

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 9700 NEW CHURCH STREET
 DAMASCUS, MD 20872
 Phone: 301-253-0022
 E-mail: Damascus.UMC@verizon.net
 Website: www.DamascusUMC.org

THE BEACON

MARCH 2016



CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
 Associate Pastor /
 Christian Formation

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
 Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Tom Baldrige
 Director of Youth &
 Young Adult 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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

About Our People	25
Announcements	17
Christian Formation	5
Christian Formation / Women	9
Holy Week - 2016	3
Missions & Outreach	14
Office Information	23
Stewardship/Finance	16
Vacation Bible School	15
Worship Arts News & Events	13
Young at Heart - 2016	22
Youth Ministry	12

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

Grace and Peace,

We are now well into the Lenten season and my focus is on how to be a faithful follower of Christ. How can it not be? It is our focus as a church.

It began on Ash Wednesday with the message that confession is good for the soul, followed with the imposition of ashes and the stark words, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." We concluded with the Lord's Supper, seeking God's forgiveness and grace, and praying for a future that is about life, not death.

On the first Sunday in Lent the sermon series, "The Crooked Path," began. The overarching message is that the path to God is not a straight path but rather one with curves, twists, and turns. We all encounter these curves. Our text that Sunday was the account of the temptation of Jesus and we learned that Jesus also experienced curves, beginning even before he began his earthly ministry. Personal accounts of the Crooked Path are being shared each Wednesday evening immediately following the Wonderful Wednesday Dinner. The testimonies take place right in the Dining Hall. Early morning communion is also offered every Wednesday as a way to align our lives with God throughout Lent. Also underway are our small group studies using the book A Disciple's Heart by James Harnish. The lessons are all about following Christ.

This season of forty days plus Sundays which historically has been a season of penitence, prayer, personal examination, and reflection is an ideal time to be serious and intentional about our desire to be a faithful follower and our effort to do something about it. I hope you are finding ways to participate in this church focus. It gets to the very core of our faith. It is about being, making, and developing disciples.

One who has been very focused for the last three years on discipling youth is Tom Baldrige. Tom is serving on staff as our Director of Youth Ministries. You will see his announcement in this Beacon that he is now ready to step down from that position. Tom and his family will remain active in our church community and he will continue to be part of our youth ministry, but other responsibilities and interests now make it too difficult to be the one responsible for making it all happen. Tom has served extraordinarily well in this position and our youth ministry has flourished under his leadership. I completely support him in his decision, but do so reluctantly. Know that the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and I are busy seeking a Director who can carry on Tom's great work so that our youth ministry will continue to flourish. I know you add your thanks to mine for the ministry he has provided.

⇒⇒⇒⇒

Weather has not been kind to us the past several weeks. We had to cancel Sunday worship the weekend of the blizzard (something we almost never have to do) and a number of our programs also had to be cancelled. No one is more frustrated and disappointed when this happens than me. We do try to get the lot and walks cleared and salted as quickly as possible. We also try to make a decision as early as possible about cancellations so that we can give as much notice as possible. We do have many places that do not “dry” well, so even if the lot and walks are cleared, ice can be a problem. Our main thought is safety first. We think our programs are good, but not so good as to risk injury to anyone. Remember, even if it does not look bad where you are, it may not be great at the church. As always, if you have any doubt about if something is happening or not, check our website or call the office. It will be posted and put on voice mail as soon as a decision is made.

Lent is underway which means that Easter cannot be far away. It is this month, on March 27, with Palm Sunday on the 20th and Holy Week following. Let’s pray the snow and ice are done by then. Oh, and we spring our clocks forward one hour for Sunday, March 13. Don’t be late that day.

See you in Church,

David



As believers, we are all walking the pathway of discipleship, a pathway to God, a pathway to salvation; however, that path is rarely a straight line. In truth our journey is one with twists and turns, gradation, and other challenges. It can be too easy to get lost, turned around or even just plain too tired to take the next step. We are not the only ones who feel this way or have this experience. Throughout Lent we will share with you stories from scripture about people who experience their own “Crooked Path” moments. Through their stories that are often “yes, but” kind of stories we will explore and discover hope in the ways we find to stay on the path, get back on it, or to simply keep walking. Don’t miss out this Lent as we journey “The Crooked Path.”

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE
WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE
WEBSITE HOME PAGE
(www.damascusumc.org)
AND
OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE
UP TO DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS
AND
CANCELLATIONS AS SOON AS THE
DECISIONS ARE MADE.**

PLEASE NOTE:

**There will be
NO Connections Café on
March 27, 2016, Easter Sunday.**

We will resume with our regular weekly
schedule on Sunday, April 3, 2016.

HOLY WEEK 2016

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Palm/Passion Sunday March 20, 2016

Festival Services 8:15 and 11 am
Sanctuary

*Filled with excitement, all the happy throng,
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.*

In our annual tradition of re-enacting Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, cries of Hosanna are shouted amidst the lively rhythms of flutes, brass, and percussion. Excitement soon gives way to sober quietness, calling us to devotion.

(Childcare is provided during these services)

Choral Evensong 7:00 pm
Sanctuary

The DUMC Women's Choir and soloists Liz Vanderham and Polly Baldrige will share several selections from Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at this service of prayer and Scripture readings that marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Holy Wednesday March 23, 2016

Morning Communion 6:45 am
Sanctuary

Join Pastor Amanda and Tom Baldrige for a time of prayer, devotion, and communion, with a light breakfast to follow.

Welcoming Wednesday Dinner 5:45 pm
Dining Hall

This time of meditation and fellowship is open to all; donations towards meal cost welcome. Come join us!

Maundy Thursday March 24, 2016

Last Supper and Foot Washing 6:00 pm
Dining Hall

On his last night with his disciples, Jesus took the time to wash each disciples' feet as a humble sign of service and love. Join us for a simple supper and a chance to relive the beautiful ritual of foot washing. Please RSVP to the church office by March 17 to attend the dinner.

Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm
Sanctuary

Communion will be celebrated along with the elements of the Seder meal in this remembrance of the Last Supper, followed by the ceremonial stripping of the sanctuary's adornments. Music will be shared by the Men & Boys Choir, under the direction of Curt Shiflett.

