How about you? When you encounter adversity, will you simply wait for better circumstances, or will you determine to tap into God’s joy – and the strength it brings – in the midst of your difficulties?

The Lord bless you today!

- Phil

P.S. - In recent weeks, S.A.L.T. has resumed its in-person meetings. As our youth seek God and His joy amidst the challenging circumstances faced by our community, our country, and our world, we appreciate your prayers and support. If you or someone you know would like to get involved, please contact me for more information. Thank you.

From your Lay Leader ... Get Uncomfortable this Summer August 2020

Isn't summer great? (Well it usually is except for this year but let's not think about that for a moment). Summertime is often a time to take it easier and get some rest. Going camping or a vacation on the beach or just relaxing in the backyard are all very comfortable things to do.

What makes you uncomfortable? For some of us it may be getting up in front of a crowd and speaking. Traveling around from airport to airport sometimes leaves you needing to find ground transportation. This means that on more than one occasion I have found the need to call an Uber car to get from the airport to a customer's location or back. Whenever I use the service, I always load my bags in the trunk and jump right into the front passenger seat. I suppose they expect people to use the rear seats but I like to talk to strangers (sorry Mom). On one such occasion I remember talking to an Uber driver who was from Haiti. I had never knowingly met someone from Haiti before so it was a very interesting conversation. As sometimes happens, the conversation turned to spiritual matters. When the subject of preaching came up, he asked if I were nervous standing in the pulpit in front of the congregation. I replied that I was not really nervous because I was standing in front of my church family. As soon as I said this, the driver broke out into laughter. It just so happened that this driver also had some preaching experience. Once his laughter subsided, He said "That's funny – you get over being nervous by imagining that the congregation is your family when you speak but I get over being nervous by noticing that the congregation is much lower than I while up in the pulpit and they are just little people...

Some of us are talking to anyone about certain subject, which is why the old saying "never talk about religion or politics". Well, politics these days seems to be a huge divider and religion has gotten a bad name for several reasons so its completely understandable why these subjects are uncomfortable. However, we must never forget **Matthew 28:19-20** **Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" We can leave the religion and politics aside but we must find a way to get out of our comfort zone and talk about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And since talking about religion and politics are not necessarily talking about Jesus, what do we have to worry about anyway?

It might make us uncomfortable to tell someone that they are about to fall off a cliff that they were not aware of at the end of a hiking trail but we would do it because it is a matter of life and death. Telling people about Jesus is also a matter of life and death. My comfort is nowhere near as important as life and death.

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



Preschool News

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. -Jeremiah 29:11

We are busy preparing for a new school year. We are not quite sure what that will look like, but we are planning and making necessary changes. Please continue to pray for our 2020-21 school year. Pray for our staff as we make the necessary adjustments. Pray for our future students and their families.

We are still in need of a couple teachers' aides. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please let me know.

Remember we always take donations of paper, greeting card fronts, craft supplies, etc.

Many Blessings,
Andrea, Amy & Phil



We are having Drive In Worship at 9:00am until further notice. You can tune in on your FM dial 89.1.

Yes, its different but God is present.
Come let us worship together.



Have you missed a Sunday? You can watch sermons from the past month on our website. www.dumcoho.org Click Sermon Videos and choose your Sunday on the bottom. We are Blessed!

STEWARDSHIP PAGE



Praises

Jade Paptic- surgery went well
Sheila Lucas– successful carotid artery surgery
Liam (Larry Battle’s great grandson) -home, doing better



Prayer Requests

All those affected by the corona virus
Sheila Lucas– continued prayers for healing and strength
Roger Stittle– healing
Pastor Matt, Crystal and family– God’s leading in Maine
Pastor Wayne Clark and wife Pat, God’s leading here at DUMC
Robert Altenhof (Bob’s father) diagnosed with pancreatic cancer



In Christian Sympathies to the

Family of Martha Wilson

Family of Don Hawk

Family of Marion Peters

Family of Jim Strawn

Family of Mak Kidd



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so very much for your prayers for my recent carotid artery surgery. Praise God for successful surgery!! Now He is healing the surgery site. Thank you, too, for your many beautiful cards. I am blessed to be part of such a loving church family! I would greatly appreciate your continued prayers for God’s healing of my digestive system as I continue to battle with this issue, thank you so much May our loving Lord Jesus abundantly bless you for your faithfulness in prayer and your acts of kindness! With gratitude and in Christ’s love, Sheila Lucas

August Birthdays

1: Sue Johanson
4: Lauren Stitle
Carly Phillips
5: Dorothy Walther
8: Carol Flickinger
10: Marge Hrvatin
Al Lutz
Thomas Niederhiser
Scott Papic
11: Tyler Wilson
12: Katie Tedrow
14: Brinley Bauman
15: Carolyn Caldwell
16: Pat Humphreys
Jenean Lamos
17: Janice McPherson
18: Kathy Landon
Dick Schaffhauser
Drew Wandle
19: Janice Hoover
20: Marion Peters
22: Dalton Mincks
Stephanie Smith
24: Janice Bennett
Barb Karlen
25: Bob Altenhof
28: Catherine Baird
Grace Williams
29: Willard Martself
30: Jodie Keck



Anniversaries

13: Carey & Jamie Weingart
15: Fred & Janice
McPherson
Jerry & Tracie Stitle
Tim & Anissa Citino
20: Steve & Dina Sprague
Russell & Bonnie
McDermott
22: Pastor Bob & Nancy
Amey
Scott & Michelle Papic
27: Ray & Mary Kay Heverly

Worship Assistant

Barb Karlen

Lay Speaker

Dina Sprague

Coach/Van Driver

Jerry Menough

Counters

Kathy Knoedler &
Carol Flickinger

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

Church news

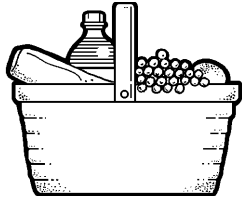


Your SPR committee is excited to announce the hiring of a new Christian Education Director. Effective 8-1-2020 one of our own, Brittany Sprague, will be the Children's Education Director. Brittany has a heart filled with God's love and she enjoys children of all ages. She feels God has been leading her down this path for some time. Please thank and congratulate Brittany for listening to the whisper of God and using her Godly talents to encourage all children to grow in faith as Christian disciples. I pray that we as a church family will support her in many ways. Our little church is surely blessed!



We welcome Rev. Wayne Clark to our family. A celebration to welcome our new pastor Rev. Wayne Clark and his wife Pat is currently on hold due to the pandemic but, we are looking forward to a celebration in the future where you can all meet them and show your love.

God Bless
Carolyn Caldwell - SPR Chair



Damascus United Methodist Church

AUGUST 2020



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Please note all activities are subject to change due to the current state of things.						1
9:00am Drive In Worship 2	6:30pm Church Council Meeting 3	4	5	7:00pm Church Bible Study 6	7	8
9:00am Drive In Worship 9	10	11	12	7:00pm Church Bible Study 13	14	15
9:00am Drive In Worship 16	17	18	19	7:00pm Church Bible Study 20	21	22
9:00am Drive In Worship 23	7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting 24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00am Drive In Worship 30	31			7:00pm Church Bible Study		