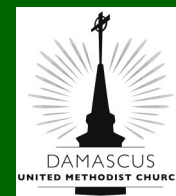


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
 9700 NEW CHURCH STREET  
 DAMASCUS, MD 20872  
 PHONE: 301-253-0022  
 E-MAIL: OFFICE@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG  
 WEBSITE: WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

# THE BEACON

## DECEMBER 2018



*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, 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**

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## *Of Jesse's Lineage Coming...*



One of the most beautiful hymns of the Advent season is *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. The words of the hymn refer to the images found in writings of the prophet Isaiah which Christians have interpreted to be a foretelling of the coming of Jesus: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Is. 11:1) Because Jesus belonged to one of the family branches descended from David, poets and artists through the millennia have visually depicted Jesus' genealogy as beginning with Jesse. So, we sing:

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
 from tender stem hath sprung!  
 Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
 as those of old have sung.  
 It came a floweret bright,  
 amid the cold of winter  
 when half spent was the night.*

The image of the shoot growing from a stump, something that appears dead, is a sign of hope. That the shoot grows and even flowers is a miracle. In the seasons of Advent and Christmas, especially this year with so much chaos in the world around us, we choose to focus on hope. We can live hopeful and hope-filled lives because we know who ultimately rules our world: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace.



The hymn reminds us that even in times that seem dark and bleak, Jesus is there. Jesus comes to give us life and hope.

We hope that you will join us in this beautiful season as we gather to hear and to sing those the ancient words of scripture that promise us hope and joy through the birth of our Savior, Jesus. We have many wonderful experiences planned. Take a look at all that is happening and plan to participate. You will be blessed by the experience as we remember that as God's children, we too are part of Jesse's lineage.

Pastor Kathryn



**Be an Angel!**

**Contribute to the  
 DUMC Christmas  
 Giving Project.**

**More info within.**

## Tis' The Season



Recently I have been doing a lot of thinking and reflecting on church and community. In the wake of the devastating California camp fires, the heartbreaking horror in our community at Damascus High School, and all of the hidden unreported places where people are experiencing or dealing with a life challenge of some kind, I think about the African Proverb, “It takes a village...,” the power of community, and the ways in which we live that out in our church community. The church universal has been facing its own share of challenges, and there is a tremendous amount of angst about what will happen in our denomination after the special Conference in February, 2019. So I cannot help but wonder if the place that was once community for many of us is being threatened.

During Sunday school, I was talking with our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders recently about the meaning of church. In our discussion I learned that, for some, as one them said, the church “are people who gather to do ‘a thing’—pray, worship, [have bible study and so on], but [they] cannot always enjoy it...when [they] are being made to do it.” We didn’t get to determine if they thought church was important to them. I am concerned that possibly the importance or value of church is being lost in translation. I may be overreacting and forgetting that I was having a conversation with teenagers. But I say that’s where the information may be getting lost. Are we taking the time and giving young people space to truly take hold of the value of church? Are we allowing them the opportunity to see that church is the place where they can be vulnerable and openly share our joys and cares and find support and strength to face life’s challenges? Are they recognizing the power in the connection that we have with one another because of our shared belief in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Moreover, are we empowering them to define how they live that out for themselves? I’m just asking for a friend 😊 (lol).

As we talked, I was sharing with them how I am always amazed when I think about all the things that believers in the early church had to endure, as they committed themselves to learning and spreading the gospel. I would imagine that they couldn’t wait to get to the places where they found commonality, and they could hear the scripture read, sing songs of praise, say prayers, and partake in the Lord’s Supper. They went to those small houses, yes, because they had to, but the reason had more to do with just going to church. Belonging to that community was life giving. Has that meaning of church gotten lost? Have we become matter of fact about what our church means to the community and the world?

I am the Church  
You are the Church  
We are the Church  
Together

The Gospel according to John tells us Jesus said, “I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” However, in some ways we are seeing the work of the thief that comes to steal, kill and destroy. So as we go into this advent season, let us remember that the coming of the Christ means that we have abundant life and together, as a community, we are a source of abundant life—love, healing, and strength—for each other and the world. May we, in this season, celebrate the joy, the power, and value of being a part of the body of Christ and community of faith at DUMC.

Pastor B.



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE  
WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE  
WEBSITE HOME PAGE and OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE  
UP-TO-DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
AS SOON AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

# Advent and Christmas at Damascus United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 25, 2018

**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:15 am & 11:00 am

Youth from Damascus UMC lead worship.

**KENYA NEEMA MISSION FUNDRAISER**

9:30 to 11:00 am ~ Great Hall (hallway)

Saturday, December 1, 2018

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

9:00 am ~ DUMC Dining Hall

All are welcome - bring a brunch item to share.

