Damascus United Methodist Church
9700 New Church Street
Damascus, MD 20872
Phone: 301-253-0022
E-mail: office@damascusumc.org
Website: www.DamascusUMC.org

THE BEACON
MARCH 2018

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
Associate Pastor /
Children's Ministry

Polly Edmonds Baldridge
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

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

Julio Pedraza /
Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

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Dear Congregation,

We are now well into the spiritual season of Lent, and I hope you are taking time for prayer and reflection and are seeking opportunities to deepen your faith and strengthen your relationship with the Lord.

Many this season are studying the book The Great Spiritual Migration by Brian McLaren. The book provides some wonderful insights on what it means to be Christian, and how in our lives we can better represent the faith and keep Christianity relevant in a changing society. If you were not able to be part of one the groups working with this book this Lent, you may still want to read it on your own.

Others are using the Jericho Road Devotional produced by the Baltimore-Washington Conference using scripture and writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. to spur conversations about social and justice reform, especially related to the issue of race. If you have not been able to join Amanda and others for these conversations, you can still read the devotional on line at http://www.bwcumc.org/resources/the-jericho-road-devotional.

We also have our own devotional booklet written by members of DUMC. Copies are available in the office and narthex if you have not yet received one. The devotions relate to some of Christ's parables and works in conjunction with Sunday's worship theme: Last, Lasting, Everlasting: Stories of Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem. The idea is that as Jesus moved from Galilee to Jerusalem, his time on earth was growing shorter. Once in Jerusalem it would be only days before he was crucified. Thus, his teaching on that journey can be thought of as a collection of "last" words that are "lasting" and relate to the "everlasting." This is when he told many of his parables teaching us about life and the coming kingdom of God. If you knew your time was short, what would you want to convey? Wouldn't your words take on added significance? Come on Sunday and hear a parable shared by word, song, puppets, and drama and then during the week read what others have to say about it.

The end of this month is Holy Week. Palm/Passion Sunday is March 25. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter follow. We will, of course, have special services throughout. Complete your Lenten journey with rich, meaningful worship.

Our Lay Leader Vanessa Leiby announced in February that Rev. Kathryn Woodrow has been appointed the new senior pastor upon my retirement in June. She is presently serving as senior pastor at Faith UMC in Rockville and will begin here July 1.

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The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is busy working on plans for welcoming Rev. Woodrow and assuring a good start. You will be kept informed and have opportunity to participate in multiple ways. I am also working with Kathryn to do everything I can to make for a smooth transition. All involved are determined to make sure the church does not miss a beat. Rev. Woodrow is a capable and warm pastor. You will enjoy getting to know her and do well together fulfilling the mission to be devoted servants, drawn to Jesus, and dedicated to making disciples.

In the meantime, much is happening now and I am excited about participating in it all with you as we complete the Lenten and Easter seasons and begin the time of Pentecost. The days are getting longer. The air is getting warmer. Soon the signs of spring will be everywhere. A beautiful time is ahead of us. Come and give thanks to the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

David

Children's Easter Service and Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday Morning, April 1, 2018,
please come upstairs to the Great Hall at 9:30 am
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.

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 - 10:30 am: Move to the Dining Hall for crafts and egg hunt

Everyone is welcome to come!

Beginning Ash Wednesday (February 14) we started our early morning communion services at 6:45 am on Wednesdays, and will continue throughout Lent. The service is followed by a light continental breakfast.

Additionally, a daily Lenten devotional book written by our pastors and laity is also available for the season. The devotions are based on the parables being taught on Sundays in the sermon series: Last, Lasting, Everlasting – the Stories of Jesus on the Way to Jerusalem. Books are available in the Narthex or the church office.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE WEBSITE HOME PAGE and OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE UP-TO-DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS AS SOON AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.

ANYONE USING THE DUMC APP WILL RECEIVE A NOTIFICATION ON THEIR SMART DEVICE.

HOLY WEEK 2018

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Palm/Passion Sunday — March 25, 2018

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.

Child care will be available in the nursery for both services.

Holy Wednesday — March 28, 2018

Morning Communion — **6:45 am, Sanctuary**

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

(There is no Welcoming Wednesday night dinner. However adult evening rehearsals will still take place.)

Maundy Thursday — March 29, 2018

Maundy Thursday Communion Service — **12:00 noon, Sanctuary**

Service of prayer, meditation and communion.

Maundy Thursday Service — **7:30 pm, Sanctuary**

Join us in the "Upper Room" as communion is celebrated in this remembrance of the Last Supper, followed by the ceremonial stripping of the sanctuary's adornments. Music will be shared by the Chancel Choir and Women's Choir.

Child care will be available in the nursery for both services.

Good Friday — March 30, 2018

Good Friday Service — **12 noon, Sanctuary**

Good Friday Service — **7:30 pm**
Seven Last Words — **Sanctuary**

Christ's last words provide lasting teaching that leads to everlasting life. Hear the words of Jesus from the Cross. Music shared by the Chancel Choir.

Child care will be available in the nursery.

