



FIRST RESPONSE

THE BEACON DECEMBER 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

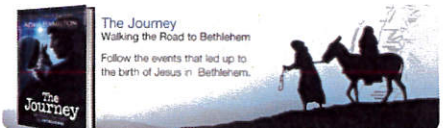
Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian

Beloved in Christ,

Advent is the first season of the new church year, the time when we prepare our hearts and spirits, our churches and our homes, for the celebration of Jesus' birth. The deep blue color that is now used during Advent is meant to separate it from the penitential purple that is used during Lent and to evoke the sense of night's darkness just beginning to yield to dawn.

Our theme for the Advent and Christmas seasons this year is "Journey to Bethlehem." Our theme is drawn from Adam Hamilton's book "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem." The focus scriptures are drawn from Matthew and Luke, chapters 1 and 2 in each Gospel, where we find the stories of Jesus' birth.

In worship we will travel, figuratively, from Nazareth to Bethlehem with several of the main characters in the Nativity story: Mary of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem, and Elizabeth (Mary's older cousin, who is pregnant with John the Baptist). Of course, all along the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, we will travel with the Holy Spirit as we draw nearer to the manger and to Jesus.



Remember in this Advent season of waiting and hope, that this is a time when people truly need to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ. Culturally, Advent and Christmas can be stressful: we are tempted to over-spend, over-indulge at holiday parties, and expect too much from family gatherings. It can be an even tougher season when we are grieving the loss of loved ones—whether those loved ones died recently or many years ago.

Facing challenges at Christmas is nothing new: At the first Christmas an unmarried couple expecting a child are forced to travel to a town far away to register for a census. After a long, difficult journey they arrive to find that the town is so crowded there is no room for them. So, the child is born in a stable.

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DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 PHONE: 301-253-0022
 E-MAIL: OFFICE@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG
 WEBSITE: WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

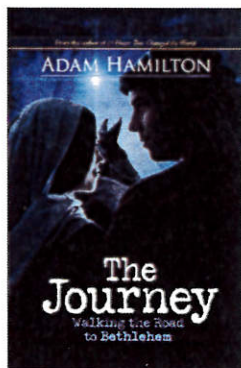
If that weren't enough, the family has to flee to Egypt shortly after the birth to avoid their child being killed by a deranged king who wants no rivals.

The good news is that through it all—both then, and now—God is there every step of the way. God sends angels, foreign travelers, even shepherds to help proclaim to all the good news of Jesus, the One who is called Emmanuel, which literally means “God with us.” By the way, the root word for our English word “angel” means *messenger*.

As ever, here at Damascus UMC we have many ways for you to prepare to joyfully celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please read through this edition of The Beacon and think about not only which events you plan to attend but which ones might be a perfect opportunity for you to invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you. In this Advent / Christmas season, won't you be an angel and share the message of Christ's birth with those who especially need the gifts of hope and love?

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Pastor Kathryn



Pastor's Class: "The Journey"

A three-week Advent study on portions of Adam Hamilton's book
"The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem"
Video study and discussion, led by Pastor Kathryn.

We will "walk" with Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth on the road to Bethlehem.

Sundays, November 24, December 1, December 8, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
in the Dining Hall (side near the elevator)

RSVP: office@damascusumc.org or 301-253-0022.

Thanksgiving Week: Opportunities for Worship & Fellowship

● **Tuesday, Nov. 26, 7:00 p.m.** – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Congregation Or Chadash, 24800 Kings Valley Rd, Damascus, MD 20872. Join with DUMC, St. Anne's Episcopal, Congregation Or Chadash, and community members for a time of worship as we gather together to give thanks to God. Our own Pastor B will preach. Each congregation will share music jointly and individually. If you want to sing in the group choir, please arrive at 6:00 p.m. for rehearsal. Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to Manna.

● **Thursday, Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m.** – Traditional Service of Thanksgiving at Damascus UMC. This annual service, filled with familiar seasonal hymns, scripture, and the singing of "All Good Gifts," is a favorite of many. Pastor Kathryn will preach. Immediately following worship, we will share a time of fellowship in the Narthex with homemade ginger snaps and hot and cold cider. Bring your family and friends for a beautiful start to Thanksgiving Day.

● **Saturday, Nov. 30, 9:00 a.m. – Noonish** – "Greening" the Church for Advent and Christmas. We need the help of many people to decorate the Sanctuary, Narthex, Great Hall, and other areas of the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Many hands make light work—and more fun! Pastor Kathryn will bring snacks and drinks. Please RSVP to office@damascusumc.org or kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org.



