

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE BEACON

APRIL 2018



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
Associate Pastor /
Children's Ministry

Polly Edmonds Baldridge
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. /
Weekday PM Custodian

Julio Pedraza /
Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

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Joyous Easter !

We begin the month of April with the joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Ash Wednesday this year fell on Valentine's Day creating the potentially odd mix of ashes, chocolates and roses. Easter falls on April Fools' Day. At first I was put off by the thought of the most important day on the Christian calendar having to share space with a silly, inauspicious day such as April Fools'. After some reflection, however, I like the conjunction.

April Fools' is about deceit and trickery, albeit done in fun, to convey a sense of foolishness. Who can be fooled by our trickery? The resurrection seemed like an April Fools' joke to many, including Jesus' own disciples. We are not surprised that the religious leaders responsible for the crucifixion paid the soldiers guarding the tomb to lie about what they had witnessed. After all, their reputations were at stake. The resurrection would be proof that they had made a terrible mistake. What is surprising is the initial response of the disciples.

The women were the first to experience the resurrection. It is hard to say exactly which women since the different gospel writers differ on just who was at the tomb. What is consistent is that some of the followers of Jesus, women in particular, went to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for final burial. He had been hastily buried Friday evening and what preparations were done were done by, well, men. I suspect the women were not confident the preparations were properly done or done with the care that would guide their efforts. Whatever the motivation, some women were at the tomb early Sunday morning to finish the work of burial. Of course, they discovered the tomb empty and were given the angelic message that Jesus had risen and was alive.

Filled with both excitement and terror, they ran to tell the men just what had happened. The men should not have been surprised. After all, Jesus had told them on more than one occasion that he would rise on the third day. The surprise was that they were not already at the tomb. The women's witness should have confirmed what they should have been expecting. Instead, Luke tells us that the men considered the women's report to be "an idle tale." It was as if they expected the women to suddenly say "April Fools!". Only when Jesus presented himself to them and scolded them for their disbelief, did they grasp that the women's report was not a prank.

The religious leaders did not believe it because they did not want to believe it. The disciples did not believe it because they could not believe it. In both cases it felt like an April Fools'

experience. A growing number today talk about the resurrection as if it were an April Fools' prank, one we should not be fooled by. The opposite is true. It is foolish not to believe that Jesus rose from the dead and lives today as Lord and Savior. Foolish because, if Jesus did not rise, we have no hope of life after death. Foolish because, if Jesus did not rise, we are still captive to the powers of sin and death. Foolish mostly because, Jesus is Lord of the earth whether or not we believe, and discounting the witness of the resurrection as an April Fools' type prank is to put ourselves at odds with the one coming to judge the quick and the dead. Easter falling on this silly date thus becomes a reminder that this is no joke.

On April 1 in worship the trumpets will lead us in proclaiming Christ the Lord is risen today. We will boldly celebrate the good news of the resurrection and the promise that because Christ lives we shall live also. We will lift our hands in praise for the grace and mercy that has been bestowed on us. What we will not do is end the service by saying April Fools'. No, this is no idle tale. This is a truth that changes everything. Come and celebrate with us.

- Pastor Cooney

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Easter Sunrise Service ~ 6:30 am Gathering

DUMC Cemetery, adjacent to Harwood House Thrift Shop

(Inclement weather: Meet inside Boyer Chapel)

See the sunrise and feel Christ's power in this outdoor service with communion led by first-year confirmands.



Children's Program & Egg Hunt ~ 9:30 am Great Hall/Dining Hall

The Easter story is shared interactively and music is led by the puppets. Parents, please accompany your children to the Great Hall. Afterwards, parents & children ages 2 years to 5th grade are invited to the Easter egg hunt.

Services of the Resurrection ~ 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 am Sanctuary

On this great day of celebration, voices, organ, and brass make music to uplift the resurrection and presence of our living Lord in the gathered company of believers. All are invited to come forward for singing of Hallelujah Chorus at close of service.



Children's Easter Service and Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday Morning, April 1, 2018,
please come upstairs to the Great Hall at 9:30 am
for our annual Children's Easter Service.

Then, children and parents will go downstairs
to the Dining Hall for crafts and an Easter Egg Hunt.

*We are asking the parents to stay with their children and
enjoy the service and egg hunt with them.*

9:30 am: Start in Great Hall for Children's Worship Service
9:45 - 10:30 am: Move to the Dining Hall for crafts and egg hunt

Everyone is welcome to come!

APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Our associate pastor, Rev. Amanda McMurtrey, has been appointed to serve as pastor of the Mayo United Methodist Church in Edgewater, Maryland, just south of Annapolis. This is a great opportunity for her and we send her with our prayers and blessings. Amanda begins this new appointment on July 1. Her last day with us will be Sunday, June 10.

The Bishop will be appointing a new associate pastor for us. To date this selection has not been made. We anticipate the announcement sometime in the middle of April but it could be later. An announcement will be given once the appointment is made.

ON APPOINTMENTS

We had anticipated that Amanda might be reappointed this year, so the announcement that she is going to Mayo is not a huge surprise. It does make it real and not just a possibility, however. Your response may be, "What? They are both leaving? That's not good."

I want to reassure you that all will be well. This is a good appointment for Amanda and I know you join me in being happy for her. The average tenure for associate pastors is three years. We were able to have Amanda for four. Do not think of it as losing her. Think of it as having received a bonus.

