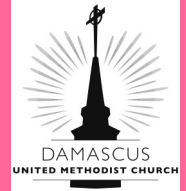


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 9700 NEW CHURCH STREET
 DAMASCUS, MD 20872
 PHONE: 301-253-0022
 E-MAIL: OFFICE@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG
 WEBSITE: WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

THE BEACON

FEBRUARY 2018



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
Associate Pastor /
Children's Ministry

Polly Edmonds Baldridge
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

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

Julio Pedraza /
Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

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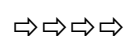
Dear Friends,

On January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, our congregation led an inter-faith prayer walk through Damascus stopping at different points to pray for housing for all of our residents, good medical care, the outreach efforts that take place in our community, our seniors, our business owners, our fire fighters and police officers, students and teachers, those who have gone before us, and for our faith communities that serve as proclaimers of good news and beacons of hope. Over forty walkers braved the very cold temperatures of the day to seek God's blessing upon our community. I found it very inspiring and meaningful and a great gift to Damascus.

We chose King Day because he has been an inspiration to so many. His words and actions kept before the country the challenges of racism and poverty and called all of us to be our better and truer selves. Known as a social reformer, we sometimes forget that his faith was at the heart and soul of all he did. The organization which he led was called the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and he constantly tied his teaching to the teaching of Jesus and the prophets. His impact on our country was profound. His resume is especially impressive when we remember he died at 39. Imagine how much more he may have done for our country had he lived a full life.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of his assassination. Honestly, it astounds me that he has been gone from us for half a century. His speeches are still shared and his words still resonate.

What is not gone from us are the issues King so passionately addressed. Progress has been made in race relations, but we are far from being a colorblind society. This includes the Church. King once said that the 11:00 hour on Sunday is the most segregated hour of the week. His words still ring true. King was not about race alone. He spoke often about issues of poverty, housing, education, and on behalf of workers. He was in Memphis to speak about the conditions for sanitation workers when assassinated. People of faith are still needed to speak up for those who struggle and who have little voice. We do not honor King by remembering his name. We honor him by continuing to strive to be our better and truer selves in the name of Jesus, living out the teachings of our Lord and the prophets. The sun never goes down on speaking up and doing good. We prayed for our community on January 15. The next step is to do our part to assist God in answering those prayers.



Ash Wednesday is on February 14 and begins the season of Lent. Valentine's Day and Lent seem antithetical in feel, one a day of romance and love and the other a season of confession and penitence. Maybe they are not so different, however. If we set aside for the moment the romantic part of Valentine's Day and think about the love the day represents, we can connect it to the season in which our Lord experienced his passion, death, and resurrection all because of his great love for us. Maybe this Lent, instead of the discipline of giving something up, you can take on the discipline of taking on more love. How can you love more in all of your relationships? How can love bring healing to relationships that are fractured? How will you grow your heart this Lent?

Read elsewhere in this Beacon about the many Lenten opportunities. Join us in this holy time.

Yours in Christ,

David

Sign Up for Flowers in 2018



Flowers, as signs of life and beauty, have traditionally been offered to the glory of God to adorn the Sanctuary. Starting in January, 2018, to sign up to provide flowers for the altar, just call or email Linda or Jane in the church office. We will need your name, phone number, and whether you are picking up your flowers after church. The earlier you put in for your special dates, the better! You may order the flowers yourself from one of two local florist. Blossom and Basket at 301-829-8300 or Beall's at 301-253-2840.

Any and all questions will be gladly answered by Linda Stastny in the church office.



**Please congratulate
Cliff Bergstresser when you see him!
He will be concluding his Stephen Ministry training
this month and will be
commissioned with the rest of his class
on February 12 at a banquet hosted at the Chinese
Bible Church of Maryland.**

**There will be a subsequent service
commissioning Cliff as a
Stephen Minister at DUMC (date TBD).**

**This is a very important
accomplishment and a wonderful
new pathway of Christian service.**

Congratulations, Cliff!

Re-scheduled meeting of Leadership Team of DUMW (Due to snow cancellation of January meeting)

The Leadership Team of Damascus United Methodist Women will meet Monday, March 5 at 6:30 pm in the Annex (downstairs). At this meeting we will review the activities and accomplishments of 2017 and begin planning for 2018. If you feel you have skills and gifts to help this team, please feel free to attend. Questions? Contact Hazel Strahorn at hazelstrahorn@verizon.net or 301-443-553-9848.



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING
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.**

**ANYONE USING THE DUMC APP WILL RECEIVE A
NOTIFICATION ON THEIR SMART DEVICE.**



2018

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13

6:00 - 7:00 pm - DUMC Dining Hall

Cost for dinner is: \$7.00 per person

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14

6:45 am: Service of Ashes, followed by a light breakfast
12:00 noon: Service of Ashes
7:30 pm: Service of Ashes and Communion

Small Group Lenten Bible Studies

Mondays @ 6:30 pm (Begins Monday, February 12)

Join Pastor Amanda as she explores a Lenten Journey called "Jericho Road," which will include conversation of justice and social reform.
For more information or to sign-up for class see full article on page #4 of this Beacon.