December Worship



We begin the Advent season filled with anticipation as we prepare, once again, to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. As we move through the days of Advent toward Christmas we will do so with a sermon series called "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem," based on the book of the same name by Adam Hamilton. On the first three Sundays of Advent we will consider the stories of Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth, Mary's much older cousin. Join us as we consider how their journeys inform our own faith journey as we seek to draw closer to Jesus.

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent

- Pastor Kathryn will preach on "Mary's Journey" (Luke 1:26-38).
- Music and More: 8:15 – Charles Wesley Singers; 11:00 – **Chancel Choir;** both services:

December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

- Pastor B will preach about "Joseph's Journey" (Matthew 1:18-25).
- Music and More: 8:15 – Charles Wesley Singers; 11:00 – Chancel Choir; both services: Youth Handbells will play the opening voluntary.

December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

- Pastor Kathryn will preach on "Elizabeth's Journey" (Luke 1:39-45).
- Music and More: 8:15 – Charles Wesley Singers; 11:00 – Chancel Choir; both services: Men's Choir.



December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – **ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:30 a.m.**

A combined choir under the direction of Polly Edmonds Baldrige will present selections from the Christmas portion of *Messiah*, by George Frederic Handel.

December 24 – Christmas Eve **We will have three special services on Christmas Eve:**

- 4:00 p.m. – **Christmas Eve Family Service.** A fun and lively service for the entire family. The Cherub Choir and Choristers will participate, as will the Inspiration Ringers and the puppets.
- 8:00 p.m. – **Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight.** The service will feature a message from Pastor Kathryn, music by the Charles Wesley Singers, and the joyous sounds of brass instruments.
- 10:30 p.m. – **Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candlelight with Communion.** Pastor B will give a message, the Chancel Choir will sing, and we will have music by the brass. We will share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas – **ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9:30 a.m.**

- We will have our annual College and Young Adult Sunday with a combined choir.

The Bethlehem illustration (top, right) was created by Kitty McNaughton-Ayres. The original will be displayed in the Sanctuary.

Advent and Christmas at Damascus United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2019

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

"Mary's Journey"

Choirs at both services

LET'S GO CAROLING

12:30 pm ~ Meet at Ledo's for a pizza lunch
(\$5 suggested donation)

1:30 pm ~ We will venture out to share love & joy
through song, along with passing out
candy canes in the local community.

Please RSVP by Nov. 24 to the church office.
Sponsored by the "Love One Another Group."
and the DUMC Chancel Choir.

THE ACADEMY OF ST. CECILIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2019 HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm
Damascus United Methodist Church
Great Hall

Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 pm
Asbury Methodist Village
Hefner Community Center Auditorium
Gaithersburg, MD

Sunday, December 8 at 7:00 pm
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
Olney, MD

www.ascyo.org

Saturday, December 7, 2019

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

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

Sponsored by *Relay for Life*

\$5 per person includes continental breakfast
PLUS children's holiday crafts.

Tickets sold at the door.

For info, contact Carolyn Marshall
at carolynrfl@gmail.com.

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.

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2019

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

"Joseph's Journey"

Featuring music from

Youth Handbells / Men's Choir

SERVICE OF PEACE, HOPE & LOVE

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.

Pastor B will share in this service.
Light refreshments served after the service

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP DINNER

6 pm ~ DUMC Dining Hall

Menu: Spaghetti Dinner w/salad,
garlic bread & dessert.

Suggested price \$8 for adults,
\$4 for children 10 and under.

Family cap of \$25.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

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.

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2019

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

"Elizabeth's Journey"

Featuring music from

Ring of Joy / Flute ensemble

"ANGELS, LAMBS, LADYBUGS & FIREFLIES" (CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL)

9:30 am ~ Great Hall

Wings are fluttering and antennae buzzing
as insects and little creatures hear about
the birth of Jesus and spread the
Good News of Jesus' arrival to the world.
Join the children's choirs and Sunday School
classes for this Christmas musical fantasy!

Advent and Christmas at Damascus United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 15, 2019 (cont'd)

LIVE NATIVITY PAGEANT

5:30 & 6:30 pm Performances

Gather in the courtyard to experience the first Christmas with actors and live animals. Bring your own chair and dress warmly. Warm refreshments served afterwards inside.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2019

9:30 am (Only Morning Service)

Handel's *Messiah* Performance in worship, with combined choir, and orchestra.