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE & PIG ROAST**

12 noon - 6 pm ~ Evans Homes & Gardens

8914 Watkins Road, Gaithersburg, MD

Neema Grace Charity Fundraiser,

a DUMC Mission to support an

orphanage in Kenya, Africa.

*FIRST WEEK  
OF ADVENT*

Sunday, December 2, 2018

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:15 am & 11:00 am

**KENYA NEEMA MISSION FUNDRAISER**

9:30 to 11:00 am ~ Great Hall (hallway)

***THE VOLUNTEER REINDEER***

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL AND**

**ADVENT CRAFTS & PHOTO BOOTH**

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm ~ Great Hall

Staffing shortages at the North Pole are robbing Father Christmas of his joy.

Come see who volunteers to help in this original production written especially for DUMC by Nancy Lacy.

Freewill offering benefits

United Methodist Board of Childcare.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

**WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

6:00 pm ~ DUMC Dining Hall

Suggested price: \$8/adult ~ \$4/children 10 & under

Saturday, December 8, 2018

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

9:00 - 11:00 am ~ DUMC Great Hall

Sponsored by *Relay for Life*

\$5 per person includes continental breakfast, children's holiday crafts & Holiday Shopping.

For info, contact Carolyn Marshall

at carolynrfl@gmail.com.

*SECOND WEEK  
OF ADVENT*

Sunday, December 9, 2018

**WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:15 am & 11:00 am

**SERVICE OF PEACE, HOPE & LIGHT**

3:00 pm ~ Sanctuary

Holidays can be painful and challenging.

Join us for a special worship

service designed for

those who struggle with the holidays.

Led by the Stephen Ministers.\*

\*A Stephen Minister is a layperson of the church that provides one-on-one care for individuals.

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

**THE ACADEMY OF ST. CECILIA**

**YOUTH ORCHESTRA ~ HOLIDAY CONCERT**

6:30 pm ~ DUMC Great Hall

Friday, December 14, 2018

**YOUNG AT HEART CHRISTMAS**

**DINNER EVENT**

6:30 pm ~ DUMC Dining Hall

Come and get into the Christmas spirit early!

Dinner, Music, Performers, Caroling, Great Food, and maybe even a visit from Santa!

Saturday, December 15, 2018

**YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

5:00 pm ~ All Middle School & High School

youth are invited to this celebration night,

traveling from home to home for different courses of the meal.

Meet on the church parking lot.

(continued) ⇨⇨⇨⇨

# Advent and Christmas at Damascus United Methodist Church

## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 16, 2018

### WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENT / CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

9:45 am ~ Sanctuary

Join us for a new program designed by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders with a puppet skit from the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders & participation of all levels of Sunday School Children.

### LIVING NATIVITY PAGEANT

5:30 & 6:30 pm Performances

Gather in the courtyard to experience the first Christmas with actors and live animals.  
*Warm refreshments served afterwards inside.  
Bring a chair to use in the Labyrinth.*

## FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Wednesday, December 19, 2018

### WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

6:00 pm ~ DUMC Dining Hall

Sunday, December 23, 2018

### WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

Monday, December 24, 2018

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

4:00 pm ~ **FAMILY SERVICE**

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord in an interactive time of worship.  
Children's choirs and puppets share in the service.

### SERVICES OF CAROLS & CANDLELIGHTING

8:00 pm ~ Charles Wesley Singers & Brass

10:30 pm ~ Chancel Choir w/Communion

## CHRISTMASTIDE

### THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE CONCERTS

Friday, December 28, 2018

### THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

7:00 pm Concert

Saturday, December 29, 2018

### THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

3:00 pm Concert

*Wassail Reception to follow  
each concert in the Great Hall.*

Concert tickets: \$15 each ~  
(\$60 family of 4 or more)

Tickets are available at the church office (301.253.0022) or at the door.

Sunday, December 30, 2018

9:30 am Worship Service

(only one service this Sunday)

Featuring College/Young Adult Participants

11:00 am ~ Brunch

at The Music Café

26528 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD

(for College/Young Adults)



**All are invited!**

**Damascus United Methodist Church**

**Sunday School Christmas Pageant**

**December 16, 2018 in the Sanctuary**

**9:45 am to 10:30 am**

This year's Christmas Pageant has been reinvigorated by the children in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday School class, with opening puppets presented by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School class.

All children from age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be participating.

The entire program is set around The Little Drummer Boy and answering the question "Why do we give gifts at Christmas?"



To supplement the idea that it is better to give than receive and support those in need, we are recommending that each Sunday School Class prepare a gift bag to be made up of age appropriate items, such as, crayons, colored pencils, or markers, paper for drawing, coloring books, maybe a book or two. Gift bags will be provided to the classrooms for them to decorate and fill up.

We will give the bags to a local Charity; we are checking with Board of Child Care and Children's Hospital. If you have other ideas, please let us know.

