



FIRST RESPONSE

THE BEACON FEBRUARY 2020

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor

**Sherwyn Benjamin (Pastor B)
Associate Pastor**

**Stephen Kalnoske
Director of Music and
Organist / Pianist**

**Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry**

**Cora Horst
Director, Children's Ministries
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool**

**Jane Webb
Office Manager**

**Linda Stastny
Office Administrator**

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. / PM Custodian

Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian

It is with great pleasure we welcome Stephen Kalnoske as our new Director of Music and Organist-Pianist!

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee posted this position in November and interviewed two candidates, Stephen and an outside candidate. The interview team, including Kathy Leslie, our pastors, and others, were very impressed with Steve's enthusiasm, plans for the position, comfort with the choirs, and his own plan for what the music program can become. Stephen had also already stepped up to lead the 2020 Youth Choir Tour and impressed us again with his communication and organization/administrative skills.

Stephen's qualifications include the following:

- He has served as organist/pianist at DUMC for the last 11 years.
- Four years ago, Stephen formed the choral group, "Sibito Voce" performing more advanced pieces with a smaller group of skilled high school and college singers.
- As a congregation, we are already very familiar with his talents for arranging music.
- Prior to joining DUMC, Stephen was the Assistant Director of Music at National City Christian Church (Washington D.C.) and Trinity Lutheran in Hagerstown.
- Planning the 2020 Youth Choir Tour has given us a real opportunity to see Stephen's organizational and administrative gifts.

Having this accomplished and gifted organist, arranger, and now Director of Music is a tremendous benefit to DUMC. It will allow program continuity for DUMC as Stephen knows this church and the choirs. He has a passion for music and our youth. Also, Stephen is well connected in the music community.

With this new position secured, SPRC intends on working with Stephen to post two additional music positions —an accompanist and a Handbell Director.

Please join us in welcoming Stephen and his family, wife Megan and their children Maya and Nathan!

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



If you or a member of your family would like to be baptized or received into membership in the church, please contact the church office or Pastor Kathryn at 301-253-0022 or Kathryn.Woodrow@damascusumc.org.

Pastor's Class continues "Who Are We?"

9:30 – 10:30 am

1/4 of Dining Hall / Hallway side

Pastor Kathryn is leading, "Who Are We?; A Journey from Head to Heart" prepared by Bishop LaTrelle East-erling and members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Part 1: Who are We as the People of God?

"Who are We as the People of God?" begins with seeking fresh insights into the nature of God, examines our identities as enslaved people and continues with our journey through wilderness toward ongoing liberation from bondage and celebrating that freedom. Discover what it means to live out of the fullness of our identity in God and bless multitudes as a result.

The remaining classes are;

February 2, Week 4: Embracing God's Many Names

Exodus 3:13-15; Genesis 15:22-26; 16:13-14; 22:9-14

February 9, Week 5: Visioning and Prophecy

Isaiah 1:1-6, 21-26; Isaiah 40:1-11; Acts 2:14-21

February 16, Week 6: Liberating

Exodus 12:37-42; Numbers 33:1-56; Ephesians 2:11-20



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 25
From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

DUMC Dining Hall



Cost for dinner is: \$8.00 per adults
\$4.00 for children 10 and under.
There is a family cap of \$25.

Reservations for dinner would be greatly appreciated!

Please call the office (301-253-0022) to make your dinner reservations.

Join Pastor Nick Sunday, February 23 @ 4 pm Here at DUMC - Great Hall / Stage Side

Nick Works will host a public demonstration of his Doctoral Project: The Road Less Traveled: Pilgrimage and Spiritual Formation in the 21st Century.

The program will be about an hour to an hour and a half where Nick will present the findings of his doctoral project. There will be time for questions and answers.

This project seeks to understand patterns of religious travel among Christians today, with a special emphasis on pilgrimage and spiritual formation.

NOTE: This presentation will share survey results from surveys circulated twice among the DUMC family: The first in May-June 2018 and the second circulated in Dec. 2109.

