



FIRST RESPONSE

THE BEACON JANUARY 2020

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor

Sherwyn Benjamin (Pastor B)
Associate Pastor

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

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

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. / PM Custodian

Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian

Clear Vision

Happy New Year DUMC!

2019 has been quite a year for us in many respects. I was commenting to someone at the end of one of the Christmas Eve services that I wished it was the last worship service of the year. Maybe I was voicing my personal reflection aloud, notwithstanding my love for "Watch Night" or a New Year's Eve service as part of the tradition in which I grew up. I felt as if celebrating Advent, which begins the Christian calendar year, would be the perfect symbolic end to new beginnings and/or climax to a year of sorrow, uncertainty and anxiety, and transition. But in all of it God has kept us and given us strength to endure and persevere.

In 2019 we were met with sorrow as we celebrated the life of some very dear members of our church family who transitioned from this life unexpectedly; there was anxiety and uncertainty, even frustrations, as our denomination struggled with the division and threat of a schism over the issue of human sexuality; we had our own concerns with how the decision of the General Conference Special Session would affect our family fellowship; and more recently, we were faced with the reality that our congregation would go through yet another season of transition, as we learned our Minister of Music and Worship Arts, Polly Baldrige, would be stepping down from her position. We are all aware of the gifts that she brings to the ministry and her love and commitment to this congregation, as it has been and continues to be central to her life and her family.

So, the past year has taken us on a journey of hills and valleys. In spite of these challenges, God has been with us along the journey. So, I thought, in that moment on Christmas Eve, celebrating the fulfillment of God's promise and the coming of Christ, Immanuel, was a great reminder for us, looking ahead to the new year, to continue on this faithful journey knowing that God is indeed with us.

As we begin the year of 2020 and journey on, it looks like the year may take us on a path of self-discovery. Some have been gathering for the

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

“Who Are We?” bible study that was initiated by Bishop Easterling. Well, Pastor Kathryn will be teaching part one of the study again for those who were unable to attend the Thursday classes. You can see the details below on this page. In addition, we will be preaching an Epiphany series entitled “Who Are You?” For we serve a God who is eternal and we believe God is the same God that we encounter in scripture. However, we are continuously being renewed through the work and power of the Holy Spirit. That said, we may want to examine our evolution and ask ourselves the question, who has God created me to be and who am I in Christ at this stage of my life and faith journey? I have begun to ask myself these questions, in view of the growth that I have experienced serving this wonderful congregation and seeking clarity for the things that God is calling me to do at this stage of ministry.

So as we go on this journey, my prayer is that God would give us clear vision—yes, 2020—not just to know God’s preferred future for us, but to know how God wants to use us for God’s kingdom and that we will begin to seek God for tangible ways to live out our theme, *Love is our First Response*, as devoted servants, drawn to Jesus, and dedicated to making disciples.

May God’s grace continue to sanctify you and may you be blessed immeasurably to be a blessing to all with whom we come in contact.

Pastor B.

Pastor’s Class - “Who Are We?”

Sundays, January 12 – February 16

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

1/4 of Dining Hall / Hallway side

Pastor Kathryn will lead, “Who Are We?”, an introspective study of head and heart prepared by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. **Part One** of the three-part study takes a deep dive into exploring who we are as God’s children. Out of that, we are invited to reflect on where we have missed living out of our divine inheritance both personally and as a gathered community of faith.

If you plan to attend, please contact the church office to sign-up so that we have enough materials prepared.

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.

January 12, Week 1: Exploring the Nature of God

Genesis 2:4b-9; Genesis 3:1-13a and 21; John 1:14-18; 1 Corinthians 13

January 19, Week 2: Learning Lessons from the Garden

Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-13 (14-19), 20-24; Romans 8:31-39

January 26, Week 3: Remembering Our Story

The Book of Exodus

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

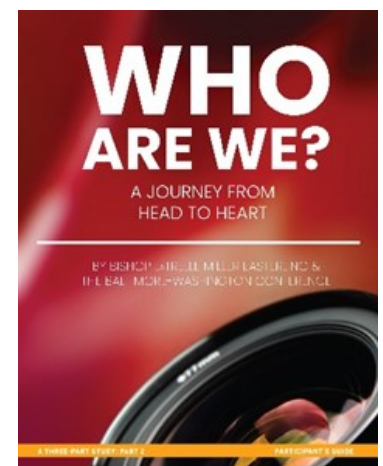
Exodus 3:13-15; Genesis 15:22-26; 16:13-14; 22:9-14