While it may feel disruptive to have both pastors leave at the same time, we have actually had good experience across the Conference with new pastoral teams beginning together. They forge a relationship and a way forward together. This is not an unusual experience. It is one that has proven to work well.

Amanda and I continue to work with the Staff-Parish Committee, and will do so right up to when we leave, to assure a smooth transition and to have everything in place so that the church will not miss a beat. You have a good staff here and they are on the job. You have good leaders prepared to carry on the work. You have dozens of volunteers who carry out the day to day operations of the church. That will continue. We know Rev. Woodrow is coming and she is an excellent pastor. We know someone else will join her and he/she will have gifts that will bless this church.

All will be well. Besides, this is the Lord's church. You are in the hands of our Lord, and the Lord is not going anywhere.

- Pastor David

PASTORAL CELEBRATIONS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

As we prepare for the upcoming changes in our pastoral leadership, we want to take the time to celebrate and thank David and Amanda for their wonderful leadership and welcome our new pastors into the fold. Please note the following special dates and plan to participate to show our gratitude for a job well done and support for our new leadership team. More information will be forthcoming.

Vanessa Leiby, Lay Leader,
Staff-Parrish Relations Committee Chair

May 5: 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Pastor David's Retirement Party (Celebrating 41 Years of Ministry)

June 10: 9:30 – 11:00 am

Pastor Amanda's Farewell and Send Off

June 17: 10:30 am

Pastor David's Farewell and Send Off

July 1: 10:30 am

Pastor Kathryn and Associate Pastor Welcome Meet and Greet Reception

Children's Sabbath – May 15, 2018

This will be our annual Children's Sabbath Celebration with our Sunday School children participating in all aspects of the worship services.



This applies to both the 8:15 and 11:00 am worship services.

Please join us in celebrating our children
and their wondrous God-given gifts!

Parents, be sure to mark your calendar ! !



United Methodist Women News

The **Susanna JOY** Circle
will meet April 9

VIA INTERNET, check your Email.

UMW missions funded for many decades by Damascus UMW
will be highlighted using the 2018 Prayer Calendar.

Pray this day for work in Barbados, Grenada, and
Cunningham Children's Home, Urbana, Illinois

Birthday greetings sent to Nan Gordon, Family Services, FL.

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**The WWJD Circle**  
**will meet Thursday, April 19**  
**at 7:00 pm in the Great Hall.**

The WWJD Circle will host Pastor Stephen Ricketts, formerly a pastor here at DUMC, on Thursday, April 19, at 7:00 pm in the Great Hall. Pastor Ricketts will be describing John Wesley's Bible which was published in 1755. *Explanatory Notes upon The New Testament* included both a new translation and notes on the text. Wesley published five editions during his lifetime. Wesley's New Testament was one of the first books published by the American Methodist Episcopal Church.

Pastor Ricketts is a long-time collector of Bibles and his presentations are always interesting and very educational. Those in attendance will get to actually see these Wesley Bibles! **This meeting is open to all. Please join us!**



## Spiritual Formation (cont'd)

On March 18, 2018 we commissioned another  
new Stephen Minister: **Cliff Bergstresser**.

Cliff went through 50 hours of specialized classroom training in Christian caregiving and joins a team of 17 active Stephen Ministers at Damascus United Methodist Church. Since 2006 we have trained 47 individuals to become Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receiver to listen, encourage, pray, and to provide emotional and spiritual support. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's need persists. Please keep Cliff in your prayers, asking God to bless his ministry and to work through him to bring hope and healing to those he will serve.



Please also pray for the entire Stephen Ministry at DUMC. Our congregation is one of more than 11,000 worldwide, representing 160 Christian denominations, that use the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry developed by Stephen Ministries in St. Louis.

*The Men of DUMC and male friends,  
family & neighbors are invited for a*



### **Men's Night Out**

**Monday, April 16**  
**@ 6:30 pm at**  
**Mt. Airy Inn**  
**1401 South Main Street**  
**Mt. Airy, MD 301-829-1400.**  
Please RSVP to Ted Ross at  
301-704-7992.

### **"Shampoos for the Center"** **Help Women in Need**

The Damascus United Methodist Women (DUMW) have an outreach program to help women at the Montgomery Avenue Women's Center in Rockville. As you travel for work and pleasure throughout the year, why not bring home those small unused bottles of shampoos and conditioners from your trip and place them in the specially marked "red" basket in the Narthex. The toiletries will be provided to women in need at this walk-in day shelter.

DUMWomen contact: Cora Horst at 301-529-3047.

### **Prayer Requests**

The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to write any prayer requests on the prayer cards located in the pews.

Prayer cards should then be placed  
in the offering plate.

All requests will be kept confidential.

Prayer requests may also be made on-line at  
[www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org).



