

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

Church (330) 537-3031
Email: office@dmc.church
Pastor Jon Long 330-323-7066
Sunday School: 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:00 A.M.

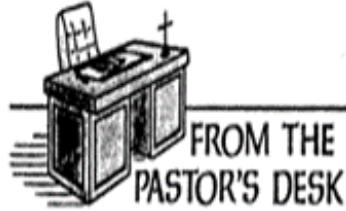
Fax (330) 537-3032
Church Website: www.dumcoho.org
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

“Damascus Doings”

February 2024

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

For God 
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
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Life 



PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVES

“A Journey of LENT”

What is Lent?

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a 40-day season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 Days of Lent, Christians seek to replicate the sacrifice and withdrawal that Jesus endured in his 40 days in the desert. The practice of personal sacrifice and fasting are just a few of the practices of self-control Christians try to endure to come closer to understanding the true blessing of Christ's sacrifice for all believers. Some traditions call for individuals to give something up for the 40-day season. (alcohol, pop, chocolate, certain foods, and many forms of restrictive diets) Yet other practices include intense practice of prayer & biblical reading to draw ourselves closer to the greatest gift ever given in Jesus Christ.

So, this February my prayer is that each of us find that sacrificial practice to draw ourselves into a personal and obedient relationship with Jesus Christ.

It Begins with us coming together and being apart of the movement:

Get Your Picture taken and help us CONNECT with one another.

Come to the “Great Chili Cookoff”.

Come & Dine @ The Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Dinner.

Attend the Ash Wednesday Evening Worship.

Be Committed to Prayer & Attendance to the Worship and Study material provided during Lent.

Connecting in one of the Bible Studies offered.

Making a Second Mile attempt to do more/ give more for the Work of Christ's Church.

Bring someone with you on this Wonderful Journey and Special Worship Services. And Simply, Come & See what “**God is Doing!**”

Lent is for You, It allows us to find a closer connection between you and your Savior, Jesus Christ!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Jon

Souls After Living Truth News

January is a good time to reflect on how we should live our lives and how we might become better persons, not only because the calendar tells us that it's a new year, but also because we can finally slow down a bit after the hustle of the holidays. We must not forget to put God first and spiritual well-being at the center of plans for the coming year. When we put God first, everything else tends to fall into place. If you truly try to do God's will throughout the year, whatever else happens will be seen through the lens of being part of God's plan. Spiritual growth is one of the youth goals for this year, while realizing that growth and comfort rarely occur together.

The youth had an outing in January to Laser Zone in N. Canton to play some laser tag. It was a fun time for all! We are also looking forward to our upcoming retreat at Snow Camp in Pennsylvania in February. Please pray for safe travels to TeenQuest Ranch. We are looking forward to plenty of snow for this action-packed weekend of awesome outdoor activities and as well as life changing worship! Blessings, Linda Henderson



If you're a football fan, then you know that the Super Bowl is right around the corner! So in honor of the big game, we are running a **Souper Bowl Drive** to collect cans of chunky soup, chili, or beef stew for the month of February.

Each week tons of chunky soups are given out in homeless food bags. This provides a hearty protein-rich meal that they are able to easily heat at campsites or eat right out of the

"STEWARDSHIP PAGE"



Donna Beardsley home and facing more testing
Tracie Stitle's Mom recovering after surgery
New Members joining our church!

World Peace
 Government officials around the world
 First responders, front line workers, military, veterans and their families
 Donna Lutz— strength
 Len Niederhiser— 3 more chemo to go—results lookin good!
 Jon Reed—Pastor Jon's cousin cancer surgery on 1/30, recovering and waiting results
 Patty Dotson—upcoming surgery postponed because of illness
 Janice Bennett having health concerns
 Janet Buell having heart issues
 Fred Criss upcoming hip surgery
 Russ McDermott health issues
 Kathryn Landon still needs prayers for strength and healing
 Louise Case—preparing to move to Crandall after falls
 Dorothy Walther having severe back issues
 Fred McPherson in Crandall for therapy E Hall, rm 259
 Cindy Mountz's friend, Alicia dealing with lung condition and young autistic children
 Charlene Henderson needs prayers for health and strength
 Art Johanson's friend who fell and has brain injury
 Curt Mosher has fallen few times—needs prayers for strength



Ohio will soon be home to **Safe Harbor**, a place of hope and healing for Child Survivors of Sex Trafficking.

Our Lenten Offering for 2024 will be to help the SAFE HARBOR project. Our Goal will be to send \$1000. to www.safeharborohio.org. Please read and learn more about this great cause.