February 9, Week 5: Visioning and Prophesying

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



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



The beginning of a new year is a time when we often reassess our direction in life and ask questions about who we are and where we are going in life. We make resolutions, we sign up at the gym (again), we vow to be better people. This year we will take a journey deep into the question, "Who are you?" We will discover that *who* we are is indelibly linked to *Whose* we are.

What amazing things could happen if you lived into your best, most passionate, most authentic, most loving self? Let's find out what transformations can happen in just eight weeks!

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

January 5, 2020 - Epiphany Sunday with Holy Communion: "Follow Your Star"

The magi found what they were looking for by following the lighted path. When we trust the "star" that God hung out for us, we move toward life in its fullest and discover joy beyond imagining. What paths is God shining light upon for you? Over the next eight weeks we will take steps to implement movement toward a brighter future with God than we alone can imagine. (Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12)

January 12, 2020 - Baptism of the Lord Sunday: "Connect with Your 'Belovedness'"

Can you imagine what relationships could be like without the human fear of rejection? This Sunday, we remember our baptism and the voice of God which proclaims to all of us, "You are my beloved." Let's live in the abundance of grace and acceptance and see what happens when we offer that to others! (Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:3-17)

Baptism & New Members

If you would like to be baptized or received into membership, please contact the church office at 301-253-0022.

January 19, 2020 - Human Relations Sunday/MLK Weekend

"Know Your Name" – The question of "who are you" often starts with a name. In the scriptures, people begin to describe Jesus by many names—Rabbi, Messiah, Lamb of God—as they tried to understand who this special person was. What descriptors do *you* want to be known by? Who has God called you to be?

January 26, 2020 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany: "Claim Your Vocation"

We continue this Sunday with the idea that God has called us, not just by name, but to a special purpose. When we find and claim our own vocation—that which fulfills us and creates good in the world—we are freed from the bonds of what others may expect of us or claim for us. Discipleship comes in many, sometimes unlikely, forms.



DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday, January 5

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Annual Birthday Bash Party
(includes dinner)

Sunday, January 12

- 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, January 19

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Ice Skating, Rockville, MD

Sunday, January 26

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Youth Dinner
 6:30 pm Devotion and Game Night

Friday, January 31 - February 2

Annual Youth Winter Retreat

@ Manidokan Retreat Center, Knoxville, MD

Sunday, February 2

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 Singer Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Youth Dinner
 7:00 pm Choir, Organ and Brass Concert

CW Singers California 2020

Choir Tour Update

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

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

Tour forms are to be turned in immediately, along with a deposit of \$250. Please see me to pick one up, or look on the church website.

Blessings, Stephen Kalnoske
 Cell: 240-832-2112

Winter Retreat 2020

Jan 31 - Feb. 2

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

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

**Please see Pastor Nick
or call 240-751-6695.
Registration is forthcoming.**

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
- * 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 those who pray for and support financially with extra gifts for our missionaries
- For those who volunteer in the Damascus community through Damascus HELP
- To those who support DUMC through their giving and thereby support DUMC's mission ministries and missionaries
- To those who support the after-school Rock the House program for the children in Damascus with transportation with our church van and volunteer leadership
- To those who generously provided food and gifts for people in the Damascus area for Christmas
- To those who shared encouragement to our mission partners overseas by sending a Christmas cards
- To Dr. Belinda Forbes, from Nicaragua, who gave us a lovely woven piece which will be framed to be on a wall in our building. Look for it soon!

Your Mission \$\$\$ at work

Our Mission dollars support many projects that are local, national and international. Our actual support of missionaries and their salaries is in the General Church budget (Funding for many projects and scholarships come from the Annual Plant Sale). We thank all in the DUMC congregation for the support of our international missionaries and their work in Central America: Amanda and Memo Dominguez, Eduardo and Luis who are supported and continue work in Nicaragua with Memo and Amanda (\$18,500), Nan McCurdy (\$2,700) and Belinda Forbes (\$1,500 salary & \$1,000 training for dental assistants). There is ongoing support for children's needs in Gem, Kenya, through the Congregation of St. Stephen and the Joint Partner's Clinic in Musasa.

