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 JANUARY 2017



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

Happy New Year!

This is such a wonderful time of year. Oh, January can be cold, snowy, and gloomy. It can also be a time of remarkably blue skies, brilliant sunsets, and crisp, blood-flowing days. Mostly, though, it is a great time of year because it is a time of optimism.

In reality, January 1 is really no different than any other day of the year. Still, turning over the calendar and starting fresh with a new 365 days creates the feeling of opportunity. This is the point behind resolutions. This is the year I will – fill in the blank. We are completing the Christmas season renewed by the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child who we come to learn is our redeemer and savior. God is with us. Surely the future looks bright. We are nearing the season of Epiphany, marked by the rising of a special star. We hope that star will lead us to the Christ as it did the wise men so long ago. We all need those times, those moments, when we can just start fresh. We need the slate wiped clean so we can write a new narrative. Oh, this is a wonderful time of year.

We are beginning it at church with Wesley's historic covenant service. Written specifically for this time of year, the service leads us through praise, confession, repentance, and commitment, ultimately bringing us to the table to renew our relationship with the Lord. It is the liturgical New Year's resolution and a beautiful service. Next, we will hear our young adults speak about how they interpret the star in the east and what is leading them to Bethlehem. This is followed with a service of the renewal of our baptismal vows, another way to align our lives with the ways of God getting us started on a good foot for 2017.

Throughout Epiphany and Lent our theme will be first: "From River to Mountain," and then: "From Mountain to Garden." We will be following Jesus geographically as well as theologically as he moves from baptism in the Jordan to the wilderness for temptation to Galilee and ultimately to the Mount of Transfiguration. Then from the mountain we will walk with Jesus back through Galilee and then Samaria into Judah and Jerusalem ending in the Garden of Gethsemane. Come, travel with us and with the Lord as we watch and listen to what he does and says.

Many church officers have just completed their terms. My thanks are extended to each and every one. Dozens of persons give faithfully of their time and talents to assure that the many ministries here are carried on. They come during the day, in the evenings, and on the weekends. Very little would happen without the dedication of so many faithful volunteers. I am deeply grateful.

### CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey Associate Pastor / Christian Formation

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

Debbie Benson / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

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

Julio Pedraza / Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

About Our People	15
Announcements	11
Missions & Outreach	7
Office Information	14
Spiritual Formation	3
Worship Arts	5
Youth Fellowship	9

### Pastor's Article (cont'd)

As they complete their terms, new officers begin theirs. Welcome to each. I know you will bring energy and wisdom, both carrying on the traditions and offering new ideas. I am excited about what lies ahead.

Remember to periodically check the website, <u>www.damascusumc.org</u> to keep track of all that is happening. This is also one of the places to check the schedule should we have inclement weather. If in doubt about whether a program or meeting is cancelled, check the website or call. Even if we are open, if you do not feel safe, do not come. Your safety is more important to us than your attendance. We will see you when the weather clears up.

This is a wonderful time of year. The New Year has begun. Lift up your heads and open your arms to embrace the coming days. As you set your plans, remember your Lord and your church. Worship, prayer, participation, giving, and witnessing belong on everyone's agendas. We are disciples of Christ and this is what disciples do. Let's make 2017 our best year yet.

- David

### Watch a live newscast!

The Young at Heart is taking a trip to WJLA-TV Channel 7 on **Friday, January 13, 2017 (Note: New Date)**. The trip includes a one-hour tour of the television station and then a front row seat for a live noon newscast. A limit of 15 people is allowed. To sign-up, or for more information, contact Mike Springirth at <u>240</u> -832-2404.



NOTE: The Channel 7 Station is located in Arlington, VA. We will carpool from DUMC departing at 9:45 am, view the broadcast at noon, and then meet at Ruby Tuesday's for lunch (2 blocks from the station). We would expect to return to Damascus between 3-4 pm.

### **Christmas at Harwood House**

Harwood House Thrift Shop will be closed Saturday, December 24 thru Wednesday, January 11, 2017 for the holidays.

No donations will be accepted after December 23 until January 12.

The shop will reopen for business Thursday, January 12, 2017.



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE

WEBSITE HOME PAGE

and

OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE
UP-TO-DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS
AND CANCELLATIONS
AS SOON AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

### **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 prayer box in the Narthex.

All requests will be kept confidential.

Prayer requests may also be made on-line at www.damascusumc.org.