Holy Saturday — March 31, 2018

This year we will be honoring our confirmands during our Pentecost Celebration. The Banquet and confirmation Service will take place Saturday, May 19. Confirmands will be received into membership Sunday, May 20.

Easter Sunday — April 1, 2018

Easter Sunrise Service — **6:30 am Gathering**

DUMC Cemetery,
adjacent to Harwood House Thrift Shop

(Inclement weather: Meet inside Boyer Chapel)

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

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

The Easter story is shared interactively and music is led by the puppets. Parents, please accompany your children to the Great Hall. Afterwards, parents & children ages 2 years to 5th grade are invited to the Easter 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. All are invited to come forward for singing of Hallelujah Chorus at close of service.

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

Giving to Others during Lent -
2018 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.

Feb. 18th - Peanut butter and GRAPE jelly, tea bags

Feb. 25th - spaghetti sauce and pasta, baby diapers (size 3, 4 & 5 needed most!)

March 4th - Hot or Cold Cereal, canned fruit

March 11th - bars of soap, individually wrapped, toilet paper

March 18th - canned meat, canned tuna, canned mixed vegetables

March 25th - laundry detergent, baby diapers (size, 3, 4 or 5)

Damascus HELP Incorporated

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

Thank you and God bless you!

United Methodist Women
FAITH·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION

The **Susanna JOY** Circle
will meet March 12
VIA INTERNET
UMW missions funded for many decades by Damascus UMW will be highlighted using the 2018 Prayer Calendar.

Prayer is encouraged this day for Angola, Haiti, and Pakistan.

Birthday greetings sent to Elizabeth McCormick, UMW missionary in Mozambique.

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WWJD Circle News

Members of the WWJD Circle will be attending a talk given by Mitch Albom at the Weinberg Theater in Frederick on March 15. Email will be sent out about carpooling and meeting for dinner beforehand. If you do not have a ticket, seats may be purchased at http://www.weinbergcenter.org/14328/mitch-albom/?spektrix_bounce=true or by calling the box office at 301.600.2828. Anyone buying tickets now can still carpool and eat dinner with us. Buy tickets with a friend so you can have someone to sit with.

This activity is open to any interested person so please join us!

For further information and/or to be put on the carpool-dinner list, email Marcia Hofman, marciahofman67@gmail.com or call Linda in the church office at 301-253-0022.

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Re-scheduled meeting of Leadership Team of DUMW

(Due to snow cancellation of January meeting)

The Leadership Team of Damascus United Methodist Women will meet **Monday, March 5 at 6:30 pm** in the Annex (downstairs). At this meeting we will review the activities and accomplishments of 2017 and continue planning for 2018. If you feel you have skills and gifts to help this team, please feel free at attend. Questions? Contact Hazel Strahorn at hazelstrahorn@verizon.net or 301-443-553-9848.

NEXT LADIES' NIGHTS OUT

When: **Thursday, March 8**

Where: **AYSE Meze Lounge (Mediterrean)**
6 N. East Street
Frederick, MD 21701

Time: **6:00 pm**

Please RSVP by March 6 to Pastor Amanda

The Men of DUMC and male friends, family & neighbors are invited for a

UMM UNITED METHODIST MEN

Men's Night Out

Monday, March 26
@ 6:30 pm
At Longhorn Steak House
20017 Century Blvd.
Germantown, MD

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

"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: Cora Horst at 301-529-3047.

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WINTER SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Sunday 3/4
Destination UnKnown

Sunday 3/11
Movie Night

Sunday 3/18
St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Sunday 3/25
To be determined

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

Sunday 4/1
No Youth Fellowship Activities - HAPPY EASTER!

Sunday 4/8
Indoor Swimming Adventure

Sunday 4/15
Minute to Win it Games & Devotion

Sunday 4/22
Spring Ring Event (7 pm Concert)

Sunday 4/29
Earth Day Service Project

Youth Praise Band
Sundays @ 3:30 pm
1st & 3rd weeks of the month

Youth Bell Choir
Sundays @ 4 pm

Charles Wesley Singers Practice
Sundays @ 5 pm

Youth Puppets
Wednesdays @ 5 pm in the Great Hall

Charles Wesley Singers Choir Tour June 16-26, 2018, destination Florida.

Informational Meeting in DUMC Dining Hall Sunday, February 25 @ 6 pm-ish for youth & families.

NEXT UMYFO MEETING
Sunday, March 18
@ 4:00 pm
in the Church Office.

Worship Arts News and Events

March 2018

Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
240-750-8287 | polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org
Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | stephenkalnoske@gmail.com

Charles Wesley Singers are traveling to Florida on tour from June 16 - 26, 2018. The theme of our trip is *One in Christ Jesus*.

If you have any family and friends in or en route to Florida that might host our choir, please be in contact with Polly to share suggestions and names.