**Children will go to their Sunday School classrooms as usual at 9:30 am to prepare with their teachers. Pickup will be at 10:30 am from their Sunday School rooms.**

## An Invitation to Church Membership

Several people have spoken to Pastor Kathryn about the process of becoming members of Damascus UMC. If you feel that God is leading you to make DUMC your church home, please contact the Church Office or speak with Pastor Kathryn personally. She would like to meet as a group with those who are interested and plan a date (or dates) when we will receive people into membership.



## Volunteers Breakfast Out



**When:** Saturday, December 1st

**Where:** Dining Room of DUMC

**Time:** 9:00 am - 12 noon

It takes a band of angels to accomplish the goals of our many programs here at DUMC.

You will stand and applaud in wonder at the many  
people-hours put in by DUMC volunteers.

Please come and enjoy each other's company as we recognize our 2018 volunteers.

- Bring a breakfast item to share -

Sponsored by the Damascus United Methodist Women,  
but all are welcome!

## Men's Night Out for January

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

**Tuesday, January 15**  
**at Lou & Joes, 1024 Ridge Road (Route 27)**  
**Mt. Airy, MD 21771 (Time TBA)**  
**Phone: 301-831-5577**

**RSVP to Ted Ross by Sunday, January 13**  
**at 301-704-7992**





## *The Annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner Event is Back !!!!!*

**Friday, December 14 at 6:30 pm**

The annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner and Program will be held this year in the Church Dining Hall. If you want to get in the Christmas spirit a little early, this is the place to be! We'll have a few performers of Christmas music and perhaps a few special stories; Santa is likely to appear; there'll be some caroling by all, and we will have a **very special guest that will be attending!** (no, not Santa). Come and join us for a special dinner and some wonderful fun and fellowship. You can RSVP by contacting either Bob Newlin (301-631-6840) or Jane Webb (240-620-6920 / jane.webb@damascusumc.org. **Deadline to RSVP is Sunday, Dec. 9.**

### **NEXT LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

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

**When: Thursday, January 10**

**Where: Hornet's Nest  
9876 Main Street,  
Damascus, MD 2982**

**Phone: 301-253-3707**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Please RSVP by Monday, Jan. 7  
to Hazel Strahorn at 443-553-9848**

**The WWJD Circle will meet on Thursday,  
December 20, in the Great Hall at 7:00 pm**

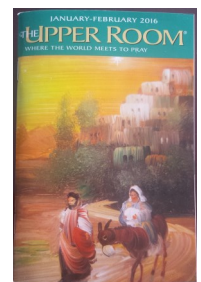
Cora Horst will be speaking to us about Laytonsville Safe Haven, a shelter for women. The Sunday School children have been collecting supplies for the women and we'll hear about that drive and if the shelter still has current needs. **All in the church are invited to join us for this meeting during which we hope to find out how we can contribute some holiday cheer to the residents.**

**Put December 20 on your calendar  
and please to join us!**

## **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!



## **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).

# Worship Arts News and Events

December, 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

*Mark your calendars for these worship arts events during the Advent/Christmas season*



**The Volunteer Reindeer,**  
Children's Musical  
(an original story by DUMC member Nancy Lacy)

**Sunday, December 2**  
**2 pm in the Great Hall**

An interactive workshop will immediately follow the show where children of all ages can decorate Christmas cookies, make ornaments and prepare for the Christmas season.



**Live Nativity Pageants**

in the DUMC Courtyard

**Sunday, December 16 / 5:30 and 6:30 pm**  
(w/warm refreshments served afterwards)

## **MONDAYS**

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy**

Great Hall Stage / 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> grade led by Lydia Turner-Little and Stephanie Greer

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 (w/singing music and worship education) for children 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers**

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**

Choir Room / 30-minute sessions

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

7:00 pm **Women's Ensemble**

Great Hall-Back Half / 30-minute sessions

Singing technique session with Polly Baldridge will also include working on music for Women's Choir

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir**

Choir Room / 90-minute sessions

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

## **SUNDAYS**

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

Handbells for youth 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades (medium/advanced handbell ensemble) led by Tom Baldridge

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

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

Shares weekly @ 8:15 am worship service

## **Decorating for Advent**

**Saturday, Dec. 1**

**1:00 - 4:00 pm**

For questions,  
or to volunteer

Contact: Connie Ross

301-663-9504 or

connieross7901@gmail.com

## **LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE 30th Anniversary CONCERTS**

**Friday, December 28, 7 pm**

**Saturday, December 29, 3 pm**



Tickets: \$15 (available on DUMC website/Facebook page or in church office)

(\$60 family ticket available through church office for 4 or more people from one household)

