

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
9700 NEW CHURCH STREET
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
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WEBSITE: WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

THE BEACON

APRIL 2019



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor

Sherwyn Benjamin (Pastor B)
Associate Pastor

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Children's Ministries
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. / PM Custodian

Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian

Bob Tarpley / AM Custodian

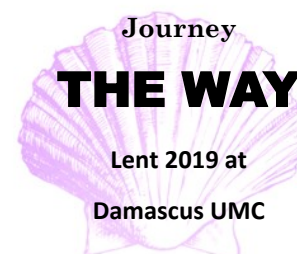
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Dear Damascus UMC Members and Friends,

As we begin the month of April, we are well into the season of Lent, the six-week period of spiritual preparation leading up to the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our congregational focus during this Lenten season has been "The Way." We have considered the ways by which we follow Jesus and draw nearer to him as his disciples. I hope that you have been reading the wonderful daily Lenten devotional written by church members and staff. It has been an important means of faith-sharing and inspiration along my Lenten way. If you haven't started reading this or another devotional, it's not too late! Copies are available in the office and in the Narthex.



On April 3 we will gather for our Wednesday Fellowship Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall. Following the meal (around 6:45ish), Rev. Nick Works will present a program on pilgrimage. In addition to serving as our Director of Youth Ministries, Nick also works at Wesley Theological Seminary, supervising students' field education and coordinating Wesley's Intercultural Immersion program. Nick is also a student at Wesley in the Doctor of Ministry Program where his focus is on Christian pilgrimage.

We will have our final Wednesday morning gatherings for worship and Holy Communion on April 3 and April 10 at 6:45 a.m. Worship with Communion lasts 20 minutes, then we move to the Great Hall for a light breakfast before heading to work and school.

As ever, we will mark the events of Holy Week with special worship services for Palm Sunday (4/14), Maundy Thursday (4/18), and Good Friday (4/19), then have four services on Easter, April 21. Please see the details of these services on page 3.

May God's richest blessings be with you this month as you conclude your Lenten pilgrimage and move from repentance to rejoicing at Easter!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Kathryn

What's Happening Next Door???

(formerly known as "The Elephant in the Parking Lot")

If you have visited the Damascus UMC Campus recently, you have definitely noticed a change in the absence of green space across from the church on New Church Street. The land belonged to church members who have always been generous with us, using their land for a path to our Youth Chapel, a space to fence in and house its dumpster and, most importantly, establishing an easement so that we will always be allowed to share the parking on that side of New Church Street across from the Church and Annex offices. When they decided to sell, they knew that Damascus was in need of affordable senior housing and actively sought a buyer who would develop it as such. Hence the construction of Victory Haven, a 72-unit apartment building for mixed income seniors on Main Street in downtown Damascus. We may have to endure a time of upheaval in our parking situation until the project is completed, but the benefits will certainly outweigh a bit of inconvenience. We look forward to being in relationship and community with the residents and their families that will call Victory Haven their new home.

Lisa Marshall
Property Manager



Having trouble navigating any aspect of
"The Way Forward" as it relates to our denomination?

Please consider contacting the Stephen Ministry
if you would like to discuss this or any issue
that might be affecting you personally.

You are always welcome to contact the pastors and/or the church office
at 301-253-0022. You may also call Rev. Janet Cornelius at 240-418-0516.



Lent Devotion Booklet Correction

Due to Editor error, several church member devotionals were left out of the booklet that was published on Ash Wednesday. Can you imagine that? Someone asks you to write a devotional and then doesn't use it !!!! Fortunately, for me, all three people were very gracious and understanding, as missing information in a publication is a nightmare I often have !!!!

So please turn to the last three pages of the Beacon and be sure to read these when you get a chance! And thank you to Rocky, Cathy and Memo for understanding that I do make mistakes.

Apologies to all,
Jane Webb, Office Manager

The Connection: Café

DUMC's Coffee Hour is held Sunday mornings
between services (9:30 - 10:30 am)

Come and enjoy a hot mug,
a few nibbles, and relaxed fellowship.

All are welcome.



Reminder: We always welcome more hands to assist, even if it is just **an hour here and there on any given Sunday**. We would also be grateful for food donations like baked goods and fresh fruit. Just stop in and speak with Gloria Maready (240-388-0487) or Marcia Hofman (301-253-2960) to sign up to help and/or provide food.

HOLY WEEK 2019

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 14, 2019

Festival Services

8:15 and 11 am
Sanctuary



*Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.*

In our annual tradition of re-enacting Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, cries of Hosanna are shouted amidst the lively rhythms of flutes, brass, and percussion. Excitement soon gives way to sober quietness, calling us to consider what lies ahead for Jesus.