Good Friday March 25, 2016

Good Friday Service 12 noon
Sanctuary

Come and hear an abbreviated telling of the passion story and reflect on Jesus' last moments.

Good Friday Service 7:30 pm
Sanctuary

This service of Tenebrae will combine the reading of the passion with soul-searching music and candle light. Watch the Light of the World fade away in a moving and holy service of remembrance. Chancel Choir will sing.

Holy Saturday March 26, 2016

Confirmation Service 7:30 pm
Sanctuary

As the second century Church welcomed new believers on Easter Eve, so we welcome our confirmands in this ancient tradition.

Child care will be available for this evening service.

Easter Sunday March 27, 2016

Easter Sunrise Service 6:15 am Gathering
DUMC Cemetery, adjacent to Thrift Shop
(Inclement weather: Meet inside Boyer Chapel)

See the sunrise and feel Christ's power in this outdoor service led by first-year confirmands.

Children's Program & Egg Hunt 9:30 am
Great Hall/Dining Hall

Easter message and music are shared by the puppets before parents are invited to accompany children, ages 2 years – 5th grade, to the egg hunt.

Services of the Resurrection 8, 9:30, 11 am
Sanctuary

On this great day of celebration, voices, organ, and brass make music to uplift the resurrection and presence of our living Lord in the gathered company of believers.

*Child care is provided in the nursery for the
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am services.*





Children's Easter Service and Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday Morning, March 27, 2016,
please come upstairs to the Great Hall at 9:30am
(children ages 2 yrs. through 5th grade)
for our annual Children's Easter Service.

Then, children and parents will go downstairs
to the Dining Hall for crafts and an Easter Egg Hunt.
(Sponsored by Family Ministries)

*We are asking the parents to stay with their children and
enjoy the service and egg hunt with them.*

9:30 am: Start in Great Hall for Children's Worship Service
9:45 - 10:30am: Move to the Dining Hall for crafts and egg hunt

Everyone is welcome to come!

Flowers for Easter - 2016

Easter Lilies and/or Tulips may be ordered in advance for placing in the
Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016. Flowers may be placed in honor of
or in memory of loved ones or special persons.

Lilies: \$11.00 each

6" pot with
4 - 6 blooms

Tulips: \$10.00 each

6" pot - will come in a variety
of colors, subject to availability)

PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER

Complete and return the order blank below by **March 21, 2016.**

Orders cannot be accepted after this date!

Please make checks payable to DUMC and mail to the office:
c/o Linda Stastny, 9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD 20872.



Name: _____

Phone: _____

No. Lilies (\$11.00) _____

No. Tulips (\$10.00) _____

Total Cost: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

_____ I will pick up my flowers after the 11 am worship service on Easter Sunday.

_____ My flowers may be delivered to a sick or shut-in person.



A Special Announcement



Dear Church Families
& Members,

I wanted to let everyone know that I have asked the Staff-Parish Relations Committee to look for my replacement as I step down from the part-time position

as the Director of the Youth Ministry here at DUMC.

I am not leaving DUMC, and I am not going to stop helping with the youth here at DUMC. I am just asking for someone else to be in charge. Since both Polly and I have been in leadership positions in the church, it has been a challenge for us to balance family, professional, and financial demands. Over the last three years my heart, mind and spirit have been filled with great joy from everyone in the youth program. I am excited with what is to come for our youth group. God bless you all.

Tom Baldrige
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Christian Formation

Dear Congregation,

Tom Baldrige has informed us that he plans to step down as our Director of Youth Ministries. While planning to remain active in church and connected to the youth program, other responsibilities and interests make it difficult for him to be the one "in charge." We have received his announcement with understanding, though it is not one we wanted to hear. Tom has provided outstanding leadership for us with our youth program. We are glad he is still available to us in other capacities.

Be assured that we will work diligently seeking a new director. We are in the process of revising and updating the job description and are now beginning to advertise for candidates. We will move both expeditiously and cautiously availing ourselves of every opportunity to find a good match. Tom will remain in his position until we are prepared for a transition.

Please pray for us as we do our work and pray that God will provide the right person for us. We have confidence that our youth ministry will continue to flourish and that we can build on a strong foundation.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Giving to Others during Lent - 2016 Sunday School Mission Project

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

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

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

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

- March 6 - Bars of soap, individually wrapped, toilet paper
- March 13 - Canned meat, canned tuna, mixed vegetables
- March 20 - Tea bags, laundry soap



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

**(They currently have plenty of soup, peanut butter, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, and green beans)*

Christian Formation (cont'd)



Pleasant Plains Preschool
a ministry of
Damascus United Methodist Church
pleasant.plains@verizon.net
301-253-9798



Registration for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. We would love to have your little one join us! We offer classes for ages 2-5. Each class has a biweekly music lesson with Polly Edmonds Baldrige and a weekly chapel service in the Sanctuary.

Please contact Cora Horst, school director, at 301-253-9798 or pleasant.plains@verizon.net for more information or to schedule a tour. A list of classes and tuition can be found on the church website: www.damascusumc.org.

Men's Night Out for February

The Men of DUMC (and male friends, family & neighbors) are invited for a Men's Night Out on **Monday, March 21 at Buffalo Wings and Beer, 18307 Leamon Farm Road, Germantown, MD (301-528-2022).**

Also, be sure and mark your calendar for the **Annual Men's Retreat for April 29-30, 2016, at Hallwood Retreat Center, 7300 Banner Road, Comus, MD.** Registration form is available on page # ____ of this Beacon.

We **WILL NOT** have a Men's Breakfast in the month of March.

Join the **YOUNG AT HEART and "CHERISH THE LADIES"** **APRIL 3, 2016**



Experience the Majestic Theater in Historic Gettysburg, PA and spend an exhilarating Sunday afternoon with "Cherish the Ladies" which is a first generation Irish-American all-female super group and one of the foremost Irish traditional music groups in the world! With their blend of instrumental talents, sensational vocals and dynamic step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all the facets of Irish traditional culture in each performance. The show will start at 3:00 pm and tickets are \$30.00. Before the show, at 1:30 pm, we will enjoy a delicious hot buffet lunch in a private dining room at the Gettysburg Hotel next door to the theater. The lunch will be \$20.00 each, including tax and gratuity. This is payable by **March 6** to Jacque Janss, 2501 Coleridge Dr. #3C, Frederick, MD 21702.

