

# THE BEACON

## JANUARY 2018



*Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples*

### CLERGY AND STAFF:

**David Cooney, Senior Pastor**

**Amanda McMurtrey**  
**Associate Pastor /**  
**Children's Ministry**

**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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## Happy New Year!

Another year has come to a close and a new year is about to begin. In December people often ask me if I am ready for Christmas. My answer is usually yes, because we need to plan long ahead for our Advent and Christmas services and programs, so, by the time Christmas comes, I am ready. I am not so sure about being ready for a new year. Oh, services and activities are planned. The i's have been dotted and t's crossed on administrative items for 2017. Every year, though, holds challenges and opportunities. I have not fully reflected on 2017 and certainly have not yet focused on all that lies ahead in 2018. Fortunately, the Lord has and I look forward to all that the Lord has in store. I hope you share my excitement for whatever lies ahead.

One thing that I know is happening, and I am excited about, is a prayer walk on January 15. Our church is hosting an Interfaith Prayer Walk through Damascus. Remembering many of the lessons we learned from Martin Luther King, Jr., and wanting to make a positive statement in our community, we have invited persons of all faiths and denominations to walk through Damascus with us stopping at representative places to ask God's blessing.

Construction will begin this year next to the Boyer Medical Building and across from us is the project for senior affordable living project. On this site we will pray for housing for all residents of our community so no one is left in the cold and without a roof over their heads. We will be praying for our local businesses and business leaders. In front of the fire house we will pray for firefighters, police officers, and all first responders. We'll pause at a school to pray for teachers and students and the children and youth of our community. This gives you a sense of what a prayer walk is.

I encourage you to be part of this walk and to invite friends and neighbors to be part of it. It may be cold. It does, obviously, include walking. We'll have to navigate across the streets. But imagine a large crowd, representing different faiths and denominations, walking together to ask God to bless our seniors and business owners and protectors and teachers and students and community at large. What a witness this will be. What a way to say to our community that we care about you. What a visible way to demonstrate that we believe that every person counts. I think it is a powerful way to begin a new year.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated fifty years ago this April. His message of peace, justice, nonviolence, the dignity of all people, the need to care for one another, and the power of faith lives on. I do not know all that the New Year will bring. I do know that I will be walking and praying on January 15. I hope you will join me and that you bring along others with you. It will be a great witness and a blessing to Damascus.

I pray that this year will be all that you hope. Ready or not, it is here.

Yours in Christ,  
David

### Christmas at Harwood House

Harwood House Thrift Shop  
will be closed thru  
Wednesday, January 10, 2017  
for the holidays.

We will re-open for business  
on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

**NOTE:** We will still hold "work days,"  
on Tuesday, January 2 and 9, but  
**NO donations will be accepted  
until January 11.**



### 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.

**NOTE:** We will no longer have a flower calendar hanging in the main church building.

*Your Stephen Ministry wishes you  
a New Year filled with  
Peace, Hope, and Light in 2018!*



**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.**



## Learning about Communion Classes 2018

In 2018, the Learning about Communion Classes will be held during the 9:30am Sunday School hour as a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Sunday School lessons. Four classes are planned: January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 4<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, and February 25<sup>th</sup>. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade who would like to learn more about Communion are welcome to join us.

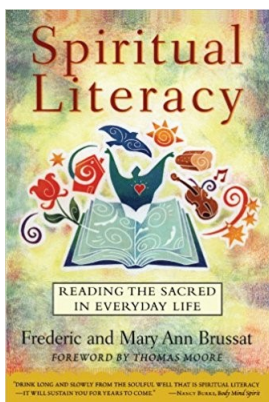
This year, parents will only need to attend with their children on February 25<sup>th</sup>, so that they can assist in preparing homemade bread.

A final session will be held on Friday evening, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Family and friends are invited to join our special worship service on the altar.

Please contact Cathy Scarbrough at [tom.scarbrough@verizon.net](mailto:tom.scarbrough@verizon.net) or call 301 972-6844 to register your child for the class. We hope that your children will attend all four classes and then the final service with their families.

It will be lots of fun as we learn about Communion, make commemorative banners, and make our own bread. Food allergies will be accommodated, so please let Cathy know of any concerns.

Susan James and Cathy Scarbrough are the co-teachers, and we look forward to a special time of learning with your children.



### Come Join Us!

The Leslies Sunday School class will begin a new study of the book  
**“Spiritual Literacy, Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life,”**  
by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat.

We will begin on Sunday, January 7.

The class meets in the conference room of the Annex (church office).  
Anyone interested in joining us is most welcome to participate  
and/or enjoy the lively discussions.