EPIPHANY SERMON SERIES: "Who Are You?"

"The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb God named me." Isaiah 49:1

We continue our worship series looking at who we are and whose we are and the difference that it can make in our lives if we truly live as God's beloved children. What amazing things could happen if you lived into your best, most passionate, most authentic, most loving self?

Worship every Sunday at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

February 2, 2020 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany: "Embody Beatitude Living"

Two of the powerful and poetic lessons for life appear in the scripture readings this Sunday. The definition of beatitude is "supreme blessedness and happiness." In our search for happiness among the "stuff" of life, have we missed the point? What difference would it make to embody a love for justice and kindness in our everyday lives? (Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12) We will celebrate Holy Communion.

February 9, 2020 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany: "Live with Integrity"

Something with "integrity" is stable—all the parts are supporting the whole. We are invited to examine all the parts of our lives to see if they point toward the fulfillment of our identity, vocation, and call. When all things work together for good, the parched places in our lives become watered and our saltiness never loses its taste. Are you a self divided? (Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Matthew 5:13-20)

February 16, 2020 - Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany: "Create Right Relationships"

Who we are cannot be fulfilled in isolation. We were made for relationships and for passing on the life and love given to us by God. We've all experienced the pain of broken relationships and the joy of restored ones. How does our relationship to others define us? How does living in right relationship with friend and stranger send reverberations into the world and into the future? (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-27)

February 23, 2020 - Transfiguration of the Lord: "Proclaim Transformation"

We have walked in the light, we have heard the assurance of our "belovedness," we have named and claimed our place in the world, our passion, our vocation, and our mission. Now it is time to proclaim to the world from the mountaintop that transformation is possible. (Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9)

Lent Begins on February 26, Ash Wednesday:

- 6:45 a.m.** Brief service of with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes in the Chancel, followed by a continental breakfast in the Great Hall. Join us before you head to work or school.
- Noon** Brief service of with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes in the Chancel, followed by refreshments and conversation in the Great Hall.
- 7:30 p.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary with the Imposition of Ashes. Music by the Men's Choir.

Worship Arts & Music Events

February 2020

Stephen Kalnoske, Director of Music & Organist/Pianist
240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com



*The Chancel Choir, Charles Wesley Singers,
Brass and Organ will present . . .*

The Wesley Lineage Concert on February 23 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary!

This concert will feature hymns and anthems of
Charles Wesley's many hymn texts,
as well as explore the music
of Charles Wesley's sons and grandson.

Come join us for some uplifting music and great hymn singing!

SUNDAYS

11:15 - 11:45am **Cherubs Church** Music Room
4 yrs – 1st/2nd grades | Led by Stephanie Greer & Gloria Maready
Children attend first half of 11 am service and then meet in the Music Room.
They will return to the Sanctuary around the time of the offering.

5:00 - 6:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsals** Music Room
6th thru 12th grades | Led by Stephen Kalnoske
Sings weekly @ 8:15 am Sunday worship service

MONDAYS

7:30 - 9:00 pm **Ring of Joy Handbells** GH/Stage
Primarily adults, but open to all ages | Self-led

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 - 5:15 pm **COMBINED Puppet Troupe** GH/Stage Side
Puppets for 2nd – 12th grades | Led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:15 - 6:00 pm **Choristers Choir Rehearsals** Music Room
1st thru 6th grades | Led by Stephen Kalnoske

7:00 - 7:30 pm **Men's Choir -** (starting Feb. 5) Music Room
For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

7:30 - 9:00 pm **Chancel Choir** Music Room
Primarily adults, but open to all ages | Led by Stephen Kalnoske
Sings weekly @ 11 am Sunday worship service

Charles Wesley Singers Summer Tour California, 2020

Tour preparations are rolling along! We have 4 host churches confirmed and talks are progressing with more.

If you haven't filled out a tour form and paid the deposit, please do so and return it to Stephen Kalnoske ASAP!



DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

Youth Chapel

Sundays @ 9:30 am

Breakfast/Music/Sunday School—Classes by age

Sunday, February 2

Returning from Youth Retreat

NO Youth Dinner, CWS, or Fellowship Activities

Sunday, February 9

4:00 pm UMYFO Meeting –Annex/CR

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Devotion and Game Night

Sunday, February 16

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

**6:00 pm Depart DUMC for Zavazone
Trampoline Park and Pizza**

Sunday, February 23

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

7:00 pm Choir, Organ and Brass Concert

Sunday, March 1

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Depart for Bowling in Gaithersburg

Sunday, March 8

4:00 pm UMYFO Meeting –Annex/CR

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Movie Night in the Annex

Sunday, March 15

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Youth Fellowship and Devotion

Sunday, March 22

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Youth Activity: Gaelic Games

Sunday, March 29

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Youth Fellowship and Devotion

Rehearsal Schedule

Charles Wesley Singers

Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Combined Puppet Troupe

Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:15 pm

Great Hall / Stage Side

Join Pastor Nick

Sunday, February 23 @ 4 pm

Here at DUMC - Great Hall / Stage Side

Nick Works will host a public demonstration of his Doctoral Project: The Road Less Traveled: Pilgrimage and Spiritual Formation in the 21st Century.

The program will be about an hour to an hour and a half where Nick will present the findings of his doctoral project. There will be time for questions and answers.

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NOTE: This presentation will share survey results from surveys circulated twice among the DUMC family: The first in May-June 2018 and the second circulated in Dec. 2109.

Come Build Houses with us this Summer at Habitat, 2020

DUMC will once again be traveling to Garrett County in Western Maryland this summer to help build homes through Habitat for Humanity.

Our trip will be July 12-17. We anticipate the cost to be \$125 per person. More information and applications will be made available in the spring. For now, please mark your calendars to save the dates.

Contact Anita Duvall for more information (habitatdumc@gmail.com or call/text 240-485-7650).



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
- DUMC Blood Drive, February 6
- 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 (They are with ***Between Cultures***, an ongoing ministry in Nicaragua.)
- 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 in Musasa, Kenya

Thank You's

- To all who helped with the Harwood House Thrift Shop cleaning and updating over the holidays
- For those who volunteer in the Damascus community through Damascus HELP
- To those who support DUMC through their giving and thereby support DUMC's mission ministries and missionaries
- To the LOA team for registering voters on MLK Day

CHANGE FOR CHANGE during Lent

Lent is a time when faithful people sacrifice to remember the sacrifice of Jesus for all humanity. The Mission team invites all DUMC people to find a container and save their change during the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. The change donated from Ash Wednesday to Easter, will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for their work and programs with children detained at our southern border. These are children in need and crisis. 100% of all donations will be given to the need. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life.

La Danta Chicken Project

In 2016, with the help of the youth from DUMC, a Chicken Project was started in La Danta, Nicaragua. This project benefited 50 families. Each family received 4 chickens valued at approximately \$7 each. \$28 per family. 200 hens in total.

This project sustained itself over time because of the natural reproduction of the chickens. The maintenance costs of the hens are very affordable for the farmers. The chicken eat corn and insects from the field, and the treatment of their diseases is not too expensive and most of the time it is applied by the families. In exchange for this small investment and relatively not so heavy work, families benefit from a protein increase in their food intake through the consumption of eggs and meat; and also improve their income with the sale of chickens and hens. Currently the price of a hen in the market is approximately 9 dollars, the two-month-old chicks born a dollar and a half, and the eggs about 15 cents each. With this money, farmers can buy other products of vital importance to the family, such as basic grains, etc.

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Your brothers and sisters from La Danta, a community with a very precarious subsistence economy and with fairly modest income from the remittances of their migrant relatives in other parts of Nicaragua and outside the country, are deeply grateful for your immeasurable help as a sign of the strong bonds of brotherhood that unite both communities. Love always expresses itself better in deeds than in words. Let's keep walking together, with Jesus always with us.