If you paid to attend the snowed-out performance of "The Church Basement Ladies" in March 2015, you will be able to attend this performance free of charge (A generous ticket exchange by the theater.) **IF YOU DID PAY AND HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED about attending this make-up performance, please call Jacque 301-620-7276 or Bob 301-620-8926 IMMEDIATELY.**

Information about carpooling will be provided near the end of March. If you have any questions, please call either of the numbers above. We look forward to sharing this exciting performance with you as we welcome SPRING!

Young at Heart to visit Strathmore ! Thursday, March 31

Join us for a FREE private, guided tour of the beautiful Strathmore Mansion in North Bethesda! This tour for adults illuminates the history, architecture and personal stories of Strathmore. The tour lasts approximately an hour and will begin promptly at 1:00 pm. Strathmore has handicap accessibility for those who have difficulty maneuvering steps. Please let Sue know ahead of time if you need accommodations, in order for her to inform the tour guide.



The Mansion at Strathmore

Before the tour, we will meet for an early lunch at 11:00 am at the Brio Tuscan Grille in North Bethesda (only a few miles away from the mansion). Be prepared to experience the flavors of Tuscany without leaving the country, with chef-inspired Tuscan recipes that are sure to tempt your palate! The restaurant is willing to accommodate separate checks for large groups, so each person can pay individually. NOTE: If you plan on joining us for lunch you will need to make a menu selection ahead of time. To view their lunch menu, go to http://www.brioitalian.com/lunch-at-polaris_fashion_place.html and then contact Sue with your selection.

If you would like to carpool, meet at the church ready to leave by 10:30 am. Please RSVP to Sue Constantinides, 301-253-6591, by Sunday, March 27 in order for her to get a final head count of attendees. Hope to see you there!

The Connections Café

DUMC's Coffee Hour
Held Sunday mornings between services.
Come and enjoy a hot mug, a few nibbles,
and relaxed fellowship. All are welcome.



The Connections Café is
located in the back half
of the GREAT HALL.

Joyfully, Marcia Hofman, Kathy Jones, Gloria Maready, Kim Ferguson, Gabrielle Hulcher, Lora Maynard, Nancy Counts, Eunice Rush and Jacque Janss have been using their gifts of hospitality to create this time of fellowship for our congregation. We would welcome more hands to assist, even if it is just **an hour here and there on any given Sunday**. We would also be grateful for food donations like baked goods and fresh fruit. Just stop in or call Marcia Hofman at 301-253-2960 or email her at marciahofman67 to sign up to help and/or provide food. We could use you!



United
Methodist
Women
Faith · Hope · Love in Action

Damascus United Methodist Women News March, 2016

UMWomen Circle Dates

Susanna Wesley / Esther JOY Circle
Monday, March 14 at 10:00 am
in the Dining Hall

WWJD Circle Meeting
Thursday, March 17 @ 7:30 pm
at the home of Sandra Malley,
12921 Summit Ridge Terrace,
Germantown, MD
Topic: Holy Land Sharing

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO:

Thursday, March 10: Executive Board Meeting at 1:00 pm in the Church Annex/Office. All officers should attend.

Additionally, there is still a variety of nuts for sale. Please contact Pennie Adams for more info or to order at 301-831-7517.

ATTENTION ALL MEN!
ANNUAL SPRING MEN'S RETREAT
HALLOWOOD RETREAT CENTER,
COMUS, MARYLAND
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 29 & 30, 2016



Mark your calendar and Sign-Up now !!!

*Join us at the Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland,
for a day apart for fellowship and spiritual growth.*

Sponsored by Damascus United Methodist Men

Contact: Ted Ross, Chair, at 301-704-7992

We will be gathering at the church at 5:00 pm on Friday, April 29 and having dinner at the Hallowood Retreat Center. Staying overnight in rooms for two (private rooms available for \$15 extra), we will have both breakfast and lunch on Saturday. We will end about 4:30 pm.

The cost is \$135 for room, meals, towels & bedding including sheets, blanket, and pillows. **Please complete the registration form below and turn it in to the church office no later than April 15, 2016.** If you have any questions, call Linda Stastny in the church office (301-253-0022, ext. 102).

Sponsored by Damascus United Methodist Men

For more Info Contact: Ted Ross, Chair, at 301-704-7992.



Hallowood Retreat Center, Comus, MD / April 29 – 30, 2016

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (cell) _____ (home) _____

E-mail address: (Please print legibly) _____

Any dietary restrictions: _____

Transportation : ☐ I can drive (# passengers I can transport _____) ☐ I need a ride

Registration fee is attached: ☐ \$135 ☐ \$150 (Private room)

Christian Formation (cont'd)

Read about
our upcoming
150th celebration
and giving to the
Legacy Fund.

More United Methodist Women News

Join United Methodist Women members
around the country on March 23 for the
Second Annual Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund,
part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration!

IT'S EASY TO GIVE!

- Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund
- By phone: 800-278-7771 8 am—6 pm, Monday—Friday
- Text Legacy 150 to 41444
- By check to the Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women,
475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115
Write “the Legacy Fund” in the memo section

*The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of
future generations of United Methodist Women.*

Christian Formation / Women's Ministry

Women's Spring Retreat

The planning committee for our 2016 Women's Retreat is excited to offer a new site for our Friday, April 29, to Saturday, April 30, Spring Retreat – one that provides motel-style lodging (so you can leave your sleeping bags and linens at home). Please mark your calendar now for a chance to spiritually renew and refresh yourself with both old and new acquaintances.

We will leave Damascus by 5 p.m. Friday and travel not quite an hour to our new site, Potomac Park Retreat and Conference Center, which is within walking distance of the Potomac River. The retreat center includes a Prayer/Nature Trail, *Potomac Perks*, where you can find a variety of snacks and ice cream, and *Granny's Attic*, which houses a gently used/vintage boutique. The per person cost for meals, accommodations, and retreat supplies is \$95.

