



THE BEACON MARCH 2020

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor

Sherwyn Benjamin (Pastor B)
Associate Pastor

Stephen Kalnoske
Director of Music and
Organist / Pianist

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

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

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. / PM Custodian

Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian

Beloved in Christ,

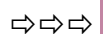
Lent begins on February 26 and runs through the entire month of March and into the first week of April. March is a month of changes: our weather changes from winter to spring (the whole "in like a lion, out like a lamb" thing); the time changes (we spring forward on Sunday, March 8, so change those clocks so you won't be late for worship!); and, we pray, that through the practice of spiritual disciplines during Lent, that our hearts change too so that we are drawn ever closer to Christ and follow more closely in his way.



This is also a season of change at Damascus UMC which began in January when we honored Polly Baldrige as she stepped down from the staff of DUMC to begin some new creative endeavors. In February, after a search, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) hired Stephen Kalnoske to be our Director of Music and Organist. Stephen, in consultation with the SPRC, is leading the search for an assistant organist/accompanist, as well as a handbell choir director.

At the end of February, we bid farewell to Linda Stastny, who has been DUMC's Office Administrator for 19 years. We celebrated her gifts in worship and at a reception on February 23. Linda and her husband are moving to Nashville, Tennessee, to be closer to children and grandchildren. The search will soon begin for a new staff member to fill a revised position that will focus more on communication, media, and connections within and outside DUMC.

During all of these changes, I ask that you be patient and prayerful. Patient, as we will be rather short-staffed until these positions are filled. Our staff members are doing all that they can to keep up with the many jobs that need to be done. However, there may be times when things don't run as smoothly as usual or times when



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DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
9700 NEW CHURCH STREET, DAMASCUS, MD 20872
PHONE: 301-253-0022
E-MAIL: OFFICE@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

something must wait to be done. Prayerfully, as you keep our existing staff in your prayers, pray that God will lead the right persons to us for the vacant positions we are seeking to fill.

Many of us dislike change. We like to keep things the way they are and with the people we know. We like familiarity. Even though we know, as the adage says, "the only thing constant is change," we still resist it and the anxiety it can bring. Not only are we dealing with the departure of beloved staff members at the local church level, as United Methodists we are dealing with the threat of possible changes at the denominational level including the threat of a denominational split. We will know more after General Conference meets from May 5 – 15 in Minneapolis. Regardless of what is decided at General Conference, it will take several years to live into any changes. More information on General Conference will be included in the April edition of The Beacon.

Who and what can we count on in times of change and disruption? It is good to remember that no matter what changes, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) And while our God is ever-dependable and unchanging, God does bring change to our world. Recall the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Is. 43:19)

As we enter Lent, let us draw strength from this marvelous Body of Christ of which we are a part. Let us recognize that in the midst of change and uncertainty we are called by God to keep doing what we're doing: living as devoted servants, drawn to Jesus, dedicated to making disciples. Let us share the love of God with the Damascus community and with all whom we meet. Let us remember that there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:5-6 KJV)

I give thanks to God that I am on this journey of faith at this time with you, the faithful and loving people of Damascus UMC!

In Christian love,
Pastor Kathryn

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**Tuesday, February 25
From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

DUMC Dining Hall

Cost for dinner is: \$8.00 per adults
\$4.00 for children 10 and under.
There is a family cap of \$25.

***Reservations for dinner would be
greatly appreciated!***

Please call the office (301-253-0022)
to reserve space for you and/or your family.



Join Pastor Nick TODAY, February 23 @ 4 pm Here at DUMC - Great Hall / Stage Side

Nick Works will host a public demonstration of his Doctoral Project: The Road Less Traveled: Pilgrimage and Spiritual Formation in the 21st Century.

The program will be about an hour to an hour and a half where Nick will present the findings of his doctoral project. There will be time for questions and answers.

This project seeks to understand patterns of religious travel among Christians today, with a special emphasis on pilgrimage and spiritual formation.

NOTE: This presentation will share survey results from surveys circulated twice among the DUMC family: The first in May-June 2018 and the second circulated in Dec. 2109.

Lent Begins on February 26, Ash Wednesday:

- 6:45 a.m.** Brief service of with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes in the Chancel, followed by a continental breakfast in the Great Hall. Join us before you head to work or school.
- Noon** Brief service of with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes in the Chancel, followed by refreshments and conversation in the Great Hall.
- 7:30 p.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary with the Imposition of Ashes. Music by the Men's Choir.

WORSHIP – MARCH 2020



Join your tour guides, Pastor Kathryn, Pastor B, and Pastor Nick, as we "travel" around the Holy Land with Jesus. We will join Jesus, after his wilderness experience, as he meets people right where they are: in the dark, at a well at noon, near the Pool of Siloam, by a tomb. Watch as Jesus encounters these men and women right where they live, work, and spend their days. See the way that their lives change after a one-on-one encounter with Jesus. No one meets Jesus and remains unchanged; what changes are in store for *you* this Lent?

Worship Each Sunday at 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

March 1: Your Lent 2020 tour begins when you travel alone to the Desert Wilderness of Judea (Matthew 4:1-11) where Jesus went after his baptism by John. You will learn about the roles of temptation and trust in our lives. Pastor Kathryn preaching.



March 8: You will take a special night tour to meet Nicodemus, a local Pharisee, in Jerusalem (John 3:1-17). Consider what it means to be "born from above." Recall some of Jesus' most famous words regarding life everlasting: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." Pastor Kathryn preaching.