## ATTENTION ALL MEN! ANNUAL SPRING MEN'S RETREAT

HALLOWOOD RETREAT CENTER,  
COMUS, MARYLAND  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 8 & 9, 2018



***Mark your Calendar and Sign Up now !!!***

*Join us at the Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland,  
for a day apart for fellowship and spiritual growth.*

*Sponsored by Damascus United Methodist Men*

*Contact: Ted Ross, Chair, at 301-704-7992.*

We will be gathering at the church at 5:00 pm on Friday, June 8 and having dinner at the Hallowood Retreat Center. Staying overnight in rooms for two (private rooms available for \$15 extra), we will have both breakfast and lunch on Saturday. We will end about 4:30 pm. **NOTE: We only have 12 beds available for this retreat so best to sign-up right away!**

The cost is \$135 for room, meals, towels & bedding including sheets, blankets, and pillows. **Please complete the registration form below and turn it in to the church office no later than May 25, 2018.**

*Sponsored by Damascus United Methodist Men*

*For more Info Contact: Ted Ross, Chair, at 301-704-7992.*



**Hallowood Retreat Center, Comus, MD / June 8 & 9, 2018**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: (Please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation : ☐ I can drive (# passengers I can transport \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ I need a ride

Registration fee is attached: ☐ \$135 ☐ \$150 (Private room)

**Make checks payable to DUMC with notation: Men's Retreat**

# DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SPRING SCHEDULE

**Youth Chapel**  
**Sundays @ 9:30 am**  
Breakfast/Music/Classes by age

For questions or  
more info,  
contact Pastor Nick  
at [nick.works@  
damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)  
or 240-751-6695.

**April 2018 - Youth Fellow-  
ship**

**Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm**  
Includes Dinner and an Activity

**Sunday 4/1**

**No Youth Fellowship Activities - HAPPY EASTER!**

**Sunday 4/8**

**Indoor Swimming Adventure**

**Sunday 4/15**

**Minute to Win It Games & Devotion**

**Sunday 4/22**

**Spring Ring Event (7 pm Concert)**

**Sunday 4/29**

**Earth Day Service Project**

**May 2018 - Youth Fellowship**

**Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm**  
Includes Dinner and an Activity

**Sunday 5/6**

**Senior Sunday**

**Sunday 5/13**

**Mother's Day - No Youth Fellowship**

**Sunday 5/20**

**TBD**

**Sunday 5/27**

**Memorial Day Weekend - No Youth Fellowship**

**Youth Praise Band**  
**Sundays @ 3:30 pm**  
**1st & 3rd weeks**  
**of the month**

**Youth Bell Choir**  
**Sundays @ 4 pm**

**Charles Wesley**  
**Singers Practice**  
**Sundays @ 5 pm**

**Youth Puppets**  
**Wednesdays @ 5 pm in**  
**the Great Hall**

Charles Wesley  
Singers Choir Tour  
June 16 - 26, 2018,  
destination Florida.



**SENIOR SUNDAY**

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**

Please note that Senior Sunday celebration is earlier this year than in past years. Graduating high school seniors will be leading 8:15 and 11 am worship by reading Scripture, making music, preaching, praying, serving as ushers/greeters/communion servers, etc. **Make plans to be there.**

**NEXT UMYFO**  
**MEETING**

**Sunday, April 15**

**@ 4:00 pm**  
**in the Church Office.**

# Worship Arts News and Events

March 2018

Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

240-750-8287 | polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com



*Please share these days and times with your family and friends in Florida and points south!*

Saturday, June 16, 7:30 pm

**First UMC**, 501 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC

Monday, June 18, 7:30 pm

**Hope Lutheran Church**, 250 Avenida Los Angeles, the Villages, FL

Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 pm

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 3395 Burns Road, Palm Beach Garden, FL

Thursday, June 21, 7:30 pm

**Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church**, 5555 N. Federal Highway,  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Sunday, June 24, 2:00 pm

**Penney Memorial Church**, 4465 Poling Boulevard, Penney Farms, FL

Wednesday, June 27, 7:00 pm

**Homecoming Concert at Damascus UMC**

## Upcoming Worship Arts Events



Wednesday, May 16  
@ 7 pm

**Barbecue for Jen** -

Children's Musical

in the Great Hall @ 2 pm  
(Please note new TIME/DATE)

\*There will still be a picnic on Sunday, May 27  
and Memorial Day Celebration/Commemoration.

## WEDNESDAYS

4:15 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall/Stage Side (snacks served – 45 minute)

Puppet troupe for elem. students 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall/Back Half (30-minute session)

Choir for children 4 ½ years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade led by Lydia Turner-Little

5:00 pm **Youth Puppets** Great Hall (45-minute session)

Puppets/drama for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Choristers** Choir Room (60-minute session)

Choir for children 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Great Hall/Stage (30-minute session)

Handbells for students 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge

7:00 pm **Men's Choir** Great Hall/Stage

For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

7:00 pm **Women's Ensemble** Great Hall/Back Half

Singing technique session with Polly Baldridge includes working on music for Women's Choir

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Choir Room (90-minute session)

SATB choir for worship /special concerts led by Polly Baldridge with Stephen Kalnoske, accom.

## SUNDAYS

3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month

All instruments and vocals needed for this student-led group facilitated by Polly and Tom Baldridge

4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Great Hall/Stage

Handbells for youth 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades led by Tom Baldridge

4:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room

SATB choir for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades and up led by Polly Baldridge with accompanist Stephen Kalnoske

## MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy** Great Hall/Stage (90-minute session)

Adult 5-octave Handbell ensemble led by Polly Baldridge



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 24-26, 2018

Damascus UMC will  
present

**JOSEPH AND THE  
AMAZING TECHNICOLOR  
DREAMCOAT**

This summer all youth,  
children, and adults are  
invited to join the  
cast and crew.

Contact Polly Baldridge  
for more details!



