

Damascus Methodist Church
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Damascus, OH 44619

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Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dmc.church
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

December 2025

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





A Star, A Star, Dancing in the Night!

Isaiah 9: 2

*The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.*

Greetings in the name of The One! Our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ!

Here we are closing in on another Christmas Season, it's so easy to get swept up into the commercial light and worldly Christmas Time. Black Friday, Flash Sales, the Newest and greatest gifts and gadgets for the greatest Christmas gift! Yet in the flash of an hour all that left is crumpled wrapping paper and empty boxes filled with remnants of worldly hope and joy.

Our prayer for this Christmas Season is that we look beyond the Glitz & Glitter. Stop and look back at the true meaning of the season. The Long-awaited Messiah, Emmanuel, God is with us!

It started so long ago with God's plan to rescue his lost and wandering people. He made a promise to send the one who would free & liberate, restore and forgive, save & deliver his chosen people.

It began with his promises in Isaiah, A Star shining in the East that had never been seen before and ended in the most unusual Birth of a Savior! Of all places, Bethlehem, and in all places, a Manger? Why? What was God doing? Why this simple and unusual way?

Our Advent Journey will unpack God's Plan. It will once again through scripture and prophesy reveal God's Love & Truth for Freedom and reconciliation. It can be the life saving Truth for us, our children, and our grandchildren. Or it can be those couple of hours on Christmas morning with paper, packages, and stuff filling the morning activities.

Let's make it a season of Truth & Light, Hope, Joy, Peace, & Love, a time of true and life changing celebration. He is Coming, Prepare your hearts for the Gift of LIFE!

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

**In Christ's Love, Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas Season.
Pastor Jon & Jenny**

SALT YOUTH MINISTRY



A lot has been happening lately with the youth group. We had an incredible Youth Sunday on November 16th in which the students of Salt Youth were able to lead and participate in the Sunday morning worship. The kids also got the chance to help to serve the church alongside the men of the Forge by getting the Christmas decorations out of the garage in preparation for the hanging of the greens this past Sunday. As the students were working with some of the older folks in the church, I began to think of the role of the adults in youth ministry.

In my estimation, one of the most important factors of effective youth ministry is the involvement of the adults in a student's life. We, as the older folks in a student's life, are called to be the ones to mentor them in the Lord and show them a “more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31). We are called to be examples of what faithful Christ followers are to those who look up to us as models. Some of the ways that we can do that is either directly teaching our kids and teenagers the way of the Lord, living out our walk with Christ boldly and openly, showing where our priorities lie with choices we make, etc. This is all to say, we should live in a way that we can embody the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1. The apostle wrote, “And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ”. Living our lives in such a way that we can honestly tell the students in our lives to imitate us is invaluable to their spiritual development. There is not enough that I can say to emphasize how important godly mentors are for teenagers (and children, for that matter) who are able to live with them day in and day out.

When we started youth group this fall, I emphasized to the parents that there is only so much I can do for the youth since I only get them (normally) once a week. It is the parents, grandparents, friends, other family members, etc. who do the heavy lifting in mentoring the next generation of Christians. This is all to say, if you have a younger person in your life, I would like to encourage you to take the time to mentor them in the Lord. Show them how Jesus has worked in your life, and how His love and goodness have sustained you over the years. Let them see what a life with Christ looks like and encourage them to take the same path. The most effective and long-lasting spiritual mentorship often does not come exclusively from trained professionals. On the contrary, it often comes from a family member or close friend who cares. However, I still have to mention that sending your teenagers to youth group and church is still extremely helpful, but my point is that we as Christians have a special calling to come alongside those younger than us and teach them about the Lord. Praise God if you have this opportunity! I pray that all of us do.

2 Timothy 3:14-15, “But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus” (NLT).

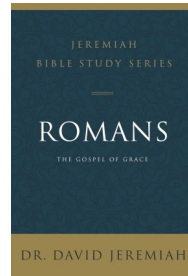
Blessings, Sam Bryan

Praise!

Our Church packed 423 shoeboxes for OCC!
Thanks to the Youth and the “Forge” for setting up Christmas!
Thanks to all who finished decorating the Church for Christmas!
Molly and Sam Bryan expecting their first child in July!

Prayer Requests

First Responders, military, veterans and families
Joyce Krahling needs prayers for patience and healing
Rev. Buell healing after mini stroke
Sheila Lucas battling health concerns
Holiday Travel mercies



****New Men’s Bible Study starting Thursday, December 4th at 6:30
12 week lessons Cost of book \$10.00 We meet every week, so come any
Thursday @ 6:30 pm.