Upcoming Worship Arts Events

Sunday, April 22
Spring Ring Handbell Concert
in the church Sanctuary @ 3 pm

Sunday, May 23
Barbecue for Jen -
Children's Musical

WEDNESDAYS

4:15 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall/Stage Side (snacks served – 45 minute)
Puppet troupe for elem. students 2nd grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall/Back Half (30-minute session)
Choir for children 4 ½ years old to 1st grade led by Lydia Turner-Little

5:00 pm **Youth Puppets** Great Hall (45-minute session)
Puppets/drama for 6th grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Choristers** Choir Room (60-minute session)
Choir for children 2nd to 5th grade led by Polly Baldridge (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Great Hall/Stage (30-minute session)
Handbells for students 2nd to 5th grade led by Polly Baldridge

7:00 pm **Men's Choir** Great Hall/Stage
For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

7:00 pm **Women's Ensemble** Great Hall/Back Half
Singing technique session with Polly Baldridge includes working on music for Women's Choir

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Choir Room (90-minute session)
SATB choir for worship /special concerts led by Polly Baldridge with Stephen Kalnoske, accom.

SUNDAYS

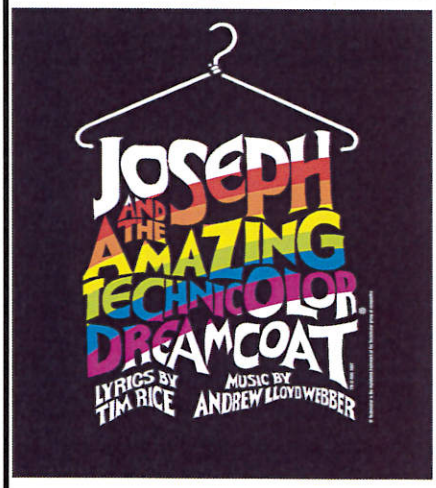
3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month
All instruments and vocals needed for this student-led group facilitated by Polly and Tom Baldridge

4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Great Hall/Stage
Handbells for youth 6th to 12th grades led by Tom Baldridge

4:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room
SATB choir for 6th to 12th grades and up led by Polly Baldridge with accompanist Stephen Kalnoske

MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy** Great Hall/Stage (90-minute session)
Adult 5-octave Handbell ensemble led by Polly Baldridge



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS
August 24-26, 2018
Damascus UMC will present
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
This summer all youth, children, and adults are invited to join the cast and crew.
Contact Polly Baldridge for more details!

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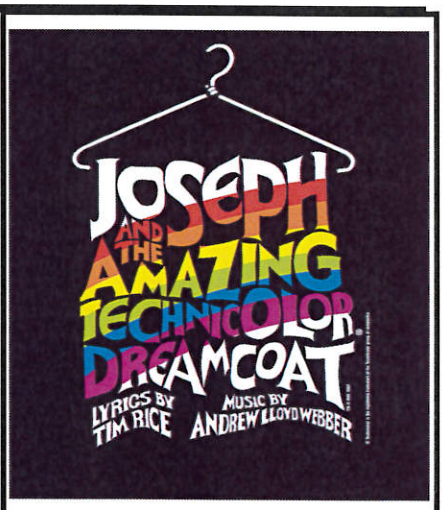

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Damascus United Methodist Church ~ 9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD ~ 301-253-0022 ~ damascusumc.org

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

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

- **A Heart for Serving Others began Ash Wednesday and continues thru Holy Week**
- **The Lenten displays in the hallway outside the Great Hall are all about Missions at DUMC**
- **Visit on April 29 by Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena (General Board Missionaries) before they go to their new assignment in Puebla Mexico beginning in July**
- **Spring Work Saturday at Laytonsville Safe Haven**
- **Flower and Plant Sale in May (more info on page #11)**
- **Mission Sunday June 3, 2018**
- **Habitat week July 8-13 (more info below)**
- **2018 Volunteers in Mission trip late summer or early fall**

A Heart for Serving Others

During Lent, the Missions Team is distributing pink paper hearts, inviting DUMC people to write their Lenten "service" and the nature of it, i.e., "Worked at the Food Bank, Took a neighbor to the doctor, Cooked a meal for someone with a death in the family," etc., on a pink heart. (More hearts are available if people do more than one act of service during Lent. They are in the hallway outside the Great Hall and in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.) People can sign their names on the front or back of the paper heart or remain anonymous if they choose. Post the hearts in the designated areas of the hallway. The Missions team would like to see the designated overflowing with hearts and spilling onto the surrounding wall by Easter. Have a *Heart for Serving Others* this Lenten season! It is a witness to the love of Christ who is in us. Our acts of service help others see God love for them.

Opportunities to serve during Lent

- Friday, March 16, 2018 @ SERRV in New Windsor, MD. E-mail Pastor Roger Burtner reb21756@msn.com if you are interested in helping.
- Harwood House is always in need of volunteers. Contact Debbie Stone (301-253-6536) or Nancy Counts (301-253-6284).
- Damascus Help needs donations and volunteers. See page #11 of this Beacon for more info.

Habitat opportunity

- Our trip this year is planned for July 8-13. We will have a pre-trip meeting on June 11 at 7:00 pm in the basement of the Annex. Applications due June 14 – no exceptions; application forms are on the website (http://www.damascusumc.org/get-involved/missions/#Habitat%20for%20Humanity) Contact Anita Duvall if you have questions or interest as a first-timer (240-485-7650).