*Child care will be available in the nursery
for both services.*

Maundy Thursday

April 18, 2019

Maundy Thursday Service

7:30 pm
Sanctuary

Join us as we celebrate communion, remembering Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. This will be followed by the ceremonial stripping of the Sanctuary's adornments in preparation for Good Friday.



Good Friday

April 19, 2019

Good Friday Service
St. John's Passion
John 18:1-19:42

7:30 pm
Sanctuary

Readings from John's Gospel, telling of the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion, will be interspersed between music by the Chancel Choir.



Easter Sunday

April 21, 2019

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. Bring a folding chair.

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, 9:30, 11 am
Sanctuary

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

*Child care is provided in the nursery for the
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am services.*

JOIN US FOR OUR FRIED FISH DINNER ! !

Friday, April 19, 2019 from 11:00 am until ? ? ?

at Friendship UMC, 27701 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD

Phone: 301-253-3411

**We will also have coleslaw, mac & cheese, green beans, potato salad,
applesauce, cake, rolls & cornbread. \$12 / per person.**



Families are invited to the
Children's Easter Service
and Easter Egg Hunt
9:30 am, April 21st

The Easter Story
will be presented in the Great Hall
by our puppeteers.



followed by activities and
an Easter Egg Hunt starting in the
Dining Hall for children of all ages!
Parents please plan to join your children.



Men's Night Out for April
The Men of DUMC
(and male friends, family & neighbors)
are invited for a Men's Night Out on



Monday, April 8 @ 6:30 pm
CarterQue Barbeque, 1310 Main Street, Mt. Airy, MD 21771
RSVP to Steve by Sunday, April 7, (240-806-0593).
Please plan to join us ! ! !

DUMC Men's Group — 2019 Remaining Schedule

- May 18: Host District breakfast at DUMC
May 23: Men's Night Out @ Longhorn Steak House, Germantown, MD
June 7 & 8: Retreat Hallowood Retreat Center, Comus, MD
July 15: Men's Night Out - Mt. Airy Inn, Mt Airy
August : NO Men's Night Out
Sept. 10: Men's Night Out @ Carrabbas, Germantown, MD
Oct. 12: Annual Church Picnic @ Ted Ross' House, Gaithersburg, MD

October and November
Men's Mission Focused Project



The WWJD Circle will **NOT MEET** during April.
Our regular 3rd Thursday meeting time falls during Holy Week
so everyone is encouraged to attend the
various church worship services planned.

Have a joyous Easter!

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship ·
Fun · Sisterhood · Everyone Invited

WILL NOT MEET IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Monday, April 15, 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, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.

Worship Arts News and Events

April, 2019

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

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

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



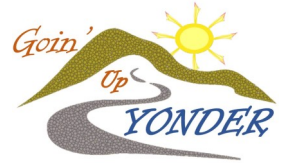
Come Sing on Easter Sunday at 8, 9:30, and/or 11 am service

Rehearse on Sunday, April 14,

5 to 6 pm in Music Room/Sanctuary

All are welcome - **MUSIC AND ROBE PROVIDED**

The Charles Wesley Singers are traveling west this summer on choir tour. Tentative dates are June 17/18 - 23, 2019. The theme of our trip is **Goin' Up Yonder**. If you have any family and friends in West Virginia or Kentucky that might host our choir, please be in contact with Polly to share suggestions and names.



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy** Great Hall - Stage side / 75-minute session

Primarily adults, but open to all ages—medium/advanced handbell ensemble

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall - Stage Side / 30-minute session

Puppet troupe for elementary students 2nd grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Cherub Choir** Great Hall - Back Half / 30-minute session

Choir (singing, games, movement) for children 4 ½ years old to 1st / 2nd grade led by Lydia Turner-Little and Stephanie Greer

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

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

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

Choir (w/singing music and worship education) for children 2nd to 5th / 6th grade level by Polly Baldrige (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

7:00 pm **Men's Choir** Music Room / 30-minute session

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

SATB choir for 11 am worship— primarily adults, but open to all ages, led by Polly Baldrige with Stephen Kalnoske, accompanist

SUNDAYS

4:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Great Hall - Back Half / 30-minute

Handbells for students 2nd to 5th grade led by Polly Baldrige

4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Stage / 60-minute session

Handbells for youth 6th to 12th grades (medium/advanced handbell ensemble) led by Tom Baldrige

5:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room / 60-minute session

SATB choir for 6th to 12th grades and up led by Polly Baldrige with accompanist Stephen Kalnoske— Shares weekly @ 8:15 am worship service

Spring Break is during Holy Week Children's Ensemble Announcements

- Choristers and Cherubs lead procession on Palm Sunday, April 14
- Children's ensembles will not rehearse on Wednesday, April 17
- Puppet groups lead children's Easter program at 9:30 am on Sunday, April 21

Easter Decorating for DUMC Sanctuary

Saturday, April 20, 2019

9:00 - 10:30 am

Contact Connie Ross to volunteer

@ 301-633-9504

Damascus United Methodist Church Worship Arts Ministry



Mystery AND MAJESTY

SPRING RING HANDBELL CONCERT

Sunday, April 28, 2019

7:00 pm in Sanctuary



RING OF JOY



YOUTH HANDBELL CHOIR



INSPIRATION RINGERS



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

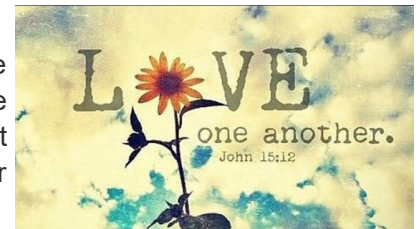
Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

WINTER/SPRING OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN MISSION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

- * Harwood House which serves the community and whose proceeds support nearly 30 other helping organizations is LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENING IN LENT TO RECEIVE DONATIONS FROM PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. If you are able to help out, please contact Debbie Stone at 301-253-6536 .
- * April 27th workday at Safe Haven
- * Flower and Plant sale
- * Hopi VIM trip (Arizona) July 7-13; see Cheryl/Norm Minekime (301-414-0098)
- * Possible Kenya trip Fall, 2019
- * Possible trip to Puebla, Mexico, 2019
- * Habitat Work week July 14-19, 2019; see Anita Duvall (301-972-6419 or habitatdumc@gmail.com),
- * Fall Volunteers in Mission trip most likely to NC; see Carol Yocum (301-788-6446)
- * Fall Mission Sunday with a 10,000 meal packing component for all at DUMC

Meet the “Love One Another” Team

The Love One Another group came together in the Fall of 2018 to promote love and acceptance and in response to all forms of hate and violence. We have been meeting and discussing ways we can be more intentional about demonstrating inclusivity and diversity across all lines of difference in our congregation and with our community.



We've continued to pray for our church and seek healing for those hurting from the General Conference's decision on human sexuality. We believe that God's grace is fully at work and has given us an opportunity to confront our fears and biases and to no longer be dismissive about people we know and love.

In this season of repentance, we hope that the Holy Spirit will lead us to more open dialogue and an affirming message of welcome to all people, including those who are LGBTQIA. As we live out our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, our desire is to minister to and be in ministry with all people.

We meet the second Saturday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 9:30 am in the Annex Conference Room. We will discuss the book "Anatomy of Peace - A Model for Communication," by Michael K. Sahota. It describes a model for communication and understanding reality that is framed by the idea that every relationship can either be approached with either a heart of peace or a heart of war.

If you have questions or wish to learn more about our team, please feel free to contact Charlotte Kibak (chaphil1@earthlink.net).

Damascus HELP update . . .



Damascus HELP is low on spaghetti sauce and noodles, individually wrapped bars of soap, peanut butter, grape jelly and tea bags.

We are also in great need of ODs, transportation drivers and furniture moving teams. If you know of anyone who might be interested in these opportunities, please have them contact Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100, email dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.

April/May Youth Events & Fellowship

Saturday 4/6

**11:30 am: Lunch at the Frederick
Rescue Mission, Frederick, MD
(departure DUMC 11:00am)**

Sunday 4/7

**4:00 pm UMYFO Meeting
6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Destination Unknown
(Wear walking shoes and dress for outdoors)**

Sunday 4/14 **Palm Sunday**

**6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Game Night and Devotional - DH**

Sunday 4/21 **Easter Sunday**

**No Handbell or Choir Rehearsals
No Youth Dinner or Evening Activities**

Sunday 4/28

**6:00 pm Youth Dinner
7:00 pm Spring Ring Concert**

Sunday 5/5 **Senior Sunday**

**6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Amazing Race - DH**

Sunday 5/12 **Happy Mother's Day**

**No Handbell or Choir Rehearsals
No Youth Dinner or Evening Activities**

Sunday 5/19 **Last Day of Sunday School**

**6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Devotions & Game Night - DH**

Sunday 5/26 **Memorial Day Weekend**

**Rehearsals Only
No Youth Dinner or Evening Activities**

Sunday 6/2 **Youth Finale Event**

Youth Sunday Schedule

8:15 am: Worship
Charles Wesley Singers share

9:30 am: Youth Chapel
Breakfast (\$5), Music/Worship Time
(Praise Band shares),
Class by Grade, & Confirmation