Damascus United Methodist Church Worship Arts Ministry



2018: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Concert Series presents



# SPRING RING

*A Handbell Concert on  
Earth Day!!*



**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

**7:00 pm in Sanctuary**



**RING OF JOY**



**YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR**



**INSPIRATION RINGERS**

**Damascus UMC**

**9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD**

**damascusumc.org | 301-253-0022**



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Carol Yocum, Chairperson  
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

## **SPRING/SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN MISSION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND**

- Volunteering at Harwood House which serves the community and whose proceeds support nearly 30 other helping organizations
- Lenten "A Heart for Serving Others" February 14 through March 31.
- Spring Work Day at Laytonsville Safe Haven, Saturday, April 28, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena's visit/sharing April 29 during Sunday School hour & lunch
- April 14 - Native American Ministries workshop, Covenant UMC, Montgomery Village
- Plant and Flower sale April 28 - May 13
- Mission Sunday June 3, 2018
- Habitat Work week July 8 - 13, 2018
- VIM trip - Fall
- Nicaragua & possible Kenya trips next winter

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## **Local Mission Opportunity – Putting Our Faith To Work**

**Where:** Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless facility in Laytonsville

**When:** Saturday, April 28 (Meet at DUMC parking lot at 8 am, return at 4 pm)

**Contact:** Doug Marshall 301-325-9071 (for more information or to sign up)

For a little more than a year now a group of volunteers from DUMC have spent one day in the spring and fall to do general clean-up and maintenance work at the Laytonsville homeless facility. Located only a short 15 minute drive from Damascus, this is an opportunity to make a real difference and improve the living conditions for people from our local community who are in need. During past workdays we have raked leaves, mulched and edged gardens, trimmed trees, cleaned gutters, repaired raised gardens, planted vegetables in the raised garden and painted interior rooms in the houses on the property. This Spring we will be doing similar work.

The residents at this facility are very appreciative of the work we do to improve their quality of life. One resident remarked about how much she enjoys being able to take care of the vegetable garden and have fresh vegetables from their own garden with meals – an experience some at the home have never had.

## **A Heart for Serving Others—THE HEARTS ARE FILLING THE HALL WALLS!**

During Lent, the Missions Team is distributing pink paper hearts, inviting DUMC people to write their Lenten "service" and the nature of it, i.e., "Worked at the Food Bank, Took a neighbor to the doctor, Cooked a meal for someone with a death in the family," etc., on a pink heart. (More hearts are available if people do more than one act of service during Lent. They are in the hallway outside the Great Hall and in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.) People can sign their names on the front or back of the paper heart or remain anonymous if they choose. Post the hearts in the designated areas of the hallway. The Missions team would like to see the Hallway outside the Great Hall overflowing with hearts by Easter. Have a *Heart for Serving Others* this Lenten season! It is a witness to the love of Christ who is in us. Our acts of service help others see God's love for them.

## **Opportunities to serve during Lent**

Harwood House & Damascus HELP both need volunteers.

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson  
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

## **AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA**

Through DUMC members Bette & Wilbur Hurst and Nicaragua missionary Belinda Forbes, an issue has come to the Mission Teams attention. If you would like to support the people of Nicaragua, you may contact our US Senators Cardin and VonHollen. The link below describes the issue about international loans that help build schools, hospitals, roads and other infrastructure in Nicaragua that are especially beneficial to the poorest citizens. Thank you.

<https://stevenicaragua.wordpress.com/2018/02/07/help-stop-the-passing-of-the-nica-act/>

Please take 3 minutes or less to protect the sovereignty and well-being of the Nicaraguan people - cut and past the link above to send a letter to your Senators to oppose the NICA Act, S.2265, which could be voted on very soon in the Foreign Relations Committee and then go to the Senate floor. This bill has bipartisan support - we need to PUSH HARD to prevent its passage. Thanks.

*This action call is a joint effort of Friends of the ATC  
( ATC is Nicaragua's Rural Workers Association) and the Alliance for Global Justice.*

## **Habitat opportunity**

- Our trip is July 8-13.
- We have a pre-trip meeting on June 11 at 7 pm in the basement of the Annex.

Applications due June 14 – no exceptions; application forms are on the website:  
(<http://www.damascusumc.org/get-involved/missions/#Habitat%20for%20Humanity>)  
See Anita Duvall if you have questions or interest as a first-timer (240-485-7650).

## **Toiletry donations for the Frederick Women's Shelter**

Travel sized toiletries may be placed in the labeled container in the Narthex closet. Ask a greeter if you are unsure where to put your donations. Thanks for helping homeless women in our region! **Cora Horst is the coordinator.**

## **From Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua**

### **News from Nicaragua is now on MailChimp!**



*We're sharing our very  
first message received  
from Belinda . . . .*



Damas-

cus UMC Mission \$\$ at work.

Training dental assistants with the \$1,000 gift we received.