**REHEARSALS WEDNESDAYS,  
at 8:15 pm in Music Room**



# *A Living Christmas Tree*

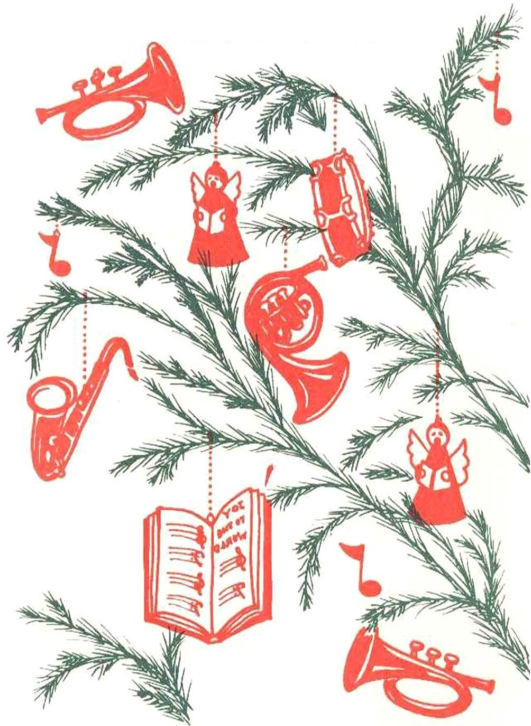
An evening of carols with chorus and orchestra

**Christmas 2018: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concerts**

**Damascus United Methodist Church**

**Friday, December 28, 7 pm**

**Saturday, December 29, 3 pm**



**WASSAIL RECEPTION FOLLOWING  
EACH CONCERT**

**TICKETS \$15 PER PERSON**

**Family Ticket \$60 (more than 4 people)**

***Our 30th Anniversary festival concert features  
a 70-voice chorus and 30-piece orchestra in the  
sanctuary of Damascus UMC  
with "Tree" platform set and lights.***

## **SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

Gold ornaments	\$100 donations are Benefactors and will be given four concert tickets
Red ornaments	\$75 donations are Patrons and will be given three concert tickets
Green ornaments	\$50 donations are Friends and will be given two concert tickets



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All checks to DUMC, designated Living Christmas Tree – place in offering plates with tear-off below or mail to Damascus UMC, Attn: Jane Webb, 9700 New Church Street Damascus, MD 20872.

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

Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_ Gold (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_ Red (\$75) \_\_\_\_\_ Green (\$50)

General Order: \_\_\_\_\_ Concert tickets (\$15 each) good for concert on Dec 28 *or* 29.

Concert tickets purchased by submitting this form may be picked up at the church office during regular business hours or at the "Will Call" on the day of the concert.

# December Youth Fellowship



## Rock 2019

Ocean City Convention Center,  
Ocean City, MD

**February 8-10, 2019**

The Rock Retreat is open to all youth in grades 6th through 12th, as well as college students. You can invite your friends, too! There is plenty of room for all!

When: Friday, February 8

Time: 3:30 pm/Gather  
3:45 pm/Depart

Return: Sunday, February 10  
4:00/5:00 pm

The Retreat will cost \$125 per person and \$100 for each additional youth in a family (\$15 extra if you would like a long-sleeved t-shirt).

This will cover the cost of food, lodging, supplies, activities, and materials. Registration will begin this month (registration forms will be mailed before Dec. 1) and will continue through January 15, 2019. We request a \$50 deposit by Dec. 16. Scholarships are available; contact Nick Works at [240-751-6695](tel:240-751-6695) to make your request.

NOTE: Housing requests will be reviewed and honored on a first-come, first-served basis as registration forms and full payment are received, and room assignments will be made with the well-being and inclusion of all youth.