### **Spiritual Formation**

### Tea Time Talk – January 29 @ 3:00 pm Great Hall

Join us for tea and biscuits (aka cookies) and some time to listen and chat!

Ever feel like you can't be honest about your opinion or that you aren't being heard or that you don't understand why other people think what they do? Do you wish you could have an honest conversation in a safe place where the goal is to understand and to be understood instead of argue, persuade or judge? Then, Tea Time Talks are for you!

Join Amanda and David for this third talk in a series of four. Our focus topic will be on Immigration, including historical perspectives and discussion of modern day issues and challenges. Can we be the Body of Christ in love and grace even if we don't agree? Come and learn how.

#### What this isn't:

- a place for extreme view points with no desire to understand other view points
- a place to make decisions about how our church will respond
- a place to persuade or argue with others
- a place to judge others

Future Topics: March 19 - Issues of Race

Feel free to ask Amanda or David for more information or to clarify expectations!



### Men's Night Out for January

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

Monday, January 16, 2017 at 6:00 pm at Hornet's Nest Grille 9876 Main Street Damascus, MD 20872 Phone: (301) 253-3707

Please plan to join us!!!!

### The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy of the Upper Room which is kept in the pew hymnal racks in our Sanctuary.

Better yet, take a couple of copies and share with friends and neighbors. This publication is a wonderful way to encourage daily scripture reading!

# LADIES' NIGHT OUT

When: THURSDAY, JAN. 19, 2017

Where: CarterQue@6pm

**1310 S. Main Street. Mt. Airy. MD 21770** 

**RSVP** by Jan. 15

THERE WILL BE NO Ladies' Night Out in February

When: MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017

Where: Guapo's at The Rio

9811 Washingtonian Blvd.

**Gaithersburg. MD** 

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

CONTACT PASTOR AMANDA AMANDA.MCMURTREY@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG Call 301-253-0022 or Text 970-231-5123

### Spiritual Formation (cont'd)

# New Bible Study Beginning!! Entering the Psalms with Pastor Amanda Monday Nights - 6:30-7:30 pm, beginning Jan. 9



Did you start the new year promising yourself you would spend more time reading scripture? Or more time praying? Well here is your chance! Join Pastor Amanda for a 7-week study on the Book of Psalms. The study will include discussion, daily readings, and experiencing the Psalms through music, art, and language. Each participant needs to order "Entering the Psalms" Participant's Workbook. (Available via Cokesbury.com for \$6.29 plus shipping).



### January United Methodist Women News

**Susanna JOY Circle** will meet in the church Dining Hall at 10:00 am on **Monday, January 9**.

The **WWJD Circle** will meet **Thursday, January 19**at the home of Marcia Hofman, 29 Clearwater Court in Damascus.
We will gather at 7:30 pm to discuss several books that will be shared by circle members.
This is an open invitation to any woman interested in joining a small group.
For further information call Marcia at 301-253-2960 or email marciahofman67@gmail.com.

A planning meeting for the DUMC Women will be held on January 9 at 6:00 pm in the Annex at the (church office).

Anyone interested in planning for our upcoming year is welcome. You may contact Hazel Strahorn, hazelstrahorn@verizon.net or 443-553-9848, with questions or concerns.

# YOUNG-AT-HEART PLANNING MEETING!

Come join us as we plan activities and fun outings for 2017. New ideas are welcomed and the more people involved, the better it will be! Any adult with ideas and an interest in participating in the events is welcome to attend the meeting. If you can't be there, but would like to make suggestions, contact Sue Constantinides at 301-253-6591 or suehcon@yahoo.com.

We will be meeting on Sunday, January 8 at 2:00 pm in the Annex (church office). Bring your fun ideas to share!



# **Worship Arts News and Events**

January 2017 Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship Arts 240-750-8287 | polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

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

### THANK YOU!

### Worship Arts in January

Thank You!

"All things work together for good for those who love the Lord."

- Romans 8:28

Thank You!

A tremendous word of thanks is due to the countless people who made the Advent and Christmas season come alive at Damascus UMC. Volunteers said yes to costuming for plays and pageants, adorning the sanctuary, lighting and sound set up, set design, providing live animals, acting in the Live Nativity, playing instruments, spreading the word, singing, delivering poinsettias to home bound friends, selling tickets, serving as liturgists, setting up the sanctuary, puppet directing, providing refreshments – and the list goes on! What a gift to our God and our community and ourselves we make when we collaborate and work together toward common goals. Certainly we have kept Christmas well. May we continue to live as Christmas people, sharing and celebrating the many gifts God has given us and using them for the benefit of Christ's body in our world.