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 with Ash Wednesday, February 26. The change donated on Easter and shortly after, will be used to help the people in need in our world—the Lent focus will be on children in need. 100% of all donations will be given to the need. Thank you for making a difference in a child's life.

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

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

News from Nicaragua from Dr. Belinda Forbes

December, 2019

Greetings for Advent and Christmas!

God gave us a story: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given." (Eugene Peterson, *For Unto Us a Child is Born*) God comes to us in the form of one of the "least of these," and hope fills the Earth again. May this Advent and Christmas season be one of preparation and attentiveness to the way we engage and serve in the world and bring about the Kingdom.

Grace and peace.

My 2019 Itineration has drawn to a close. During March-May, then August-December, I visited 50 churches and diverse venues like conference offices, UMW events, special mission gatherings and with individual supporters in 14 conferences across 25 states. Many churches have hosted me many times, and some were meeting me in person for the first time. In every place I was made to feel welcome and our connection in mission, specifically in ministry with AMC in Nicaragua, was a cause for celebration. Even as we wrestle with the uncertainty in our United Methodist Church, God continues to bless us with opportunities to serve others together and to grow and be transformed in the process. I am deeply grateful to all for allowing me to serve on your behalf.



From Nan & Miguel in Puebla, Mexico, with Give Ye Them to Eat

We at TYTTE want to wish you a wonderful Christmas full of love and giving of yourselves to building The Kingdom of God here on Earth ! We give thanks for you and know that you pray for us regularly. Below are some highlights from our December newsletter.

- We had a wonderful experience with a group from Camp Hill UMC, PA. This was the first of Nan & Miguel's Covenant churches to come to Mexico.
- The first week of December we had a group of 11 who came from four places; Spokane, WA; Pasadena, CA; Pennsylvania; and Chapelwood, TX. We had two who had been here before and nine people for the first time.
- We also are anxious to host our friends from Virginia and Pennsylvania in January & February, 2020.

Check out our website at <https://www.gytte.org/> for more info and to read the rest of our December newsletter.

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.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Dear friends at DUMC,

Eduardo and Luis had a great visit to La Danta last month. They delivered the food and helped distribute it. With the money that you kindly donated we were able to purchase a total of 1,400 pounds of rice, 1,300 pounds of beans, 1,060 pounds of sugar and 192 liters of cooking oil for the people of La Danta. Forty-eight families from La Danta received a food package; each package included 29 pounds of rice, 27 pounds of beans, 22 pounds of sugar and 4 liters of cooking oil.

Thank you very much for your support for the work that we do as **Between Cultures** and thank you for your support for the people of La Danta.

Sincerely,
Memo & Amanda on behalf of **Between Cultures**, Nicaragua

Here's is the thank-you letter from the community of La Danta:

To our sisters and brothers,

We are always thinking of you. We want to inform you that our next crop of corn, beans and sorghum will be quite good. We will collect this harvest during the months of February and March 2020.

*We have been receiving visits from Eduardo and Luis, members of **Between Cultures**.*

We want to thank you because in this year of 2019 you have helped us twice by providing us with food and other things that have been of great benefit to our Christian community in La Danta.

We remember very much our sisters and brothers from Calvary who visited us here in La Danta. You are always in the prayers of our community.

We hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The food you sent us was received on Thursday, November 28th (Thanksgiving in the U.S.). It will serve us to have food for the Christmas season. All the family members of our community have been benefited. Each family received rice, beans, sugar and oil.

Thank you very much to the entire communities of DUMC and Calvary United Methodist Church for your help in buying these foods. You are all brothers and sisters of our community.