Our weekend will begin with dinner together Friday evening. We will have planned activities and times of reflection Friday evening and throughout the day Saturday, ending with dinner and a closing service.

Please consider joining this 2016 retreat. Simply fill out the attached application and include the registration fee. A copy of the application may also be found on the DUMC website. In order to plan for programming, materials, and retreat center accommodations, we ask that registration forms be submitted by Tuesday, April 5. Questions? Contact Jan Mullinix at 301-482-1122 or jmullinix74@yahoo.com.

Spread the word and come join us for a great getaway weekend with just the girls...



Women's 2016 Spring Retreat Registration

WHEN: 5 p.m., Friday, April 29 to Saturday evening, April 30

WHERE: Potomac Park Retreat and Conference Center

11 Tabernacle Way
Falling Waters, WV 25419
www.PotomacParkRetreat.org

WHO: Women, Friends, Daughters, Mothers, ...

Name: _____

Address : _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

E-mail address: (please print legibly) _____

Emergency Contact: _____ (phone) _____

Please list any dietary restrictions: _____

Motel Style Lodging - all linens are provided ☺

4 Meals - served Buffet Style (a separate building houses a snack bar and ice cream)

Please check all that apply below:

☐ Double room (a few triple rooms available also)

If you have a roommate(s) already, please share the name(s): _____.
Otherwise, the planning committee will coordinate roommates.

☐ Handicap accessible room on ground level, no climbing stairs (3 beds in one room, 2 in another)

If you have a roommate(s) already, please share the name(s): _____.
Otherwise, the planning committee will coordinate roommates.

☐ Scholarships are available if financial support is desired (or speak to a member of the planning committee)

☐ Transportation: ☐ I can drive (# of passengers I can transport _____)

☐ I will need a ride

☐ \$95 Registration Fee is attached.

Make checks payable to DUMW (Damascus United Methodist Women).

Deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 5.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT



WHEN:

Monday, March 14 @ 6 pm

WHERE:

**Isabella's @ 6 pm
44 North Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701**

RSVP by March 12

**Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship · Fun ·
Sisterhood · Everyone Invited · New Event Each
Month**

FUTURE EVENTS

**THURSDAY,
April 21**

**Longhorn Steakhouse @ 6 pm
20017 Century Blvd.
Germantown, MD 20874
RSVP by April 19**

**TUESDAY,
May 10**

**Mt. Airy Inn @ 6 pm
1401 S. Main Street
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
RSVP by May 8**

**MONDAY,
June 20**

**GrillMarx @ 6 pm
12011 Snowden Farm Pkwy.
Clarksburg, MD
RSVP by June 18**

CONTACT PASTOR AMANDA

**AMANDA.MCMURTREY
@VERIZON.NET**

**Call 301-253-0022 or
Text 970-231-5123**

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS— 6 to 12 Grade

March 2016

Tom Baldridge, Youth Director | 301-802-4775 | redheaders@verizon.net

I hope everyone has been having a great Lent season as we think about our individual journeys with our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a lot of great activities planned for March along with a wonderful youth confirmation service and Easter. We will continue the Lenten season with the Wednesday morning communion and breakfast each week. See you for the early morning sunrise.

I cannot wait until we start hearing the spring birds singing. If you do not get my FUN informational weekly emails, please email me and I will add you to the list.

— Tom

Youth Retreat – March 11 - 13

24 Hour fasting – Raising money for missions

The youth fasting retreat is all planned and is going to be a great and a meaningful time. We will be raising money for our sister families in La Danta, Nicaragua. If you have not donated to this mission, it is not too late. Just look for a youth around the church or

Hallelujah From the Heart

CWS Summer Youth Mission Tour

It is time to sign up for this summer's Charles Wesley Singers Youth Mission tour to Ohio and Michigan. The dates are from June 22 to 30. We are making many plans and we need to know if you are going.

Send me an email if you are interested so I can get you on the list. Spots are filling up fast and we need to decide if we need two buses.

CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:15 am Charles Wesley Singers lead in worship
9:30 am Youth Blend Café: Breakfast, Praise Band, Breakout Group Discussion in Youth Chapel

Wednesday Schedule during Lent

6:45 am Devotional and Breakfast time
5:45 pm Dinner with our church community
7:00 pm Youth Bells

cont'd

Wednesday, March 2:

6:45 am Lent Devotional and breakfast

Sunday, March 6:

3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
6:00 pm Youth Dinner: Beall's
6:30 – 8:30 pm Youth Activity: Destination Unknown

Wednesday, March 9:

6:45 am Lent Devotional and breakfast

Friday, March 11 and 12:

Youth 24 hour fasting event –
Meet at church at 5:00 on March 11

Sunday, March 13:

4:00 pm UMYFO meeting – Annex
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
No Youth Fellowship Activity – Family Dinner Night

Wednesday, March 16:

6:45 am Lent Devotional and breakfast

Sunday, March 20: Palm Sunday

3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
6:00 pm Youth Dinner: TBD
6:30 – 8:00 Youth Fellowship Activity: Mission Activity – Making fleece blankets for the needy

Wednesday, March 23:

6:45 am Lent Devotional and breakfast

Friday, March 25: Good Friday

12:00 Noon Abbreviated telling of the passion story
7:30 pm **Good Friday Service of Tenebrae - Sanc.**

Saturday, March 26: Holy Saturday

5:30 pm Youth Confirmant Dinner - DH
(2nd year only)
7:30 pm Confirmation Service - Sanctuary

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday

8:00/9:30/11:00 am

Charles Wesley Singers sing at all three services.
No Youth Rehearsals, Dinner or Evening Activities.

Enjoy Spring Break !!!



Worship Arts News and Events

March 2016 Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts | 240-750-8287 | redheaders@verizon.net
Stephen Kalnoske, Organist

2015-2016: PUT ON A GARMENT OF PRAISE

CALLING ALL SINGERS: SING FOR EASTER!