Wednesdays @ 7:15 pm (Begins Wednesday, February 21)

Explore discussion with Pastor David on a book written by Brian McLaren.
We will discuss faith and church in some different and exciting ways.
For more information or to sign-up for the class see full article on page #4 of this Beacon.

Morning Communion & Prayer

6:45 am each Wednesday of Lent

Begins on **Ash Wednesday (February 14)** with a brief service of ashes and communion.
Service is approximately 20 minutes followed by light continental breakfast.
Stop by on your way to school or work.
All are welcome for one week or every week!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 25 ~ 8:15 and 11:00 am services

Maundy Thursday

March 29 ~ 7:30 pm service

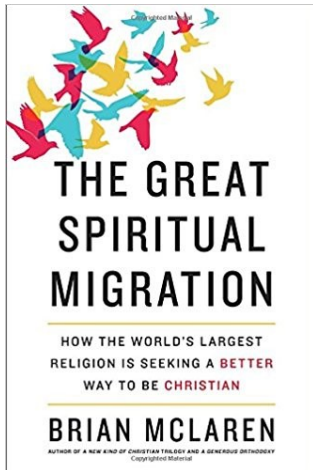
Good Friday

March 30 ~ 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunrise Service ~ time TBD
8:00, 9:30 am, & 11:00 Easter Services

Lent Begins February 14



The holy and spiritual season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14. Lent is a forty day season, not including Sundays, leading up to Easter. The forty days remind us of the forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness and the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the time of his temptation. Spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, study, and fasting are often practiced during these days to help prepare us for the passion and death of Jesus and then the good news of the resurrection. It is a time of penitence and repentance.

We will begin the season the evening before on Shrove Tuesday, with a dinner at 6 pm (will be served till 7 pm). Tuesday is traditionally a day for eating filling foods such as pancakes, because Ash Wednesday is to be a day of fasting.

There are three opportunities on Ash Wednesday. The Lenten Wednesday morning breakfasts begin. These are at 6:45 am allowing for students to get to school and adults to get to work. At noon we will have a short service of ashes and at 7:30 pm a

service of Ashes and Communion. This day of remembrance of our mortality is a good way to grasp the truly good news of Easter.

Two studies are available. David will be leading discussions based on the book The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way To Be Christian by Brian McLaren. This provocative book may get you thinking about faith and church in some different and exciting ways. This is a five week study on Wednesday evenings beginning on February 21 at 7:15 pm. Those wanting to participate are encouraged to get the book and read at least the first few chapters, if not all of it, for the 21st.



The Jericho Road Devotional: An MLK50 Journey Mondays @ 6:30 pm in the Annex

Beginning February 12, join Pastor Amanda each week to reflect and delve deeper into conversations of justice and social reform, especially around the issue of race. This devotional created by the Baltimore Washington Conference uses scripture and a writing of MLK Jr. each week to guide the group in conversations and action. Classes will be approximately 1 hour each week. Please come on February 12 having read the first week's devotions. This will be a 7-week study class.

Devotional can be found at <http://www.bwcumc.org/resources/the-jericho-road-devotional/> or contact Pastor Amanda regarding a printed copy. Devotional is FREE!

A daily Lenten devotional book written by our pastors
and laity is also available for the season.

The devotions are based on the parables being taught
on Sundays in the sermon series:

Last, Lasting, Everlasting – the stories of Jesus on the way to Jerusalem.
Using the booklet is a good way to spend some time
with God each day during this important season.

Giving to Others during Lent - 2018 Sunday School Mission Project

Instead of "giving up" something for Lent, once again this year we are encouraging our Sunday School classes to "give to others" by bringing in food items to help needy families in our area. We want to help stock the shelves of Damascus Help in preparation for spring and summer needs.

We would like our students to do extra tasks or chores to earn money towards the food donations they will give each week. Then, it would be great if the children could help select their favorite foods to buy and donate to Damascus Help.

You can donate food items too! All basic, non-perishable foods with valid expiration dates are welcome. **Please join us in "giving to others" during Lent.**

For the children, each week of Lent will have a special focus for donations based on the current needs of Damascus Help's food pantry.

- Feb. 18th - Peanut butter and **GRAPE** jelly, tea bags
- Feb. 25th - spaghetti sauce and pasta, baby diapers (size 3, 4 & 5 needed most!)
- March 4th - Hot or Cold Cereal, canned fruit
- March 11th - bars of soap, individually wrapped, toilet paper
- March 18th - canned meat, canned tuna, canned mixed vegetables
- March 25th - laundry detergent, baby diapers (size, 3, 4 or 5)



Damascus Help always welcomes gift cards to Weis, Safeway or Walmart.

Thank you and God bless you!

Thank you and God bless you!