DAMASCUS HELP DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in October: Chris Fletcher, Damascus Lions Club, Jimmie Cone, Damascus Amazing Race from Baker PTA, Bob Dickey's Damascus High School Social Studies Class, Cedar Grove Elementary School, Wilson Wims Elementary School, Damascus United Methodist Church, Damascus First Baptist Church, Montgomery United Methodist Church, Hyattstown United Methodist Church, Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church, and Weis Market. We made 73 food deliveries serving 308 people, helped 10 families with financial assistance and gave 1 person a ride to an appointment.

Volunteer News: Damascus HELP thanks all the volunteers for their services to help the community. We wish everyone a happy holiday season with family and friends. Debbie Keller and Kathy Zegowitz, food drivers, have left their positions to move on to other endeavors. Thank you both for all of your assistance. Sandy Eatmon has joined HELP as a food driver and OD. HELP is in great need of ODs, transportation drivers and furniture moving teams. If you know of anyone who might be interested in these opportunities and other positions, please have them contact Damascus HELP. Contact can be made through calling 301-253-4100, emailing dh20872@aol.com, or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.

Next Missions Committee meeting February 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm

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.

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!

JUSTICE and COMPASSION

Love One Another Ministry



MLK Day Voter Registration Event

It was finally a wintry day for the LOA voter registration event on Jan. 20 at the Hornet's Nest. Almost every member of our group participated: Jane Clarke, Lisa Marshall, Mary Busby, Deborah Bowe, Rick Barr, Jean Barr, Mary Neiter, Charlotte Kibak, Cheryl Minekime, Kelly Bratburd, and Mandy Sellers. Volunteers from the congregation were: Joyce Szekelyi, Sandra Malley, and Steve Mal-

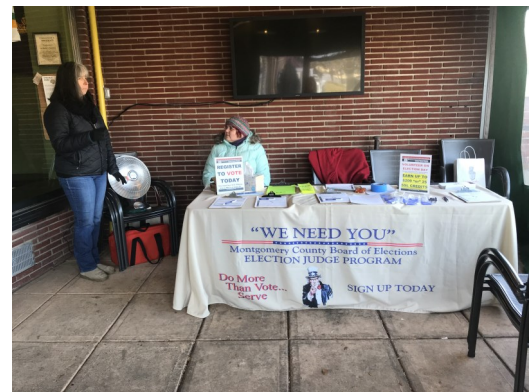
ley. Kara Springer for the Board of Elections stayed the whole time for support.

Though we didn't get many customers, our event got the word out that it is important to vote! If you haven't registered or need to make a change to your registration, please see one of us or go to www.777vote.org.

You can also find many opportunities there for people to work at the polls for money or SSL hours. We plan to have a small table at the blood drive on February 6. Photos taken by Lisa Marshall:



MLK day 1: Our sign in front of Hornet's Nest



MLK day 2: Kara Springer (from BOE) and Deborah Bowe at our table.

"Who Are We? A Journey from Head to Heart" Part 2: Who Are We As United Methodists? Will begin on Thursday, February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 5 & 12. This is 6-week study to focus on our Methodist heritage. Mary Nieter will lead this part of the study which will meet in the Annex Conference Room from 7:00 – 9:00. Please contact Mary in the case of inclement weather. The booklet can be downloaded here: <https://www.bwcumc.org/resources/who-are-we/>

Thank you to Mary Busby for leading "Who Are We? Part 1: Who Are We as a People of God?" Cora Horst will lead **"Who Are We? Part 3: Who Are We as People of the Baltimore-Washington Conference?"** after Part 2. Stay tuned for details.