Featuring soloists: Jolene Baxter, soprano; Liz Vanderham, alto; Addison Baldrige, tenor; and Curt Shiflett, bass.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

FAMILY SERVICE

4:00 pm

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 and Brass Ensemble

10:30 pm ~ Chancel Choir, with violin soloist, and Communion

Sunday, December 29, 2019

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

9:30 am (Only Morning Service)

College students and young adults lead worship and share special music.

11:00 am ~ Brunch Gathering

*Location to be Announced
(for College/Young Adults)*

All events are held at
Damascus United
Methodist Church,
unless indicated otherwise.

Your Pastors and Staff

wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas

In anticipation of the coming of our Lord, it is with much gratitude and appreciation that we wish you all an exciting and wonder-filled Advent.

May your hearts be filled with joy and your homes with peace this Christmas and may God grant you a happy and hope-filled New Year!

Rev. Dr. Kathryn T. Woodrow
Senior Pastor

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist /Pianist/Worship Arts

Brittnay Tarpley
PM Custodian

Rev. Sherwyn Benjamin
Associate Pastor

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Steve Malley
Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall
Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr.
PM Custodian



The Bethlehem illustration above was created by Kitty McNaughton-Ayres. The original will be displayed in the Sanctuary.

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

Sunday, December 1

NO Youth Fellowship Activity
Happy Thanksgiving Weekend !

Sunday, December 8

6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Devotion and Game Night

Saturday, December 14

4:00 pm Live Nativity Rehearsal
5:00 pm Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 15

9:30 am Children's Christmas Musical
4:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearse
5:00 pm Pizza Dinner
5:30 pm 1st Live Nativity Performance
6:30 pm 2nd Live Nativity Performance

Sunday, December 22

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 am Worship Service
Attend "Messiah" Performance
6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Holiday Movie Night:
Would a Walker of the Sky Please Stand?

Sunday, December 29

9:30 am Worship Service
College/Young Adult Sunday
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NO Youth Fellowship Activity
MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
For unto us a Child is Born, A savior Given!

Sunday, January 5

6:00 pm Annual Birthday Bash Party
(includes dinner)

Sunday, January 12

6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Devotion and Game night

Sunday, January 19

6:00 pm Ice Skating, Rockville MD

Sunday, January 26

6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Devotion and Game Night

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Youth Bell Choir, Sundays @ 4 pm
in the Great Hall

CW Singers Rehearsal, Sundays @ 5 pm
in the Music Room

Youth Puppets, Wednesdays @ 5:15 pm
in the Great Hall

Youth Praise Band
Rehearsal times TBD by group
in the Youth Chapel

See info on next year's
CW Singers California 2020
Choir Tour on page #7
of this Beacon.

Winter Retreat 2020
Jan 31st - Feb. 2nd

We will be going to Manidokan
this winter for our retreat.

Cost is \$125 per person,
but scholarships are available.

Please see Nick
or call 240-751-6695.

Registration is forthcoming.

The UMYFO monthly meeting will be
held on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4:00 pm.

For questions or more information,
contact Pastor Nick at
nick.works@damascusumc.org
or 240-751-6695.

Worship Arts News and Events

December 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



Live Nativity Pageants

Sunday, December 15

5:30 pm AND 6:30 pm

Gather in the courtyard to experience the first Christmas with actors and live animals.

*Bring your own chair and dress warmly.
Warm refreshments will be served afterwards inside.*



Sunday, Dec. 15, at
9:30 am in the Great Hall

*Angels, Lambs,
Ladybugs & Fireflies*

Children's Christmas Musical presented
by Chorister & Cherub Choirs
& the Elementary Sunday School Program

Be sure to join us !!!

Rehearsal Schedule

Choristers meet Sundays, 11/24, 12/1 (4:00 - 4:45 pm)

Cherubs meet Sunday, 11/24, 12/1 and 12/8 during
11 am Worship Service (Cherubs Church)

Full Cast Rehearsals

Wednesday, Dec. 4: 5:15 - 6:30 pm: Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 8: 4:00 - 4:45 pm: Costume Fitting
Parents, please bring costume pieces you have been asked to provide and stay while your child tries on costume to make sure everything works! Costumes will then be labeled and hung on rack for each child.

Wednesday, Dec. 11: 5:15 - 6:30 pm: Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec. 14: 9:30 am: DRESS REHEARSAL

Sunday, December 22, 2019

9:30 am ~ Sanctuary

*Handel's
Messiah*

Handel's *Messiah*
with combined choir, and orchestra.

Featured soloists; Jolene Baxter, soprano;
Liz Vanderham, alto; Addison Baldrige, tenor
and Curt Shiflett, bass.

Presented by Combined Choir of Charles Wesley Singers,
Chancel Choir, and Community Singers
Contact Polly Baldrige for more details.