11:00 am: Worship

**4:00 pm: Youth Handbell
Rehearsal**
(weekly, except when UMYFO meets)

**5:00 pm: CWS Youth
Choir Rehearsal**
(weekly, even if no Youth Activity)

6:00 pm: Youth Dinner
(most weeks)

6:30 pm: Youth Activity
(most weeks)

Youth Events typically end at 8:00 pm

April 3 & 10

**Lenten Communion
Breakfasts**

Wednesdays at 6:45 am

TOUR REHEARSALS

After Easter, Charles Wesley Singers will begin rehearsing for tour on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays as indicated below. Regular rehearsals for the Charles Wesley Singers continue on Sundays from 5 to 6 pm, but extended rehearsal hours will be for tour music only. Please note the schedule below.

- Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm – April 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; June 5, 12
- Sundays – regular rehearsal time 5 to 6 pm – all of March and April (no practice on Easter Sunday, 4/21)
- Sundays – added hour (4 to 6 pm) – May 5, 19, 26; June 2, 9 (no practice on Mother's Day, 5/12 or Father's Day, 6/16)
- Mondays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm - April 29; May 6, 13, 20 (no practice on Memorial Day, 5/27)
- TOUR PREVIEW PROGRAM and DEDICATION - Sunday, June 16 @ 9:30 am or immediately following

Stewardship

AN UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

At its February 28 meeting, the Administrative Board adopted a recommendation from the Finance Committee to amend the approved 2019 operating budget as published in the January, 2019 Beacon. One expense item in that budget, Church Staff Salaries and Benefits, was based on a projected percentage increase rather than a specific amount. After the New Year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee provided a specific amount that was approximately \$10,000 less than the original projected amount. Accordingly, the Finance Committee recommended that the 2019 operating budget be amended to reflect the new amount, and additionally, that the decrease in this expense be offset on the income side of the budget by reducing the projection for tithes and offerings by \$10,000. The Board adopted these recommendations.

Therefore, the amended 2019 operating budget projects a goal for tithes and offerings of \$928,000 (instead of \$938,000), total income of \$1,015,272 (instead of \$1,025,322) and expenses for Church Staff Salaries of \$374,039 (instead of \$384,035).

If you have any questions regarding this change, please contact myself or other Finance Committee members.

Richard D. Hardick, Chair
Finance Committee

Announcements

Binders of Love for our Graduating Seniors

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 5th! 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 a hard copy to Wendy Hembrough (301-367-6665) no later than April 28th. If you have any questions or concerns please just ask Wendy. Here are our graduating seniors:

Helena Colborn
Jonathan Eckelberg
Jack Hembrough
Megan Horst
Shane Johnson
Duncan Maxwell
Corinne Shifflett
Lydia Turner-Little
Elizabeth White



Announcements (cont'd)

DUMC's Annual Flower & Plant Sale begins

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Hours: Saturdays & Sundays, 9 am - 5 pm

Weekdays, 5 pm - 8 pm



The Missions Committee is looking for volunteers for the flower and plant sale. We still need help watering and selling the plants thru Sunday, May 19. This is a very successful fundraiser for the mission programs in the church so please prayerfully consider volunteering.

Please contact Kathy Jones at 301-580-4591 or kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for youth to earn credit to use when they go on mission trips. P.S. We could also use help on Friday, May 3, at 8:00 am to unload the flowers/plants when they are delivered.

Join us for

THE WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

April 3 at 6:00 pm in the Dining Hall

Menu: Meatloaf, potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert

It is pay as you can; the suggested prices are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under, with a family cap of \$25.



PILGRIMAGES OF FAITH: WALKING IN THE WAY OF JESUS

Wednesday, April 3 at 6:45 pm - Dining Hall

What can we learn about discipleship when we look at the pilgrim practices of the church over the last 20 centuries? Come and learn more about Christian pilgrimage and making disciples with Nick Works.

SEASONAL MOWING CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

New REDUCED mowing/trimming areas this season! We have contracted out the "back 40," hills and all, to a professional landscaping crew who will be responsible for those areas.

DUMC mowing crew volunteers will mow and trim the Church's front yard, the grass areas around the Sanctuary and CFC Building, the front, side and back yard around the Annex, and the Youth Chapel grounds only.