## 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).

# DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

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

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

**Sunday 12/31**  
**NO Youth Fellowship - Happy New Year!**

**Sunday 1/7**  
**Winter Game Night - Church Dining Hall/Great Hall**

**Sunday 1/14**  
**Youth Birthday Bash**

**Sunday 1/21**  
**Return from Winter Youth Retreat**  
(No Rehearsals, Dinner or Activity)

**Sunday 1/28**  
**Ice Skating in Rockville**

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

**Sunday 2/4**  
**Super Bowl Party**  
(Location TBD)

**Sunday 2/11**  
**Valentine's Day Game Night**

**Sunday 2/18**  
**Destination Unknown**

**Sunday 2/25**  
**Youth Service Project**

For questions or  
more info,  
contact Pastor Nick  
at [nick.works@  
damascusumc.org](mailto: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**  
1/21: No Rehearsal due  
to Youth Retreat

**Charles Wesley**  
**Singers Practice**  
**Sundays @ 5 pm**  
12/31 & 1/21:  
No Rehearsals due  
to Youth Retreat

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

**2018 Winter Youth Retreat**  
Theme: *Wrapped in God's Love*

**On Friday, January 19** - We'll  
gather in the Sanctuary at 4:30  
pm.

**On Sunday, January 21** - We will  
return to DUMC, arriving between  
2:00 - 3:00 pm.

**Details:** Cost is \$100 per person,  
\$80 for each additional youth in  
family (\$15 extra for each T-shirt).  
Cost covers food, lodging, sup-  
plies, activities and materials.

**Registration Forms:** Will be  
mailed the week of January 1.  
Please watch for it and complete  
ASAP. If you don't receive by Jan.  
5, just give the office a call or  
email a message to  
[jane.webb@damascusumc.org](mailto:jane.webb@damascusumc.org),  
and we'll send you one right away!

**NEXT UMYFO**  
**MEETING**

**Sunday, January 14**  
**at 4 pm**  
**in the Church Office.**

## Spiritual Formation (cont'd)

### 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 29, 2018**

**6:00 pm**

**Outback Steak House,  
12609 Wisteria Drive  
Germantown, MD 20874**

**Phone: 301-353-9499**

*RSVP to Ted Ross at 301-704-7992.*

*Please plan to join us ! ! ! !*

## January United Methodist Women News

The **Susanna JOY Circle**  
**Monday, January 8 at 10:00 am**  
**in church Dining Hall**

We will discuss our circle future and Chapter 6,  
for our final Covenant Study "*Jesus, the  
Everlasting Covenant.*"

Note: Bring text and Bibles

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### The WWJD Circle Meeting

The WWJD Circle will meet **Thursday, January 18,**  
**at 7:00 pm at the home of Marcia Hofman.** Jan  
Mullinix will lead us in a discussion of the book  
Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen  
Armstrong. If you haven't read the book yet, there  
are copies available at the public library. Discussion  
will also include any book that members have read  
recently that they enjoyed and want to share. So  
please come even if you haven't read the Armstrong  
book. Marcia's address is 29 Clearwater Court,  
Damascus. This is just a mile south of the church  
off of Woodfield Road. Her phone number is 301-  
253-2960. Our circle is open to any woman of the  
church. Please join us for this interesting, fun-filled  
evening, one in which we may learn how to help  
spread compassion in the world.

### January Meeting of Leadership Team of DUMW

The Leadership Team of Damascus United Methodist Women will meet Monday, January 8 at 6:30 pm in the Annex (church office). 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](mailto:hazelstrahorn@verizon.net) or 301-414-5459.

## NEXT LADIES' NIGHTS OUT

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

**When: Wednesday, Jan. 17**

**Where: GrillMarx  
12011 Snowden Farm Pkwy.  
Clarksburg, MD 20871**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Please RSVP by Jan. 15**

**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**



# Worship Arts News and Events

January 2018

Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

240-750-8287 | polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

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



## 4th Sunday Concert Series resumes for 2018 !!

**Sunday, January 28, at 3 pm**  
**Brethren in Concert**

Based out of the Northern Virginia/Washington D.C. area, the professional male ensemble, *Brethren*, is a Christian group comprised of 30 singers from all walks of life and geographic locations. Suggested donation \$15.