Toiletry donations for the Frederick Women's Shelter

Travel sized toiletries may be placed in the labeled container in the Narthex closet. Ask a greeter if you are unsure where to put your donations. Thanks for helping homeless women in our region! **Cora Horst is the coordinator.**

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Your Mission $$$ at work:

- The final amount collected for **Change for Change**, during the holiday season is **$2,484.86.** Earlier in the fall DUMC collected and sent **$1,950.50** to UMCOR for disaster relief. All the moneys sent will be used 100% by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for disaster relief and rebuilding after the hurricanes in TX, FL, Puerto Rico, and fires and mudslides in CA. Thank you to all who contributed.
- For Neema Kenya Mission in 2017: **$2,713.01** was contributed to the Ndere School for school supplies, stipends for volunteers, uniforms, food, repairing the latrine, kitchen renovations, and classroom windows. **$1,350.00** was contributed to the Joint Partners Clinic for equipment & supplies, and staff supplements.

Thank You's

- To Polly Baldridge and Connie Ross for their work displaying Mission ministry at DUMC in the hallway outside the Great Hall during Lent.
- A big thanks for the generosity at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, which collected $457 to Neema Kenya Mission to support the feeding program at Ndere Orphans School. This donation will allow us to provide two months of maize and beans to nourish these precious children. We continue to be so grateful for the loving support DUMC has provided this mission!
- To the Youth who received through their bake sale $522 for the Bluebird Orphanage in Nicaragua.
- To the Nicaragua mission team for their time, love and energy given to the people impacted by Between Cultures.
- Thanks to those who give over and above their DUMC financial commitment to support mission projects.

Neema Kenya

Pictures from the 2017 trip that represent Neema Kenya Mission.

We took 40 backpacks with us, with basic preschool supplies and toys for the children at the **Ndere Orphans School**. For these children, it was a rare occasion to have something they could call their very own. They were a bit overwhelmed! With an outpouring of support from DUMC this past year, we have been able to provide food provisions for the school and improve the safety standards by renovating the latrine and kitchen.

The **Joint Partners Medical Clinic** was established by Gladys Otieno's sister Joyce, a nurse-midwife, and her husband Adan. Though their facility is very rudimentary by our standards, they provide a tremendous service to the women and children of their community, truly saving lives every day. DUMC has supported this mission by providing diagnostic and treatment equipment for the clinic and subsidizing temporary help during the public health strikes that plagued Kenya in 2017. Joyce and Adan are tireless advocates and have a great vision to improve the quality of life of those they serve.

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

From Damascus HELP in February

Damascus HELP **IS IN NEED OF** cribs, dressers, clean beds, night stands, lamps, sofas, chairs, end table, clean blankets and a microwave. Please call 301-253-4100 or email dh20872@aol.com if you have items to donate.

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in December: Community Bible Study, Baker Middle School Concert, Carl Vail, Jenifer Feirano at Music School of Inspiration, Damascus United Methodist Church, Santa Drive, Damascus Lions Club, St. Paul Catholic Church, Safeway and Weis.

In December, Damascus HELP made 40 food deliveries serving 147 people and helped 14 families with financial assistance; five families with household items, and gave four people rides to appointments.

Volunteer News: We welcome Paula Linthicum, a new OD, and Kathy Zegowitz, a new food driver, this month. We are looking for additional volunteers. Our opportunities include ODs, food drivers, pantry pick up helpers, transportation drivers and volunteers to be part of a furniture delivery team. We need another financial caseworker to work with clients and their utility bills, and special project volunteers. For all volunteer opportunities, please call 301-253-4100, or email dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.

Missions Fundraiser . . . . .

DUMC's Annual

Flower & Plant Sale begins

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Hours: Saturdays & Sundays,

9 am - 5 pm

Weekdays, 6 pm - 9 pm

The Missions Committee is looking for volunteers for the flower and plant sale. We still need help watering and selling the plants thru May 13. This is a very successful fundraiser for the mission programs in the church so please prayerfully consider volunteering.

Please contact Kathy Jones at 301-580-4591 or kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for youth to earn credit to use when they go on mission trips.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Congratulations Cliff Bergstresser!

Cliff, 4th from left, was commissioned as a Stephen Minister on Monday night, February 12, 2018. There was a wonderful banquet celebrating this achievement for Cliff and his fellow students at the Chinese Bible Church of Maryland. The DUMC Stephen Ministry acknowledges this wonderful accomplishment. Please congratulate him when you see him! Cliff will also be commissioned here at DUMC at both services on March 18!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Faith Connections
Communities Serving Together
Formerly D.E.L.A.I.

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

Here are some simple ways you can help make the kingdom and grace of God a little more real to people who live nearby:

1. Serve on Faith Connections Helpline (approximately one hour a month)
   - Serves with a team of people called the "Good Shepherd team" and answer Helpline phone calls 3 days per month.
   - Provide assistance and referrals to families facing financial issues such as eviction (simple training provided).
2. Serve with the Faith Connections After-School Program for elementary age children that live in Damascus Gardens (meets on Tuesday and Wednesday from 4 – 5:30 PM).