CW Singers California 2020 Choir Tour Update

I'm happy to announce that tour planning has been officially underway, and California will be our destination for 2020! We will arrive in San Diego on June 23, work our way up the coast as far north as San Francisco, and return to BWI on July 1. Our homecoming concert is on July 2 at 7pm.

We've even booked our first performance venue: St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in downtown San Diego. Martin Green, the Canon for music, is very excited for our youth to join forces with his cathedral choristers in a couple of our pieces during our concert there. We will also spend a Sunday day and overnight at Yosemite National Park with a sunset service among the mountains and waterfalls.

Tour forms are available now and are due ASAP, along with a deposit of \$250 due December 15. Please see me to pick one up.

Blessings, Stephen Kalnoske

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

FALL/WINTER 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
- * Christmas support for Damascus Community families
- * Change for Change Lent 2020 (February 26—April 12)
- * Habitat for Humanity work trip: July 12-17, 2020
- * August 30, 2020 Rise Against Hunger Meal packing event
- * VIM October 2020, Fayetteville, NC
- * Kenya trip October 2020

Pray for Those who serve and share God's love

- Amanda Jones-Dominguez & Memo Dominguez and daughters Sofia & Julia currently in MD from Nicaragua (Between Cultures)
- 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
- Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena serving in Puebla, Mexico, with Give Ye Them to Eat
- The preschool children at St. Stephen's Church, Gem, Kenya, and the Joint Partners Clinic.

Thank You's

- To those who pray for and support financially with extra gifts for our missionaries
- For those who volunteer in the Damascus community through Damascus HELP
- To those who gave the Gift of Life at the recent Blood Drive
- To those who support DUMC through their giving and thereby support DUMC's mission ministries and missionaries.
- To all who volunteer at Harwood House and the wonderful service provided to the community and DUMC. Thanks, too, for a wonderful Open House!
- To all who provide food and help with the community Thanksgiving Dinner.
- To DUMC members who walked for hunger in the CROP Walk and raised more than \$4700 out of the \$11,791 total funds received.
- To our United Methodist Women for their decades of support for mission ministry.
- To Debbie Stone, Steve Leslie, & Amanda Jones-Dominguez who shared their call to mission ministry locally, in North Carolina and Nicaragua.
- To all who helped with tech support (Ron Adams), music (Polly Baldrige, Jami Kinnaman & Daniel Wilson, Steve Kalnoske), bulletin & mission materials (Jane Webb and Linda Stastny), and service planning and leading (the Missions Team) on Mission Sunday.
- To those who support the after school Rock the House program for the children in Damascus with transportation using our church van and with volunteer leadership.

Christmas Cards for our Missionaries

Members and Sunday school classes at DUMC are invited to send Christmas cards and letters to our overseas missionaries (Nan McCurdy & Belinda Forbes) and the people of St. Stephen's Church and the clinic in Kenya supported by Neema Kenya at DUMC. We need to receive all cards by December 15. There is a box placed in the Narthex for your donations.

Fundraiser for Between Cultures in Nicaragua

Soup Sale coming - more details to follow in January.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Your Mission \$\$\$ at work

Our Mission dollars support many projects that are local, national and international. Our actual support of missionaries and their salaries is in the General Church budget (Funding for many projects and scholarships come from the Plant Fund). We thank all in the DUMC congregation for the support of our international missionaries and their work in Central America: Amanda and Memo Dominguez (\$18,500), Nan McCurdy (\$2,700) and Belinda Forbes (\$1,500 salary & \$1,000 training for dental assistants).

Restoring Hope—NC Conference Disaster Ministries Update

Since we just had a DUMC mission team that was in North Carolina this fall, it might be of interest to some of you to read this local publication. Go to: <https://nccumc.org/disaster/restoring-hope/> to read about the many helping hands in the disaster relief areas in their state.

Damascus HELP November Newsletter

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in September:

Dale Crum, Jimmie Cone, Bob Dickey's Damascus High School Social Studies Class, Damascus Lion's Club, Damascus Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Hyattstown United Methodist Church, Shops at Damascus Electric, St. Paul's Catholic Church and their Knights of Columbus, Weis and Butler's Orchard.

In September Damascus HELP made 75 food deliveries serving 276 people, helped 4 families with financial assistance, and gave 3 people rides to appointments.

Damascus HELP Holiday Giving Program will be taking donations of turkeys and hams for our families in need. Please call the help-line at 301-253-4100.