*All singers are invited to share in the choir on Easter morning,
March 27, or on any other day for that matter!*

*Rehearsals for Easter are Sunday, March 20, at 5 pm,
and Wednesdays, March 16 and 23, at 7:30 pm.*

*A combined choir sings several anthems and leads service music at
the 8, 9:30, and 11 am services. Come sing for one or all!*

Spring 4th Sunday Concerts and Evensong . . .

March

- Evensong on Palm Sunday, March 20, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary: Begin your Holy Week observation with this service of prayer, scripture, and music led by the Women's Ensemble sharing selections from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

April

- Vienne C# Mass to be shared Sunday, April 24, at 8:15 and 11 am services – not too late to join Chancel Choir to present this special work featuring SATB choir and virtuoso organ accompaniment.
- Graduates in Recital: Sunday, April 24, at 3 pm – Marin Williams, bassoon, and Micah Tsoi, piano, will share a recital to celebrate their high school music endeavors and accomplishments.

May

- *Story-tellin' Man* Musical to be shared Sunday, May 1, at 8:15 and 11 am services by the Choristers and Sunday School classes – all children invited to participate!!
- You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile: SPRING RING CONCERT, featuring DUMC's three handbell choirs and special guest vocalists and string quartet: Sunday, May 22 at 7 pm. Sacred and secular music favorites are sure to bring a smile!

WORSHIP ARTS ENSEMBLES*

*Join for the spring term.
New members always welcome!*



WEDNESDAYS

4:00 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus

Puppet Troupe for 2nd to 5th grades

4:30 pm Cherubs

Vocal Choir for 4 ½ years to 1st grade

5:00 pm Choristers

Vocal Choir for 2nd to 5th grades

5:00 pm Puppets, Inc

Puppet Troupe for Middle Schoolers

6:30 pm Inspiration Ringers

Handbell Choir for 2nd – 5th grades

7:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir

Handbell Choir for Middle and High School

7:00 pm Men's Choir

Vocal Choir for changed voices of all ages

7:00 pm Women's Ensemble

Vocal Choir for female voices of all ages

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Mixed voice choir for changed voices

SUNDAYS

3:30 pm Youth Praise Band

Band meets 1st and 3rd Sunday of month

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers

Vocal Choir for 6th – 12th grades and up

MONDAYS

7:30 pm Ring of Joy

Advanced handbell ensemble

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Chair: Carol Yocum, carolyocum@msn.com
301-829-4822/301-788-6446

Between Cultures: Shared ministry with people of Nicaragua. Kathy Jones, 301-580-4591 or kathyjones@mrjs.com.

Blood Drives: Red Cross Blood Mobile collections. Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net or 301-253-0742.

Damascus HELP: Provides food, financial assistance, furniture, clothes, holiday needs, and other necessities: 301-253-4100 or DH20872@aol.com.

Earth Angels: Short term assistance, i.e. yard work, transportation. Kim Briglia, call/text: 240-731-9296 or kim.briglia@marriott.com.

Earth Stewards: Adopt-a-highway environmental program. Jeff Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or heinbjc@comcast.net.

Faith Connections: Healthy Choice Program, community ministries. Debbie Tomlinson, 301-482-0522 or debtom3@msn.com; Holiday baskets, Jane Webb, 301-253-0022 or great.jane@verizon.net.

Habitat for Humanity: Summer home building in Western Maryland--youth involvement. Anita Duvall, 240-485-7650 or anita.duvall@fda.hhs.gov.

Harwood House Thrift Shop: Work times—Tues. (8 am to 2 pm, plus evening) & Thurs. evening; Open: Thurs.—Sat, 11 am to 3 pm. Nancy Counts, ncounts@verizon.net or 301-253-6284; Debbie Stone, 301-253-6536 or dafstone@aol.com.

Meals on Wheels: Drivers for delivering meals to homebound. Pam Rust, 301-414-5447 or pamela.rust@comcast.net.

Pleasant Plains Preschool: Preschool classes & chapel for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. Cora Horst, Director, 301-253-9798 or pleasant.plains@verizon.net.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Shawls & lap robes given as a sign of God's love. Cathy Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or cheinbaugh@comcast.net; Jan Mullinix, 301-482-1122 or jmullinix74@yahoo.com.

Hopi Volunteers in Mission: Annual week in July serving on the Arizona reservation. Sign up in April. Norm & Cheryl Minekime, nminekime@yahoo.com & cminekime@verizon.net or 301-414-0098.

Travel Toiletries for Homeless Women @ the Montgomery Ave. Center. Red basket in the Narthex. Wanda Miente, wmiente@verizon.net, 301-972-1876.

Summer Missions Delegation to Nicaragua

This summer, a delegation will be traveling to Nicaragua between July 16 and July 23. (Please note that these dates, though they have changed a couple of times, are now finalized). They will be spending time in DUMC's sister community of La Danta, living and celebrating the Word with their brothers and sisters there. If you are interested, please contact Mike Wahl (wahlm50@msn.com) or Kathy Jones (kathyjones@mrjs.com). Thank you!



The Stephen Ministry is proud to announce that **Carol Martin** has completed her training and will be commissioned as a Stephen Minister with other members of her training class on March 14. A banquet and commissioning service for the class will be held at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Kensington, where our Pastor Amanda will be the guest speaker. On March 13 we will hold our home commissioning right here at DUMC at both services for Carol and for Jan Mullinix (who presently serves as a Stephen Leader and will now also be a Stephen Minister).

Congratulations Carol!
Congratulations Jan!

"Shampoos for the Center" Help Women in Need

The Damascus United Methodist Women (DUMW) have an outreach program to help women at the Montgomery Avenue Women's Center in Rockville. As you travel for work and pleasure throughout the year, why not bring home those small unused bottles of shampoos and conditioners from your trip and place them in the specially marked "red" basket in the Narthex. The toiletries will be provided to women in need at this walk-in day shelter. DUMW contact: Wanda Miente at 301-972-1876.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, March 21 @ 12:30 / 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, Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jlm.jan3@verizon.net 301-482-1122.



NOW ...