Wesley Nexus is hosting their annual "Evolution Weekend" on Sunday, February 9. The title of this year's event is **"PATRIARCHY In Science, Education and the Church."** It will be held at the Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Conference Center in Fulton, MD. It will also be live-streamed. Our very own **Dr. Carla Works** will speak on "Patriarchy in the Church." Go to this link for more information: <https://wesnex.org/event/evolution-weekend/>

LOA's next meeting will be Saturday, February 8 from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Annex Conference Room. Everyone is welcome.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019 OPERATING BUDGET

This is information on the church's financial status for calendar year 2019, as promised in my recent Beacon article.

The budget for 2019 was \$1,015,043. We finished 2019 with total income of \$958,608 and total expenses of \$967,317, resulting in a year-end deficit of \$8,709. Although we cannot and should not continue deficit spending or borrow from our future income, the 2019 deficit was significantly less than anticipated when we started the last quarter of the year. As of September 2019, expenses exceeded income by \$35,900. In October the deficit increased to \$40,700, and by the end of November it peaked at \$48,200. Income in December, however, was exceptional, with income of \$130,700, (including \$121,000 in tithes and offering) which exceeded December expenses by \$39,800. Prior to December, our monthly income averaged \$71,900 (excluding two one-time gifts in March and April that totaled \$37,200). December's income also exceeded income for December 2018 by \$3,381.

The Finance Committee is grateful for your tithes and offerings throughout the year and especially during Advent and Christmas, and also is pleased with the careful and prudent spending by our ministry leaders, nearly all of whom kept their spending well under budget.

Richard Hardick
Chair, Finance Committee

Ways to Give at DUMC

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

- 1) Give by either check/cash on Sundays in the collection plate.
- 2) Bank draft to be sent to the church for the frequency and amount you determine.
- 3) Download the church Smart device application and give digitally to the church.
- 4) You can do text giving to the church.
- 5) Contact the office bookkeeping department and set up e-giving. This can be done with a credit card or by ACH giving, again for the frequency and amount you determine.
- 6) You can donate stock, 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 or help on how to do give using any of the above options at 301-253-0022, #106.

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

January 3—BWC Scholarship Application Process Opens

The BWC awards scholarships are for qualified students currently attending college, as well as high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2020. The application process opens January 3 and closes March 5. To be considered for a scholarship, students must complete the full online application which includes uploading their current transcripts. In addition, the student must provide contact information for their pastor and one additional church reference. The pastor and reference will be contacted and asked to submit information on the student's participation in the local church. The entire process will be completed online. Learn more and apply -- <https://www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/>.

Young at Heart Afternoon Social and Board Games

February 16, 2020 - DUMC Great Hall

1:00 - 3:30 pm



Bring your lunch and beverage, a snack to share, and a favorite game to play with others.

Please RSVP to the church office (301-253-0022) by Friday February 14, so we know how many tables and chairs to have available.

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners ! ! !

**This year dinners will continue to be held once a month
So mark your calendars!**

February 12: **Chicken Marsala over noodles
Salad, bread & butter, and dessert**

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates are:

2020: March 11 / Apr. 8 / May 13 / Jun. 10

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

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



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.

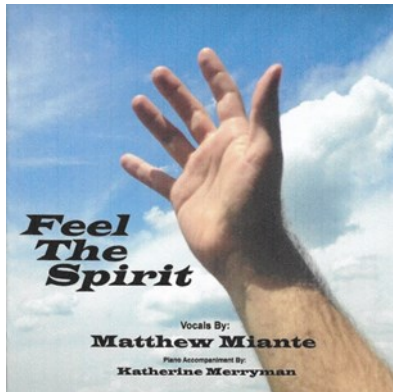
As always, we can use extra hands to help in preparation, serving and clean-up. Many hands do make lighter work. If you feel you can spare a little time on the days we have dinners please give us a call or send an e-mail to: Kenny Sue Robertson / charrobe@verizon.net / 301-471-7298.