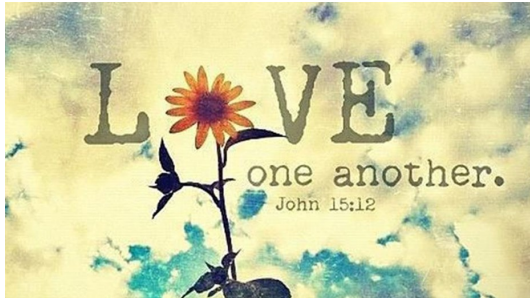
With love,

The La Danta community



JUSTICE and COMPASSION

Love One Another (LOA) Ministry



Mission Statement:

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

"Who Are We? A Journey from Head to Heart" Discussions:

The Love One Another group is continuing to facilitate a presentation of this three-part interactive study developed by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling and the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The first set of six weekly discussion sessions on who we are as the people of God will **CONCLUDE** on Thursday, January 2. The second set of sessions on who we are as United Methodists will **BEGIN** on Thursday evenings starting on January 9 and will be facilitated by Mary Nieter. Each discussion session is held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Annex Conference Room. The Participant's Guide is available at bwcumc.org, and copies are also available at the meetings. However, if you can't make it, the topic videos linked in the weekly segments in the Participant's Guide have been extremely enlightening. Bishop Easterling's video in Week 1 of Part 1 was particularly inspiring. Please join us for any of the sessions. We've been having some wonderful discussions!

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

Martin Luther King Day of Service Event

Sponsored by Love One Another



On January 20, 2020 the LOA group will hold a voter registration event from 10 AM to 3 PM in Damascus – the precise location has not been determined yet. We will have a table with voter registration forms in English and Spanish and volunteers to help citizens fill out the forms. We feel this is a critical service to the community in light of the upcoming Presidential election.

Our goal is to have two people at the table in one-hour shifts. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Jane Clarke at jjclarke57@gmail.com or 301-253-4913.



A REPORT FROM YOUR FINANCE CHAIR

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am limiting the subject of this report to the 2020 operating budget approved by the Administrative Board/Church Council on December 4, 2019. I will report to you concerning the status of the 2019 budget and financials as soon as we have the year-end totals.

Expenditures in the 2020 budget are based on requests from each ministry or fund holder. Those submissions totaled \$1,004,000. The Finance Committee trimmed the requests to \$990,082. Fund holders were notified of changes to their requests and invited to the Church Council's December 4 meeting should they strongly object to the modifications. No objections were raised at the meeting.

Income for the 2020 budget, \$955,028, is a projection derived by adding December 2018 income to our actual 2019 income through November. Thus, if we take no action, our best guess is that 2020 will close with a deficit of more than \$35,000.

Obviously, we must take action to avoid a year-end deficit. We recognize that our budget is a statement of faith and the Finance Committee is charged with raising the income so these ministries can thrive. To this end we hope to conduct a very successful stewardship campaign soon. There may come a point, however, where other action will be necessary. We will continue to monitor our income and expenditures and address shortfalls earlier than in previous years. In the past, when budget issues arose, we asked ministries to be cautious in spending and conserve their funds. Now, if positive income levels are not achieved, the Church Council may have to prohibit some ministries from spending money until income improves. Clearly such unprecedented action will negatively impact the objectives of some ministries. Hopefully, we will not have to take such action.

Richard Hardick
Finance Chair

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 Mally 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.

BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 CANASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 01/01/2020

<u>Acct #</u> <u>Description</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Annual</u>
INCOME	
001 4001 Tithe and Offerings	\$871,628.00
001 4004 Interest Income	\$390.00
001 4005 Amazon Smile Income	\$300.00
001 4010 Building Use Donations	\$45,500.00
001 4020 Sunday School	\$360.00
001 4000 Apportionment Contributions	\$35,850.00
001 Total Offerings, Contributions & Donations	<u>\$955,028.00</u>
EXPENSES	
010 Total Conference Apportionments	\$123,690.00
012 Total Appointed Staff	\$217,224.02
015 Total Church Staff	\$362,339.27
050 Total Administrative	\$7,500.00
055 Total Church Office	\$32,390.00
057 Total Technology	\$18,235.00
060 Total Building and Grounds	\$121,116.50
065 Total Harwood House Thrift	\$22,028.00
070 Total Main Street Property	\$23,133.00
080 Total Woodfield Road Rental	(\$3,923.40)
110 Total Worship Ministry	\$4,140.00
120 Total Music Ministry	\$18,800.00
130 Total Christian Formation Ministry	\$7,000.00
132 Total Family Ministry	\$900.00
134 Total Youth Ministry	\$8,050.00
140 Total Hospitality Ministry	\$500.00
142 Total Justice & Compassion	\$500.00
150 Total Caring Ministry	\$500.00
160 Total Stewardship	\$300.00
180 Total Missions Ministry	<u>\$24,750.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$990,082.39</u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	<u>(\$35,054.39)</u>