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

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

February 2018 - Youth Fellowship
Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm
Includes Dinner and an Activity

Sunday 2/4
Super Bowl Party
Middle School (Bratburds)
High School (Baldriges)

Sunday 2/11
Valentine's Day Game Night

Sunday 2/18
Shadowlands Lazer Tag

Sunday 2/25
Youth Service Project

March 2018 - Youth Fellowship
Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm
Includes Dinner and an Activity

Sunday 3/4
Destination UnKnown

Sunday 3/11
Movie Night

Sunday 3/18
St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Sunday 3/25
To be determined

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

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

Youth Bell Choir
Sundays @ 4 pm

Charles Wesley Singers Practice
Sundays @ 5 pm

Youth Puppets
Wednesdays @ 5 pm in the Great Hall

Church League Basketball

All Youth are invited to play on the middle school or high school Damascus UMC co-ed basketball team. Jerseys are provided, and you can be a beginner or advanced player. All are welcome to play or come watch, and it's very fun!

Schedule will be shared weekly in the Sunday bulletin and in Youth email.

Coaches are Derek Johnson, Brad Turner-Little, Brett Tobiasson, and Tom Baldrige. For more information or to receive full schedule via email, contact Tom B @ [301-802-4775](tel:301-802-4775).

NEXT UMYFO MEETING
Sunday, February 11
@ 4:00 pm
in the Church Office.

Spiritual Formation (cont'd)