Grace and peace, Belinda Forbes  
Global Ministries Missionary Advance #12109Z  
International Liaison for Community Health

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson  
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

## Thank You's

- Thanks to all who purchased baked goods from the Neema Kenya Mission Team at the fundraiser between services on 3/11/2018. We were able to raise \$572 for the St. Stephens Anglican Church (Kenya) in Gem, Kenya, to support the expansion of their church. We are developing a sister relationship with this church, which is in the same village as the Ndere Orphans School and serves the same at-risk population of children. The pastor, Rev. Nelson Opiyo Waringa, was deeply touched by the generosity of DUMC and so grateful!
- Thanks to those who give over & above their DUMC financial commitment to support mission projects.
- **From Belinda Forbes:** Hello Carol, Greetings to you and I just wanted to write and say a big thank you for the packet of **Christmas cards** from you and other families at Damascus UMC, and in particular from the **Confirmation Class**. I was not able to see the DUMC team when they were here, I fractured a bone in my foot last month and have been mostly at home with a boot on, but hope to be more mobile soon. **Amanda Jones-Dominguez got the packet to me** and I so enjoyed opening each card. Thank for always offering an open door. **My next itineration is in 2019**, I will look forward to seeing you. I hope the Mission Lenten theme is going well. My greetings to Pastor David and the congregation. Still working on getting that newsletter out, hopefully before Easter!!! Grace and peace.

## Native American Ministries Observance at Covenant United Methodist Church

The Covenant United Methodist Church (CUMC) will observe Native American Ministries this year through a special program on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Covenant United Methodist Church, Montgomery Village, Maryland. We are pleased that Dr. Casey Church, a nationally known leader in Native American Ministries will be joining us this year.

Casey Church will lead us in a seminar that will provide (1) a brief historical view of Native American history in our area that leads to our current environment, (2) examples of ministries that are active in other United Methodist churches, and (3) how congregations like Covenant UMC may participate in meaningful ways to join the United Methodist Church 2012 General Conference action to heal past relationships with Native American and Indigenous peoples as we grow into the future.

The seminar is open to all and will run from 1 to 4 pm with refreshments available for all participants.

## From Damascus HELP in March

**Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in January:** Tina Burns, Damascus United Methodist Church, Damascus Recreation Center, Hyattstown United Methodist Church, St. Paul Catholic Church, Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, Safeway and Weis.

**In January, Damascus HELP** made 54 food deliveries serving 215 people, helped 14 families with financial assistance, five families with household items, and gave two people rides to appointments.

**Damascus HELP is in need** of cribs, dressers, clean beds, nightstands, lamps, dining table, chairs, end tables, and clean blankets. Please call or email if you have items to donate.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Damascus HELP is looking for additional volunteers. We need Officers of the Day (answering the phone from home), food drivers (taking food to individuals), and individuals to pick up food donations. We have a great need for transportation drivers who would take clients to their doctors' appointments. There is also a need for furniture delivery teams to deliver furniture from one location to another in their truck. It needs to be noted that we cannot have volunteers under 18 as our insurance does not cover this age group. If interested in any of these opportunities please contact HELP at 301-253-4100 or [dh20872@aol.com](mailto:dh20872@aol.com).



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson  
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

## Pray for:

- **Nan McCurdy & husband, Miguel Mairena** in the Western Jurisdiction, soon to be reassigned to a new mission ministry by the General Board in Pueblo, Mexico.
- The primary school **children** at Ndere Orphans School, Gem, Kenya.
- Joint Partners Clinic in Kenya which meets the medical needs of many families.
- The homeless women served by the Laytonsville Safe Haven and the Frederick shelter.
- For all those who will be served in Lent by faithful disciples at DUMC.
- For the people in remote villages of eastern Nicaragua served by the team which includes Dr. Belinda Forbes, UM missionary and dentist.

## *Missions Fundraiser . . . . .*

DUMC's Annual Flower & Plant Sale begins

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Hours: Saturdays & Sundays,

9 am - 5 pm

Weekdays, 6 pm - 9 pm



The Missions Committee is looking for volunteers for the flower and plant sale. We still need help watering and selling the plants thru May 13. This is a very successful fundraiser for the mission programs in the church so please prayerfully consider volunteering.



**Sunday, April 15 @ 7:00 pm**

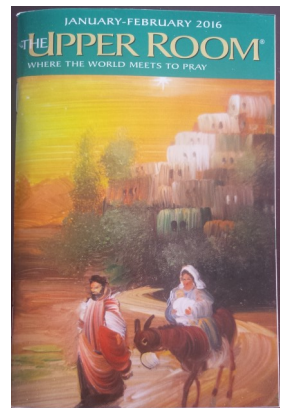
Join us for this service held monthly, **now in our beautiful and renovated Boyer Chapel**. This service is a time for sharing Holy Communion, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil (James 5:14-16a). All are invited and you may come to ask for healing for others.

The Chapel is located at the entryway to the DUMC cemetery. Parking is available between the chapel and the Thrift Shop.

*Thank You to the Boyer Family for making this move possible !!!*

## The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy of the Upper Room which are located in the **NARTHEX** by the **WELCOME BOOTH**.



Better yet, take a couple of copies and share with friends and neighbors.

This publication is a wonderful way to encourage daily scripture reading!



## Stewardship/Finance

### CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S REPORT

In the Finance Committee Report in the March Beacon I listed several examples where our Congregation raised additional funds, over and above the budget, to support Church programs. One of the examples cited was the Spring Plant Sale which I said raised over \$4,000.00 last year to "support our mission in Nicaragua". Since the Plant Sale will begin in the next few weeks I wanted to correct the record by saying that funds raised by the Plant Sale support many of our mission programs not just our work in Nicaragua. Sorry for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Sincerely,  
David A. Rust, Chairman

#### Your Envelopes are ready for Pick-up

The offering envelopes for the second quarter of 2018 are ready to be picked up. They are located in the Great Hall hallway. You can find them sorted alphabetically by last name. Please pick them up no later than Sunday April 1, 2018. After that they will be mailed to the address we have on file.