**We are expanding the prayer shawl ministry
to include *Prayer Squares*!**

These small pocket squares are knitted or crocheted with the same loving intention as a prayer shawl. They can be carried in a pocket or purse as a reminder of God's warmth and care. They are much smaller and quicker to make, so we are looking forward to this opportunity to share God's love and comfort with many more people. If anyone is interested in making squares with us, please contact Cathy Heinbaugh for easy patterns and guidelines. We are excited about this opportunity to share our gifts with more people in our congregation and community.

Vacation Bible School !!

We welcome all children from age 4 through 6th grade to come to this year's Vacation Bible School. VBS is the week of July 25-29, 2016 from 9am to 12:15pm each day. Please print a registration form, complete it, and turn it into the church office as soon as possible. Form is on page #24 of this Beacon.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Isaiah 9:2

"I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

Arise! Shine!

Vacation Bible School 2016

Damascus United Methodist Church
July 25 – 29, 2016
9am – 12:15pm

Youth helpers going into 7th - 12th grade are also needed and most welcome to help. They will receive Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for the week. Youth helpers need to complete a Youth Helper Registration form and a Safe Sanctuary Covenant Statement form, and turn them into the office no later than June 24, 2016.

Stewardship/Finance

Greetings from your Finance Committee!

We have more good finance news this month! As you may recall, we had a fairly substantial snowstorm in January that forced us to cancel Sunday Services. The cost of removing the snow was beyond our budgeted expectations. Fortunately there were five Sundays in January and enough people made an extra effort to compensate for the missed Sunday that we were able to meet our obligations for the month. Having said that, we would like to ask you to consider:

► **E-GIVING** – If you are comfortable with the process of electronic-transactions, E-GIVING frees you from the need to write a check each week and it helps the Church have a more stable and predictable cash flow. Currently, 53 families/members are E-Givers; let's try to double that number. There is more information on E-GIVING elsewhere in this Beacon and on our website.

► **CATCH-UP** – Whenever you miss a Sunday for illness, vacation, business travel, or an alarm clock failure; please make every effort to catch up on your missed offerings as soon as possible. Cash flow in a Church is like a rollercoaster ride, with unpredictable ups and downs. With good management, prayer, and a little luck, it all works out by the end of the fiscal year. But month-to-month it can be a little stressful when we pay our bills. When you miss a Sunday, please get caught up as soon as you are able.

In closing, last month we mentioned that we are living in a period of considerable economic uncertainty. But one benefit we are all seeing is a dramatic decline in the cost of filling up our gas tanks and heating our homes. This is a good time for each of us to give some prayerful thought to increasing our weekly offering by \$5.00 to \$10.00, as we are able. The additional funds will help our Church further God's work in this community.

Sincerely, David A. Rust, Chairman

E-GIVING

Do you E-Give? E-giving is a wonderful way to support your church home without worrying about making up for vacations and snow days. There are many ways to sign up and also to change your E-giving amount:

1. Fill out the form included in the Beacon and return it to the church office.
2. Go to <http://www.damascusumc.org/> and click on the "E-Giving" link at the bottom of the home page, and fill out the request.
3. Call our church bookkeeper, Debbie Benson, in the church office at 301-253-0022 ext. 106.

Any questions? Call the church office.

DONATIONS OF STOCK

Did you know that you can donate shares of securities to your church? Donating appreciated stock is a great way to give, while avoiding paying capital gains tax incurred when selling shares. Please contact our church



bookkeeper, Debbie Benson, in the church office at 301-253-0022 ext. 106, and she will give you more information and provide you with a form to use.

Did you know?

The Upper Room Living Prayer Center has a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intercessory prayer ministry staffed by Christian volunteers. When you call 1-800-251-2468, a person will answer the phone, receive your prayer request and pray with you. After your call, your prayer concern will be forwarded to one of 300 Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups located all over the world. On the Web, requests can be submitted by visiting www.umc.org, click on "pray" in the green box. Your request will be e-mailed to the Prayer Center within 24 hours and sent out to Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups as well. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month.

Announcements

Open to the public...



FOOD SAFETY MANAGER CERTIFICATION

TRAINING DAY

Saturday, March 12, 2016

8 am to 4 pm

Damascus United Methodist Church

Dining Room

9700 New Church Street

Damascus, MD 20872

301-253-0022

Register by 2/25 - \$109, by 3/10 - \$119

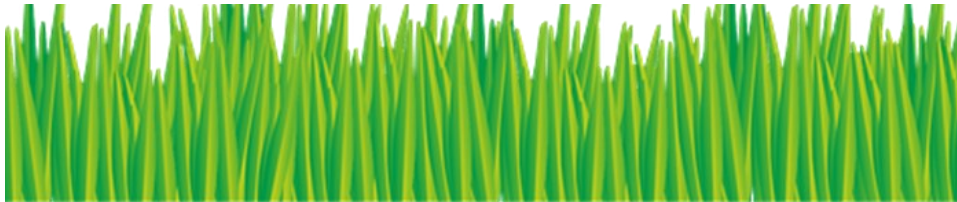
Scholarships available for DUMC food service helpers.

Contact GabrielleHulcher@gmail.com

Announcements (cont'd)

Have you ever wanted to volunteer at the church? and love working outdoors?

The groundhog said that we'd have an early spring. That means it is time to think about mowing! Although we have many volunteers who mow the church grounds, we could use you, too. The more people volunteer, the less often each has to mow. The church provides the equipment and gas. Also, we need a volunteer to coordinate the mowing schedule and remind whoever is supposed to do it that week. Please contact Jane Clarke for more information and to volunteer at jjclarke57@gmail.com or 301-253-4913.



Fleece Fabric or Fleece Blankets Needed

We are in need of donations for this year's Vacation Bible School. Older children will be creating fleece blankets for youth at the Board of Child Care in Baltimore. We need multiple sets of two ½ yards and 60" wide pieces of fleece fabric to be woven together by the VBS children. The fabric should be in colors that teenagers might like.

Or, we would like donations of new 90" x 60" (twin size) fleece blankets that you might be able to buy at an after-winter sale. Our younger VBS children will create cards to go with the store-bought blankets.

Please email Cathy Scarbrough at tom.scarbrough@verizon.net if you have any questions or suggestions. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you!