Approved by
 Church Council
 12/04/2019

PATRIARCHY In Science, Education and the Church

February 9, 2020 @ 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

**Baltimore-Washington United Methodist Conference Center
11711 East Market Place, Fulton, MD**

In Science: Dr Amy Swain (Warffeli): Amy's scientific background is in structural biology, which is a cross-cutting field that enables scientists to visualize molecules. After doing research at the National Cancer Institute and then Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc., Amy entered science program administration where she has supported the advancement of structural biology technologies for researchers. At the National Institutes of Health from 1999-2016, Amy supported biomedical research and, since 2016, has been supporting biological and environmental research at the Department of Energy. Amy is a member and active lay person at Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

In Education: Dr Caryn Musil: An Associate Director for the American Association of Colleges and Universities, Dr. Musil was raised Episcopalian, but she says, "It was the First United Methodist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia that brought my husband and me back to the church after a long hiatus. Part of the attraction in 1976 was that FUMCOG had already shifted the language of the Lord's prayer to "Our Mother/Father," had a gender inclusive "homemade" hymnbook, and married gay couples. I was teaching women's studies at the time at La Salle University so being part of a feminist worship was critical for me." After moving to DC, Caryn and her husband have been active at Westmoreland Congregational UCC.

In the Church: Dr. Carla Works: Recently raised to full professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, Dr. Works is professor of New Testament. Her research interests include Pauline studies, the New Testament's use of Israel's scriptures, biblical ethics, and theological interpretation. She holds a Master's degree from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D. from Princeton. A published author, mother, minister's wife, and native Arkansan, she incorporates into her teaching anything from Dr. Seuss's stories to the Arkansas Razorback "hog call" to help illustrate a point. She is passionate about teaching, student learning and deeply committed to the church. More information can be found at <https://wesnex.org/event/evolution-weekend/> or just ask Rick Barr, 301-221-5280.

Announcements



**Please join us
for a Brunch Celebration for
Polly Edmonds Baldrige**

**to thank her for her service as
DUMC Minister of Music and Worship Arts.**

**Sunday, January 12, 2020
12:30 – 2:30 pm - DUMC Great Hall**

**Come and thank her for the many gifts that she
has shared with us these many years.**

Announcements (cont'd)

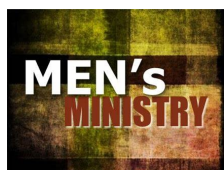
YOUNG AT HEART *Our 1ST Event Of 2020* **Lunch at Mission BBQ**



Be a part of enjoying Germantown's newest restaurant, Mission BBQ. Meet at church on Sunday, 1/19/20 after the second service to carpool (approx. 12:30 pm). If you want to meet the group at the restaurant, the address is 19800 Century Blvd, Germantown, MD

Please RSVP TO the church office (301-253-0022) no later than Jan. 17, 2020 so we can reserved enough seating for all.

Men's Night Out for January, 2020



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

Monday, January 13 @ 6:30 pm

Mt. Airy Tavern
1001 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy, MD

RSVP to Ted Ross by
Friday, Jan. 10 @ 301-704-7992.

Ladies Night Out

WILL NOT take place in January, 2020.

However, we will have a
Ladies Night Out on
Monday, February 3 at 6:00 pm.

So Mark Your Calendar Now !!!

Note: Location to be determined

Women's
Ministry

The Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner

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

January 8, 2020: Honey Dijon pork tenderloin, tomato and red onion feta salad, oven mashed potatoes, broccoli w/pepper slices, and moms chocolate-chip cake.

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)

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry **Monday, January 20 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.

Harwood House News

Harwood House Thrift Shop
will be closed
thru Wednesday, January 15, 2020
for renovations.