Polly Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship

### **Looking for You?**

Groups and soloists are invited to share special music at the offertory during the 8:15 and/or 11 am services during the year.

Please contact Polly if you feel called to serve in this way.

### New England Search . . .



Charles Wesley Singers are traveling to New England on tour from June 20 to 27, 2017.

If you have any family and friends in New England that might host our choir, please be in contact with Polly to share

The Praise Artisans
Guild will be taking
down the Christmas
decorations on
Saturday, January 14
starting at 9:00 am
and would appreciate
any help available.

### **WEDNESDAYS**

4:00 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus Great Hall Stage Side

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

4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall Back Half

Choir for children 4 ½ years-olds to 1st grade led by Celia Hembrough and Lydia Turner-Little

5:00 pm **Youth Puppets** Great Hall

Puppets/drama for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough

5:00 pm **Choristers** Music Room

Choir for children 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:30 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Stage (September – February – April)

Handbells for students 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge

7:00 pm Men's Choir Music Room

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

7:00 pm **Group Vocal Instruction for Treble Voices** Great Hall Back Half /Only January
Singing technique session with Polly Baldridge will also include working on music for Women's Choir

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Music Room

SATB choir for worship /special concerts led by Polly Baldridge with Stephen Kalnoske, accompanist

### **SUNDAYS**

3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month; Shares each Sunday @ 9:30 am All instruments and vocals needed for this student led group facilitated by Polly and Tom Baldridge

4:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir Stage

Handbells for youth 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades led by Tom Baldridge



### Featuring Five Mystical Songs

Curt Shiflett, bass Matthew Miante, bass Stephen Kalnoske, organ

Presented by the Chancel Choirs of Damascus and Calvary (Frederick) United Methodist Churches

# **Sunday, January 22, 2017** 3:00 pm

### **Damascus United Methodist Church**

9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD | 301-253-0022 SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10 | Snow Date Sunday, January 29, 2017

### MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Carol Yocum, Chairperson

### Thank You for the Christmas cards you sent our Missionaries in Nicaragua

Nan McCurdy & husband, Miguel Mairena, finishing a two-year Missions interpretation assignment in the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC (formerly in Nicaragua—new assignment in 2017)

**Dr. Belinda Forbes** (dentist) & husband, **Gerardo Gutierrez** (medical doctor) and their two teenage daughters, living in Managua. One daughter is a freshman in college in NC.

**Amanda Jones &** husband **Memo Dominguez**, baby daughter Sophia, living in Managua, Nicaragua, working with Between Cultures.

Please keep the ministries of these couples in your prayers!

### Prayer Partnering

**January 2, 2017**, the DUMC team will leave for Nicaragua for a week of service with **Between Cultures**. If you would like to be a **Prayer Partner** with one of the team members during the trip, there are sign-up sheets available in the Narthex. Let's keep this team's work and time of sharing the love of Christ in your prayers.

Martin CarrChris NickersonAmy NisongerDerek KlahreCliff BergstresserKyra LakosAngela WahlMarian KepleyJan JaremkoMike WahlKathy JonesJulia KepleyNancy NickersonKennySue RobertsonDebbie Hursh

### Training to be a Volunteer in Mission in March 2017

### Training days in the Regions nearest Damascus will be:

March 4: Western Region @ Otterbein UMC, Hagerstown from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

March 11: Washington Region @ Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, MD from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

**NOTE:** The times listed may not be the exact times but will be listed after January 1 on the Conference calendar of events.

DUMC is in the process of planning a VIM trip in 2017 to help with people in WVA who were impacted by the summer's floods. Interested? Contact carolyocum@msn.com

Our annual Garrett County Habitat for Humanity trip will be July 16 to July 21 next year. Mark your calendars now. Speak with Anita Duvall if you are interested in participating.

### Supporting our newest Missionary at Christmas for a special project

From Dr. Belinda Forbes, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 when she learned of our \$1,000 gift: "The offer of a \$1000 pledge each year for 5 years is an extraordinary one and I do thank you from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of all the people that will benefit from trained dental workers!!"