WE CARE MINISTRY will be collecting small snack items and SWEET treat items to send to our College Students. We would like them to know we are thinking and praying for them. Whether they are studying at home or taking classes on campus, we hope getting a box of goodies will get them through their finals. Please fill up the box in the Narthex by **February 12th** so we can send to the following: **Hannah Sprague, Ally Zion, Mitchell Coffee, Joey Sprague, Lleyton Uphold, Seth Schroeder, Katie Tedrow, David Ernst and Andrew Coffee. If we missed anyone, Please let us know. Thank you for your help. Helen and We Care Team**

**HEY KIDS....
COMING SOON...
SHARE THE LOVE DAY...
Sunday, Feb 11th**



We will be having a special day celebrating God's love for each and every one of us! Did you know that the word love is mentioned more than 300 times in the Bible? Come and celebrate with us as we share the love of God with our church family! We will be preparing special treats to share with our family here, and then we will take the church van to deliver some special treats to the area nursing homes and to some of our church family! And to celebrate even more, we will enjoy lunch at McDonalds before heading home! Permission slips are available on the welcome center and we will need one for each of you! There is NO cost for this special day. Just plan to be a part of it all!

1 John 4:16
So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO:
ANNUAL DMC “SOUP-OR” CHILI COOK-OFF
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4th 6:00 pm
FUN-FILLED NIGHT OF FOOD, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP
FOR ALL AGES!
SIGN-UP SHEET FOR CHILI CHEFS
AT THE WELCOME CENTER!**



Come and taste all of the delicious varieties and cast your vote for the overall favorite! ???Who will it be??? The “mystery chef” will be revealed during the delicious dessert time! Please plan to be a part of it all!

**** DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BENEFIT OUR KIDS’ CHURCH CAMP FUND****

Be sure to wear your pink and red to celebrate Jesus’ Love for us on Sunday, February 11th at 10:00 am Worship service!

First Annual “Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner” is on Tuesday, February 13th from 4-7pm. Shrove Tuesday, also referred to as Pancake Day, is a celebration that’s observed the day before Ash Wednesday.

Donations accepted to benefit the “WE CARE MINISTRY TEAM”

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the Christian Lent season. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th at 6:30pm



**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
Saturday, February 17th, 2024
7:00-10:30 AM
Donations only—change available**

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!

From your Lay Leader ...

Love

February 2024

Well, it looks like we are actually having somewhat of a winter here in Northeast Ohio. While some of us are happy to see the snow, some of us actually have to make long drives and hundreds of miles on snow covered roads is not much fun. God is Good All The Time and His Love never fails. His hedge of protection has been obvious for most of my life with all that He has brought me through despite my questionable judgement. As I grow older, hopefully those guardian angels are working a little less these days. Any of us would provide that kind of protection for our children if we could so how much more does God Love us that He actually can and does protect His children?

February is a month to celebrate love as we show love to our special someone in honor of Valentine’s Day. As Christians we are called to reflect God’s Love everyday of the year. Saint Valentine showed God’s Love by ministering to persecuted Christians. We may get to make that choice someday as well. The choice to stand up for Christ while showing His Love to His enemies will be a hard thing to do but should not be a hard choice for His children. Showing Love to the ones that love us is easy (most of the time) but showing love to your enemy is hard. That’s the kind of supernatural thing that we can only do through prayer and reliance on the guidance of The Holy Spirit. **1st Corinthians 13:1-7** **If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give away all my possessions to charity, and if I surrender my body so that I may glory, but do not have love, it does me no good. Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Let’s challenge ourselves to show love to someone that may not love you this month. It might just change your outlook and it will definitely allow God to show something good while you show His Love.**

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

SUNDAY MORNING GATHERING TIME IS HERE!



Please join us for a sweet treat every Sunday morning in the gathering space! (our newly remodeled library and gathering room) Pop in anytime from 8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. for a breakfast treat, a cup of coffee, hot chocolate, tea or water. What a great way to start your day! Sit and chat with your church family before heading to Sunday school or worship. Also, we have a sign-up sheet on the welcome center for individuals, groups or families that would like to pick a Sunday to prepare the treats, put them out, and clean up when its over! (Suggested treats: Donuts, mini bagged donuts, muffins, coffee cake, sweet breads, dry cereal cups, granola bars) Drinks and paper products are all provided!