### Sunday 12/2

**4:00 pm: Youth Handbell Rehearsal**

**5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal**

**6:00 pm: Rockin Jump in Gaithersburg**  
**Cost: \$25 (pizza and jumping)**

### Sunday 12/9

**4:00 pm: UMYFO**

**5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal**

**6:00 Youth Dinner and Cookie Exchange**

### Saturday 12/15

**4:00 pm: Live Nativity Rehearsal**

**5:00 pm: Youth Progressive Dinner for all Middle & High School. Gather in the church parking lot.**

### Sunday 12/16

**4:00 pm: CWS rehearsal**

**5:00 pm: Pizza Dinner**

**5:30 & 6:30 pm: Performances of the Live Nativity in the Courtyard**

### Sunday 12/23 - Merry Christmas!

**5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal**

**6:00 pm: Youth Dinner**

**6:30 pm: Youth Fellowship - Caroling**

### Monday 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service

**8 pm: Charles Wesley Singers participate**

### Sunday 12/30 College/Young Adult Service

**9:30 am: One Service Only Today**

**No Sunday School**

**No Rehearsals**

**No Youth Dinner or Evening Activity**

### **Youth Sunday School\***

**Youth Chapel -**

**Sundays @ 9:30 am**

**Breakfast/Music/Classes**

**\*(except where noted)**

### **Youth Bell Choir**

**No Rehearsals (12/9 - 12/30)**

### **Charles Wesley Singers Practice Sundays\***

**\*(See noted times)**

### **Youth Puppets**

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

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

## FALL/WINTER 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
- Change for Change — Thanksgiving Day through the Season of Christmas (*See page #13*)
- Neema Kenya sale of SERRV products for gifts on Nov. 25 & Dec. 2 (*See page #14*)
- Christmas Trees sale to support Neema Kenya Orphanage - Dec. 1 (*See page #16*)
- Supporting local families at Christmas with food cards and gifts (*see article below*)
- Christmas cards to missionaries - due Dec. 16 (*instructions below*)
- Possible Kenya trip Fall, 2019
- Possible trip to Puebla, Mexico, 2019
- Habitat Work week for 2019; July 14-19

## Harwood House needs helpers shortly after the New Year

Harwood House has just purchased shelving from Rite Aid and we are going to need help refurbishing our show room in early January. We had planned to do some painting but will now need to take down existing shelving and put up the new units. Contact Debbie Stone (301-253-6536) if you can help.

## Christmas Card Box in the Narthex - Cards due by December 16

The congregation is invited to send a card or note to our missionaries and children in the Kenya orphanage.

- 1) **Amanda Jones-Dominguez & Memo Dominguez and daughters Sofia & Julia currently in MD from Nicaragua (Between Cultures)**
- 2) **Dr. Belinda Forbes & husband, Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez & daughters, General Board of Global Ministries Missionary & dentist with Accion Medica Cristiana in Nicaragua, serving rural eastern villages**
- 3) **Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena serving in Puebla, Mexico, with Give Ye Them to Eat**
- 4) **The primary school children at Ndere Orphans School, Gem, Kenya.**

## Helping local families at Christmas

There are two ways you can be an angel to a Damascus Family.

**First:** YOU can be an Angel and help to decorate our Giving Tree in the Narthex. Donate a \$25 Weis or Safeway gift card and hang an angel on the Christmas tree. We hope to collect 150 gift cards to add to the Christmas gifts DUMC provides for local families in need at Christmas. We can't wait to see the love represented on our tree!

**Or Second:** Maybe YOU are a "Shopping Angel?" The Holiday Giving Project committee is also looking for individuals/groups to sponsor local families at Christmas. **At the time of this writing we still have 10 more families left.** A sponsor registration form can be found in this Beacon (page #21) or in a basket on the Welcome Station in the narthex. This is a great project for families OR groups from DUMC OR the community. It's a wonderful way to help our neighbors in need. We are blessed to be a blessing!

**DUMC Holiday Giving Committee:** Cora Horst, Kathy Leslie, Amanda and Memo Jones-Dominquez, and Hazel Strahorn, [hazelstrahorn@verizon.net](mailto:hazelstrahorn@verizon.net), 443-553-9848.

## Full-size Toiletry donations are needed for the women at Laytonsville Safe Haven

Our destination for toiletries has changed! Safe Haven residents will be the recipients of any donations. Women live at Safe Haven for up to a year. Some of these women are veterans. All are using the time at Safe Haven to work on personal issues to be able to once again live independently.

(continued) ⇨⇨⇨⇨

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

**On Saturday November 10 seven members from DUMC braved the cold and windy conditions and put in a good days work at the Laytonsville Safe Haven . . .**

and accomplished much, including: raking leaves from the large front yard, cleaning out roof gutters, raking and weeding the front garden, digging a drainage swale and firming up a railing along the wheel chair ramp. Participants in the work day included: Norm and Cheryl Minekime, Memo Dominguez, Mike Wahl, Scott Lafoon, Lisa and Doug Marshall.



*Repaired railing.*

*day.*



*The Crew taking a break.*



*A very appreciated lunch on a beautiful but cold fall*

The mission committee will be planning another work day at this facility run by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless next spring, we hope you can join us. Look for announcements in April/May 2019 or talk to Doug Marshall at 301-325-9071 or [dougandlisamarshall@yahoo.com](mailto:dougandlisamarshall@yahoo.com) for more information.



## DUMC Youth Take Mission to Heart

On Sunday Sept 30<sup>th</sup> seven youth and two adults volunteered their time to serve lunch at the Frederick Rescue Mission. The Frederick Rescue Mission serves the homeless and the needy in the city of Frederick, MD. They house homeless men and provide a program to help with their addiction problems. Their soup kitchen serves breakfast and lunch every day. They also have a large food bank providing food to the poor, much like Damascus Help, just on a larger scale. The DUMC youth are scheduled to return Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>

to serve lunch again. We hope to make this a semi-annual event. The youth are joyous to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. It is our faith in action.