Next Missions Committee meeting:
January 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Introducing **SERRV & EARN**,
a new fundraiser for:

DUMW Missions

Invite friends and family to shop hundreds of handmade items **using the link below**, and 20% of all purchases will be donated back to our organization.

www.serrv.org/?a=Neema

Fundraiser ends

Ongoing



Dedicated to fighting poverty through fair trade since 1949 Serrv International works with global artisans to bring you the world's most beautiful handcrafts

#worldofgooo

serrv

fair trade • handmade • nonprofit

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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



Evans Homes and Gardens

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

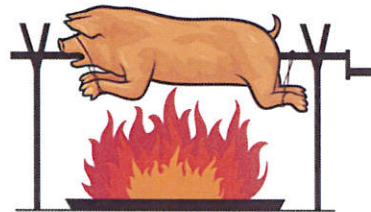
Saturday, Dec 7th

Christmas Tree Sale & PIG ROAST

TIME: 12pm-6pm

Supporting
Neema Grace Charity*

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



JUSTICE and COMPASSION

Love One Another (LOA) Ministry



Mission Statement:

Following Christ's example, we seek to inspire and equip our community to include and advocate for every age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, family structure, and mental or physical ability. We will work to transform systems that disenfranchise, marginalize, and oppress.

Outreach Event – Let's Go Caroling: On Sunday, December 1, we'll gather at Ledo's for pizza at 12:30 pm

and then venture out into community to share love through caroling and passing out candy canes. We're sponsoring this event along with the Chancel Choir. (See article on page #11 of this Beacon.)

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 14 from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Conference Room in the Annex. Everyone is invited to join us.

Questions? Please contact Charlotte Kibak, chaphil1@earthlink.net or 301-956-6056.

Announcements

Can you help support this year's Christmas Giving Project?

Please consider donating a \$25 Weis gift card and hang a helping hand ornament on our Christmas tree. We hope to collect 100 gift cards! Let's share God's love with our community this Christmas!!!



If you'd like to donate, please contact Cora Horst, 301-529-3047 or cora.horst@damascusumc.org.



Sunday, December 1, 2019

Meet at Ledo's at 12:30 pm for a pizza lunch

.(\$5 suggested donation)

*At 1:30 pm we will venture out to
share love & joy thru song
and pass out candy canes!*

*Bring the whole family to share a
connection with our community!*

*Please RSVP by Nov. 24, 2019 to the church office
at #301-253-0022 or office@damascusumc.org*

Sponsored by the "Love One Another" group & the DUMC Chancel Choir

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.

Announcements (cont'd)

***Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Monday, December 16 at 12:30 pm
in the Annex (Church Office)***

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself, or if you would like to give one to someone you know, please feel free to take one from the basket in the Narthex. We just ask that you put your name and the name of the recipient in the log book.

The purpose of the log is to try and be sure that several people don't give shawls to the same recipient.

You may also contact one of the pastors or Cathy Heinbaugh at cheinbaugh@comcast.net, or 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix at 301-482-1122, or jmullinix74@yahoo.com.



Monthly Healing Service Info

Our regularly scheduled monthly healing service will be replaced with the service of Peace, Hope and Love on Sunday, December 8th. Please see page #13 of this Beacon for more information.

The Connections Café in December

On Sunday, December 22 we will have ONE worship service here at DUMC at 9:30 am, which will feature Handell's *Messiah* Performance.

Therefore our Connections Café time for that day will be 10:30—11:30 am.



On Sunday, December 29 we will again only have ONE worship service, featuring the College/Young Adult participants. Therefore we will have NO CONNECTIONS CAFÉ on that date.

Christmas Eve Services

In order to facilitate traffic for the afternoon/evening services, **FOR THE UPPER PARKING LOT, TRAFFIC WILL BE ONE WAY.** Please enter from Route 124 and exit onto Mt. Vernon Avenue when coming to attend the services. Also remember that we have additional parking at the Thrift Shop, and the Youth Chapel, where you can use the brick walkway to the main church building.

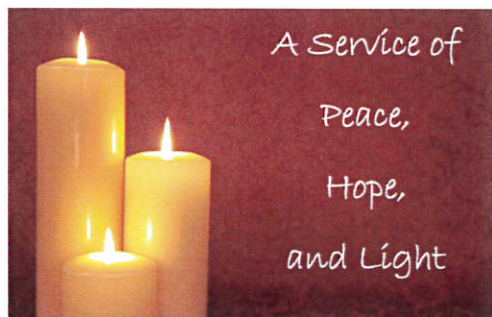
You can make a difference in our community!