**Please mark your calendar for the remaining dates for Spring 2018.**

Sunday, February 25 - **On Broadway** (Vocal Students of Polly's)

Sunday, March 25 - **Faure Requiem** (Chancel Choir & Orchestra)

Sunday, April 22 - Spring Ring Handbell Concert

Sunday, May 27 - **Barbecue for Ben!** (Choristers Musical)

## 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 Baldridge (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 Baldridge

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 Baldridge 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 Baldridge 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 Baldridge

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 Baldridge

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 Baldridge 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 Baldridge

## Summer Youth Mission Tour Update

We've changed our destination to Florida for June 16-26, 2018!

We would appreciate any leads for host churches and places to sing from DUMC congregation members with connections in Florida or lower parts of South Carolina and Georgia. Please contact Polly Baldridge.

We expect our trip to include a visit to one of the Disney parks in Orlando and a day at the beach on the Gulf of Mexico. Plus singing, singing, singing, and sharing in mission.

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

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

- **Holiday season (Thanksgiving & Advent/Christmas) Change for Change jars for a special gift for United Methodist Committee on Relief—for hurricane and fire victims. Proceeds received January 7 in worship.**
- **DUMC Variety show with concession proceeds to support Neema Kenya Mission, see page #12 for more info.**
- **Prayer Walk with Damascus Faith Communities in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., January 15, 2018 @ 10 am in Damascus. Mark your calendars now!**
- **Between Cultures' trip to Nicaragua January 27 through February 4, 2018. Contact Kathy Jones for more info at 301-580-4591 or kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com.**
- **A Heart for Serving Others begins February 14 - Ash Wednesday.**

### **Change for Change ends on January 7**

Put your daily contributions for Change for Change (helping victims of hurricanes and fires) for UMCOR in a **Ziploc bag with your name and the dollar amount written on the bag to bring to worship on January 7**. All contributions (100% go for relief) will be counted and the total donation amount will be announced at the close of worship. Thanks for caring about others for whom the holidays have been difficult this year, while we have grown in our ability to be kind and generous!

### **Interfaith Prayer Walk January 15 to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The Damascus United Methodist Church Mission Team and pastors would like to invite you to participate in an Interfaith Prayer Walk, Monday, January 15, 2018. We will come together at 10 a.m. to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s memory and pray for our community.

For about 90 minutes, we will walk through the community of Damascus remembering in prayer our businesses, schools, people who serve in the fire and police service, medical community, people who struggle and are in need, new neighborhoods, etc. We will gather in the parking lot of Damascus United Methodist Church and return to DUMC for a warm beverage and cookies for those who would like to visit with fellow prayer-walkers.

The Pray Walk will take place no matter what the weather might be, except if it is extreme. We look forward to a time to remember Martin Luther King, Jr.'s efforts to implement justice, peace and bring people together to find their common humanity. We look forward to offering God our gratitude for our community and remembering its needs in prayer.

### **Update on Rock the House**

Rock the House has a new meeting place and the program began again the week of November 27. There are 26 elementary school children from the community enrolled! Difference Makers Church on Bethesda Church Road is hosting Rock the House on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. The kids are transported to the church by Bob's Limousine Co. Volunteers are always needed. Youth volunteers can earn SSL hours.

### **Updates on Neema Kenya Mission**

**Ndere Orphans School:** Renovations were recently completed on the building they are using as a kitchen. The mud structure was literally falling down, but it has now been reinforced with plaster and painted, with addition of windows and a door.

**Joint Partners Clinic:** We continue to send monthly stipends for the clinic to hire part-time staff, to help address the overflow of patients due to the ongoing strike of health care workers (which has now ended) in Kenya. Joyce and Adan are doing heroic work in the face of this public health crisis.

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

## 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!

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

- \$1000 has been sent to Dr. Belinda Forbes in Nicaragua for training for dental assistants who live in remote villages in eastern Nicaragua. This will provide a second year (out of 5 needed) for training.
- \$500 was sent, as a Christmas gift, to Laytonville Safe Haven for their most pressing needs.

## Thank You's

- 1) **Hazel Strahorn, Cora Horst, and Kathy Leslie** for their work on behalf of Faith Connection for community families for Christmas and to **all at DUMC** who helped those families have a merrier Christmas with food and gifts.
- 2) Redeemer Lutheran served **245 meals on Thanksgiving Day for the Community Thanksgiving meal** (160 guests, 28 deliveries to sick/shut-ins and 57 volunteers).
- 3) To all who have been saving change and small bills for UMCOR through **Change for Change** containers during the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas holidays.
- 4) To those who remembered our mission workers and children at the Ndere Orphans School, Kenya, with **Christmas cards**.
- 5) **From Damascus HELP in December:** Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in October: Matthew Koop Eagle Scout Project with Boy Scout Troop 945, Baker Middle School Music Dept., Damascus Stake of LDS Church, Damascus United Methodist Church, St. Paul Catholic Church, and Weis. **\*\*\*In October Damascus HELP made 51 food deliveries serving 187 people and helped 16 families with financial assistance, 2 families with household items, and gave 3 people rides to appointments.**
- 6) **Pam Rust** for her ongoing leadership with Meals on Wheels