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

Announcements (cont'd)

Music CD's from DUMC's Matthew Miente

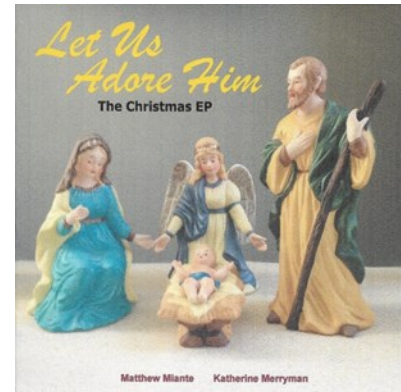
FEEL THE SPIRIT (\$10.00)



Track List:

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?

LET US ADORE HIM: THE CHRISTMAS EP (\$5.00)



Track List:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Gesu Bambino (The Infant Jesus)
Do You Hear What I Hear?
Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
O Holy Night
Joy To The World

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of one or both, contact Matthew Miente.

Cell Phone: (703) 819-9111

Email: mmiante@verizon.net

WHERE DO I STAND???

Do you have an area in your life that you'd like to confidentially discuss with someone who will not be judgmental? Every day we are exposed to contentious and very serious issues that can affect our lives in major ways. These issues include employment, healthcare, racism, sexism, immigration, religion, politics, sexual orientation and gender identity.....you name it! It seems sometimes though, that we are asked to look at only the black and the white, the extremes of each issue, forgetting everything in between. Often there is a lengthy process involved when we take a personal journey to decide where we stand on issues. The process involves our minds, hearts, and souls. Sometimes we change our minds and this, too, is a process. Our church denomination itself is struggling with some of these issues.

DO YOU NEED AN ADVOCATE TO HELP YOU BE TRUE TO YOURSELF?

Today's climate sometimes does not allow for a welcoming space to openly explore, evaluate, or discuss these issues inside of our homes, our places of employment, inside our churches, and/or our relationships. Stephen Ministers are not therapists; however, they can listen and listen well without judging.

PERHAPS YOU CAN USE A STEPHEN MINISTER FOR THESE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS. IF YOU ARE SUFFERING **FOR ANY REASON** AND DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE IN A CONFIDENTIAL AND NON-JUDGMENTAL SETTING, CALL US!!!!

Contact Jan Mullinix at 301-518-2204 or the church office at 301-253-0022.



Jews and Christians Talk Sex: An Interfaith Dialogue on Gender and LGBTQ+ Sexuality

Regardless of your faith background, we hope you will join the clergy of:

Congregation Or Chadash

Damascus United Methodist Church

St. Anne's Episcopal Church



There is no charge to attend and snacks will be provided.

Attend one, two, or all three sessions.

Sessions are Wednesday evenings, 7:30pm-9:00pm

*** February 5th at Congregation Or Chadash**

(24800 Kings Valley Rd., Damascus)

***Topic:* Language and how we define or redefine LGBTQ+**

*** February 19th at St. Anne's Episcopal Church**

(25100 Ridge Rd., Damascus)

***Topic:* Scriptural and religiously modern**

understandings and misunderstandings



*** March 4th at Damascus United Methodist Church**

(9700 New Church St., Damascus)

***Topic:* Discrimination faced within the LGBTQ+ community and
our responsibilities within faith communities**

RSVPs welcome, but not required.

Please RSVP to Rabbi Kobey at RabbiKobey@gmail.com or (301) 482-1025

Announcements (cont'd)



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

The DUMC Blood Drive is **Thursday, February 6, 2020**
from 1:00 - 6:30 pm in the church Dining Hall

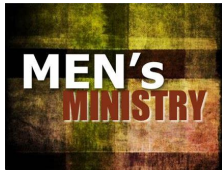
Our second Blood Drive of the year is about to take place for 2019. So please check your calendars and **sign up**. Walk-ins may not be able to fit into the schedule so we strongly recommend making appointments. The shortest waiting times tend to be for those with appointments between 2:00 and 4:00 pm.

Please download the Red Cross Blood Donor App or go to www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767, plus option #1, then hold for the operator.

Damascus UMC MD to schedule your life-saving donation!