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

Men's Night Out

Monday, February 26

@ 6:30 pm

CarterQue Barbeque & Grill

1310 Main Street, Mt. Airy, MD

Phone: 301-829-2222

Please RSVP to Ted Ross at 301-704-7992



The **Susanna JOY Circle**
Monday, February 12 at 10:00 am
in church Dining Hall

~~~~~

### **The WWJD Circle Meeting**

The WWJD Circle will **NOT**  
meet in the month of February, 2018.

## **NEXT LADIES' NIGHTS OUT**

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

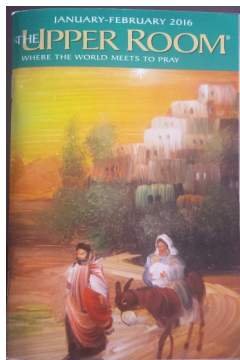
**When: Thursday, March 8**

**Where: AYSE Meze Lounge (Mediterranean)**  
**6 N. East Street**  
**Frederick, MD 21701**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Please RSVP by March 6 to Pastor Amanda**

## **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!

## **Healing Service**

**Sunday, February 18 @ 7:00 pm**

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

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

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

# Worship Arts News and Events

January 2018

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

## February is Black History Month

The choirs of Damascus UMC will share Spirituals, Gospel music, and other special anthems during the month of February to highlight music in African and African American traditions.

**BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH**



Charles Wesley Singers are traveling to Florida  
on tour from June 16 - 26, 2018.

The theme of our trip is *One in Christ Jesus*.

If you have any family and friends in  
Florida that might host our choir,

please be in contact with Polly to share suggestions and names.

### WEDNESDAYS

4:15 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall/Stage Side (snacks served – 45 minute)  
Puppet troupe for elem. students 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall/Back Half (30-minute session)  
Choir for children 4 ½ years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade led by Lydia Turner-Little

5:00 pm **Youth Puppets** Great Hall (45-minute session)  
Puppets/drama for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Choristers** Choir Room (60-minute session)  
Choir for children 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldrige (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Great Hall/Stage (30-minute session)  
Handbells for students 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldrige

7:00 pm **Men's Choir** Great Hall/Stage  
For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

7:00 pm **Women's Ensemble** Great Hall/Back Half  
Singing technique session with Polly Baldrige includes working on music for Women's Choir

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Choir Room (90-minute session)  
SATB choir for worship /special concerts led by Polly Baldrige with Stephen Kalnoske, accom.

### SUNDAYS

3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month  
All instruments and vocals needed for this student-led group facilitated by Polly and Tom Baldrige

4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Great Hall/Stage  
Handbells for youth 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades led by Tom Baldrige

4:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room  
SATB choir for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades and up led by Polly Baldrige with accompanist Stephen Kalnoske

### MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy** Great Hall/Stage (90-minute session)  
Adult 5-octave Handbell ensemble led by Polly Baldrige

### A HUGE THANK YOU

The Praise Artisans Guild, under the faithful and loving direction of Connie Ross, made our worship space and building look lovely and inviting over the Advent and Christmas season. Many hours went in to setting up, recreating decoration to work in our updated sanctuary, and carefully taking things back down to store for next year. Others to thank include, but are not limited to, Lisa Marshall, Gary Richards, Marcia Hofman, Kristina Herriott, Cheryl Minekime, and Jane Webb. Also Patty & Paul Lewis, as well as Bob Gladhill.



Damascus United Methodist Church Worship Arts Ministry



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

# On Broadway



A Recital of Musical Theater Standards and New Favorites

**Sunday, February 25, 2018**

**3 pm in Damascus UMC - Sanctuary**

Enjoy a delightful afternoon of theatrical music as students from Polly Baldrige's private vocal studio interpret musical theater favorites from the last seven decades. Katherine Williams will accompany these gifted singing actors.

**Free-will offering**

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

## FALL/WINTER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN MISSION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

- **Between Cultures trip to Nicaragua January 27 through February 4, 2018**
- **A Heart for Serving Others begins February 14 - Ash Wednesday thru Lent**
- **Visit after Easter by Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena (General Board Missionaries) before they go to their new assignment in Puebla Mexico beginning in July**
- **Spring Work Saturday at Laytonsville Safe Haven**
- **Flower and Plant Sale - date TBD**
- **Habitat week this summer - date TBA**
- **Beginning to plan for a 2018 Volunteers in Mission trip late summer or early fall**

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### **Change for Change ended on January 7<sup>th</sup>**

If you have yet to turn in your change or if you just want to donate to the cause of helping people devastated by hurricanes and fires in 2017, you can still turn in your donation!

### **Interfaith Prayer Walk January 15<sup>th</sup> honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Nearly 40 people from Damascus UMC, Friendship UMC, and Congregation Or Chadash walked for 90 minutes through the Damascus Community praying for people, needs, giving thanks for those who serve the community, and remembering the wisdom of Martin Luther King, Jr. Warm beverages and cookies were shared in the Great Hall following the walk.

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

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

### **Your Mission \$\$\$ at work:**

Not all the change had been counted as of the Beacon deadline. On January 14, we had received **\$2,162.18!** All the moneys collected will be used 100% by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for disaster relief—hurricanes in TX, FL, Puerto Rico, and fires and mudslides in CA.

### **Thank You's**

- **Cora Horst for volunteering to be the coordinator of the Toiletries collected for the Frederick women's shelter.**
- **For our DUMC pastors, David & Amanda, who coordinated the MLK Day Prayer Walk and Bernardine Beall & Gloria Maready who provided refreshments with the help of Circle women.**
- **To those who counted the more than \$1,300 in change for the Change for Change offering—the rest was given in checks and bills.**
- **Our Office staff who is ready to help in so many ways with supporting the Missions team. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU DO!**