If you haven't been getting personalized offering envelopes and would like them please contact Steve Malley in the bookkeeping office at extension #106 to request them. If you no longer wish to receive offering envelopes please let Steve Malley know. Thank you.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! TO COUNT THE OFFERING

**WHEN? – After the 11:00 am Service**

**HOW OFTEN? – About once every 8 weeks**

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE? – About 2 hours**

**DO YOU WORK ALONE?**  
**No, you will have a partner**

**TRAINING?**  
**Of Course! We will show you the ropes**

**WHO TO CONTACT**  
**David Rust – [darust@comcast.net](mailto:darust@comcast.net) or 301-414-5447**

## Announcements

### URGENT NEED - Mowing Team Volunteers!

The current mowing team members are in need of additional help, this season, **male or female**, as we are an equal opportunity team!

- Cutting time takes about 10 hours total to tractor cut (6 hrs.), push mow (trim) and weed whack (3 hrs.) a week.
- Our goal is to have 3 mowers scheduled per week and no one to mow more than 1 x a month, so we need 12 reliable mowers plus a couple alternates to cover for the unexpected.
- We are asking for 3 hours, one time a month, so that the others do not have to mow 6 to 9 hours just to keep our lawn under control.

The mowing team has given generously these past several seasons, and we need your help to make the load lighter.

***Please prayerfully consider helping your fellow church members be able to enjoy more of their weekends, and all the members enjoy the beauty of the church grounds.***

Please contact Grounds Supervisor Steve Rice at #301-466-7777 and/or Lisa Marshall at #301-253-5241 to express your interest.



## Announcements

### Technology Committee

#### Seeking a Computer & Network Administrative Support Person

We are in need of a knowledgeable person to help support our client server / network office environment. This person needs to be able to set up and maintain all our computer hardware and software as well as all network devices and connectivity. Our computers use the Microsoft Windows operating system (both server and desktop) so ideally the support person would have certifications such as MCSA, MCSE, or equivalent experience. Knowledge of the administration of an open source firewall would be very helpful.

This person we are seeking must have some availability during standard business hours, at least a couple of days per week, for support problems. Additionally, this person should be able to carry out some longer-term projects on a "as time is available" basis.

This is a volunteer position offering only the satisfaction of contributing greatly to our church using your time and expertise.

Please contact Jane Webb if you are, or know of, such a person.

Thanks,

The Technology Committee

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### YOUNG-AT-HEART OUTING

Sunday afternoon, April 8, 2018

**Learn to WALTZ! \$13**

*No experience necessary and you don't even need a partner!*

Get in touch with your inner Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers!

Join us at the **Glen Echo Spanish Ballroom!!**

The afternoon starts off at 2:45 p.m. with a 45-minute introductory waltz lesson, followed by an afternoon of waltzes to live music. Dancing runs from 3:30 to 6 pm but we plan on leaving the ballroom around 5:00 to head next door for dinner at the Irish Inn.

We will meet at the church to carpool at 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathryn Smith (301-540-1191) so she can make dinner reservations at the Irish Inn. However, last minute attendees are welcome because no reservations are needed for the Spanish ballroom. Pay \$10 at the door as you arrive.



**The Spanish Ballroom** is a beautifully restored 1933 Mediterranean style Art Deco building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**The Irish Inn** is a traditional pub serving familiar Irish & American comfort food in relaxed rooms or on the deck.

## Announcements (cont'd)



Refreshments served with ice cream for dessert!  
*God has given us all we need, so no gifts necessary.*

**Bring a chair! Send a card!**

Both will be greatly appreciated!

*Join us for a Party*

**90 YEARS**  
IN THE MAKING

TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF

**Miel Linthicum**

Saturday, April 14

Open House: 1 to 5 pm

9209 Gue Road, Damascus

Please RSVP to Mary Emma

at 301-253-2038

by April 5.

## Welcoming Wednesday Dinners ! ! !

**April 4: Roasted pork, cheesy potato casserole, veggie stir fry, salad, rolls/butter & dessert rolls & dessert**

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates for 2018 are:  
May 2 / Jun. 6



The **Welcoming Wednesday Dinners** are served in the Church Dining Hall.

We serve **at 6:00 pm.**

The suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12.

This a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!



## Announcements (cont'd)

### Binders of Love for our Graduating Seniors

The groundhog didn't see his shadow this year, so Spring is just around the corner, which means it is time to start thinking about our graduating high school seniors! As is our tradition, we will be presenting our DUMC high school seniors with special binders on Senior Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. These binders are filled with memories, scriptures, encouraging words, photos, etc. provided by friends, family, teachers, etc. and will hopefully be a source of comfort and love to our young people as they embark on this next phase of their lives. Please consider creating a page (no larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches) and giving it/ them to Wendy Hembrough (301-367-6665) no later than April 29<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns please just ask Wendy. Here are our graduating seniors:



Jordan Anderson

Heather Bacon

Julia Beall

Hayley Bonnett

Charlotte Bowe

Brandon Champagne

Miranda Clay

Anne Elliott

Autumn Johnson

Adam Lenker

Chloe Lenker

Noah Lenker

Maddy Marshall

Matthew Martin

Lucas Martinho

Dyllan Ramirez

Ana Schobitz

Nik Schobitz

Molly Swartz

Cody Swigart

Bryce Taylor

Lauren Taylor

Alice Walker

Lindsey Whitmeyer

### ***Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry***

**Monday, April 16 at 12:30 pm in the Annex (Church Office)**



Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort. The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, or Cathy Heinbaugh, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, [jmullinix74@yahoo.com](mailto:jmullinix74@yahoo.com), 301-482-1122.