(continued) ⇨⇨⇨⇨

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

## A new holiday season for Change for Change

### *Change for Change*

The Missions Committee invites the DUMC congregation to share the many blessings of the holidays with those in need in a small way: donating your change from Thanksgiving Day--as a way to be thankful everyday for the many ways we are blessed by God, and through the Christmas season--as a way to honor our Lord's birth by remembering the least and last of the world that Jesus commanded us to serve. Save your change in a container of your choice from **Thanksgiving Day through January 5**. On January 6, Epiphany Day, bring your gift of change in a Ziplock bag to worship to be dedicated for the benefit of those whose needs are greatest. Last year we received in change gifts of nearly \$2,500! That was a wonderful amount given to UMCOR for disaster relief.

## Nicaragua Between Cultures - Coffee and Donuts Fundraiser

Once a month on Sunday we will be in the Narthex selling Nicaraguan Coffee, from the Twin Engine Coffee Company, and also delicious Krispy Kreme Donuts to support the Between Cultures Mission Team. All funds raised will go to provide immediate basic food assistance (rice, beans, cooking oil) to our friends in La Danta, Nicaragua who have endured recently two poor harvests and are now in need of some assistance to get them through to the next harvest. Coffee can also be ordered online from Twin Engine and shipped directly to your home. When ordering on line, just go to [www.twinenginecoffee.com](http://www.twinenginecoffee.com) and be sure to apply the promo code CULTURE at checkout. *Between Cultures* will then automatically receive a portion of your purchase. Enjoy, and thank you for your support.



**Neema Kenya team is also selling SERRV products November 25 & December 2 to support the food ministry for the orphanage. See Gabrielle Hulcher for a catalog.**

## From the Neema Kenya Mission:

Thanks to your amazing support and generosity, we were recently able to help Joint Partners Medical Clinic acquire 3 maternal delivery beds, including mattresses and bedding. As the clinic continues to expand service to their community, this will be so helpful to support the healthy delivery of babies. On behalf of our partners Joyce and Aden, "Asante sana!" (Swahili for "Thank you very much!")



## Thank You's

- ♦ To those who donated food and time spent serving and cleaning up for the Community Thanksgiving Day dinner at Redeemer Lutheran Church.
- ♦ To our Youth who served a meal at the Frederick Rescue Mission
- ♦ To all who worked at Safe Haven's Fall cleanup day.
- ♦ To those who volunteer week-in and week-out at Harwood House

## Damascus Help Report from November:

**In September Damascus HELP** made 61 food deliveries serving 215 people, helped 11 families with financial assistance, and gave 3 people rides to appointments.

**Volunteer News:** Thank you for volunteering for Damascus HELP. We hope that each of you have a Happy Thanksgiving. This month we welcome Marin Kepley as a new food driver. **We are continuing to look for additional ODs, food drivers, pantry pick up helpers, and volunteers to be part of a furniture delivery team.** Furniture delivery teams with their own trucks are in great demand as well as transportation drivers. For all volunteer opportunities please contact Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100, or email [dh20872@aol.com](mailto:dh20872@aol.com) or [www.damascushelp.org](http://www.damascushelp.org) for additional information.

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

## October Volunteer in Mission Team

Please note the photo posted in November Beacon  
was not the DUMC team. This one shows the correct team!



## UMCOR update on buckets/kits for disaster relief

UMCOR recently updated their kits and packing instructions and we wanted to make sure everyone has the most recent instructions. Here is an article explaining the changes in UMCOR's kits.

<https://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2018/may/0531changes-to-umcor-relief-supply-kits-empower-communities>



*Fair Trade*  
*To benefit Kenya Neema*

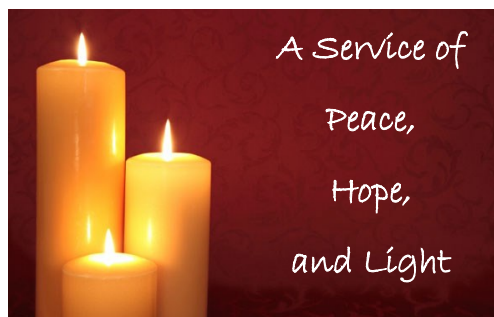
*Sundays, November 18 and December 2*

*Proceeds used for life-saving newborn medical equipment at Joint Partners Clinic. Funds also buy preschool teaching materials for vulnerable kids in the*

*only at*  
*DUMC Connections Cafe*

*Or shop online via URL address: [serrv.org?a=Neema](https://serrv.org?a=Neema)*

## Announcements



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**AT 3:00 PM**

**DUMC SANCTUARY**

***DUMC's STEPHEN MINISTRY  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US***

**FOR A SERVICE OF PEACE, HOPE, AND LIGHT  
AND**

**HEALING ANOINTING WITH OIL**

THIS IS A SERVICE WHERE WE GENTLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND  
WEARING YOUR HURTS, PAINS, LOSSES, ANGERS,  
AND YOUR FEARS ON YOUR SLEEVE.