Faith Connections needs volunteers

to answer the help-line phone calls 2-3 days per month. This ministry provides assistance and referrals to families in need in our Damascus- Clarksburg community.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in need in your own local community. **For more information please call Debbie Tomlinson, Faith Connections Program Director at 301-512-5130 or Debbie@Faith-Connections.org.**

Faith Connections provides emergency service to families in crisis situations and works in advocacy to support efforts to em-

power the individual family toward self-reliance. Faith Connections is a collaboration of the churches in the Damascus-Clarksburg area.



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!

Announcements (cont'd)

ROBERT M. TREGONING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarship Description

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

Application must include:

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

Application deadline: Application must be postmarked by April 15

Number of Awards: 1

Scholarship Amount: \$2,000

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

NOTE: Additional information and applications are available on the DUMC website. Go to www.damascusumc.org and click on the Events tab (center line, far right), then click on Scholarships. Hard copies are also available in the office and the Narthex of the church.

CHAMBLEE TRAINING AND EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

9700 New Church Road, Damascus, Maryland 20872

\$1,000 – Scholarship Offer

The Wayne Chamblee Scholarship Fund Committee, through Damascus United Methodist Church, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to assist in the cost of education in a recognized program for landscaping, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, building maintenance and/or any engineering field. Any church member or church attendee is eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The Wayne Chamblee Training and Education Scholarship is being offered through the Depro Sunday School Class. Wayne was an inspiration to many here at Damascus United Methodist Church, and his tireless work ethic to keep the church in good running and working order was known by many.

The Scholarship will be awarded based on the applicant's educational goals and financial needs. The award may be used for tuition, books, transportation or other expenses related to training. Applications are available by request from the Wayne Chamblee Scholarship Fund Committee (contact Mike Ferguson at kmfcolonial@hotmail.com) or church narthex, church office **or the church website www.damascusumc.org, Events tab, then Scholarships.**

Proof of registration is required before funds can be disbursed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS May 1, 2016.

SCRIPTURE FROM WAYNE'S FUNERAL BULLETIN

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

- Proverbs 10:4

Announcements (cont'd)



Reminder:

Daylight Savings Time
Starts Sunday, March 13.

Remember to set your clocks one hour
AHEAD
before you go to bed Saturday night!

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 2016 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 can order your flowers from Beall's Florist of Damascus (301-253-2840). They are glad to assist you with your order (mention they are for the DUMC altar) at a special rate and will have them delivered here on Saturday.**

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

Important Cemetery Information



Christmas displays are in the process of being removed from our Cemetery. Those made of permanent material will be placed at the end of their row under the arborvitae trees where you may recover them. **Any display remaining by Easter will be donated to the Thrift Shop.**



Summer Camps for 2016

Remember to check out the Summer Camp selections and calendar for our local UMC locations. These are vibrant places for summer camp programs, retreats and special events. They offer the opportunity for rest and renewal, wonderful vistas, outrageous fun, and opportunities to connect with God and each other. You are invited to explore the beautiful scenery, comfortable facilities, versatile meeting spaces, and warm hospitality that comprise each of these unique settings. The staff is eager and willing to make your next event the best one yet. For more information go to <http://www.bwccampsandretreats.com/Home.html>



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

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

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

Come share in Fun, Faith and Friends this summer! And bring a friend.

Announcements (cont'd)



Welcoming Wednesday Dinners Mark Your Calendar!

The **Welcoming Wednesday Dinners** are now 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!**

March 2: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Dessert

March 9: Carolina Park BBQ, Pork & Beans, Coleslaw, Chocolate Cake

March 16: Irish Stew, Colcannon, Bread, Salad, Dessert

March 23: Fried Chicken and Fixin's

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 or baking. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, come by during dinners, or email gabriellehulcher@gmail.com.

***NOTE** – Menus subject to change.

NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' MEMORY BOOKS



DUMC Family,

Every year, we like to present each High School senior from DUMC with a special binder on Senior Sunday (May/June 2016). These binders can contain photos, favorite memories, scripture, encouraging words or any other creative pages for your special senior. Pages should be 8x11 inches and delivered to Wendy Hembrough or Tom Baldrige by May 8, 2016 in order to be included in the binders.

Please feel free to contact family, friends, mentors, teachers, scout leaders, etc. to submit pages for a binder. We are hoping our seniors will find these binders as a source of inspiration and comfort throughout the upcoming new chapters of their lives! Thanks in advance for helping us create these special gifts for our graduating seniors. This year's seniors are:

Logan Abernethy
Jenna Bacon
John Billig
Madison Bowe
Kyle Boyer
Claire Dobrzanski
Chris Gaylord
Cameron Horst
Rose Hulcher
Quil Kiback
Ian Kinnaman
Bethany Maczka
Jessi Marshall
Austin Mollard

Riley Murray
Kelsey Najaka
Keith Packard
Gabe Russell
Cody Sander
Corbin Sander
Teddy Schlee
Marci Senires
Lucas Sicard
Jack Stull
Rachel Taylor
Micah Tsoi
Patrick Walker
Marin Williams

Young at Heart Tentative Schedule for 2016

Thursday, MARCH 31

11:00 am: Lunch at Brio Tuscan Grille, Rockville. At your own cost, lunch choices **must** be made ahead of time from menu.

1:00 pm: Tour of Strathmore Mansion. Free event. See article on page #7 of this Beacon for more info.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

Sunday, APRIL 3

1:30 pm: Lunch at Gettysburg Hotel.

3:00 pm: Gettysburg Theater's *Cherish the Ladies* Celtic concert, Gettysburg, PA. Tickets still available **BUT HURRY !!** See page #6 of this Beacon for more info.

Contact person: Jacque Janss / 301-620-7276



MAY

Visit to the Franciscan Friars/Shrine of St. Anthony and lunch in Ellicott City. **Saturday date TBD.**

Contact person: Jane Webb / 240-620-6920

JUNE

Travel to the Gaithersburg Arts Barn to see *The Drowsy Chaperone* play, with lunch before in Gaithersburg. Will be a 2:00 pm Matinee, **Sunday date TBD.**

Contact person: Sue Constantinides: 301-253-6591

Sunday, JULY 3

Holiday Concert Rehearsal on the west front lawn of the Capital, Washington, DC. Departure time TBD.