For more information please call 301-512-5127 or e-mail Debbie@Faith-Connections.org
"...Love your neighbor as yourself" Matt. 22:39
www.Faith-Connections.org

Sunday, March 18 @ 7:00 pm

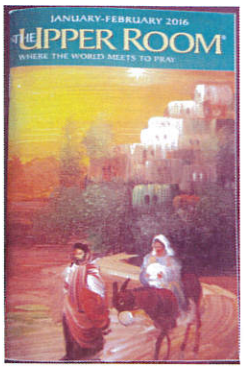
Join us for this service held monthly, **now in our beautiful and renovated Boyer Chapel.** This service is a time for sharing Holy Communion, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil (James 5:14-16a). All are invited and you may come to ask for healing for others.

The Chapel is located at the entryway to the DUMC cemetery. Parking is available between the chapel and the Thrift Shop.

Thank You to the Boyer Family for making this move possible ! ! !

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!

Stewardship/Finance

Greetings from your Finance Committee

We have very good news to report on 2017. After three years of declining income, the Finance Committee in an abundance of caution, proposed a deficit budget for 2017. Our terrific congregation responded with increased giving that wiped out the projected $46,580 deficit and balanced the 2017 budget. The strong pattern of giving in 2017 and economic projections that the recent robust improvement in the U.S. economy will continue in 2018 gave us confidence that our 2018 Budget, that projects spending of $991,179.00, will be balanced. A copy of the 2018 budget, which was approved by the Administrative Board on January 6th, is printed on the page following this report.

Having said that, we will never be able to do everything we want to do to further God's Kingdom on earth. Over and above the budget, our Congregation raised additional funding for the following programs:

- Orphanage and clinic in Neema Kenya – over $4,000.00
- Bluebird orphanage in Nicaragua – over $520.00
- Plant sales support for our mission in Nicaragua -- over $4,000.00
- Preserving the Future campaign – over $100,000,00
- Our Meals on Wheels mission, in conjunction with Montgomery County, provides five meals a week to anywhere from 8-14 elderly clients in the Damascus area

We should all be proud of these and many other extra efforts we as a congregation made in 2017 and continue to make over and above the budget.

Sincerely,

David A. Rust, Chairman

Factoid # 6 - John Wesley wrote a medical book entitled *Primitive Physick* that brought together existing knowledge about widely used home remedies and folk remedies. His book was aimed at lay people and was so popular that it went through 32 editions and was widely read throughout England.

STOCK DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

Step one is to email Tracy Brown with the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation at tracybrown@midatlanticfoundation.org. Inform her about the stock and number of shares you are donating, along with the contact information of your stock broker. She will forward instructions to your broker.

When the transfer is made the shares are sold immediately. The gift value is determined by the mean value of the stock per share on the day of sale. It takes three business days for the trade to settle and then a check will be sent to Damascus United Methodist Church for the amount of the proceeds. Tracy will e-mail you the details of the sale for your tax records. The net value of the check sent to DUMC will be put on your annual offering statement.

Problems do arise when donors forget to contact Tracy before the stock is transferred. If she is not contacted the shares come in without a name or church attached to them. If they cannot identify the donor or the intention of the donation, the stock will either be declined or it will be sold and the proceeds will sit in their clearing account until someone claims them.

For any ways to make your offering you can call the bookkeeping office or e-mail steve.malley@damascusumc.org for help setting these options up.

Stewardship/Finance (cont'd)

003 Damascus United Methodist Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2018
Budgeted Financial Statement for Calendar Year 2018

	2017 Annual Budget	APPROVED 2018 Annual Budget
Projected Spending	**$ 980,102**	**$ 991,179**
Estimated Revenue	**933,522**	**$ 991,200**
Surplus/(Deficit)	**($46,580)**	**$21**

Acct # Description	2017 Budget Annual	2018 Budget Annual
001 - Income		
001/4001 Tithe and Offerings	$853,709	**$898,750**
001/4002 Closing the Debt	$0	**$0**
001/4004 Interest Income	$561	**$650**
001/4005 Amazon Smile income	$0	**$100**
001/4010 Building Use Donations	$48,202	**$49,200**
001/4020 Sunday School	$500	**$500**
001/4900 Apportionment Contributions	$30,550	**$42,000**
Total Offerings, Contribtuions & Donations	$933,522	**$991,200**
- Expenses		
010 - Conference	$126,719	**$122,397**
012- Appointed Staff	$223,534	**$230,992**
015 - Church Staff	$346,774	**$353,530**
050 - Administrative	$7,427	**$6,150**
055 - Church Office	$33,653	**$29,200**
057 - Technology	$19,775	**$16,000**
060 Building & Grounds	$136,905	**$137,400**
070 - 9600 Main Street	$21,386	**$19,350**
080 - Woodfield Road	-$6,044	**-$2,950**
110 - Worship Ministry	$4,701	**$4,635**
120 - Music Ministry	$12,951	**$18,700**
130 - Christian Formation	$12,650	**$12,700**
132 - Fellowship Ministries	$1,500	**$900**
134 - Youth	$11,972	**$15,275**
140 - Hospitality	$800	**$500**
150 - Caring Ministries	$1,350	**$1,250**
155 - Stewardship	$300	**$400**
170 - New Ministries	$0	**$0**
180 - Missions	$23,750	**$24,750**
TOTAL EXPENSES	$980,102	**$991,179**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	-$46,580	**$21**

Announcements

Join us for a Party

90 YEARS

IN THE MAKING

TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF

Miel Linthicum

Saturday, April 14
Open House: 1 to 5 pm
9209 Gue Road, Damascus
Please RSVP to Mary Emma
at 301-253-2038
by April 5.