## 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. Have a Heart for Service this Lent!

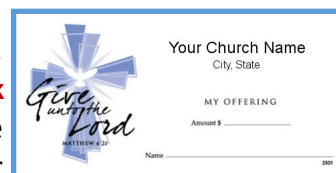
## Pray for:

- **Our Nicaragua team (January 27—February 4):** a delegation of 12 people. Participating from **Damascus UMC**; Marcia Hofman, Martin Carr, Tess Mills, Kathy Jones, Jan Jaremko, Nancy Nickerson, Debbie Hursh. **From 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.**
- The upcoming **Interfaith Prayer Walk** through the community in Damascus on January 15.
- **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.



### New Offering Envelopes deadline approaching

2018 offering envelopes are still available for pickup in the Great Hall hallway. They are in envelopes sorted by last name, alphabetically. **Please be sure to pick your envelopes up no later than Sunday, December 31, 2017.** This will save the church postage in mailing these out to you. We will have the second quarter envelopes available early in March.



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

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

### Many 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.

## Announcements

### GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

The DUMC Blood Drive is  
**Thursday, January 25, from 1:00 - 6:30 pm**  
in the church Dining Hall



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 call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net) if you are able to help.** Thank you for helping us save lives ! !

### Thank You Decorators ! ! !

The Praise Artisans Guild would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to decorate the church for the Advent season. It was greatly appreciated!

Take down will be **Saturday, January 13, at 9:00 am.**

As always, many hands make for light work.

*Thank you again and Happy Holidays to all!*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COUNT THE OFFERING

**WHEN?** – After the 11:00 am Service

**HOW OFTEN?** – About once every 8 weeks

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?** – About 2 hours

**DO YOU WORK ALONE?** – No, you will have a partner

**TRAINING?** –Of Course! We will show you the ropes

**WHO TO CONTACT** – David Rust – [darust@comcast.net](mailto:darust@comcast.net) or 301-414-5447

### PLANNING MEETING!



**Come join us as we plan activities and fun outings for 2018. 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. We're even discussing doing another cruise this year! If you can't be there, but would like to make suggestions, contact**

**Sue Constantinides at 301-253-6591 or [suehcon@yahoo.com](mailto:suehcon@yahoo.com).**

**We will be meeting on Sunday, January 14 at 1:00 pm in the Annex (church office). Bring your fun ideas to share!**

## Announcements (cont'd)

### Welcoming Wednesday Dinners !!!

This year dinners will continue to be held once a month at 6:00 pm.

Mark your calendars!

**January 3:** Spaghetti with Meat or Marinara Sauce,  
Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert.

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates are:

**2018:** Feb. 7 / 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!

**NOTE:** Dinners have been reduced to once a month because we have fewer helpers this year so far. If you can HELP OUT occasionally, please contact Kenny Sue Robertson (301-253-5305) or Lora Maynard (301-461-0850). We would love to have you !!!



### Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Monday, January 15**

**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



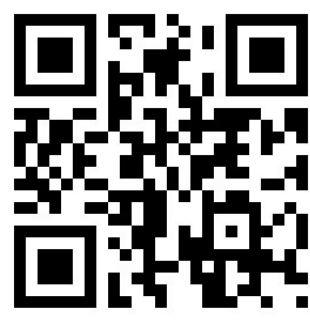
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#### WEBSITE



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE  
DUMC WEBSITE

## Announcements (cont'd)



### DUMC VARIETY SHOW

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

7:00 P.M.

HOSTED BY THE SPICE GIRLS!



Calling all youth, college kids, young adults, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, Sunday School classes, Confirmation classes, and anyone willing to have some fun!

Dust off your dancing shoes, pull out your musical instruments, practice your favorite songs and get ready to participate in our variety show! No talent necessary!

The show will be held on the stage in the Great Hall.

Refreshments (drinks, finger food, popcorn, etc.) will be sold by the OMG Sunday School class, with all proceeds being donated to the Neema Kenya Mission.\*

Invite your family members for an evening of fun and entertainment!

To sign up, please contact Sue Constantinides at 301-253-6591 or email at [suehcon@yahoo.com](mailto:suehcon@yahoo.com). She needs the name of your act and a description.