### **Updated Cartridge Info**

Friends,

Thank you for your support over the past years by contributing your used ink cartridges for recycling as a fundraiser for the youth. With the wide variety of cartridges and the sorting process that is required, we have found it to be rather labor intensive with a minimal return. Therefore, we will no longer be collecting them. I know Staples will accept used cartridges. We hope you will be good earth stewards and find a convenient location to recycle them. Thank you, Linda Stastny, Office Administrator.





**Book by Michael Stewart    Lyrics by Lee Adams    Music by Charles Strouse**

**Originally Produced by Edward Padula**

Adaption and support materials for the Young Performers' Edition developed by iTheatrics,  
Under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

**Directed by Jerilyn B. Nacht  
Produced by Elli Swink**

**Choreography by Megan McNellage  
Music Directed by Keith Tittermary**

**Ticket Prices:**

General Admission: \$14  
DTC Members: \$12  
Senior Students (K-12),  
& Children (2-5): \$10

**Damascus United Methodist Church  
9700 New Church Road  
Damascus, MD 20872**

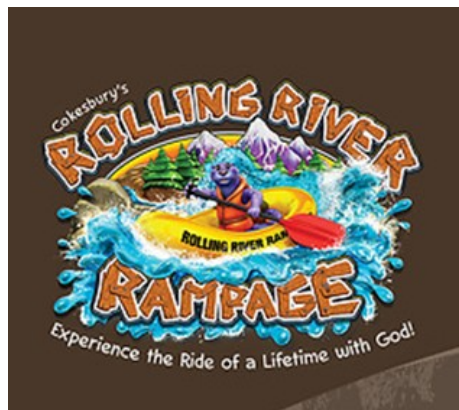
**[www.damascustheatre.org](http://www.damascustheatre.org)**

BYE BYE BIRDIE is presented by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC. 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022



## Announcements (cont'd)

Save the date for VBS 2018, July 23 - 27!



We welcome all children from age 4 through 6th grade to attend.

Hours will be 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day.

Theme: Rolling River Rampage  
*Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!*

*Note: Registration Forms will be available May 1st*

## Young at Heart Activities - 2018

**Sunday, April 8** 2:45 pm

**Waltz Lessons** at Glen Echo Park, Bethesda, with meal afterwards (**6:00 pm**) at the Irish Inn Restaurant (see article Page #15).

**Contact person:** Kathryn Smith / 301-540-1191.

**JUNE, 2018 (RE-SCHEDULED)** Date & Time TBD

**National Museum of Civil War Medicine.**

Will include a one-hour guided tour with extra time afterward to explore. Will join together for lunch afterward in Frederick.

**Contact person:** Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

**MAY, 2018** Date & Time TBD

Visit to the **National Shrine, Emmittsburg, MD** with a meal afterwards at Mountain Gate restaurant.

**Contact person:** Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

**Friday, October 5** 12:30 pm

Maryland Fleet Week 3 hr. boat tour of Baltimore Harbor and Thunderbird Airshow.

**RSVP'S WILL BE NEEDED BY AUGUST, 2018.**

Contact: Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

**Thursday, July 12** 7:00 pm

**Montgomery College, Germantown Campus. Seeking Justice—A Living History Presentation** featuring the re-enactment of Eleanor Roosevelt. As part of the Chataqua Series. Free Admission.

**Sunday, July 22** 12:00 noon

**Montgomery College Summer Dinner Theatre, Rockville Campus.** We will see **West Side Story**. Buffet lunch starts at noon, play at 2:00 pm.

Contact Person: Sandra Malley - 301-518-2220.

**NOVEMBER, 2018** Date and Time TBD

**Tour of Arlington National Cemetery and lunch.**

**Contact person:** Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

**DECEMBER, 2018**

Traditional Young at Heart Christmas Dinner & Party, held at DUMC, Dining Room

**Coordinator/Contact person needed for this event to take place.** Call Sue or Jane to volunteer.

As you can see, not all plans and dates have been finalized, but will be added as soon as possible.

**NOTE:** Young at Heart activities are open to all adults in our church and community. We try to plan a variety of events that appeal to people, but please feel free to make suggestions, and possibly sponsor or co-sponsor an event. Contact Sue, Sandra or Jane.

## Thank You's

The **Harwood House 25th Anniversary Celebration** was a great success thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers. The Committee extends it's appreciation for the desserts provided, the video prepared and presented, the wonderful entertainment and the work of other behind the scenes volunteers that made for a wonderful event!

### ***A Special Thank You . . . . .***

Please thank the congregation for the outstanding support they have given Damascus HELP providing us a place to store the donated food. We thank them also for the food, diapers and detergent that has been donated during Lent and the rest of the year. We also appreciate Damascus UMC providing us a place for our Board to meet throughout the year. Your congregation's help and assistance is very much appreciated. As Jesus said in [Matthew 25:35-40](#).

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.* Damascus UMC has certainly lived up to this.