Missions had money from your giving in our 2016 budget which was sent to Dr. Belinda, a dentist and public health missionary in Nicaragua as a Christmas gift. She and her team work with remote communities mostly in the eastern part of Nicaragua where there are no roads. It has been 25 years since dental assistants were trained for these rural communities. **Thanks for supporting Missions through our budget.** 

### A way to help those devastated by Hurricane Matthew

The Damascus UMC post-Christmas Choir concert (Living Christmas Tree) is making a significant contribution to UMCOR through the ticket sales. If you cannot attend the concert, but would like to give to this great need both in Haiti and the southern coastal states of the US, please donate, designate your gift, and it will be sent along with the other contributions.

Thanks for being God's love for people in need!!

### MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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



# Volunteers Needed in January 2017

### **FAITH CONNECTIONS HELP LINE (Serve from your home.)**

- ► Serves with the Good Shepherd team to answer Helpline phone calls 3 days per month
- ▶ Provide assistance and referrals to families facing financial issues such as eviction.

**FAITH CONNECTIONS** provides emergency service to families in crisis situations and works in advocacy to support efforts to empower the individual/family towards self-reliance. Faith Connections is a collaboration of the churches in the Damascus-Clarksburg area.

For more information please call 301-512-5127 or Debbie@Faith-Connections.org

"...Love your neighbor as yourself" Matt. 22:39
Have you been searching for a ministry to serve in the Greater Damascus Community?
www.Faith-Connections.org



### 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 <a href="mailto:dh20872@aol.com">dh20872@aol.com</a> or <a href="https://www.damascushelp.org">www.damascushelp.org</a> for more information.

# Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry Monday, January 16 at 12:30 pm 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, <a href="mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net">cheinbaugh@comcast.net</a>, 301-253 -0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@ yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.



Your Stephen Ministry wishes you a wonderful New Year!

# DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

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

Youth Chapel Sundays @ 9:30 am

Breakfast/Music/Classes by age, Resuming Sunday, January 8

# January 2017 - Youth Fellowship Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm

**Includes Dinner and an Activity** 

Sunday 1/1

**NO Youth Fellowship - Happy New Year!** 

Sunday 1/8

Winter Game Night - Church Dining Hall/Great Hall

**Sunday 1/15** 

**Youth Birthday Bash** 

Sunday 1/22

Winter Youth Retreat (No Rehearsals, Dinner or Event)

Sunday 1/29

Ice Skating in Rockville

# February 2017 - Youth Fellowship Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm

**Includes Dinner and an Activity** 

Sunday 2/5

Super Bowl Party @ the Bratburds

Sunday 2/12

Valentine's Day Game Night

**Sunday 2/19** 

**Destination UnKnown** 

Sunday 2/26

**Youth Service Project** 

### Youth Praise Band Sundays @ 3:30 pm

1st & 3rd weeks of the month

### Youth Bell Choir Sundays @ 4 pm

1/22: No Rehearsal due to Youth Retreat

### Charles Wesley Singers Practice Sundays @ 5 pm

1/22: No Rehearsal due to Youth Retreat

### **Youth Puppets**

Wednesdays @ 5 pm in the Great Hall

The SIXTH GRADERS will be getting together on Saturday, January 7 at Charlie Bratburd's house from 3.40 – 5.30 pm. Bring your swimsuit! They have a hot tub! There will be games and snacks, too. Join us at 4063 Sand Trap Ct, Mt. Airy, MD 21771. Questions? Kelly and Barry Bratburd can be reached at 301.831.7435.

### UMYFO MEETINGS

Sunday, January 15 at 4 pm in the Church Office.

Sunday, February 19 at 4 pm in the Church Office.

# DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

### **Youth Winter Retreat January 20 - 22, 2017**

Winter Retreat is quickly approaching. We are going to West River on Friday, January 20. We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm and leave the church at 5:00 pm. We should arrive at West River by 6:30 pm. We will stay at the West River camp Friday night, Saturday and return on Sunday afternoon around 3:00 pm. The cost is \$100, but scholarships are available (please email Nick to inquire about scholarships or multiple child discounts). We will need a small group of adults to travel with us as chaperones. If you have any interests in coming and helping, please email Nick directly. We may also need some adult drivers. Nick has already began a sign-up sheet for students and adult. Please let him know ASAP if you plan to volunteer or attend.

Nick's Contact Info: nick.works@damascusumc.org Cell: 240-751-6695

Look for your Registration Form in the mail next week.