Refreshments served with ice cream for dessert!

God has given us all we need, so no gifts necessary.

Bring a chair! Send a card!

Both will be greatly appreciated!

DAMASCUS LIONS

SPRING PANCAKE, SAUSAGE & SCRAMBLED EGG BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 17, 2018

7:00 am to 11:00 am

Damascus UM Church, Church Street

Dining Room - Lower level

Adults $ 9.00, Child 4-8 $ 4.00, Under 4 Free

Tickets are available at the door

For advanced tickets contact Lion Joy Schwab 301-253-3294.

BAKE/CRAFT TABLE

Attn: All Thrift Shop Volunteers (past & present)
Come Celebrate 25 Years of Service to our Community ! !

The Thrift Shop is in process of planning their 25th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place on Sunday, March 11, 2018. Starting at 2:00 pm Pastor David will begin our program, followed by a video history & pictures done by Mike Springirth & Ron Adams, followed by entertainment arranged by Polly Baldridge. Light refreshments will be served.

Invitations have gone out, but please let us know if you are aware of any "retired" Thrift Shop volunteers that may have moved or we've lost contact with. You can contact Elizabeth Bradley at 240-745-2046 or email at lizziebrad@aol.com to give her any updates. RSVP is requested by March 1.

A Volunteer Opportunity (We need your help!)

For the Thrift Shop Anniversary Celebration (mentioned above) we would like to have dessert donations, and help with serving; perhaps from Sunday School classes, youth (SSL hours) or individuals in the congregation. **Our goal is make this a special Celebration for ALL the Thrift Shop volunteers,** by having others serve them. Please contact Carol Martin to sign-up at carolleomartin@aol.com or 301-253-3742.

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Monday, March 19
at 12:30 pm in the Annex (Church Office)

Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort. The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, or Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners ! ! !

March 7: **Beef Brisket, egg noodles, vegetable, mixed greens salad, rolls & dessert**

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates for 2018 are:
March 7 / Apr. 4 / May 2 / Jun. 6

The ***Welcoming Wednesday Dinners*** are served in the Church Dining Hall.
We serve **at 6:00 pm.**
The suggested donation is $7.00 for adults, $3.00 for children under 12.
This a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!

Announcements (cont'd)

Binders of Love for our Graduating Seniors

The groundhog didn't see his shadow this year, so Spring is just around the corner, which means it is time to start thinking about our graduating high school seniors! As is our tradition, we will be presenting our DUMC high school seniors with special binders on Senior Sunday, May 6th. These binders are filled with memories, scriptures, encouraging words, photos, etc. provided by friends, family, teachers, etc. and will hopefully be a source of comfort and love to our young people as they embark on this next phase of their lives. Please consider creating a page (no larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches) and giving it/them to Wendy Hembrough (301-367-6665) no later than April 29th. If you have any questions or concerns please just ask Wendy. Here are our graduating seniors:

Jordan Anderson
Heather Bacon
Julia Beall
Hayley Bonnett
Charlotte Bowe
Brandon Champagne
Miranda Clay
Anne Elliott
Jessica Hanlon
Autumn Johnson
Adam Lenker
Chloe Lender
Noah Lenker
Maddy Marshall
Matthew Martin
Lucas Martinho
Leslie McAlister
Dyllan Ramirez
Ana Schobitz
Nik Schobitz
Cody Swigart
Bryce Taylor
Lauren Taylor
Alice Walker
Lindsey Whitmeyer

Earth Stewards Street Clean-Up
Saturday, March 17 at 8:00 am

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

If you have noticed the litter along Woodfield Road near Safeway and the Post Office, now is your chance to do something about it. Our first clean-up after snow melts is always a big one. We will pick up the litter along Woodfield Road from Bethesda Church all the way to 27 and it usually takes less than 2 hours. We have gloves, orange vests, trash bags, and pick-up sticks. The group will meet in the parking lot near Woodfield Road at 8 am on Saturday so we can divide and conquer! If you would like to join us, please let Jeff Heinbaugh know so he can contact you in case of inclement weather. heinbjc@comcast.net or 301-253-0742.

Announcements (cont'd)

Do you remember Gayle Watson?

David Watson (Gayle's husband) is having his 80th birthday and the family would like him to receive a lot of cards for this special occasion! Cards can be sent to:

David Watson - c/o Dessa - Watson - Ferris
5142 Monticello Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75206

NOTE: David's birthday if March 31, 2018.

Flowers for Easter - 2018

Easter Lilies and/or Tulips may be ordered in advance for placing in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018. Flowers may be placed in honor of or in memory of loved ones or special persons.