Salt Youth Harvest Party



December Events!

Thursday, December 4th	New Men’s Bible Study “Romans”
Friday, December 12th	Community Tree Lighting 5:00 pm
Saturday, December 13th	Light Up Damascus Activities
DMC—Craft show, St. Nick, Lunch Counter	

Saturday, December 20th Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am

Sunday, December 21st Christmas Family Breakfast/DMC 8:30 am
(No Sunday School)

Happy Birthday Jesus Party for Jr Church and Wee Worship
(during Worship)

Wednesday, December 24th Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm



**OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS ALMOST
HERE!
SUNDAY, DEC.14 DURING 10:00 SERVICE**

It’s that time of year again! It’s time for our annual Christmas program! This is such an exciting time of year. The kids and youth, and adults will be presenting “**Meet Me At The Manger**” on Sunday, December 14th during the worship service. Come and enjoy this music-filled message that puts a unique twist on the telling of the Christmas story.

We have a lot of kids, youth, and adults from the smallest to the tallest that have been practicing for weeks to prepare for this day! Invite your friends and neighbors to hear the Message proclaimed loud and clear! A special thank you to the adults who are participating in this special service, and to the parents and grandparents who are bringing their kids to the practices. And thank you, church family for supporting our program. The kids have all been doing a super job and are truly excited to share the Good News!

Advent Services: 10:00 am each Sunday



- 11/30 “Have you Heard the Good News? He’s Coming!”
- 12/7 “It’s Him, It’s Really Him”
- 12/14 “Let There Be Joy in My Heart” Children’s Program
- 12/21 “The Signs & Promises of Love”
- 12/24 “The Light of the World has Come!” Christmas Eve 6:30 pm

We fulfilled our 2025 Missions Givings!

Name of Mission	Pledge	1st. Qtr.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr. #	Year To Date Balance
Foreign Missions		Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	
Overholt's / WGM	\$4,000.00	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Bible's/ SWFTH	\$4,000.00	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Murphy's/ OMS	\$4,000.00	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Dominican Trip	\$2,400.00	0	0	1800	600	
OCC	\$2,500.00	0	1000	1000	1000	
Kenya/ GMC	\$1,000.00	250	250	250	250	
Shingledecker/WGM	\$1,000.00	250	250	250	250	
TOTALS	\$18,900.00	3500	4500	6300	5100	19400
Local Missions	Pledge	1st.	2nd. Qtr.	3rd. Qtr.	4th. Qtr.	16556.09
Alliance PC	\$2,500	625	625	625	625	
Frank's/ Reliant	\$1,500	375	375	375	375	
Tobin Center	\$1,000	250	250	250	Closed	
Freer's / OMS	\$1,500	375	375	375	375	
AWGMC/ Scholars.	\$1,000	250	250	250	250	
W.B. Principals	\$2,000	500	500	500	500	
C.I. Righteousness	\$2,500	500	500	500	500	
AWC Disaster Relief	\$860	0	0	0	1000	
Safe Harbor	\$1,000	250	250	250	250	
TOTALS	\$13,000	3125	3125	3125	3875	0 13250.00
Advent 2024				2025	2025	
2 Familes	250.00	250.00				
Lent 2025						
(Safe Harbor)			987.00			
2025 Endowment	19,700.00					
Special Family Gift				2000.00		

From your Lay Leader ...

Still Thankful

December 2025

As you read this, Thanksgiving is over and we are rapidly heading toward Christmas and the end of a great year but no matter what the season and no matter the situation, it is always a time to be thankful. One of the speakers at a recent Lay Ministry training event, was a “retired” Pastor named Chuck Hildbold. Chuck has written a few books, one of which is in honor of his recently departed soulmate of over forty years. The book is a collection of articles that Cheryl had written (Yes, I have Chuck’s permission to steal some of the ideas from her articles and I will be doing that). When he noticed that I purchased the book, he came over to me, grabbed the book and began searching for a particular article. We did not find that article right then but I have since and will share it at another time. That reminds me of a bus tour I was on in Iceland once. The guide said something like “See that church over there? I am not going to tell you about it...” But I digress. Anyway, Chuck mentioned that since Cheryl’s passing, he felt “out-of-season” and he may always feel a bit out-of-season but that was okay. It was like he was giving himself permission to feel a bit off or incomplete while he was still serving The Lord. Many of us feel like something is missing especially around this time of year. And that’s okay. It is important to remember that God is Good all the time and meditate on His Goodness, Grace, Mercy and Love no matter what.