- **A big thank you from Neema Kenya Mission for the support and donations at the concessions for the Variety Show. It was a great evening of fun and fellowship, and the proceeds will directly support the Ndere Orphans School and Joint Partners Medical Clinic in Kenya. Asante Sana (Swahili for Thank You Very Much)!**
- **Cathy Heinbaugh who coordinates the Red Cross Blood drives—truly the Gift of Life.**

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

## **Thanks to you, The Advance finished strong in 2017**

Thank you for your year-end gift to The Advance. Your generosity — and the generosity of thousands of United Methodists giving alongside you — makes a great difference in the world.

Thanks to you, hope and healing are advancing in the name of Christ.

I hope you'll find extra satisfaction in the fact that 100% of your gift went to the projects and/or supported the work of missionaries around the world.

This is good work that we get to be a part of. May God multiply your generosity in the lives of the people who are touched by The Advance, and in your life, too.

With blessings and thanks for your generosity.

**Rev. Russell Pierce**, Executive Director for Mission Engagement  
General Board of Global Ministries - [www.UMCmission.org](http://www.UMCmission.org)

## **From Damascus Help in January:**

**Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in November:** Matthew Koop with Boy Scout Troop 945, Cub Scout Pack 1438, Hallie Wells Middle School, Any Time Fitness, Joyce Assurian, Ann Kovatch, Cedar Grove Elementary School, Way Lock, Karen Reyes, Damascus Stake LDS Church Cub Scout Pack 266, **Damascus United Methodist Church**, Damascus First Baptist Church, Hyattstown United Methodist Church, Providence United Methodist Church, St. Paul Catholic Church, Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, Safeway and Weis. In November Damascus HELP made 46 food deliveries serving 182 people, helped six families with financial assistance, one family with household items, and gave three individuals rides to appointments. **Volunteer News: . . . We are looking for additional volunteers. Our opportunities include ODs, food drivers, pantry pick up helpers, transportation drivers and volunteers to be part of a furniture delivery team. Another financial caseworker is needed to work with the clients and their utility bills. Special project volunteers are also needed. Please contact Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100, or email dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.** **Holiday Giving Project:** Damascus HELP sponsored 16 families for this year's project. There were 33 adults served. Each family got either a turkey or ham and all the trimmings that compliment a holiday meal. Many thanks go out to Flo Sipes, Anthony Warfield, Earl Smith, Leslie Dublinske and Mike Thornett for helping to pack and/or deliver the meals. We thank Kathy Thornett for coordinating the project and helping to deliver the meal.

## **Coming in February: A HEART FOR SERVING OTHERS**

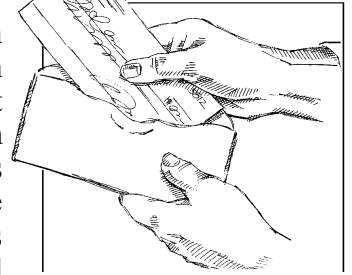
There are no monetary costs to serving the needs of others—just our time, compassion, and caring for others because we follow Jesus who came to be a servant. The Missions Team encourages all at DUMC to find a way to serve others during Lent 2018 - February 14 through March 31. The Missions Team would like to hear **how and who** you have served. It may be an ongoing service or something that is new to you. Hearts made from red paper will be available to post a service completed during Lent. The posted hearts will be displayed in the hallway outside the Great Hall and can be submitted with names or anonymously. Have **A Heart for Serving Others this Lent!**

## **Pray for:**

- **Our Nicaragua team (January 27—February 4):** a delegation of 12 people: **Damascus UMC—** Marcia Hofman, Martin Carr, Tess Mills, Kathy Jones, Jan Jaremko, Nancy Nickerson, Debbie Hursh. **Calvary UMC--Mt Airy—** Fran Roth, Kara Roth, Emily Dyson, Sam Dyson, Carrie Pattison **They will be visiting La Danta and two orphanages, and working on small projects together with these communities.**
- **Nan McCurdy & husband, Miguel Mairena** in the Western Jurisdiction, soon to be reassigned to a new mission ministry by the General Board.
- The primary school **children** at Ndere Orphans School, Gem, Kenya. Joint Partners Clinic in Kenya which meets the medical needs of many families.
- The homeless women served by the Laytonsville Safe Haven and the Frederick shelter.
- For all those who will be served in Lent by faithful disciples at DUMC.

### The Gift That Keeps On Giving

### Endowment Fund



Did you know that DUMC has an Endowment Fund? We do. One has been established to support the long-term financial health of the church. Earnings from the Fund are used toward capital costs beyond what the annual operating budget can support. These segregated-designated dollars are conservatively invested with the Mid-Atlantic Foundation of the United Methodist Church. Once the Fund has reached a value of one million dollars, a percentage of the earnings will be available to help keep our many buildings in good condition. This strategy insures that the base value remains intact and can grow while providing funds for needed projects. The Endowment Fund has both an investing and spending policy approved by the Administrative Board. The present value is over \$260,000, so we are on our way but still in the building phase.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund can always be made, but the most common way to contribute is to remember the church in your will. You can include your church as a beneficiary designating either a specific amount or a percentage of your estate. Some like to list the church as the beneficiary of a paid-up life insurance policy or as the recipient of a particular stock or bond.

However you would choose to do it, this is a gift that keeps on giving. Every year your gift earns and that earning supports the church. It is a wonderful way to aid the ongoing life of the church even in your death. It becomes part of your legacy. Please consider your church in your estate planning. Simply including Damascus United Methodist Church Endowment Fund as part of that planning provides a gift that keeps on giving.

### Other Ways to Give to DUMC

Damascus United Methodist Church wants you to be able to give in the ways most convenient to you. Consider what best fits your needs.

1. You can bring your check/cash to services on Sunday and put your offering in the collection plate. (Personalized envelopes are available to assure your gift is credited to you).
2. You can set up with your bank to send the church a bank draft for the frequency and amount you determine.
3. You can download the church Smart device application and go to the option to digitally give to the church. The instructions to set this up are intuitive once on that portion of the church app.
4. You can text giving to the church. This can be set up by texting the word GIVE to the phone number (240) 428-6258. Once you do this you will get a response on how to set this up for future giving. Once set up, you can then text OPTIONS to that phone number, and it will give you the various options for how much and to which fund that offering should be credited.