THIS SPECIAL, INTIMATE SERVICE IS CREATED  
TO SHED LOVE AND LIGHT FOR ALL.

**PASTOR B WILL DELIVER A SPECIAL HOLIDAY MESSAGE.**

FEEL FREE TO LIGHT A CANDLE FOR  
YOURSELF OR FOR ANOTHER PERSON OR SITUATION IN NEED.  
FOR ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 301-253-0022.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.

### **Christmas at Harwood House**

Harwood House Thrift Shop  
will be closed

Tuesday, December 25 thru  
Wednesday, January 9, 2018  
for the holidays.

No donations will be accepted  
after December 22 until January 10.

The shop will reopen for  
business Thursday, January 10, 2019.

***Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry***  
**Monday, December 17 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.

### **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!





Evans Homes and Gardens

Tom Evans | (301) 253 - 9224 | tom@evanshomesandgardens.com

**Saturday, Dec 1st**

# Christmas Tree Sale & PIG ROAST

TIME: 12pm-6pm

*Supporting*  
Neema Grace Charity\*

\* Mission organized  
by DUMC members to support an  
orphanage in Kenya, Africa.



## **Breakfast with Santa**

**Saturday, December 8**

**9:00 - 11:00 am**

**Here at DUMC - Great Hall**

**\$5 per person includes a  
continental breakfast of  
pastries, bagels, fruit,  
coffee, tea and juices.  
PLUS...**

**Children's holiday crafts.  
Tickets sold at the door.**

### **Holiday Shopping**

**with a variety of cash/carry vendors!**

**Jewelry, bags, sweets, candles, and more!**

**Proceeds will benefit the Relay For Life**

All proceeds benefit the **American Cancer Society**.

Direct any questions to carolynrfl@gmail.com

Visit our website at

[www.relayforlife.org/uppermocomd](http://www.relayforlife.org/uppermocomd)



## Announcements (cont'd)



Hello DUMC members and friends,

This is Marlin from the "DUMC Learning Academy" aka the tutoring center. We are entering our 15<sup>th</sup> year of providing quality instruction to students from K to 12, and beyond in some cases !!! Our schedule is currently near capacity as it was last year. Praises for a good economic climate.

While most families have the resources to pay for our services, some do not. And, that is with maintaining our fees at about half of the current rate in Montgomery County. For those who can not pay, we carry a "scholarship fund" to assist with the payments. Over the years, we have averaged from three to five students who have been covered by the fund. Right now, we have one young person about to begin tutoring for the remainder of the school year all paid from the fund.

As we near the end of the year, if you are looking for a good location for "end of the year giving," please keep the tutoring center in mind. We have been so grateful for the support through the years. And, we will continue to be grateful for any further giving.

Thank you, Marlin Heckendorn

### The Wednesday Fellowship Dinners !

This year, we, the Kitchen Committee, have decided to try having Wednesday dinners **two times a month**. So please join us on the dates below at **6:00 pm**.

December 5: BBQ chicken, rice, broccoli, salad and dessert

December 19: Roast beef, baked potato, veggie stir-fry, salad and dessert

\*A menu will appear in each monthly Beacon and in the Sunday Bulletin.

We will continue the "pay as you can" policy. But, the suggested prices have increased to \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 10 and under. There is a family cap of \$25.00. Inflation is even causing difficulties for us.

As always, we can use extra hands to help in preparation, serving and clean-up. Many hands do make lighter work. If you feel you can spare a little time on the days we have dinners, please give us a call or send an e-mail to :

Lora Maynard	<a href="mailto:ljbcouch@aol.com">ljbcouch@aol.com</a>	301-461-0850
Gabrielle Hulcher	<a href="mailto:gabriellehulcher@gmail.com">gabriellehulcher@gmail.com</a>	240-316-6815
Kenny Sue Robertson	<a href="mailto:charrobe@verizon.net">charrobe@verizon.net</a>	301-471-7298

We thank you for your past support and are looking forward to a year filled with fun, love and good fellowship. **\*Menus are always subject to change.**

### ABOUT e-GIVING

Just a reminder that the DUMC offers the capability of giving your weekly or monthly offering by e-Giving. You don't have to remember to bring your envelope, checkbook or carry cash. It's a convenient way of making sure your donation gets to the church in a timely manner whether you're at church or not. You can call the church bookkeeping department to find out more or get an e-Giving form in the Narthex.