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February Birthdays

- 2/1 Jerry Stitle
- 2/3 Joey Amabeli
- 2/4 Jay Linder
- 2/6 Joyce Krahling
Glen Wilson
- 2/8 Kaitlyn Bondoni
- 2/9 Jonathon Sprague
- 2/11 Landon Stitle
- 2/12 Jane Menough
- 2/15 Michael Mincks
Richard Yoder
- 2/19 Andrea Altenhof
David Ernst
- 2/24 Sandy Dearth
Shirley Stoffer
- 2/25 Janet Buell
- 2/28 Jean Yoder
- 2/29 Richard Flickinger



February Anniversaries

- 2/2 Rich & Debbie Hawk
- 2/4 Joe & Nancy Cadile
- 2/21 Rev Wayne & Pat Clark

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

Counters

Gary Mercer & Jane Menough

Bus Drivers

Jerry Menough

Acolytes

- 2/4 Stella and Elise Smith
- 2/11 Corianna Hauter, Triston Beagle
- 2/18 Maxon Weingart, Lane Loving
- 2/25 Addie and Kara Zion

Children’s Rotation

Sunday School

- 4 Lois Niederhiser,
Linda Henderson
- 11 Lois Niederhiser,
Brittany Sprague
- 18 Lois Niederhiser,
Shaunda Uphold
- 25 Lois Niederhiser,
Brittany Sprague

Junior Church

- 4: Lois Niederhiser,
Codey Dettweiler
- 11: Steve Sprague,
Richey Hill
- 18: Troy Uphold,
Ethan Dettweiler
- 25: Lois Niederhiser,
Abby Heverly

Wee Worship

- 4: Linda Henderson
- 11: Brittany Sprague
- 18: Shaunda Uphold
- 25: Brittany Sprague

Nursery

- 4: Denise Linder
- 11: Amy Shoaff (ss & worship)
- 18: Terrie Rohrer
- 25: Denise Linder (SS Nancy Cadile)

Mission Trip/Breakfast Report



Mission Trip

As the New Year starts, we start looking toward our tentative Mission Trip this Summer. We have different opportunities and will be making a decision very soon so planning can start. We are always looking for new volunteers, both young and seasoned. Our group is responsible for maintaining and staffing the **Monthly Community Breakfast**. This is a noticeably big task due to the recent upsurge in popularity of the event. **I have been asking for volunteers for a long time now.** The work is a little crazy at times but only 1 Saturday a month and only 1/2 day! Please consider the Trip and/or volunteering for the Breakfast. Our Church is blessed to serve the Community through this Outreach. This is what we are supposed to be doing as Christians. **The best part is this Breakfast is a blast!**

LENNY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP COMING SOON!

In just a few weeks, I will be going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. While there, I will be leading a VBS team and traveling to multiple villages and teaching to over 800 children! It is a blessing to go and I have been preparing for this year’s trip since returning home last year! The need there is great for so many, many things. Donations of clothing, medical supplies, building materials, VBS teaching materials, toys, crafts, and candy have already been received. Thank you for your donations of those yummy candy treats! And thank you to all that have helped with the many crafts that are all ready to go! Now.... We need to get those supplies there! Airlines have greatly reduced the number of “free bags” that are permitted. Therefore, we must pay for any additional bags we need to take. I will have 7-8 very large and very full suitcase to transport! Shipping the items there is just not an option for many reasons. **There is a donation basket on the welcome center** to help cover these luggage costs. Or, you can write a check to the church and put DR luggage in the memo. Thank you so much for your continued love and support as I go and do what God has called me to do. I look forward to sharing with you when I return. Jesus te ama!

In Christ,
Lois Niederhiser



Damascus Methodist Church

February 2024



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

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2	3
				9:30am TOPS 6:30pm Matchless Bible Study 6:30pm Warrior Bible Study		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00am Worship SOUPER CHILI COOKOFF 6:00PM		8:30am WB Ministerial 6:30 pm Worship Mtg		9:30am TOPS 6:30pm Matchless Bible Study 6:30pm Warrior Bible Study 6:30pm Finance Mtg		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 am Sunday School RED HOT FOR JESUS—Wear Pink or Red! 10:00 am Worship Recognition of New Members 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth	6:30pm Council (moved from 2/19)	8:30am Men’s Breakfast 4-7pm Shrove Pancake Dinner 7:00pm Choir	 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm	9:30am TOPS 6:30 “Matchless” Bible Study 6:30 Warrior Bible Study		7:00– 10:30am Church Breakfast
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	Office Closed/President’s Day			9:30am TOPS 6:30 “Matchless” Bible Study 6:30 Warrior Bible Study	Youth Snow Camp	
25	26	27	28	29		
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:00pm– 8:00pm SALT Youth Group	7:00pm Trustees	7:00pm Choir		9:30am Tops 6:30 “Matchless” Bible Study 6:30 Warrior Bible Study LEAP DAY		