

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

Church (330) 537-3031  
Email: [office@dmc.church](mailto: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.dmc.church](http://www.dmc.church)  
SALT Youth Group - Sunday 6-8pm

# “Damascus Doings”

May 2026

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





## “May Flowers”

### **Psalm 111: 10**

*Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom. All who obey his commandments will grow in wisdom. Let us Praise him forever!*

In my childhood May was a very busy month. The fields, the gardens, the greenhouses were in need of work to get ready for the “Planting Season”. There was so much work to do. Weeding, fertilizing, planting, all necessary for a successful harvest season. Our Walk of Faith is very similar. If we simply check the box, take the mindset that it’s someone else’s job, or that’s the Pastor’s Job, then not much happens.

Beloved, we are entering into a wonderful season of new planting here at DMC. We’ve come out of our long season of pastors that didn’t fit our theology and we’ve experienced fruitful seasons and wonderful harvests. Yet the work ahead needs all hands, a good dose of “Wisdom” from the will and word of God”. Workers for both planting and harvesting for TOMORROW. And most of all a TRUE attitude of LOVE.

1. Love Towards God and one another.
2. Love of the excitement and blessing of God’s presence through Worship, Word, and Mission of His church.
3. Finally, the Love of being a “Child of God”, called, anointed, and sent forth by the presence of His Holy Spirit, in Each of Us!

I have one prayer for us all while we are together as Christ’s Church. Let us be One in Spirit and Love casting our Hope & Dreams at the feet of our Lord! May the Flower of May Highlight the Presence of God in or lives and in his church!

I truly BELIEVE that We can do all things through Christ Our Lord who Strengthens us!

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Jon

### **1 John 4: 7-8**

*Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

## **SALT YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Young Adult Group (YAG) Tuesdays 6:30-8**

May is upon us, and the Spring activities are starting to ramp up. We just got back from the Encounter Youth Conference that took place at Heartland Retreat Center in Marengo, OH. From Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, the teens of DMC youth group had the chance to get away from the noise of life to reconnect with the Lord and reorient their lives towards Him. We had an amazing time studying the Word, listening to various speakers, and seeking the Lord out in prayer. With all that said, I think it would be fitting to talk about what I enjoyed the most about that conference.

By far my favorite part of the conference was the conversations I got to have with the kids who went. During the event, there were times set aside for the individual youth groups to meet and discuss what we were being taught during the services and the break-out sessions. The theme verse of the Encounter Conference was Romans 12:2 which reads, “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect” (NLT). This was the focus of much of our discussions. How are we able to be those living sacrifices that are holy and pleasing to God (Rom. 12:1)? How can we live the transformed life that God called us to? It was during the individual group times that we were really able to wrestle with these questions and see how Paul answers them in the rest of Romans.

As Christians, if we are to live those holy, transformed lives, we are to love others — both friends and enemies — genuinely. We are to bless those who persecute us along with serving our brothers and sisters in Christ. To be a holy and living sacrifice that is pleasing to God, we are to love like He did — utterly and sacrificially. As Paul wrote earlier in Romans, “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (5:6-8). In the same way that God loved us enough to send His own Son to die when we didn’t deserve it, we are called to love other people even when they (or we) don’t deserve it.

**Romans 12:9, “Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good”.**

Blessings,  
Sam Bryan



**Praise Reports**

JJ Sprague getting shots and doing well!



**Prayer Requests**

**World Peace**

First Responders, military, veterans and families

Brody Fisher having successful grafting after bone marrow transplant

Sheila Lucas having bursitis back and hip pain

Anne Lutz, Debbie’s DIL’s mother, recovering from surgery

Jan Buell dealing with health

Mary Ann Evans healing from broken leg

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**Requirements for 2026 DMC budget per week: \$4039.00**

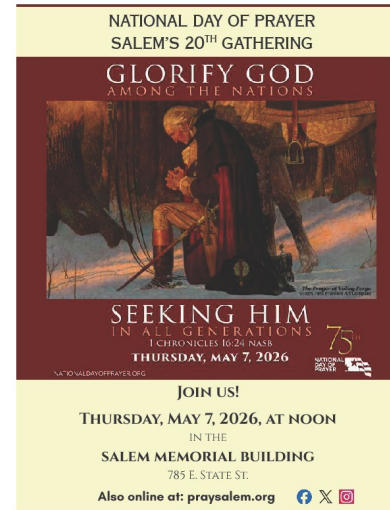
**Offerings received so far: \$62,250.15**