There will be a run-through rehearsal the day before on Thursday, January 11.

Drop by anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 pm to practice.

Let Sue know if you need an accompanist or special arrangements for your act.

This will be the best show ever! Don't miss it!

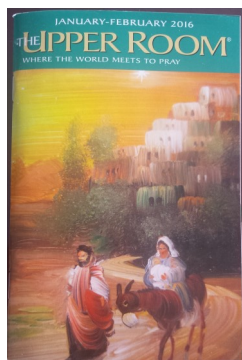


in Kenya, Africa.

\*A Mission organized by members to support an or-



DUMC  
phanage



## 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!



## Thank You's

### Thank you to the Congregation for your Christmas Giving!

The congregation of DUMC is to be commended for participation in Faith Connections' holiday project. Twenty families in Damascus celebrated a more joyful Christmas due to the generosity of Damascus United Methodist Church. Participants included Sunday School Classes, Circles, Men's Groups, Youth Groups and individuals who chose to sponsor a family. Due to participation in this project, many Damascus residents will be warmer: physically, emotionally and spiritually, as they start the New Year. A special thanks goes to Cora Horst, Kathy Leslie, Gayle Conard and Hazel Strahorn for organizing this undertaking. If you would like to help with this project in 2018, please contact one of the committee members.



Four stars and many thanks to all who worked so diligently to make the Young at Heart Christmas dinner and program such a success. Bob Newlin got us going and was a great emcee as usual. Jane Webb kept us organized and provided us with flavorful food and bright red tablecloths. Ron Adams kept us all wired. Jonathon Colburn managed the kitchen and his crew served and cleaned up. We were so fortunate to have such great musical talent shared with us: Sue Seabold, Kathryn Smith, Amy Nisonger, Ben Constantinides, and Matt Miente. There were many others who decorated, set up and helped in other ways. We

can't forget SANTA CLAUS who shared his humor and candy with us. It does seem to take a church "village" to make the evening a success and David didn't even lose his tie!!! We enjoyed meeting friends old and new. We will be looking forward to next year's extravaganza and hope to see you there. Have a Blessed Christmas!

Jacque Janss  
Associate Member,  
Young at Heart Group

### ***A Belated Thank You\* . . . . .***

The Damascus United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who made our recent dinner and Bazaar such a success. The support from our congregation was heart warming and truly appreciated.

All proceeds will go to local or global ministries. Whether you donated, worked, or bought food or items, 100% of the profit will go to a person in need.

A special thanks goes to Mandy Sellers, the chair of the Bazaar, and Kenny Sue Robertson, the chair of the Dinner. Neither events would have happened without these two ladies. Also, thanks to Steve Malley, our bookkeeper with a heart, who made it possible for us to accept credit cards this year. This definitely helped our sales!

A big hug to everyone who did their part to make the November Saturday happen - May the 4th be with you!

Hazel Strahorn  
Chairperson, UM Women

\*Due to accidental omission from December Beacon.



## 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:

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Minister of Music & Worship Arts  
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Stephen Kalnoske, Organist  
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[stephenkarnoske@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkarnoske@gmail.com)

Nick Works,  
Director of Youth  
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Jane Webb, Office Manager  
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Linda Stastny, Office Administrator  
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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 January 2018

- Jan. 3 Staff Meeting  
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 4 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary (yea!)  
Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - stage side**  
Children's Ministry Meeting to  
follow in the **Sacristy**  
Missions Meeting to  
follow in the **Great Hall - back side**
- Jan. 6 **SPECIAL Admin** Board Meeting  
9:00 am in the Dining Hall/back
- Jan. 14 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 17 Technology Committee  
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 25 Administrative Board Meeting  
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

### IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, Jan. 28).

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

We will re-open on  
**Tuesday, January 2.**

## ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

**Congratulations** to **Kevin & Sarah Williamson** on the birth of their son, *Miles Martin*, on November 16; and **George & Vanessa Bentley** on the birth of their son, *Colton Jase*, born on December 13.

Pray for **Maxine Lloyd and family** with the passing of Edmund Lloyd on December 25. The funeral service was held here at DUMC on Saturday, December 30.

**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**, **Karen 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).

**Continue to pray for all who serve in the military:** The following are stationed in the United States: **John Clayton** – Army (Cathy Heinbaugh's brother), **Gregory Lee** – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), **Benjamin J. Saunders** – Navy (son of Connie Ross), **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly), and **Kossi (Alfred) Setodji** –Army (son of Philip and Mary Davi Avudutu).

### 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