5. You can call the church office bookkeeping department and set up e-Giving, using a credit card. This can be done either monthly or twice a month based on your needs. Your credit card account will be charged the amount and frequency you determine.
6. You can call the church office bookkeeping department and set up e-Giving, using your bank ACH (automated clearing house). This can be done on a monthly or every two-week period based on the amount and frequency you determine.
7. You can donate stock. This is a win-win situation for you and the church. You bypass paying the capital gain tax if the stock value has grown. Please contact Steve Malley directly if you would like more information on how to do this, at 301-253-0022, #106.

## Thank You's

THANK YOU  
VERY MUCH

### *A Big Thank You . . . .*

to everyone who attended the Variety Show!!!  
and supported this Neema Kenya Mission Fundraiser  
by purchasing food and drink that was donated.

#### **Special thanks to the following people for making our Variety Show a success:**

- \*Ron Adams and Daniel Wilson for their help with lighting and sound system\*
- \*Emma Baldrige and Dee Robertson for being our stage managers\*
- \*Lisa Marshall and her building service workers for setting up the room\*
- \*The OMG Sunday School Class for providing refreshments\*
- \*Jane Webb for printing our programs\*
- \*All of the performers and musicians who participated!\*

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Dear Harwood House Volunteers,

We are so glad for an additional year-end donation from the Harwood House towards the Lay-  
tonsville Safe Haven. Your support is making a difference. One of the ladies residing there was  
able to move on in December to more independent housing.

Thank you for your consistent support to help sustain this program for women dealing with se-  
rious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness.

Again please share this with everyone involved.

Happy New Year, Derek  
Derek Longbrake  
Donor Relationship Manager  
Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless  
*Over 25 Years of Providing Solutions to End Homelessness*

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Many thanks to Gloria Maready and Nancy Nickerson for  
sharing their gifts of photography with us!

Please take a look at their framed photos in the  
two entranceways to the Sanctuary . . . . .  
***and share a word of thanks to them!***

## Volunteer Opportunity

Beginning on **Ash Wednesday (February 14)** will we start our early morning communion services at 6:45  
am on Wednesdays throughout Lent. These services are followed by a light continental breakfast.

We are looking for volunteers that would be willing to host these for  
this small group (averages 12-15 persons), which includes youth and adults.

**Please contact Pastor Amanda if you would like to host breakfast one week**  
(nothing fancy necessary; fruit, bagels, cereal or yogurt are fine)  
**at [amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org](mailto:amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org) or call her at the office.**



### Senatorial Scholarships Available

(From Craig J. Zucker's office, State Senator)

Senator Zucker's office offers Senatorial Scholarships to provide financial assistance to students pursuing higher education. Any student who resides in District 14 and attends a Maryland college or university is eligible. Students who plan on attending an institution of higher education **outside of Maryland** may still be eligible for the Senatorial Scholarship, if the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) considers their major to be unique.

In order to apply, you must be a resident of Maryland's 14th Legislative District\*. This scholarship is awarded primarily based on financial need, commitment to public service and interest for higher education. Instructions for applying and application are available in the church office, or on the DUMC website under [www.damascusumc.org/events/scholarships/](http://www.damascusumc.org/events/scholarships/).

The Senatorial Scholarship is for the year that you apply, and the next four years (eight semesters) as a full-time student. This means that if you are awarded a scholarship, the same amount of money will rollover for the subsequent four years (eight semesters).

Questions, please contact the District Director, Liana Stiegler, at 301-858-3625 or [craig.zucker.senate.state.me.us](mailto:craig.zucker.senate.state.me.us).

\*Maryland's 14th Legislative District is in northern Montgomery County and comprises the communities of: Ashton, Brinklow, [Brookeville](#), Burtonsville, Calverton, Cloverly, Colesville, Damascus, Fairland, Goshen, [Laytonsville](#), Montgomery Village, Olney, Sandy Spring, Silver Spring, Spencerville and Sunshine.

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### ROBERT M. TREGONING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

#### Scholarship Description

The Robert M. Tregoning Memorial has been established to encourage and support a deserving student in his/her quest for a higher education. The scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who will be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program at an accredited university/college for the fall term. The recipient will be selected based upon demonstrated leadership, community service, character and academics. The scholarship can be used for tuition, books, or room and board, and is set up directly with the college. The scholarship will be awarded in June. Awardees who successfully complete each academic year may be eligible for additional scholarship grants.

#### Application must include:

- 1) a completed application\* stating the name of the school of your choice
- 2) two letters of recommendation
- 3) student transcript for grades 9-12 and official SAT or ACT scores
- 4) an essay of no more than 500 words describing the applicant's educational and personal goals and why he/she deserves the award.

**Application deadline:** Application must be postmarked by April 15

**Number of Awards:** 1

**Scholarship Amount:** \$2,000

**Contact:** Robert L. Tregoning, 1620 Rainbow Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905  
(301) 879-1772 / [rtregoning@verizon.net](mailto:rtregoning@verizon.net)

\*Applications can be found on the DUMC website at: [www.damascusumc.org/events/scholarships/](http://www.damascusumc.org/events/scholarships/)

## Scholarships (cont'd)

### Methodist Church Scholarships Available

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church Scholarship Program provides scholarships to help supplement the financial needs of today. Scholarships are for undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university in the United States.

Funding for the BWC scholarships is provided through the [United Methodist Student Day Special Offering](#), the BWC Board of Trustees, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men, and other designated gifts.