**Expenses so far for 2026 -73,806.78**

**-\$11,556.63**

**Bennett Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship in memory of Lea & Janice Bennett and their son, Barney Bennett , is offered to support and promote training of church leaders. It was created to provide financial assistance to persons who commence training or education toward a Christian ministry, such as pastoral ministry, missionary service, religious education, youth ministry or music ministry. Eligible students are juniors or seniors in an undergraduate program as well as seminary students. Preference will be given to students from the Global Methodist Church as well as the Salem/Alliance area. The scholarship is awarded on a yearly basis. If you are interested or know someone who qualifies, please direct inquiries by May 29<sup>th</sup> to the Bennett Scholarship Committee c/o Damascus Methodist Church or contact the church office 330-537-3031. (Applications are on wall by Pastor Jon’s office)

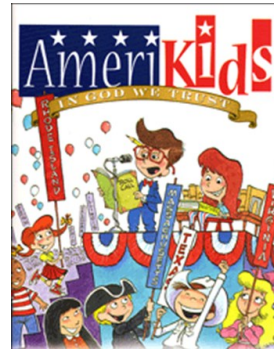


**National Day of Prayer  
Thursday, May 7th at Noon  
Salem Memorial Building**

**\*\*\*This fall, Ally Zion will begin her senior year in the Dental Hygiene program at Youngstown State University. She needs to build a list of potential patients for the fall 2026 semester. Although great teeth are welcome, she is especially looking for patients that may be missing teeth, have gum recession, or otherwise “bad teeth”. If you would like some Free dental services next fall, or have questions, please see Mandy Zion or text Ally Zion directly at (330) 341-2171.**

Please join us on Sunday, May 17th

The kids will be presenting a Spring musical called “Amerikids...In God we Trust” in celebration of America’s up-coming 250<sup>th</sup> birthday! Come and join the annual AmeriKids Convention in progress as delegates Yacky Doodle (Convention Chairman), Miss Dorian (Historian), Pip Squeak (from Rhode Island) and others learn about the faith that made our country great. Hear seldom-heard words from such historical figures as Benjamin Franklin, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and learn of the early 18th-century AmeriKids’ faith in the Bible, in prayer, in God’s protection and in salvation through Jesus Christ. The musical will also include and recognize those who have served and are serving in our armed forces. Mark your calendars now!



COMING SOON: VBS June 7-11, 2026  
6:00-8:30 pm



From your Lay Leader ...

### May Flowers or Mayflower?

It seems that we hear it every year. “This has to be the wettest spring ever” (or something to that effect). Guess what, folks the phrase “April showers bring May flowers” originated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. These days, everything has to be “extreme” and “unprecedented.” Um no it is not. But I digress.

About a hundred years after the “April showers” phrase was coined, a group of English families set sail to find a place where they could worship freely. It took sixty-six days to cross the Atlantic Ocean. The boat was cold, crowded and full of illness. The passengers were literally sick and tired, along with cold and hungry when they arrived in Cape Cod. Many did not survive the journey. On top of all that, they landed in the Northeast of what would later become The United States of America in September, so the long journey was followed by a long, long winter. This story makes me wonder... how much hardship would I be willing to endure to follow Jesus? How would my faith hold up against real persecution? Fortunately, God provides and even Faith in Him comes from Him.

**Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Despite what many believe in the USA, Christians are not born as Christians. Christians become Christians after the second birth when the old sinful man dies and the new man is born by accepting Jesus’ forgiveness, and giving oneself to following Jesus Christ. One picture we have of giving our lives to Jesus Christ comes from **Jeremiah 18:1-6 This is the message that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Jeremiah, go down to the potter’s house. I will give you my message there.” So I went down to the potter’s house and saw him working with clay at the wheel. He was making a pot from clay. But there was something wrong with the pot. So, the potter used that clay to make another pot. With his hands he shaped the pot the way he wanted it to be. Then this message from the Lord came to me: “Family of Israel, you know that I can do the same thing with you. You are like the clay in the potter’s hands, and I am the potter.” This message is from the Lord.**

After the pilgrims came across the ocean on The Mayflower, they could have been so discouraged by the journey that they could have blamed God for the misery. Instead, they were shaped during the journey. God cared for them during the hard times and their faith in Him grew stronger as they relied on Him for literally everything in the middle of the storm and vast loneliness of the empty sea. After the journey, they still had a difficult life to face but they did not face the difficulties of life alone. They relied on the comfort and leading of God The Holy Spirit while they built new lives in a new land. In the spring, the flowers bloomed and they lived the good times as well with the presence of God in their lives as they walked in His Will. As the potter molds clay, he makes something beautiful out of the seeming chaos of smashed clay. To the potter, the smashed clay does not look like chaos at all. He has a vision of what he wants to make of the clay and he keeps working on it until the beauty is revealed. Allowing our lives to be molded, may not be easy but it is beautiful.