RSVP to Nick for Winter Retreat by Jan. 15!!!!!

### Attention all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders Wanna Play Basketball???

As many of you are aware, we have this team just to have fun getting together and playing a fun sport with a Christian attitude. We actually have some gym time to practice this season. When it comes to participation in practice and the games, just make what you can. We know everyone is very busy.

Below are the practice dates for both the MIDDLE and the HIGH SCHOOL, for your calendar. We will meet at Baker Middle School Gym. You enter the school by the back door. All the practice dates are on Friday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

January 6, 13, 27 Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24 March 3 & 17

We might have some other times when can practice. If any dates come up, we will let everyone know.

Games are on Saturday nights starting January 7 and ending at the end of March. We will not have a game on January 21 because of the Youth Retreat.

Questions, contact Tom Baldridge at 301-807-5775 or redheaders@verizon.net

## WesleyNexus

Science and Religion within the Wesleyan Tradition

WesleyNexus Program on February 12, 2017 - Evolution Weekend

WesleyNexus and supporting partners are sponsoring a special program that will be live-streamed on the worldwide web. The subject in 2017 will be "Are Our Children at Risk? Food, Insecurity, Climate Change, Racial Bias." The live streaming program begins at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 12, ending by 5:00 pm. Our newly elected Bishop LaTrelle Easterling will provide the "faith perspective" on each of the presentations.

If any Youth and/or Parents would like to watch the session, Pastor Nick would be glad to join you in the Church Annex. Please RSVP to Nick at nick.works@damascusumc.org.

### Announcements (cont'd)

### Needed:

### **Volunteer Financial Assistant!**

Do you have 20 minutes a week to help the church?
Then you can do this job!

We need someone to help our bookkeeper by entering member contributions into the computer each week. We can train you and it only takes a few minutes each week.

Please prayerfully consider serving the church! Call David Rust at 301-414-5447 or email at darust@comcast.net for more information or to ask questions.

A great volunteer opportunity, during this giving season  $\dots$ 



### Meals on Wheels needs your help!!!

We are looking for a few drivers to help deliver meals, 1 –2 times per month. Men or women are qualified,

as long as you have a car.

If you feel you can give a small amount of time to this church mission, please contact Pam Rust, Coordinator, at 301-414-5447.

### **GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE**

The DUMC Blood Drive is

Thursday, January 26, from 1:00 - 6:30 pm
in the church Dining Hall

╬

Our first Blood Drive of the year is about to take place for 2017. 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.

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: Damascus UMC MD to schedule your life-saving donation!

Thank you to all who have participated in the blood drives at DUMC in the past. We have a terrific community of donors and volunteers!

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!!

# Sign Up for Flowers on the New Calendar!



Flowers, as signs of life and beauty, have traditionally been offered to the glory of God to adorn the Sanctuary. The 2017 Flower Calendar is now hanging in the Narthex, in the back of the church. As you come to church, don't forget to stop and sign up to provide flowers for the altar. Please indicate: 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 the local florist Beall's at 301-253-2840.

Any and all questions will be gladly answered by Linda Stastny in

the church office.

### Announcements (cont'd)

### Welcoming Wednesday Dinners for January

The *Welcoming Wednesday Dinners* are available in the Church Dining Hall. We serve from 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12. This is a chance to connect with your church family mid-week. It is also a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!



January 4: Slider Assortment: Hot ham & cheese, egg salad, tuna salad, green salad & dessert

January 11: Buffet of soups, grilled cheese, & dessert

January 18: Beef stroganoff, green bean/carrot medley, spinach-grapefruit salad & dessert

January 25: Biscuit-topped chicken pot pie, fruit salad, green salad & dessert

Like to cook? Want to help this ministry? You can volunteer for only a few hours on Wednesdays. We need helpers for dishwashing, general preparation, cooking and baking. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, come by during dinners, or email gabriellehulcher@gmail.com.

\*NOTE – Menus are subject to change.

### Please remember to use Amazon **SMILE** when you do your shopping on Amazon!

- **♦** The Youth Program here at DUMC receives a contribution for all purchases made through this link, with no additional cost to you!
- **♦** To use this purchase option, you can go to the DUMC link located at the bottom of the home page on the DUMC website (damascusumc.org)
  - ♦ If you have any problems or difficulty with using the link, please contact Jane Webb in the office and she will be glad to help you.
  - ♦ Once we have initially set up DUMC as your "supporting organization," the Amazon website should default to this link whenever you log in.