Lilies: $12.00 each
6" pot with 4 – 6 blooms

Tulips: $11.00 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 26, 2018.
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 ($12.00) _____ No. Tulips ($11.00) _____

Total Cost: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

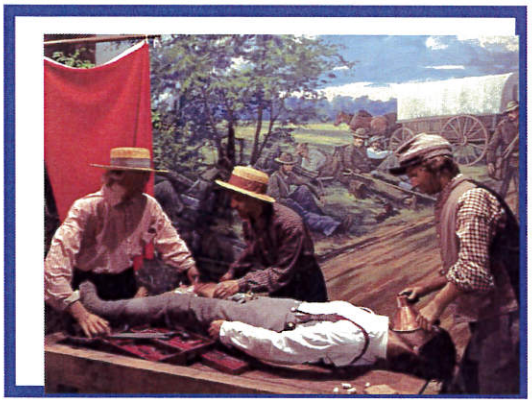
_____ I will pick up my flowers after the 11 am worship service on Easter Sunday.

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

YOUNG-AT-HEART OUTING!!!

National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street, Frederick, MD 21705



Monday, March 12, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Follow in the footsteps of soldiers, surgeons and nurses to discover the harsh conditions, personal sacrifices, and brilliant innovations of Civil War medicine, innovations that continue to save lives today.

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine started as a private collection of medical artifacts. Inside the museum, you can see everything from an authentic Civil War surgeon's tent to a 19th century holding coffin. Additionally, dioramas detail life on the front, the recruiting process, and the procedure for medical evacuations. These exhibits together tell the story of what it was like for soldiers in the Civil War when they interacted with medical teams.

Your visit will include a one-hour guided tour through the museum with plenty of time afterward to explore on your own. The museum is handicap accessible with an elevator to transport visitors to both floors. There are also chairs and benches sporadically placed throughout the museum for visitors to rest on.

We will have lunch afterward around noon at OPA, an authentic Greek restaurant (only a five-minute walk from the museum) located at 50 Carroll Creek Way. Stir up your inner Greek passion as you taste traditional appetizers, salads, gyros, grilled meats, seafood and home-style dishes!

For those of you who want to carpool, we will meet in the DUMC parking lot ready to leave at 9:15 a.m. Immediately past the museum on Patrick Street (on the left) is the Carroll Creek parking garage. The cost is $1.00 per hour. The only other option is street parking.

RSVP to Sue Constantinides Home: 301-253-6591 Cell: 301-651-1178
Email: suehcon@yahoo.com

Young at Heart Activities - 2018

Monday, March 12 10 am

National Museum of Civil War Medicine.
Will include a one-hour guided tour with extra time afterward to explore. Will join together for lunch afterward in Frederick. See article on page #19 of this Beacon.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

Sunday, April 22 2:45 pm

Waltz Lessons at Glen Echo Park, Bethesda, with meal afterwards **(6:00 pm)** at the Irish Inn Restaurant.

Contact person: Kathryn Smith / 301-540-1191.

MAY, 2018 Date & Time TBD

Visit to the **National Shrine, Emmittsburg, MD** with a meal afterwards at Mountain Gate restaurant.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

As you can see, not all plans and dates have been finalized, but will be added as soon as possible.

Sunday, July 22 12:00 noon

Montgomery College Summer Dinner Theatre, Rockville, MD. We will see ***West Side Story.*** Buffet lunch starts at noon, play at 2:00 pm.

Contact Person: Sandra Malley - 301-518-2220.

Friday, October 5 12:30 pm

Maryland Fleet Week 3 hr. boat tour of Baltimore Harbor and Thunderbird Airshow.

RSVP'S WILL BE NEEDED BY AUGUST, 2018.

Contact: Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

NOVEMBER, 2018 Date and Time TBD

Tour of Arlington National Cemetery and lunch.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides / 301-253-6591

DECEMBER, 2018

Traditional Young at Heart Christmas Dinner & Party, held at DUMC, Dining Room

Coordinator/Contact person needed for this event to take place. Call Sue or Jane to volunteer.

NOTE: Young at Heart activities are open to all adults in our church and community. We try to plan a variety of events that appeal to people, but please feel free to make suggestions, and possibly sponsor or co-sponsor an event. Contact Sue, Sandra or Jane.

Free Tax Help

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is available free to taxpayers of any age with low and moderate incomes, with special attention to those 60 or older. AARP Foundation's trained volunteers have helped individuals for more than 50 years in every state and the District of Columbia. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service.

Schedule an appointment beginning on January 29

240-777-2577 / Monday—Friday / 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
or go to: www.montgomeryserves.org/tax-aide

Appointments available - Wednesday & Fridays form 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Book an appointment by March 1, 2018 to guarantee availability

Damascus Senior Center and Library
9701 Main Street, Damascus, MD 20872

Fun. Friends. Faith.

Summer Camps for 2018

The United Methodist Church has three camp locations conveniently located around the Baltimore/Washington area. Each site offers guests spectacular views, wonderful service and a place to renew your spirit, grow in friendships and have fun. Camps are overnight and go start at grade 3rd thru 12th. There are additional programs for training for 16-17 year olds.