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



**Birthdays May**

- 5/2 Rich Hawk
- 5/4 Ally Zion
- 5/6 Lane Loving
- 5/12 Karen Elsner
- 5/12 Gayla Houshour
- 5/12 Wm Prendergast
- 5/13 Triston Beagle
- 5/16 Janice Ward
- 5/16 Tracie Stitle
- 5/17 Harold Wilson
- 5/18 Bill Williams
- 5/21 April Dettweiler
- 5/24 Randy Murphy
- 5/24 Shaunda Uphold

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

**Counters**

- Linda Henderson
- Art Johanson

**Bus Driver**

- Jerry Menough

**Acolytes**

- 5/3 Max Weingart & Lane Loving
- 5/10 Elise Smith & Kara Zion
- 5/17 No Acolytes



- 5/1 Larry & Jan Zielke
- 5/19 Jon & Jenny Long
- 5/27 Jack & Linda Henderson
- 5/27 Bill, Sr. & Gayla Houshour

- 5/24 Triston Beagle & Wyatt Schulze
- 5/31 Wyatt Schulze & Addie Zion

**Children’s Rotation:**

**Sunday School**

- 5/3 Lois Niederhiser
- 5/10 Linda Henderson
- 5/17 Lois N.
- 5/24 Shaunda Uphold
- 5/31 Lois N.

**Junior Church**

- 5/3 Program Prac
- 5/10 program Prac
- 5/17 PROGRAM
- 5/24 Troy Uphold
- 5/31 Steve Sprague

**Wee Worship**

- 5/3 Grayson Anderson
- 5/10 Abby Heverly
- 5/17 Abby Heverly
- 5/24 Shaunda Uphold
- 5/31 Lois N.

**Nursery**

- 5/3 Terrie Rohrer
- 5/10 Denise Linder
- 5/17 Amy Shoaff
- 5/24 Samara Anderson
- 5/31 Samara Anderson

**Floater**

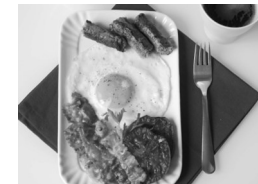
- 5/3 Jamie Weingart
- 5/10 Andrea Altenhof
- 5/17 Katie Tedrow
- 5/24 Vicky Smith
- 5/31 Katie Tedrow

**Summer Mission Trip  
June 21 – June 27, 2026**

Our group is extremely excited about this year's trip. I am very excited about some more new faces on the trip. The old faces are exciting too! We have made our decision. We will be returning to Jackson Area Ministries in Jackson, OHIO. Cost is only **\$100.00** each for those helping with the Breakfasts. Wow! All our trips have been very successful and thrifty, even with high fuel costs. Please prayer fully consider coming on the trip this next summer. Our plan is to stay at the Haverhill UMC as last year. The Church there provides great kitchen, showering and sleeping arrangements. I can guarantee you will not regret your decision to join us! Our fundraisers are already in full swing with the Community Breakfast every third Saturday at our DMC. Stay tuned to your Sunday bulletin and listen for special announcements regarding the trip and fundraisers!

**Building and repairing for Christ, Lenny**  
**P.S. We need adults, both men and women! Please consider coming along. Remember its NOT too late to go...the trip is open to all Youth and Adults...grade 7 and up!!!!**

**DMC Community Breakfast  
Saturday, May 16th  
7-10:30 am**



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**To my Pastor and Church Family:**

We want to thank you all for your kindness, support, and your prayers during hospital stays and the time of loss of a husband, father and grandfather.

Agape Love,  
**The Cadile Family**

**Joyce Bush** would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food and kindness since her health episode. She is following up with her doctors, but does feel much better!

# DAMASCUS METHODIST CHURCH

## May 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 SS 10:00 Worship	4	5 8:30 am WB Minis Mtg <b>5:30 pm Finance Mtg</b> YAG 6:30 pm <b>Election Day</b>	6 <b>Kids Play Prac 6-7:30 pm</b> Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	7 9:30 am Tops <b>12 pm Natl Day of Prayer</b> 6:30pm Men & Women	8	9 <b>Church Clean up Day</b> 8:00 am to ?
10 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship <b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY</b>	11	12 YAG 6:30 pm	13 <b>Kids Practice 5:30-7:30</b> Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	14 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm Ruritans	15	16 Dress Rehearsal 9:30-11 <b>Community Breakfast</b> 7-10:30 am
17 9:00 am SS <b>"Amerikids" Program</b> During Worship	18 <b>Council 6:30 pm</b>	19 YAG 6:30 pm	20 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	21 9:30 am TOPS 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	22 <b>West Branch Graduation</b>  (Wedding rehearsal)	23  (Wedding)
24 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship Salem HS Graduation	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	26 YAG 6:30 pm <b>6:30 pm Trustees Mtg</b> United Graduation	27 Salt Youth 6:30-8 pm	28 9:30 am TOPS 6:30 pm Men's Bible St	29	30
31 9:00 am SS 10:00 am Worship						