### 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 <a href="https://www.umc.org">www.umc.org</a>, 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





# **Adult Grief Support Group**

for anyone grieving the death of a loved one

Wednesdays, January 4 - February 22, 2017 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Location: Damascus United Methodist Church 9700 New Church Street, Damascus, Maryland 20872



This safe, confidential peer support group, facilitated by trained volunteers, allows participants to meet with others who are also grieving, share their stories, and support each other. **Provided at no charge.** 

The church has graciously provided us with a room, but you need not be a member to attend.

Registration is required!

Please contact Anne Baker, Director of Adult Bereavement Services at anneb@hospicecaring.org or 301-990-0854 to register.

Hospice Caring, Inc., 518 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2325 Phone: 301-869-HOPE (4673) | Fax: 301-990-4909 | www.HospiceCaring.org United Way #8365 | CFC #42512

### Office Information

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Main office: 301-253-0022

### **PASTORS:**

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

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

### **STAFF:**

Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

cell: 240-750-8287 / polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

Nick Works, Director of Youth

cell: 240-751-6695 / nick.works@damascusumc.org

Jane Webb, Office Manager ext. #101 / 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

Debbie Benson, Bookkeeper ext. #106 / debbie.benson@damascusumc.org

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# Administrative Meetings for January, 2016

- Jan. 4 Office Staff Meeting 10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 5 First Thursday Ministries Meeting 7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary** 
  - ► Trustees Meeting to follow in the **Great Hall/back**
  - ► Missions Meeting to follow in the **Great Hall/Stage Side**
  - ► Children's Ministry Meeting to follow in the **Library**
- Jan. 15 UMYFO Meeting 4:00 pm in the Annex
- Jan. 18 Technology Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 26 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

The Office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2016 for Christmas Day and will re-open Tuesday, December 27, 2016 January 4, at 9:00 am.

Additionally, the office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2017 for New Year's Day, re-opening for business on Tuesday, January 3.

### **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 for the day at 4:00 p.m. 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.

Thank you!

#### IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE FEBRUARY BEACON
WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, January 29).

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

Thank You!

### **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 david.cooney@damascusumc.org



Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104 office: 301-253-0022 amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org

They can also help connect you to a Stephen Minister or an Earth Angel.

#### ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations to Randy Smith & Sally Boyer Skogsberg Smith on the marriage of their son, John Boyer Skogsberg & Rebeka Raquel Boney on December 18 in the Boyer Chapel.

**Pray** for the **Dennie Family** with the passing of Rowland's mom, Janice Dennie.

**Pray for Roz Bowman, Delores Neal and family** with the recent death of their nephew, Denny Hines of Monrovia.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: Pennie Adams (Cochlear implant), Benjamin Bautista (developmental concerns), David Bellefleur (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), Mary Burton (heart issues), Ann Cochran, Patty Crane (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), Joyce Dooley (Carol Taylor's mom), 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.), Diane Fry (having complications from her hand surgery recovery), Marianne Goldup, Patsy Kressig (Judy's mom), Miel Linthicum, 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), Neal Pardini (leg vascular problems), Mary Richards, Carole Sacco (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law) liver disease and candidate for a transplant, Jerry Smith (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield) undetermined medical issues, Randy Smith (Sally Boyer Smith's husband) recovering from heart surgery, Dorothy Stull, in rehab after injury to head, Karen Turner (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), Bill Walcott, and Matthew Works (Nick's brother) surgery and radiation on spine tumors.

Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer including Patty Benson (Doug's wife), Mike Bowman (Roz Bowman's son), Ann Boyer (Kevin's mom), Sue Bradley, Steve Capkovits (Ruth Harward's cousin), Karen Caroscio (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), Mickey Cochran, Natalie Cosman (Don & Rita's granddaughter), Tammy Lee Cosman (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), Lauren Dunham, JP Feuillet, Dawn Helton (Marge Taylor's daughter), Rick Henderson (Ken's brother), Willa Kackley (Judy Benedict's aunt), 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) and Tim Sanner (Dan Krotz's uncle).

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), Thomas LaMaster – Navy (Ted & Esther Samakouris' grandson), Gregory Lee – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), Benjamin J. Saunders – Navy (son of Connie Ross), Alex Sauter – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly), and Kossi (Alfred) Setodji – Army (son of Philip and Mary Davi Avudutu).