Our goal is to have 2 volunteers per week scheduled to mow & trim for about 2 hours once every month and a half. To do this, we need 12 reliable mowers plus a couple alternates to cover for vacations and the unexpected. 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.



Announcements (cont'd)

Scott Fulton is coming to Damascus !!

**Wednesday May 1, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
To the Music Café in Damascus**



As many of you know, I spent a big swath of life living in Damascus, much of it while playing with the band, The Companions. My Damascus friends find it hard to get to Baltimore and DC, so I am coming to you in hopes of reconnecting with a community that will always hold a central place in my heart. The Companions were one of the early acts at The Music Café many years ago, and I'm looking forward to returning to what has become a real anchor in the local music scene. They slot solo acoustic acts like mine on Wednesdays, so we'll give it a go and try to wrap up before people get sleepy. Coordinates: The Music Café, 26528 Ridge Road, B, Damascus, MD 20872, (301) 253-1500, www.musiccafedamascus.com



**National Law
Enforcement
Museum**
at the Motorola Solutions
Foundation Building

Another Young at Heart Event . . . Friday, April 26, 2019

SEE. HEAR. EXPERIENCE.

*Feel what it's like to walk in the shoes of law enforcement.
Set in a stunning, all new museum,
hear the untold stories that shaped our nation.*

Tour The New National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C. with Young At Heart.

This museum feature exhibits from the Colonial Era to the present. It encompasses federal, state, and local policing artifacts. Some examples are J. Edgar Hoover's desk, Elliott Ness's credentials and the D.C. sniper's car.

We will leave church at 9:15 am and drive to the museum. Cost is \$16.50 per person/ (10 people minimum needed for group rate) for the museum plus your lunch. We will leave the museum and have lunch at The Cheesecake Factory in Montgomery Mall. Then, we'll return to DUMC.

This tour is open to all. Please sign up with the church office at 301-253-0022.

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM in Montgomery County

The U.S. Census Bureau is now recruiting for positions for the 2020 Census.

In Montgomery County, we are looking for over 5,000 applicants.

Positions will pay \$21/hour. Hours are flexible. Employees will usually work close to their home.

Persons must be at least 18 years old to be hired. US citizenship is required.

Although Census Day is more than a year away,

early operation address canvassing takes place this summer.

Applicants will need to complete their applications online: 2020census.gov/jobs

For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Daniel McCall, Recruiter, Montgomery County
Census 2020 - U.S. Census Bureau
Daniel.mccall@2020census.gov

Announcements (cont'd)

Ethel Frear would like to thank everyone that sent her cards regarding her recent diagnosis. They were all greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, and cards when my dear aunt Willa died. We appreciate all the kindness shown her over the last five years as she worshipped here at DUMC with us.

- Judy and Rocky Benedict

Flowers for Easter - 2019

Easter Lilies and/or Tulips may be ordered in advance for placing in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019. Flowers may be placed in honor of or in memory of loved ones or special persons.

Lilies: \$12.00 each

*6" pot with
4 - 6 blooms*

Tulips: \$11.00 each

*6" pot - will come in a variety
of colors, subject to availability)*

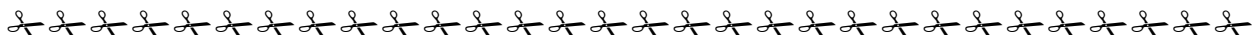


PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER

Complete and return the order blank below by **April 15, 2019.**

Orders cannot be accepted after this date!

Please make checks payable to DUMC and mail to the office:
c/o Linda Stastny, 9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD 20872.



Name: _____

Phone: _____

No. Lilies (\$12.00) _____

No. Tulips (\$11.00) _____

Total Cost: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ I will pick up my flowers after the 11 am worship service on Easter Sunday.

_____ My flowers may be delivered to a sick or shut-in person.



Save the Date!

VBS is on a mission to Mars this summer,
July 22-26, 9 am – 12 pm

Contact Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org
or 301-529-3047 to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed NOW to help with planning, the week of VBS to lead classes, and the week after to clean up. It's going to take a lot of work to get us to Mars! Thank you for considering volunteering your time. It's going to be a BLAST!

Registration Form for CHILDREN is on page #20 of this Beacon.

Registration for YOUTH HELPERS is on page #21 of this Beacon.

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Age 4 – entering 5th grade

July 22 – 26, 2019 · 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

(Notes to parents --- please keep this page!)