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Although Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Philippi, all believers and followers of Christ Jesus can take these promises to heart. God’s Sanctifying Grace began the moment you accepted the forgiveness of Jesus and began following Him. Even if we have times of feeling “out-of-season” or even despair, He is faithful. He is ALWAYS able to use us and He always loves us.

We must also remember that no matter the battles we face, Christ has won the victory and the answer to the question “If Christ is for us, who can stand against us?” is None. No one and nothing can stand against us when we lean on Jesus Christ.

John 16:33

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NATIONAL COLLECTION WEEK A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Thank you church family for your wonderful support of **Operation Christmas Child**! Even as you are reading this, millions of shoeboxes are being processed and prepped for transport to continue their journey! Praise God for the 427 shoeboxes filled here at DMC! As a local drop-off, we collected, cartonized, and delivered 106 cartons containing 1,589 shoeboxes to the central drop-off in Poland, Ohio. Please continue to pray for these Gospel opportunity shoeboxes as they continue on their journey to a special child God has chosen to receive this gift. We have already begun shopping and preparing for next year's shoeboxes! Please keep an eye out for our donations list! This month, we are collecting stuffed animals! Keep an eye out for that Christmas clearance! A special fund is established for **Operation Christmas Child**. Please prayerfully consider giving to this throughout the year so that we are able to pack even more shoeboxes!

In Christ, Your OCC Team



Christmas Card Post Office at DMC

'Tis the season to be sending Christmas cards! The DMC Post Office will be available soon for you to send Christmas cards to your church family and save on all of that postage! There will be folders available in the narthex for you to leave your cards.

Please help us out by noting the following:

- 1) Be sure to check your folder weekly to receive your Christmas Greetings!
 - 2) Please refrain from leaving cards for those that do not attend on a regular basis. Please consider mailing those as addresses are available in the church directory.
- However, we will be delivering cards to all Copeland and Crandall residents and other nursing homes.



Birthdays

12/1 Bradley Dettweiler
12/2 Olivia Mossow
12/4 Joey Sprague
12/5 Hannah Sprague
12/5 Weston Weingart
12/8 Shirley Steer
12/11 Bonnie McDermott
12/12 Dave Grissom
12/13 Richard Stoffer
12/15 Ray Heverly, Sr.
12/18 Debbie Hawk
12/18 Landon Coffee
12/20 Madason Morgan
12/23 Kayla Crouse
12/25 Holly Morrow
12/27 Alan Cope

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

Counters

Gary Mercer &
Jane Menough

Bus Driver

Jerry Menough

Acolytes

12/7 Sawyer Anderson
& Stella Smith
12/14 No Acolytes
12/21 Triston Beagle
& Elise Smith
12/28 Lane Loving
& Addie Zion

Children's Rotation

Sunday School

12/7 Lois Niederhiser
12/14 Lois N.
12/21 Family Breakfast
12/28 Shaund Uphold

Junior Church

12/7 Program Practice
12/14 Program
12/21 Happy Birthday
Jesus Party
12/28 Troy Uphold

Wee Worship

12/7 Program Prac
12/14 Program
12/21 Happy
Birthday Party
12/28 Shaunda Uphold

Nursery

12/7 Amy Shoaff
12/14 Program
12/21 Samara Anderson
12/28 Denise Linder



12/1 Brian & Becky
Pinkerton
12/26 Dick & Shirley
Stoffer
12/31 Daryl & April
Dettweiler

DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

December 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ADVENT	1	2 Children's practice 6-7:30	3 Salt Youth 6:30-8pm	4 9:30 TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Study— starting "Romans"	5	6
7 9:00 am SS 10:00 Worship	8	9	10 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm Children's Pizza Party Dress Rehearsal 5:30-7:30 pm	11 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men Bible Study RURITANS?	12 Community Tree Lighting 5:00 pm	13 LIGHT UP DAMASCUS Craft Show Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11 am
14 9:00 am SS Children's Christmas Program 10:00 am	15 No Council	16	17 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	18 9:30 am Tops 6:30 Men's Study	19	20 Community Breakfast 7-10:30 am
21 10:00 am Worship FAMILY CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST 8:30 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party During Worship/Jr Church	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Service 6:30 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship	29	30 BLOOD DRIVE 1-6PM	31			