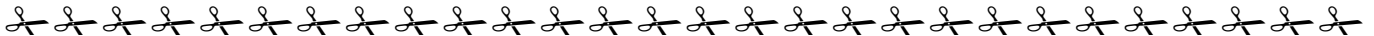
## ***Poinsettias for Christmas***

The Damascus United Methodist Church is offering members of the congregation the opportunity to order poinsettias to help decorate our Sanctuary at Christmas time. Flowers may be placed in honor of OR in memory of loved ones. Each plant is \$12.00 and comes in a 6" pot with 5 – 7 blooms, in your choice of red, white or pink. Please fill out the form below and include your payment when placing your order. **Checks should be made payable to DUMC.**

**Completed forms and payments can be turned in to the church office or mailed to:**

**Damascus United Methodist Church  
Attn: Linda Stastny  
9700 New Church Street  
Damascus, MD 20872**

***Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 9, 2018.***



### ***Poinsettia Order Form***

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink

Total Cost @ \$12.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Disposition of flowers (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my flowers following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on December 23.

\_\_\_\_\_ The flowers may be delivered to an "extra-special person."

## Announcements (cont'd)

### The Music Café is at it Again !!

They are hosting "A Celtic Christmas" with the Ocean Orchestra  
on Saturday, December 15 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm  
at the Carroll Arts Center Theater, Westminster, Maryland.

Come celebrate the magic of yuletide and the winter solstice at this matinee event!

The skirling of the pipes, the toe tapping Fiddle tunes and soaring vocals await you in this Celtic Christmas celebration. There are over 250 seats in this beautiful theater!

Tickets are \$25 each and are now on sale at the Café.

### A Special Thank You . . .

Dear Friend of St. Jude:

We gratefully acknowledge your contribution of \$1,000 received 10/8/2018 to be used for the research and treatment of catastrophic childhood disease at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. On behalf of St. Jude, and especially on behalf of the children and their families, thank you for your generosity.

Jacqueline Harris, Director  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

**\*Note:** This was in reference to a donation made by Kolash Belete after her Tebeb Design Fundraising Event.

## About Our People

**Pray** for family and friends of **Betty Frenzel** (90) who passed on Wednesday, November 21. Her funeral service will be held on Tuesday, November 27 at 11:00 a.m. at Damascus UMC. Visitation will take place on Monday, November 26, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm and 7:00 - 9:00 pm at Molesworth - Williams Funeral Home, in Damascus. Please keep Betty's sons, Bernie and Bryan, in your prayers.

**Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery:** **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Judy Benedict** (hand surgery), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend), **Bob Braden**, **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Ann Cochran**, **Judy Dalrymple** (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Debbie Hoar**, **Jim Maggio** (recovering from rotator cuff surgery), **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), **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**, **Michael Donaldson** (liver tumor), **Ethel Frear** (under hospice care), **JP Feuillet**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **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), 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).

## Office Info

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Main office: 301-253-0022**

## PASTORS:

**Kathryn Woodrow, ext. #103**  
**[kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org](mailto:kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org)**

**Sherwyn Benjamin, ext. #104**  
**[sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org](mailto:sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org)**

**STAFF:**

**Polly Edmonds Baldridge,**  
**Minister of Music & Worship Arts**  
 cell: 240-750-8287 / [polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org](mailto:polly.baldridge@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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## IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMITTING  
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION  
IN THE **JANUARY** BEACON  
WILL BE

**WEDNESDAY, December 19**

(For Beacon to publish on **Sunday, December 30**).

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

**DATE AT THE LATEST.**

## Thank You !



The Office will be closed on  
**Tuesday, December 25** for  
Christmas Day  
and

**Tuesday, January 1** for  
New Years Day.

## Administrative Meetings

### December, 2018

Dec. 5 Cemetery Committee  
6:30 pm in the Library

Dec 6	Staff Meeting 10:00 am in the Annex/CR
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Dec. 6 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**

Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - stage side**

Missions Meeting - TBA

Dec. 9 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR

**NOTE: The Administrative Board & Technology Committee WILL NOT meet during December.**

## 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 Kathryn is off on Fridays.

Pastor B. is off on Mondays.

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.

**Damascus United Methodist Church**  
**Christmas Giving Project**  
**Sponsor Registration**

Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best  
way to contact you?: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of families you are requesting to adopt: \_\_\_\_\_

Size of family:

☐ 1-3 people    ☐ 4-6 people    ☐ large 7+ people    ☐ any size

Please return this form in a way that is most convenient for you. If you are able to return it electronically, send it to the church office at [office@damascusumc.org](mailto:office@damascusumc.org). There is also a basket at the Welcome Station in the narthex where you can drop off your form or you can drop it off in the church office. You will be contacted by the committee as soon as we receive contact information for the families. Thank you for your kind support of members of our community in need!

*Faith Connections, Inc. and Damascus HELP work in coordination with Montgomery County Government to coordinate the Holiday Giving Program for the greater Damascus-Clarksburg area. Monetary donations can be mailed to Faith Connections, Inc. P.O. Box 28 Damascus, MD 20872. Please indicate Holiday Giving in memo section of check.*