Contact person: Kathy Jones / 301-580-4591

Other July possibilities:

Frederick Keys Baseball Game
Visit to Raven's Training Camp & Lunch

Dates to be determined for both of above.

Contact person:
Mike Springirth /
240-832-2404



August

Picnic & swimming at the home of Bill & Lora Maynard, Damascus. Date TBD.

Contact person: Lora Maynard / 301-253-5868.

Pontoon Ride at Blackhills Park, Clarksburg. Date TBD.

Contact person: Kathy Celli / 301-253-9652.

Toby's Dinner Theater to see Sister Act.

Coordinator/Contact person needed.

Call Ted, Sue or Jane to volunteer.

Friday or Saturday, SEPTEMBER 17 or 18

Trip to the Maryland Wine Festival in Westminster.

Date and time TBD.

Contact person: Jane Webb / 240-620-6920

OCTOBER

Tour of Brookside Gardens and *Wings of Fancy* Butterfly House, Wheaton. Lunch afterwards nearby. Date TBD.

Tour of Kingsley School house on Clarksburg Road and lunch to follow (heavy walking involved). Date TBD.

Coordinator/Contact person needed for both events listed
Call Ted, Sue or Jane to volunteer.



NOVEMBER

Tour of Channel 7 Newsroom in Arlington, VA, followed by a lunch out. Date TBD.

Contact person: Mike Springirth / 240-832-2404.



DECEMBER

St. Cecilia Christmas Concert at the Weinberg Center, following a dinner out in Frederick. Exact date TBD.

Contact person:
Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

Disney Cruise December 3 - 10, 2016. Departure is from Port Carnavel, Florida. Booking now and openings still available.

Contact person: Kelly Bratburd: / 301-831-7435

Festival of Lights or Zoo Lights.

DUMC Dinner & Christmas Party.

Coordinator/Contact person needed for both events listed.

Office Information

PASTORS:

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

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

STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldridge,
Minister of Music & Worship Arts
cell: 240-750-8287 / redheaders@verizon.net

Tom Baldridge,
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
cell: 301-802-4775 / redheaders@verizon.net

Jane Webb, Office Manager
ext. #101 / great.jane@verizon.net

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator
ext. #102 / damascus.umc@verizon.net

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager
cell: 301-253-5241 / lisamarshall.dumc@verizon.net

Debbie Benson, Bookkeeper
ext. #106 / dumc_finance@verizon.net

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE APRIL BEACON **WILL BE**
WEDNESDAY, March 16

(For Beacon to publish on Easter Sunday, March 27).

**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 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 !!!!!

23



**The Office will be closed on
Monday, March 28 for
the Easter Holiday and will
re-open Tuesday, March 29 at 9:00 am.**

Administrative Meetings for March, 2016



- March 2 Office Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- March 2 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**
 - ▶ Finance Committee to follow
in the **Sacristy**
 - ▶ Christian Formation Meeting to
Follow in the **Library**
- March 10 SPPRC Meeting
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- March 13 UMYFO Meeting
4:00 pm in the Annex
- NOTE: The Technology Committee will
NOT meet in the month of March.
The Administrative Board will **NOT**
meet in the month of March.

**DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM**

Pre-K (Age 4) through 6th Grade

July 25 – 29, 2016 • 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

**(Please fill out one form for each family, and return it to the Resource Room
or the Church Office: DUMC, Attn: VBS, 9700 New Church St., Damascus, MD 20872)**

Name _____	Grade entering _____	T-shirt size: Y _____	(S/M/L)	(S/M/L/XL)
Name _____	Grade entering _____	T-shirt size: Y _____		A _____
Name _____	Grade entering _____	T-shirt size: Y _____		A _____
Name _____	Grade entering _____	T-shirt size: Y _____		A _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____
Work (specify person) _____

Allergies (please indicate which child) _____
(Our kitchen staff will purchase the snacks and drinks that will be served during VBS, and peanut-related items will not be bought. However, if your child has severe food allergies, it would be best for you to send in a snack each day for your child. We are not able to guarantee a complete peanut-free kitchen.)

Other concerns or requests for class placement (sometimes there are 2 classes/grade)

In case of an emergency, I give permission for Shady Grove Hospital to treat (please list names if more than one child)

for any accident or injury that occurs while attending Vacation Bible School.

Name of Doctor _____ Phone Number _____
Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

About Our People

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 Amanda
cell: 240-529-8887
david.cooney@verizon.net



McMurtrey, ext. #104
office: 301-253-0022
amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net

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

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: Pennie Adams (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Pete Clarke** (recuperating at home after meniscus surgery), **Catherine Cramer**, (Randy Anderson's sister with pregnancy complications), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Ann Cochran**, **Patty Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Kim DePiero** (recovering from knee replacement), **Joyce Dooley** (Carol Taylor's mom), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Diane Fry** (having complications from her hand surgery recovery), **Marianne Goldup** (Jane Webb's step-mom recovering from a fall at home), **Patsy Kressig** (Judy's mom), **Nancy Lacy** (recovering from a stroke), **Miel Linthicum**, **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** (recovering from neck surgery), **Neal Pardini** (recovering from a vascular procedure), **Sue Pratt** (Amy Bilello's mom), **Carolyn Snapp**, **Jane Snapp** (recuperating from a broken shoulder), **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), **Amanda Uehara** (the Lingrells' 12 yr. old granddaughter recovering from knee surgery), and **Dr. Arthur Woodward, Jr.**, (recovering at home from head injury).

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**, **Pam Compton**, **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Lauren Dunham**, **JP Feuillet**, **Kathy Geehreg**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Marilyn Kinsey** (melanoma), **Dave Lingrell**, **Tanner Matney**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew), **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister), **Greg Sacco** (Gina Wilson's brother), **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle), and **Sharon Stern** (Sandra Malley's sister).

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).

If you would like to add or remove a name to the About Our People section, please e-mail the church office Damascus.umc@verizon.net or call (301)253-0022.