Damascus HELP needs volunteers (over age 18 due to insurance restrictions) to help in various capacities. HELP is a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance to those needy individuals in the 20871(Clarksburg), 20872(Damascus), and 20882 (Gaithersburg and Laytonsville- north of Brink Rd.) zip codes.

Officers of the Day are needed to work from home (once a month) to answer calls from clients. We are also in need of food drivers to deliver food, client drivers to take individuals to appointments, and volunteers to help with transporting furniture to clients in need. Our furniture committee is also seeking persons or organizations with a truck or SUV to help assist with furniture moving. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please call 301-253-4100 or e-mail dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for more information.



Announcements (cont'd)



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
AT 3:00 PM
DUMC SANCTUARY
DUMC'S STEPHEN MINISTRY
INVITES YOU TO
A SERVICE OF PEACE, HOPE, AND LOVE
AND
HEALING ANOINTING WITH OIL

HOLIDAYS ARE NOT ALWAYS EXPERIENCED AS TIMES OF JOY AND CELEBRATION DURING SOME PERIODS OF OUR LIVES.

COME AND FEEL COMFORTABLE TO EXPRESS YOUR HURT, PAIN, LOSS, ANGER, AND FEAR.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND.

PASTOR B. WILL ALSO SHARE IN THIS SPECIAL AND INTIMATE SERVICE.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIGHT A CANDLE FOR YOURSELF OR FOR ANOTHER PERSON OR SITUATION.



ANY QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 301-253-0022.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.

STEPHEN MINISTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION AND PRAYER.

Fourth Quarter Offering Envelopes

Please be sure to pick your envelopes up no later than Sunday, December 29, 2019. This will save the church postage in mailing these out to you. They are located in the Narthex.



If you don't currently get offering envelopes and would like them, please contact the church office at either office@damascusumc.org or steve.malley@damascusumc.org or call 301-253-0022 to request them. If you get offering envelopes and don't need them because you are an e-giver, you can have them stopped by contacting the same addresses.

Your presence is most important, but your presents are appreciated.

Announcements (cont'd)

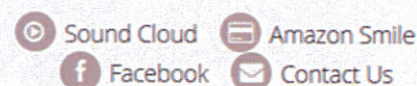
Earth Stewards Adopt A Road 2019 Cleanup Summary

Here is a summary of the Adopt A Road Cleanup efforts for 2019 and a thank you to all the volunteers who helped pick up trash this year to make Damascus the beautiful town it is. We had 5 trash clean up days this year, one day each in March, May, August, October and November. We picked up the equivalent of 33 large trash bags (33 gal each). Across those 5 days we had 12 different people volunteer to help. Many of them helped on all of those days. I want to give a special recognition to everyone who helped collect trash in 2019: Jane Clarke, Emily Dhingra, Don Hecht, Cathy Heinbaugh, Marcia Hofman, Phil Hulcher, Doug Marshall, Carol Martin, Karen Taylor, Sharon Walton, Mike Wahl and Vicki Young. You all have been generous with your time to get up early on a Saturday and spend a few hours making Damascus cleaner and prettier.

I've scheduled 4 days in 2020 for cleanup (all Saturdays): **March 28, May 30, August 8 and October 24**. Anyone is welcome to help so if you are interested feel free to contact me at heinbjc@comcast.net.

Please designate DUMC as your Amazon Smile Charity!

This is low hanging, "found revenue." There's no reason, with more focus, we couldn't generate up to \$5,000 annually. Other churches with less members do that much. Let's see what we can do these next six months. Funnel your Amazon purchases through the Smile link on our website!



Your AmazonSmile impact

Your orders that have supported charity

Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support charity.



Your total orders

16 orders

[Learn more](#)

Every little bit counts

When millions of supporters shop at smile.amazon.com, charitable donations quickly add up.



You have generated

\$7.20

as of July 01, 2019



Your current charity
Damascus United Methodist Church
has received

\$679.56

as of May 2019

Your current charity

[Change charity](#)

Damascus United Methodist Church

Location: Damascus, MD

Support your favorite charity at no extra cost when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

Share your support: [f](#) [t](#)

Donate items from
a Charity List

[Explore now](#)



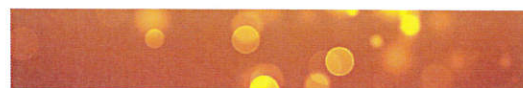
Going to buy something on Amazon.com?

Don't forget to go through the DUMC link located at the bottom of the home page on the DUMC website (damascusumc.org).