Students will need to complete the online application each year. Applications are reviewed by members of the Joint Scholarship Task Force.

Scholarship applications are accepted online only **January 3 – March 7, 2018**. Awards are determined by the Joint Scholarship Task Force. Scholarship award email notices will be sent out by the last week of June 2018. Payment of scholarship awards are sent directly to the College/University for the fall term.

**Please review scholarship descriptions on the Baltimore-Washington Conference website  
BEFORE APPLYING ONLINE for a scholarship.**

## Announcements

### Leadership Days

*Sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Leadership Days provides an opportunity for local church leaders to expand their horizons, grow in faith, improve their leadership skills and revitalize their congregations. In addition to interesting speakers and plenary sessions, each of the regions offers a number of workshops on a wide range of topics that leaders will find meaningful. You may register for any or all of the sessions.*

#### Washington Region Leadership Day

Saturday, February 24, 2018, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

"**One Degree: Igniting Leadership**" is the theme of the Washington Region Leadership Day as participants discover their "boiling points" for igniting missional passion and creating disciples. The event will be Saturday, Feb. 24, from 8 am to 3 pm at Reservoir High School at 11550 Scaggsville Road in Fulton.

The Boiling Point plenary speakers will be the Rev. Joseph Daniels Jr. of Emory Fellowship in Washington, D.C.; the Rev. HiRho Park, executive director of clergy lifelong learning at the General Board on Higher Education and Ministry, and the Rev. Kirkland Reynolds of Chevy Chase UMC. A comprehensive event guide and workshop catalog provides more information about the event and the 19 workshops.

#### AGENDA:

- 8:00 - 8:50 a.m. -- Check-in, Continental Breakfast, & Resource Fair
- 9:00 - 9:20 a.m. -- Opening Worship in the Auditorium
- 9:20 - 10:15 a.m. -- Plenary: "Boiling Points" with Rev. Joe Daniels, Rev. Dr. HiRho Park, and Rev. Kirkland Reynolds
- 10:30 - 12:00 p.m. -- Morning Workshops
- 12:00 - 12:45 p.m. -- Networking Lunch & Resource Fair
- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. -- Afternoon Workshops
- 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. -- Evaluation & Departure

**Registration is \$45. The registration deadline is Feb. 18.**

**To register go to: <http://www.bwcumc.org/event/1032669-2018-02-24-washington-region-leadership-day/>**



## Announcements (cont'd)

### Attn: All Thrift Shop Volunteers (past & present) Save the Date ! !

The Thrift Shop is in process of planning their 25th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place on Sunday, March 11, 2018. Starting at 2:00 pm Pastor David will begin our program, followed by a video history & pictures done by Mike Springirth & Ron Adams, followed by entertainment arranged by Polly Baldrige. Light refreshments will be served.

Please let us know if you are aware of any "retired" Thrift Shop volunteers that may have moved or we've lost contact with. You can contact Elizabeth Bradley at [240-745-2046](tel:240-745-2046) or email at [lizziebrad@aol.com](mailto:lizziebrad@aol.com) to give her any updates.

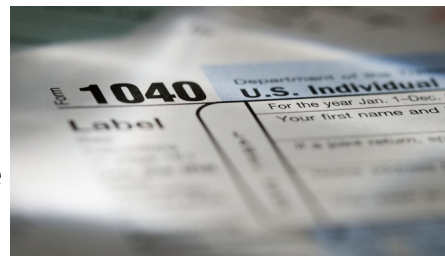


### A Volunteer Opportunity

For the Thrift Shop Anniversary Celebration (mentioned above) we would like to have dessert donations, and help with serving; perhaps from Sunday School classes, youth (SSL hours) or individuals in the congregation. **Our goal is make this a special Celebration for ALL the Thrift Shop volunteers**, by having others serve them. Please contact Carol Martin to sign-up at [carolleomartin@aol.com](mailto:carolleomartin@aol.com) or 301-253-3742.

### Free Tax Help

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is available free to taxpayers of any age with low and moderate incomes, with special attention to those 60 or older. AARP Foundation's trained volunteers have helped individuals for more than 50 years in every state and the District of Columbia. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service.



#### Schedule an appointment beginning on January 29

240-777-2577 / Monday—Friday / 9:30 am to 3:00 pm  
or go to: [www.montgomeryserves.org/tax-aide](http://www.montgomeryserves.org/tax-aide)

Appointments available - Wednesday & Fridays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Book an appointment by March 1, 2018 to guarantee availability

Damascus Senior Center and Library  
9701 Main Street, Damascus, MD 20872



#### 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!

## **YOUNG-AT-HEART OUTING!**

**Sunday, February 4th at 2:00**



**Presented by the Fredericktowne Players**  
**Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College**  
**306 E Patrick St, Frederick, MD 21701**

**Cost: \$15**

**Dinner afterwards TBD in Frederick**

This musical comedy won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score, Best Lyrics and Best Book. It is a sophisticated and honest look at modern adult relationships. On the night of his 35th birthday, confirmed bachelor, Robert, contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks and even a wedding, his friends explain the pros and cons of taking on a spouse. The habitually single Robert is forced to question his adamant retention of bachelorhood during a hilarious array of interactions. *Company* features a brilliantly brisk and energetic score containing many of Stephen Sondheim's best-known songs. Every audience member will see reflections of themselves in at least one of the characters onstage. Join us for an afternoon of music, fun and laughs!

**RSVP to Sandra Malley**

Home: 240-745-2283 / Cell: 301-518-2220 / email: [sandra.malley@Inf.com](mailto:sandra.malley@Inf.com)

### *Harwood House Thrift Shop*

The Harwood House Thrift Shop would like to wish a very happy and successful New Year to everyone!

Valentine's Day is approaching and Harwood House has many gift items, decorations, flower arrangements, and cards to remember your loved ones. Please come by and take a look at what we have to offer.

Also, come see our new Baby department located right next to the toy room. Everything concerning baby (clothing, blankets, strollers and play sets, etc.) is now in one area.

The Thrift Shop had a very successful year in 2017 and we were able to help and provide for many charities. Thank you to all who continue make this mission a success! We are able to help so many because of your support and are looking forward to success in 2018.

## Announcements (cont'd)

### Welcoming Wednesday Dinners !!!

This year dinners will continue to be held once a month at 6:00 pm,  
So mark your calendars!

**February 7:**            Italian sausage subs with peppers & onions  
                              Homemade minestrone soup  
                              Winter fruit salad  
                              Apple cake

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates are:

**2018:**     March 7 / Apr. 4 / May 2 / Jun. 6

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

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

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

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



### Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Monday, February 19**

**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.

### Some Apps You Can Use !!!

If you have a QR scanner on your smart device, please feel free to use these tools:

**BEACON**



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS PREVIOUS  
ISSUES OF THE BEACON

**SERMONS**



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LISTEN TO  
SERMONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED  
OR JUST WANT TO LISTEN AGAIN

**WEBSITE**



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE  
DUMC WEBSITE



## Announcements (cont'd)

Fun. Friends. Faith.

### Summer Camps for 2018

The United Methodist Church has three camp locations conveniently located around the Baltimore/Washington area. Each site offers guests spectacular views, wonderful service and a place to renew your spirit, grow in friendships and have fun. Camps are overnight and go start at grade 3rd thru 12th. There are additional programs for training for 16-17 year olds.



**Camp Harmison:** A 50-acre camp and retreat site near Berkeley Springs, WV. Located along the banks of Sleepy Creek, this site offers quiet, serene surroundings.

**Manikodan Camp and Retreat Center:** Over 300 acres bordered by the Potomac River and C&O Canal (across the river from historic Harpers Ferry, WV). Located just 20 miles west of Frederick, MD, an hour from Washington, DC and two hours from Baltimore, MD.

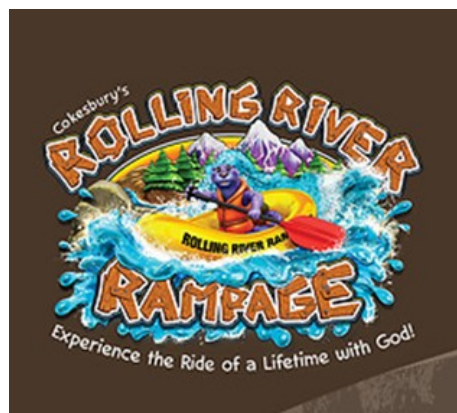
**West River Center:** Located in southern Anne Arundel County, West River is 45 beautiful acres on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Just 20 miles south of Annapolis, MD, and an hour away from both Baltimore and Washington, DC.

One page flyers are available in the church office or you may look up at [www.bwccampsandretreats.com/summer-camps/our-camps/](http://www.bwccampsandretreats.com/summer-camps/our-camps/) or you can call 410-867-0991 for more information.

*Our Summer Camp programs are very successful due to the  
strong commitment from our volunteers.  
We have both lay and clergy volunteers working alongside our dedicated staff.*

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## Save the date for VBS 2018, July 23 – 27!



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

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

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

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## Prayer Requests

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

All requests will be kept confidential.

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

## Office Info

### PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

### PASTORS:

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

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

### STAFF:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Administrative Meetings For February 2018

- Feb. 1 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**  
Finance Meeting to follow  
in the **Sacristy**  
Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - stage side**  
Missions Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - back side**  
Children's Ministry Meeting to  
follow in the **Dining Hall - back**
- Feb. 7 Staff Meeting  
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Feb. 11 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Feb. 21 Technology Committee  
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR

### IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, February 25).

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND  
ALL ARTICLES BY THIS  
DATE AT THE LATEST.**

## Office Hours

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

Pastor David is off on Fridays.

Pastor Amanda is off on Tuesdays.

Jane Webb is off on Mondays.

Linda Stastny is off on Tuesdays.

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



**The Office will be closed on  
Monday, February 19 for  
President's Day  
and will re-open  
Tuesday, February 20  
at 8:00 am.**

## ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

**A delegation of 12-missioners from Damascus UMC and Calvary UMC in Mt. Airy is in Nicaragua from January 27 – February 4. They will visit and work on projects in La Danta and two nearby orphanages.**

**Larry Froeberg** (Karen Taylor's father) who has just returned home after being hospitalized for complications with pneumonia.

**Tina Soule**, who is recuperating at home after a serious fall this week.

Congratulations to parents Aylin Wallen and **Travis Rice** on the birth of their son **Rylan Wallen**, who arrived January 24 at Frederick Memorial Hospital. Mother and baby are doing well. Proud grandparents are **Linda and Steve Rice**.

**Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery:** **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Marylyn Anderson** (diagnosed with myasthenia gravis), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend at Shock Trauma Center in very critical condition), **Bob Braden**, **Barry Bratburd** (recovering from hip replacement surgery), **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Linne Carrier**, **Ann Cochran**, **Don Cosman**, **Annabelle Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's aunt with medical issues), **Susan Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Pat Duvall**, **Larry Froeberg** (Karen Taylor's father recovering from complications from back surgery), **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Miel Linthicum**, **Lauren Lloyd** (Jan Mullinix's daughter), **Jeanette Long**, **Daniel Lorenzo** (Angie Thompson's brother with heart failure), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella** (recovering from back surgery), **Nancy Nickerson**, **Amy Nisonger** (recuperating from ankle surgery), **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **David Rust** (home recuperating from hip surgery), **Carole Sacco** (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law with liver disease and candidate for a transplant), **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**, **Melinda Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Natalie Cosman** (Don & Rita's granddaughter), **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Ethel Frear**, **JP Feuillet**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Jan LaDuke** (Julie Kinnaman's cousin), **Leroy** (friend of the Malley's going thru kidney cancer treatment), **Dave Lingrell**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew) **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister) **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle) and **Matt Works** (Nick's brother).

### Your Connection to Care

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



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



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