Doug Noble  
Chairman Damascus HELP Food Committee

### **Going to buy something on Amazon.com?**



**Don't forget to go through the  
DUMC link  
located at the bottom  
of the home page on the  
DUMC website ([damascusumc.org](http://damascusumc.org)).  
The Youth Program here at DUMC gets a  
contribution for all purchases  
made through this link,  
with no additional cost to you!**

### **Altar Flowers for 2018**

A sign-up notebook to provide altar flowers for this year has been placed in the rack in the narthex next to the Welcome Station. The sooner you sign up for your special dates, the better!

You may order the flowers yourself from one of two local florists:

Blossoms and Basket at [301-829-8300](tel:301-829-8300)  
or Beall's at [301-253-2840](tel:301-253-2840)

**NOTE:** Both florists charge a \$5 delivery charge to DUMC.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Stastny in the church office.



### **Prayer Requests**

The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to write any prayer requests on the prayer cards located in the pews. Prayer cards should then be placed in the offering plate.

All requests will be kept confidential.

Prayer requests may also be made on-line at [www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org).

## Office Info

### PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

### PASTORS:

David S. Cooney, ext. #103  
cell: 240-529-8887 / [david.cooney@damascusumc.org](mailto:david.cooney@damascusumc.org)

Amanda P. McMurtrey, ext. #104  
cell: 970-231-5123 /  
[amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org](mailto:amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org)

### STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldrige,  
Minister of Music & Worship Arts  
cell: 240-750-8287 / [polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org](mailto:polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org)

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist  
cell: 240-832-2112  
[stephenkarnoske@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkarnoske@gmail.com)

Nick Works,  
Director of Youth  
cell: 240-751-6695 / [nick.works@damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)

Jane Webb, Office Manager  
cell: 240- 620-6920 / [jane.webb@damascusumc.org](mailto:jane.webb@damascusumc.org)

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator  
ext. #102 / [office@damascusumc.org](mailto:office@damascusumc.org)

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager  
cell: 301-253-5241 /  
[lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org](mailto:lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org)

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper  
ext. #106 / [steve.malley@damascusumc.org](mailto:steve.malley@damascusumc.org)

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The Office will be closed on  
**Monday, April 2**  
for the Easter Holiday  
and will re-open  
**Tuesday, April 3 at 9:00 am.**



### Administrative Meetings For April, 2018

- April 5 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**  
Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - stage side**  
Missions Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - back side**  
Children's Ministry Meeting to  
follow in the **Dining Hall - back**
- April 15 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- April 18 Technology Committee  
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- April 26 Administrative Board  
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall - back

## Office Hours

The office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 6:00 p.m. On Friday, we open at 8:00 a.m., sometimes close for lunch (approx. an hr.) and occasionally close early. Additionally,

Pastor David is off on Fridays.

Pastor Amanda is off on Tuesdays.

Jane Webb is off on Mondays.

Linda Stastny is off on Tuesdays.

Please keep this in mind when waiting for a response to e-mail or phone messages.

**IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE**  
THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING  
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION  
IN THE **MAY** BEACON  
**WILL BE**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18**

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, April 29).

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND  
ALL ARTICLES BY THIS DATE.**

## ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

**Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery:** **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend at Shock Trauma Center in very critical condition), **Bob Braden**, **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Linne Carrier**, **Ann Cochran**, **Don Cosman**, **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Miel Linthicum**, **Jeanette Long**, **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella**, **Amy Nisonger** (recuperating from ankle surgery), **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Bill Roberts** (rotator cuff surgery), **David Rust** (home recuperating from hip surgery), **Carole Sacco** (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law with liver disease and candidate for a transplant), **Sue Seabold** (shoulder replacement on 4/3 and PT following), **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), Randy Smith (recovering from shoulder surgery), **Dorothy Stull** (at home under hospice care), **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), and **Bill Walcott**.

**Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer** including **Patty Benson** (Doug's wife), **Ann Boyer** (Kevin's mom), **Sue Bradley**, **Karen Caroscio** (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), **Linne Carrier**, **Mickey Cochran**, **Melinda Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Natalie Cosman** (Don & Rita's granddaughter), **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Ethel Frear**, **JP Feuillet**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Jan LaDuke** (Julie Kinnaman's cousin), **Leroy** (friend of the Malley's going thru kidney cancer treatment), **Dave Lingrell**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew) **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister) **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle) and **Matt Works** (Nick's brother).

**Continue to pray for all who serve in the military:** The following are stationed in the United States: **John Clayton** – Army (Cathy Heinbaugh's brother), **Gregory Lee** – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), **Benjamin J. Saunders** – Navy (son of Connie Ross), **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly), and **Kossi (Alfred) Setodji** –Army (son of Philip and Mary Davi Avudutu).

### Your Connection to Care

When you are facing a difficulty, faith issue, or serious illness, your pastoral care team is here for you. Pastors David and Amanda are easy to reach and available to you. Their contact information is below:



**David S. Cooney, ext. #103**  
cell: 240-529-8887



**Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104**  
office: 301-253-0022

### Did you know?

The Upper Room Living Prayer Center has a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intercessory prayer ministry staffed by Christian volunteers. When you call 1-800-251-2468, a person will answer the phone, receive your prayer request and pray with you. After your call, your prayer concern will be forwarded to one of 300 Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups located all over the world. On the Web, requests can be submitted by visiting [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org), click on "pray" in the green box. Your request will be e-mailed to the Prayer Center within 24 hours and sent out to Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups as well. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month.