No donations will be accepted
until January 16.

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

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 Connections Café



We will resume with our regular coffee hour
on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

See you then !!!!

IMPORTANT!
WE NEED YOUR
SUGGESTIONS!

COME TO THE
PLANNING MEETING
FOR YOUNG AT HEART

January 26 at 12:30pm
Annex-Conference Room

Enjoy pizza and help us make this year
a success. We want to include more
people and many different kinds
of events. Your ideas are needed!!



Sunday, January 19 @ 7:00 pm

Join us for this service held monthly, now being
moved back to the Parlor location. This service is
a time for sharing Holy Communion, laying on of
hands, and anointing with oil (James 5:14-16a).

All are invited and you may come to ask for heal-
ing for others.



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 ! !

WHERE DO I STAND???

Do you have an area in your life that you'd like to discuss with someone confidentially?



Every day we are exposed to contentious and very serious issues. These issues involve healthcare, racism, immigration, religion, politics.....you name it! It is as if we are asked to look at only the ends of the continuum, forgetting everything in between. Often there is a long journey and process involved in deciding where we stand on issues with our minds, hearts, and souls.

DO YOU NEED AN ADVOCATE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF? Today's climate sometimes does not allow for a welcoming space to openly explore these issues inside of our homes, our places of employment, inside our churches, and/or our relationships.

PERHAPS YOU CAN USE A STEPHEN MINISTER FOR THESE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS. IF YOU ARE SUFFERING INWARDLY FOR ANY REASON AND NEED TO TALK 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.

Going to buy something on Amazon.com?

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

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



Office Info

PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

Kathryn Woodrow, ext. #103

kathryn.woodrow@damascusmc.org

Sherwyn Benjamin, ext. #104

sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org

STAFF:

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist

cell: 240-832-2112 / stephen.kalnoske@damascusmc.org

Nick Works,

Director of Youth

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

Cora Horst

Director, Children's Ministry

Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Office: 301-253-9798 / cora.horst@damascusmc.org

Jane Webb, Office Manager

cell: 240-620-6920 / jane.webb@damascusumc.org

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator

ext. #102 / office@damascusmc.org

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager

cell: 301-253-5241

lisa.marshall@damascusmc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper

ext. #106 / steve.malley@damascusmc.org

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The Office will be closed on

Wednesday, January 1 for
New Years Day.

Administrative Meetings

For January, 2020

- | | | |
|------|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. | 9 | Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR |
| Jan. | 9 | Trustees Committee Meeting
7:30 pm in the Great Hall/SS |
| Jan. | 9 | Missions Committee Meeting
7:00 pm in the Great Hall/back |
| Jan. | 12 | UMYFO Committee Meeting
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR |
| Jan. | 16 | SPRC Committee Meeting
7:00 pm in the Annex/down |
| Jan. | 21 | Technology Committee Meeting
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR |
| Jan. | 23 | Church Council Meeting
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back |

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING

ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE **FEBRUARY, 2020** BEACON
WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

(For Beacon to publish on **Sunday, Jan. 26**).

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

Thank You !

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING
THE WINTER MONTHS,

**WE WILL KEEP THE
WEBSITE HOME PAGE and
OFFICE VOICEMAIL
MESSAGE**



UP-TO-DATE WITH POSTPONE-
MENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
AS SOON AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

About Our People

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pray for Scott, Cora, Cameron and Megan Horst, with the passing of Scott's mom, Sharon Frey of Hagerstown, on December 10.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: **Pennie Adams**, **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend), **Elizabeth Bradley**, **Martin Carr**, **Ann Cochran**, **Donna Feuillet** (recovering from bypass surgery), **Judy Dalrymple** (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Debbie Hoar**, **Pat Hunt** (Liz Vanderham's mom), **Bobbye Kudzma** (recovering from hip replacement surgery), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella**, **Nancy Nickerson**, **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), **Dorothy Stull** (at home under hospice care), and **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), **Mary Walcek** (recovering from a fall), **Ginger Wilson** (recovering from surgery and continuing physical therapy, and **Don Woodrow** (recovering from surgery for pacemaker and continues dialysis).

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), **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).

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.

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!