1. A donation of **\$30** per child is requested at the time of registration or may be made during the week of Vacation Bible School to help offset our costs. Cash, or checks made out to Damascus UMC, are greatly appreciated.
2. Our kitchen staff will purchase the snacks and drinks that will be served during VBS, and peanut-related items will not be bought. However, if your child has severe food allergies, it would be best for you to send in a snack each day for your child. We are not able to guarantee a complete peanut-free kitchen.
3. Our primary mode of communication to parents will be via email, which is why we request your email address. A week before VBS, you'll receive an email indicating the class to which your child is assigned and the classroom location.
4. If you would like to volunteer to help during VBS, please send an email to Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org. Adult helpers are needed and most welcome! You will need to complete Safe Sanctuary training and associated forms, so please sign up early. You can also volunteer to be a floater to help for one, two, or more days during VBS as your schedule allows. Thanks!
5. We welcome a limited amount of **Youth helpers** (grades 6th -12th) to help us during Vacation Bible School. Students can earn SSL hours, and have a great time helping the children. Youth helpers need to complete a *Youth Helper Registration* form and a *Safe Sanctuary Covenant Statement* form, which are available in the Resource Room and online at <http://damascusumc.org>.

Feel free to contact Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

THE **Lent 2019** WAY

Um God, Excuse Me, but This Path is NOT What I Planned!

They were so absorbed in their “God projects” that they didn’t notice God right in front of them, like a huge rock in the middle of the road. And so they stumbled into him and went sprawling. Isaiah (again!) gives us the metaphor for pulling this together:

*Careful! I’ve put a huge stone on the road to Mt. Zion,
a stone you can’t get around.*

But the stone is me! If you’re looking for me,

you’ll find me on the way, not in the way. Romans 9: 31 – 33 (The Message)

Age-related joint changes. *@!! To put it mildly, I’m not at all happy about age-related joint changes. From any perspective, this qualifies as a very large rock in my path and there doesn’t seem to be any way around it. So, what am I going to do about it? Doctors, diagnostic procedures, PT, Yoga, Pilates, medication, lose weight Ok. Got it. Working on it. But there are still some days when the solace of a long walk, a bike ride, or even knitting is just not an option. Really, there have been times when I could barely go up the stairs or put my socks on. How am I ever going to be able to enjoy all the National Parks that Jeff and I want to explore in our retirement years? “Um ... God, walking is part of my ministry.” I have several people in my life with whom I connect over long walks. This is enjoyable exercise with friends, but it is also intentional ministry on my part and I really don’t want to give up (or change) those connections.

The verse quoted above has long been a favorite, and today I realized one more way that it applies to me. I need to stop butting my head against this rock and figure out how to find Jesus in it. I have already cut way back on knitting and have started sewing more. I’m making fewer prayer shawls but have found a new charity quilt group. I’m increasing my territory and meeting the new people God has planted in my path. I’m also having a lot of fun thinking about fabric, patterns, techniques, reducing my stash, and stretching my brain in new directions. So far, however, the only good I can find in decreased mobility is a greater empathy with others whose mobility limitations and pain levels are far greater than mine. I guess I am connecting to others in a new way. I don’t see how this is a new, good path for me yet, but I’m taking my first steps in that direction and learning to trust that God’s got this. God loves me. God has a plan for this new path. I just need to keep my eyes open to see where God is meeting me in new and unexpected places.

Cathy Heinbaugh

My Mom's Way

When I sat down to think about what I was going to write in my reflection, I thought that I would write about the times that I had been a reflection of God's generosity or hospitality for other people. I imagined myself at the center of the story where I was the generous one, the do-gooder, the one who extended a hand to lift up the person who had fallen...But the more that I thought about it I started realizing that throughout the course of my life, I have more often been the recipient of God's generosity!

Growing up in a family made up of 11 children and two parents was a great adventure. Monday to Friday mornings were a fraternal war. Everyone wanting to use the only bathroom to prepare to go to school or to work. On weekends the fight was to find a space around the table and enjoy the soup with whatever vegetable my mom made it from. The food was always enough and on a few occasions abundant, but there was always enough space at the table for one more person. Literally, my mom performed miracles with the few resources that we had and in some way God took care of always providing for us with what we needed. My mom didn't go to church and so we didn't either. My mom's religion was very complicated: raising 11 children and making sure that we were all clean and safe and healthy. This work took up all of her time and energy. She couldn't go out and socialize easily, and had only a few friends. And it's in this what I want to share with you: I am fully convinced that God, in His infinite grace and generosity for His sons and daughters, sent Angels in the flesh and blood into my life and my mom's life.