The Youth Program here at DUMC gets a contribution for all purchases made through this link, with no additional cost to you!



amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



Announcements (cont'd)



DUMC Women Event

Thursday, Dec. 26

4:00 pm

The Women's Group of DUMC (formerly known as WWJD) is planning to tour the historic churches of Frederick on December 26. This event begins at 4:00 pm and continues through 9:00 pm. The tentative plan is to meet around 4:00 and tour churches for a few hours, then have dinner. This tour event is free, but note that we will be walking and will be at the mercy of the weather. If you'd like to be included, especially for dinner as a reservation will need to be made, please call Marcia Hofman @ 301-253-2960 or email her at Marciahofman67@gmail.com. A carpool will be arranged for leaving from and returning to the church parking lot.

This event is open to everyone. Please join us as this will be a lovely evening when we get to see these beautiful old churches decorated for Christmas. Specific details will be sent out later as to a meeting place and dinner location.

More on the tour: <https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/historic-houses-of-worship/>

The Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner

Dinners are now being held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. So please join us on the date below at 6:00 pm.

December 11, 2019:

Spaghetti Dinner with Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert. Beverages, of course !!!

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. 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: Kenny Sue Robertson/charrobe@verizon.net / 301-471-7298.

We thank you for your past support and are looking forward to a year filled with fun, love and good fellowship!

Your Kitchen Committee

PS: Menus are always subject to change.

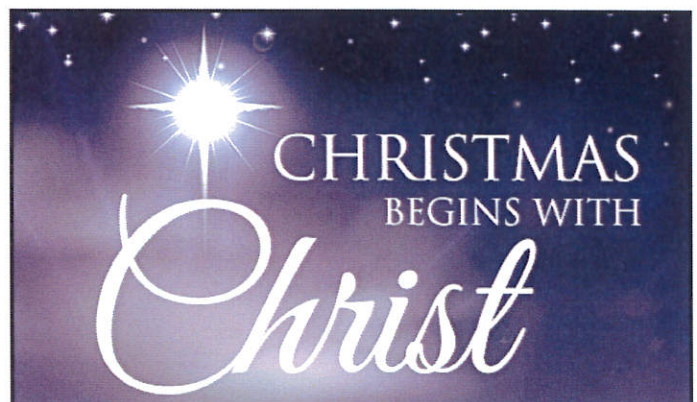
Christmas at Harwood House

**Harwood House Thrift Shop
will be closed**

**Tuesday, December 24 thru
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
for the holidays.**

**No donations will be accepted
after December 21 until January 16.**

**The shop will reopen for
business Thursday, January 16, 2020.**



Damascus UMC's Own.....**Matthew Miente!**

CDs AVAILABLE DECEMBER 2019



DECEMBER 8:

Let Us Adore Him

(The Christmas EP)

\$5

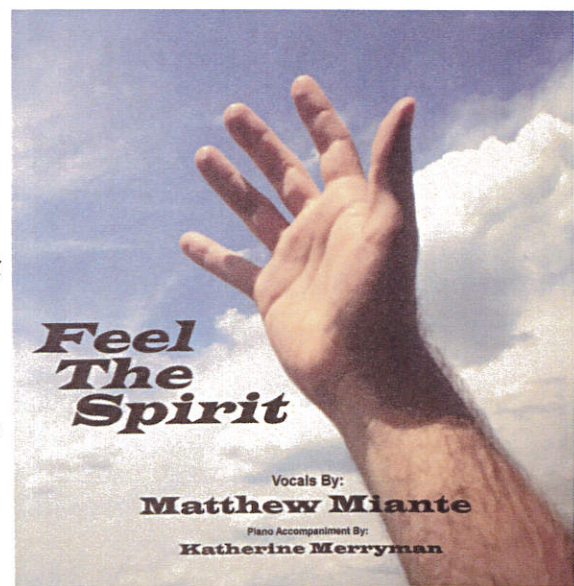
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Gesu Bambino; Do You Hear What I Hear?; Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming; O Holy Night; Joy to the World

DECEMBER 15:

Feel The Spirit

\$10

Standing On the Promises; And Can It Be That I Should Gain; In This Very Room; Every Time I Feel the Spirit; Amazing Grace; Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart; Offertory; It Is Well With My Soul; Let Us Break Bread Together; Because He Lives; How Can I Keep From Singing?, River in Judea



CDs will be available for purchase, cash or check, from Matthew Miente on Sunday mornings in December, beginning 12/8.

Send an email to mmiente@verizon.net to pre-order your copy!