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.

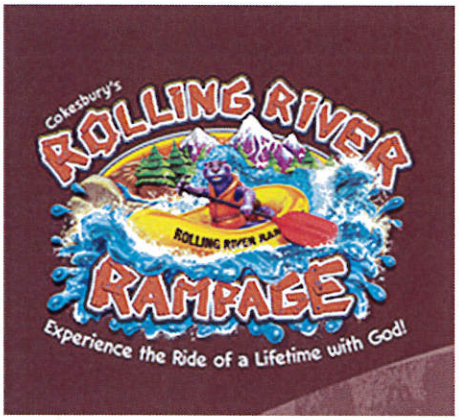
Manikodan Camp and Retreat Center: Over 300 acres bordered by the Potomac River and C&O Canal (across the river from historic Harpers Ferry, WV). Located just 20 miles west of Frederick, MD, an hour from Washington, DC and two hours from Baltimore, MD.

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.

One page flyers are available in the church office or you may look up atwww.bwccampsandretreats.com/summer-camps/our-camps/ or you can call 410-867-0991 for more information.

Our Summer Camp programs are very successful due to the strong commitment from our volunteers. We have both lay and clergy volunteers working alongside our dedicated staff.

Save the date for VBS 2018, July 23 - 27!



We welcome all children from age 4 through 6th grade to attend.

Hours will be 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day.

Theme: Rolling River Rampage

Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

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.*

Scholarships

Methodist Church Scholarships Available

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church Scholarship Program provides scholarships to help supplement the financial needs of today. Scholarships are for undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university in the United States.

Funding for the BWC scholarships is provided through the United Methodist Student Day Special Offering, the BWC Board of Trustees, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, the United Methodist Women, the United Methodist Men, and other designated gifts.

Students will need to complete the online application each year. Applications are reviewed by members of the Joint Scholarship Task Force.

Scholarship applications are accepted online only **January 3 – March 7, 2018**. Awards are determined by the Joint Scholarship Task Force. Scholarship award email notices will be sent out by the last week of June 2018. Payment of scholarship awards are sent directly to the College/University for the fall term.

Please review scholarship descriptions on the Baltimore-Washington Conference website BEFORE APPLYING ONLINE for a scholarship.

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

***Applications can be found on the DUMC website at: www.damascusumc.org/events/scholarships/**

Office Info

PLEASE NOTE:
Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

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

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

STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldridge,
Minister of Music & Worship Arts
cell: 240-750-8287 / polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

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

Nick Works,
Director of Youth
cell: 240-751-6695 / nick.works@damascusumc.org

Jane Webb, Office Manager
cell: 240– 620-6920 / jane.webb@damascusumc.org

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator
ext. #102 / office@damascusumc.org

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager
cell: 301-253-5241 /
lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper
ext. #106 / steve.malley@damascusumc.org

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Office Hours

The office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 6:00 p.m. On Friday, we open at 8:00 a.m., sometimes close for lunch (approx. an hr.) and occasionally close early. Additionally,

Pastor David is off on Fridays.

Pastor Amanda is off on Tuesdays.

Jane Webb is off on Mondays.

Linda Stastny is off on Tuesdays.

Please keep this in mind when waiting for a response to e-mail or phone messages.

Administrative Meetings For March, 2018

March 1 First Thursday Ministries Meeting
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**
Trustees Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall - stage side**
Missions Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall - back side**
Children's Ministry Meeting to
follow in the **Dining Hall - back**

March 18 UMYFO Meeting
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR

March 21 Technology Committee
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE **APRIL** BEACON

WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, March 25).

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

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!

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), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend at Shock Trauma Center in very critical condition), **Bob Braden, Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Linne Carrier, Ann Cochran, Don Cosman, Pat Duvall, April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Miel Linthicum, Jeanette Long, Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella, Amy Nisonger** (recuperating from ankle surgery), **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Bill Roberts** (rotator cuff surgery), **David Rust** (home recuperating from hip surgery), **Carole Sacco** (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law with liver disease and candidate for a transplant), **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), **Dorothy Stull** (at home under hospice care), **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), and **Bill Walcott.**

Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer including **Patty Benson** (Doug's wife), **Ann Boyer** (Kevin's mom), **Sue Bradley, Karen Caroscio** (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), **Linne Carrier, Mickey Cochran, Melinda Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Natalie Cosman** (Don & Rita's granddaughter), **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Ethel Frear, JP Feuillet, Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Jan LaDuke** (Julie Kinnaman's cousin), **Leroy** (friend of the Malley's going thru kidney cancer treatment), **Dave Lingrell, Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew) **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister) **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle) and **Matt Works** (Nick's brother).

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

Your Connection to Care

When you are facing a difficulty, faith issue, or serious illness, your pastoral care team is here for you. Pastors David and Amanda are easy to reach and available to you. Their contact information is below:

David S. Cooney, ext. #103
cell: 240-529-8887

Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104
office: 301-253-0022

Did you know?

LIVING PRAYER CENTER

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.