Anyone who knows my mom knows that she loves to talk, but is very reserved. She doesn't talk often about her problems to those who aren't family because she doesn't want to be looked at with pity.

When we were kids, we had a period of time where the economic situation in our household was particularly difficult. One day my mom woke up and realized that she only had 25 cents in her purse. It was December 24th, and in Nicaragua this is the day that we celebrate Christmas. Christmas dinner is a big event. The family gathers around the table to celebrate the birth of our Redeemer. Well, here is the miracle from that day, a defining demonstration of the infinite generosity of God towards His sons and daughters: my mom's best friend showed up at our door. She lived a block away from our house. Here was a woman who had the joy of those who know that they are loved and cared for by God, and their only worry was to be happy. She had just come from the grocery store because she brought several bags in full of products. She hugged my mom and said, "Merry Christmas to everyone." She spent time talking with my mom for a couple of hours and prepared to leave. My mom asked us to help her with her bags, but she, with her ever cheerful joy, said that the bags were for us, so that we could make Christmas dinner. And she left. My mom said, "Thank you."

To earn income my mom did various sewing projects for others. We had a neighbor who would always come ask my mom to repair or make clothing for her. My mom always did it and the other person wouldn't pay her. I thought, "My mom is dumb because she lets other people take advantage of her." And my mom would always tell me the same thing: "Maybe she needs the money more than I do." Now, several years later, I understand that when I thought my mom was dumb because "she let others take advantage of her," when in reality she was just following the example of God and giving back a little of the multitude of what she had received.

When my wife and I decided to leave Nicaragua and move our family to live in Damascus, we had fears. We were coming with our two small daughters with more questions than answers. But once again God's generosity has materialized, and we and our daughters are being witnesses to God's generosity, reflected through the people who have been willing to share their roof, their time and their loving care with us. Now we have a place that we call home and a community in which we feel accompanied.

Memo Dominguez

The Way of Christ

Similar to others I know, I like to have a plan whether it is a long-term retirement plan, a medium-term vacation plan for the coming year, or an immediate plan for resolving a family crisis. Plans provide comfort because they indicate the “way ahead” like headlights on a dark road - rather than having no plans and relying on spontaneous reactions to events (or spontaneous initiation of activities). A problem with any of these plans is life itself – no one can predict how our lives will play out or what challenges or opportunities the world (or life) will throw our way. There is a saying in the military that “no battle plan survives the first contact with the enemy.” A comparable saying for civilians would be that “many of our well-laid plans are unlikely to survive the intricacies of living, i.e., life itself.” A saying that reportedly comes from a Yiddish proverb captures this well: “If you want to hear God laugh, tell him you have a plan.” I will try to give a recent example of this in my own life in the paragraphs below.

I retired from the full-time work force at the end of 2012. I intended to work part-time for a while, but the retirement plans for Judy and I mainly focused on the purchase of an RV and traveling around the U.S. as much as we could. We got off to a great start with a July-August 2013 trip out West to visit about 20 National Parks with our 10-year old granddaughter – a fabulous trip and priceless memories that we will never forget. Soon afterward Judy’s Aunt Willa (“Willie”) developed Stage 4 neck/throat cancer and elected to go through extensive radiation treatment whose aftereffects would forever change her life. She initially suffered many facets of physical decline, including regular falls, that meant she could no longer safely live alone. However, as an extreme introvert she recoiled strongly against going to an assisted living facility. Judy and I decided to take her in and to become her primary care-takers. She was in fact a surrogate grandmother to Judy; and she had been generous throughout our lives in providing assistance when needed as well as free vacation opportunities - in either Florida or Ocean City, MD where she had residences. It seemed the least we could do for someone we loved, and who was so important to us. Result: family crisis solved but long-term retirement plans put on the shelf.

As such, my retirement did not go according to plan; and for over a five-year period, we cared for her and put many of our plans on hold. We did this believing that it was what Christ would have us do; and it truly did give our lives a higher purpose than merely experiencing the joys of an RV. Although care for Willie became extremely intense during the last year of her life -- due to both physical and cognitive issues -- we never regretted our decision. Willie passed in February 2019, and we are now trying to establish our new normal and our next long-term plan (note: the RV was “totaled” a few years ago in a freak flash flood in the Frederick facility where it was stored).

Bottom line: Plans are good for knowing where you intend to go (otherwise, you could end up just about anywhere). However, plans are fragile, because the world our Creator has made is full of unpredictable challenges and opportunities. I believe that Jesus wants us to have our antenna up and to be aware of these chances to follow his Way. If we do this, then long-term plans may require regular adjustments. No one said the Way of Christ was easy; but if done with the right attitude, it will be more rewarding than the best vacation or retirement plans that one could ever imagine.