WINTER CONCERT SERIES 2019

The Academy of St. Cecilia Youth Orchestra

**CONCERTS ARE
FREE AND ARE PART
OF THE NINETEENTH
YEAR OF
CELEBRATION OF
THE ACADEMY OF
ST. CECILIA YOUTH
ORCHESTRA
FOUNDED ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.**

ASCYO.ORG

CONCERT SCHEDULE

December 3, 2019 - 6:00pm
Damascus United Methodist Church
9700 New Church St.
Damascus, MD 20872
Beginning Band, Prep Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra

December 7, 2019 - 6:30pm
Asbury Methodist Village
Hefner Community Center Auditorium
301 Odendhal Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Flute Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Youth Orchestra

December 8, 2019 - 7:00pm
Our Lady of Good Council High School
Performing Arts Center
17301 Old Vic Blvd.
Olney, MD 20832
Prep Orchestra, Flute Choir, Youth Orchestra

ASCYO acknowledges the generous
support of the Arts and Humanities Council
of Montgomery County and the
Montgomery County Government.





December 6 - 8, 2019
Featuring a visit from Santa!



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

by Barbara Robinson
Directed by Megan McNellage
Produced by Nicki Mazza

December 6 & 7 at 7:00 pm
December 7 & 8 at 2:00 pm

Montgomery United Methodist Church
28325 Kempton Road
Damascus, MD 20872

Tickets: \$14 Adults, \$12 Members
\$7 Children (10 & under)

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

www.DamascusTheatre.org

The American Cancer Society
Relay For Life of Upper Montgomery County
presents



Saturday December 7, 2019 ~ 9:00am – 11:00

\$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.
(Children under 2 free)

Holiday Shopping with a variety of cash/carry vendors!

Jewelry, bags, sweets, candles, and more!

Proceeds will benefit the Relay For Life.

Digital photo with Santa \$10 (unlimited use)

Damascus United Methodist Church
9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD 20872

Directions: On the corner of Rt 124 and Rt 108. Big brick church that sits back from the road. Enter around the back of the church. ***Breakfast with Santa*** is on the second floor.



All proceeds benefit the **American Cancer Society**.
Direct any questions to carolynrfl@gmail.com
Visit our website at www.relayforlife.org/uppermocomd

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school.

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 15, 2019.



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."

Office Info

PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

Kathryn Woodrow, ext. #103
kathryn.woodrow@damascusmc.org

Sherwyn Benjamin, ext. #104
sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org

STAFF:

**Polly Edmonds Baldridge,
Minister of Music & Worship Arts
cell: 240-750-8287 / polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org**

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

Nick Works,
Director of Youth
cell: 240-751-6695 / nick.works@damascusumc.org

Jane Webb, Office Manager
cell: 240-620-6920 / jane.webb@damascusumc.org

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator
ext. #102 / office@damascusumc.org

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager
cell: 301-253-5241 / lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper
ext. #106 / steve.malley@damascusumc.org

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

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

Administrative Meetings For December, 2019

- Dec. 4 Administrative Board Meeting
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back
NOTE: Day and Date Change
- Dec. 5 Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Dec. 5 Trustees Committee Meeting
7:30 pm in the Great Hall - SS
- Dec. 8 UMYFO Meeting
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR

NOTE: The Finance, SPRC, Missions and Technology Committees will not meet during the month of December.

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE **JANUARY, 2020** BEACON
WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
(For Beacon to publish on **Sunday, Dec. 29**).

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND ALL ARTICLES BY THIS DATE.

DATE AT THE LATEST.

Thank You !

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT
DURING THE WINTER
MONTHS,



WE WILL KEEP THE
WEBSITE HOME PAGE and
OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE
UP-TO-DATE WITH POSTPONE-
MENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
AS SOON AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

About Our People

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: Pennie Adams, Benjamin Bautista (developmental concerns), Jessica Bowers (Chris Adams' girlfriend), Elizabeth Bradley (recovering from surgery), Martin Carr, Ann Cochran, Donna Feuillet (recovering from bypass surgery), Judy Dalrymple (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), Pat Duvall, April Fry (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), Debbie Hoar, Pat Hunt (Liz Vanderham's mom), Bobbye Kudzma (recovering from hip replacement surgery), Tom Mielke (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), Teresa Morella, Nancy Nickerson (recuperating at home), 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), and Karen Turner (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), Mary Walcek (recovering from a fall).

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), Carrie Duvall (Anita Duvall's sister-in-law), 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), Kristen Smith (Gina Wilson's niece), Marie White (Pat Duvall's sister-in-law).

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), Austin Mollard – Navy (Kathryn Smith's grandson), Benjamin J. Saunders – Navy (son of Connie Ross), and Alex Sauter – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly).

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.

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.