Volunteers are also needed to help prepare for the blood drive. Please contact Cathy Heinbaugh 301-253-0742 or cheinbaugh@comcast.net if you are able to help. Thank you for helping us save lives ! !

Men's Night Out for February, 2020



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

Monday, February 3 @ 6:30 pm

Firebirds Wood Fired Grill
390 Spectrum Avenue, MD

*RSVP to church office by Friday, January 31
@ 301-253-0022.*

Ladies Night Out

Will take place on
Tuesday, February 11.

We will meet at **6:00 pm**
at the Hornets Nest at
9876 Main Street, Damascus, MD.

Please RSVP to the church office
at 301-253-0022.

*Women's
Ministry*



Beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 26) we will hold our early morning Lenten Communion services at 6:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays through April 1. These services are followed by a light continental breakfast in the Great Hall.

We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to take a Wednesday to host a light breakfast for this small group of around 12 people which includes youth and adults. If you would like to host a simple breakfast one week (for example fruit, bagels, cereal, yogurt, muffins, juice, etc., are fine), please contact Pastor Kathryn at kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org or call her at the office at 301-253-0022.

Did you know?

The Upper Room Living Prayer Center has a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intercessory prayer ministry staffed by Christian volunteers. When you call 1-800-251-2468, a person will answer the phone, receive your prayer request and pray with you. After your call, your prayer concern will be forwarded to one of 300 Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups located all over the world. On the Web, requests can be submitted by visiting www.umc.org, 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.



Announcements (cont'd)

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



ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

A message from Ted and Ester Samakouris: Kurt Warren Martin was born unexpected on Dec. 9, 2019. He spent 27 days in the NICU and just came home to parents Kimberly and Joe Martin with big brother Clay on January 5. Also grandparents Esther and David LaMaster and great grandparents Esther & Ted Samakouris. Also, I want to applaud the Ronald McDonald House who was there for Kimberly the whole time (27 days total), around the clock. They were so grateful for their help. You only realize what wonderful help these Houses give you when you need help in emergencies. They were wonderful wherever needed.; bed and board for family while infant is in the NICU, Christmas gifts for infant and all siblings, even gift wrapped. Shuttle service back and forth between Ronald House and the hospital.

Congratulations to Valerie Maggio Mandelkorn and Jesse Mandelkorn of Elkridge, Maryland, on the baptism of their son, Bryce Andrew Mandelkorn (five months) on January 19 at Glen Mar UMC in Ellicott City. Grandparents are Jim & Cindy Maggio.

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), **Helen Boyer** (Sally Boyer Smith's mother, at home in Hospice Care), **Elizabeth Bradley, Martin Carr, Ann Cochran, Judy Dalrymple** (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), **Pat Duvall, April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Debbie Hoar, Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella, Nancy Nickerson, 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 in Hospice Care), and **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), **Mary Walcek** (recovering from a fall), **Ginger Wilson** (recovering from surgery and continuing physical therapy), and **Don Woodrow** (recovering from a broken foot.)

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), **George Moy, 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), **Cameron Kruse** – Marines, **Kristina Kruse** – Army, **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).

Office Info

PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

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lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper

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**The Office will be closed on
Monday, February 17 for
President's Day
and will re-open
Tuesday, February 18.**

REMINDER...

When using a pew offering envelope, it is important to be sure to put your **FULL NAME** on the front

of the envelope for the
recording of your gift. Thank you!

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING

ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

IN THE **MARCH, 2020** BEACON

WILL BE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

(publishED on **Sunday, February 23**).

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

Thank You !

Administrative Meetings For February, 2020

Feb.	6	Staff Meeting 10:00 am in the Annex/CR
Feb.	6	Trustees Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Great Hall/SS
Feb.	6	Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Great Hall/back
Feb.	9	UMYFO Committee Meeting 4:00 pm in the Annex/CR
Feb.	13	SPRC Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Annex/down
Feb.	18	Technology Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
Feb.	20	Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

**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.