With love for our Savior,
Rocky Benedict

About Our People

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pray for family and friends who are in mourning for: **Don Watkins** who passed away on March 17; **Bob Gruner** who passed away on March 15 (memorial service will be held here at DUMC on April 17); and **Mary Burton** who passed away on March 25 (funeral service will be held here at DUMC on April 1).



Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: **Pen-nie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend), **Bob Braden**, **Ann Cochran**, **Judy Dalrymple** (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), **Bill Duvall** (undergoing treatment of leukemia), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Debbie Hoar**, **Hazel Hoyle** (recovering from back surgery), **Pat Hunt** (Liz Vanderham's mom following mini strokes), **Martita Jones** (Stan & Kathy's daughter-in-law having severe headaches), **David Lingrell** (following cardiac catheterization), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella**, **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), **Dorothy Stull** (at home under hospice care), **Pat Tregoning** (in rehab for a fractured pelvis), and **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus).

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**, **Michael Donaldson** (liver tumor), **Ethel Frear** (under hospice care), **JP Feuillet**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Dave Lingrell**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew), **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister), **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle), **Kristen Smith** (Gina Wilson's niece), **Marie White** (Pat Duvall's sister-in-law), 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), and **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly).

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, 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.

Altar Flowers for 2019

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 fee to DUMC.

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



**DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM**

Age 4 – entering 5th grade

July 22 – 26, 2019 · 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**(Please fill out one form for each family, and return it to the Resource Room
or the Church Office: DUMC, Attn: VBS, 9700 New Church St., Damascus, MD 20872)**

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Address : _____

Email: _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

Work (specify person) _____

Allergies (please indicate which child) *Our kitchen staff will purchase the snacks and drinks that will be served during VBS, and peanut-related items will not be bought. However, if your child has severe food allergies, it would be best for you to send in a snack each day for your child. We are not able to guarantee a complete peanut-free kitchen.*

Does your child receive accommodations at school that would help them to have a more enjoyable VBS? Please provide details below so we can make arrangements.

In case of an emergency, I give permission for Shady Grove Hospital to treat my child/children for any accident or injury that occurs during VBS for any accident or injury that occurs while attending Vacation Bible School.

Name of Doctor _____ Phone Number _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Damascus United Methodist Church
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION
2019 VBS -- Form for Youth Helpers

(Please fill out a form for each youth helper and return to the Resource Room or the Church Office)

Return this form ASAP
We can only use a limited number of youth helpers this year

DATE OF VBS WEEK: July 22 – 26, 2019 (Please plan to work 8:30 am - 12:30 pm each day)

Name _____ T-Shirt Adult Size S M L XL
(Please circle one)

Grade Entering (6th and up) _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Allergies or other concerns _____

In case of an emergency, I give permission for Shady Grove Hospital to treat (name of youth) _____
_____ for any accident or injury that occurs while attending Vacation Bible School.

Name of Doctor _____ Telephone # _____

Emergency Contact _____ Telephone# _____

As a youth helper for VBS, I understand that:

- ***I must attend the mandatory training meeting on July 21, 2019 (Time: 3:00 – 4:00 pm),***
- ***I must complete the Safe Sanctuary Covenant Form with parent signature,***
- ***I will be a role model for the children at all times during VBS week,***
- ***I will fulfill my duties as described at the training meeting,***
- ***I will act appropriately at all times, keep my cell phone tucked away during VBS hours, and I will call the adult leader, with whom I am working, if I need to be absent any of the days during VBS week.***

Signed (youth): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate any dates/times you will **not** be able to help during VBS: _____

Remember to complete the Safe Sanctuary Covenant Form, which must be turned in with this application.)
Any questions? Please call the office at 301-253-0022 or email Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org

**Damascus Theatre Company
Presents its 10th DTC Kids Musical**



**Music by Charles Strouse
Book by Thomas Meehan
Lyrics by Martin Charnin**

**Based on “Little Orphan Annie”
by permission of The Tribune Content Agency, LLC**

Directed by Jerilyn B. Nacht

**Four Performances at
Damascus United Methodist Church**

April 12, 13 at 7:30pm

April 13, 14 at 2:00pm

General Admission: \$14

Seniors, Students (K-12), Children (ages 2-5): \$10

Tickets are available for purchase at the door or online.

www.damascustheatre.org