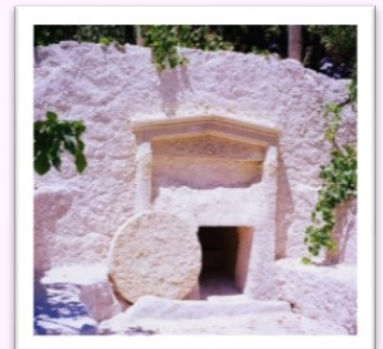
March 15: Adventure awaits when you travel to Jacob's Well in Samaria where you will meet a famous (infamous?) local woman. (John 4:5-30, 40-42) Pastor Nick preaching.



March 22: You'll return to the Jerusalem area near the Pool of Siloam to meet a man born blind. This is a Sabbath-day tour. Controversy is possible should Jesus choose to heal someone. (John 9:1-41) Pastor B. preaching.

March 29: Visit Bethany, just outside Jerusalem, where you'll learn from Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Word is there are some fascinating tombs nearby.

Don't miss them! (John 11:1-45). Pastor Kathryn preaching.



Spiritual Disciplines for Lent

March 2020 Focus:

The DUMC Labyrinth

THE DUMC Labyrinth was built in May 2011. It is based on the labyrinth laid in the floor of northern Frances' Chartres Cathedral in 1220.

WHAT IS A LABYRINTH?

The labyrinth is an ancient sacred symbol of pilgrimage to the Divine. Early Christians took a vow to visit the Holy City of Jerusalem at some point in their lives. But during the Middle Ages, travel was unsafe, and other means were needed to fulfill that sacred commitment. Labyrinths were adopted by the Roman Church to offer a way of fulfilling the sacred pilgrimage vow.

Unlike a maze, the labyrinth has only one path which leads to the center and out again. There are no tricks, dead ends, cul-de-sacs, or intersecting paths. There are no choices to be made, other than the primary one: the decision to enter the path.

Walking the labyrinth turns our attention inward, focusing us on the present moment. Labyrinths can be used as a spiritual practice to help relieve stress, to work through grief, and to provide comfort during illness. At the most basic level, walking the labyrinth focuses the attention, stills the mind, and quiets the breathing.

PREPARATION FOR THE WALK

- Before you begin your walk, take time to relax and disengage from your day. Consider the issues, concerns, questions, or dreams you want to take with you on this walk. Or, simply decide to clear and quiet your mind and put yourself in a receptive state.
- Maintain silence throughout your walk for your own and other's reflection.
- Move at your own pace. Feel free to pause at any place. You may pass others who are moving at a slower rate but do not speak to them. The path is two ways: those going in will pass those coming out.
- Upon reaching the center, you may sit, kneel, stand, meditate, face several directions, pray, or read something you brought along with you. Stay in the center as long as you wish.
- Walking out of the labyrinth is a time for integration and gratitude for the gifts received.
- Feel free to take some time after your walk to remain in the area for further reflection and meditation until you are ready to leave.

THE EXPERIENCE

There are three stages of the walk:

- 1) The 'inward' journey, as you enter the labyrinth: The theme of the inward journey is letting go of things which hold back our wholeness and inner approach to God.

FORTY Days **What Is Lent?** **OF LENT**

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

2) The 'center': The center of the labyrinth is a space of meditative prayer and peace.

3) The 'outward' journey, as you exit the path: The theme of the outward journey is relationship – with ourselves, with others and with the earth – seen in the light of our relationship with God.

PRAYERFUL WAYS TO WALK THE LABYRINTH

Walk with Openness: Lord, what do you want me to know? What do you want to show me? Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Walk as Intercessory Prayer: Lord, may I tell you about this person, situation, need? Lord, I place in your tender care ...

Walk to honor a significant date or transition: Lord, it was just a year ago that ... Lord, thank you that I have this new opportunity to...

Walk using a prayer phrase: Repeat one of God's names that has deep meaning for you (Abba, Savior, The Great I Am), repeat a spiritual word that has significance for you (Peace, Hope, Trust, Love), or repeat a short phrase (Your will be done; Jesus, remember me).

Walk to reflect: Think about something in particular that is concerning you right now.

Walk to observe: Lord, help me pay attention to what I see, what I feel, everything I sense during this walk. What do I see? What do I hear? Where are you, Lord, in all of this?

Walk to let go: Lord, what do you invite me to release into your care?

Walk with a question: Lord, what is my next step?

You are invited to walk the labyrinth any day. The labyrinth is available from dawn to dusk. Enter through the doors to the Christian Fellowship Center (CFC) on the lower level near the dining hall. May God abundantly bless your journey!



Men's Lenten Text Talk

Facilitated by Pastor B.

Saturdays, March 7 thru April 4

10:30 am to 12 noon

Dining Hall / back

This is an offering to take the opportunity during the Lenten season, to spend some time reading and hearing God's Word in a group setting. We will have discussions about selected scriptures from the lectionary and listen to the perspective of others, while challenging ourselves to grow spiritually and to widen our viewpoint. This will not be a comprehensive study of the scriptures or traditional bible study (background and context will be explored), but an intuitive approach to the text—the holy writ—that will lead to dialogue about the ways the scripture informs and inspires us.

Week 1: Genesis 2:15-3:13

Week 2: John 3:1-17

Week 3: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11

Week 4: John 9:1-41

Week 5: John 11:1-45



NEW Family Easter Service!



On Easter Sunday Morning, April 12, 2020

9:30am in the Sanctuary

With Puppets and Children's Choirs!

DUMC Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11, 2020

1-2pm, Dining Hall

Crafts, games, egg hunt and music!

All are welcome!



Sunday School Lent Mission Project



*“Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you; make them strong and gentle,
kind in all I do; let me watch you Jesus, till I’m gentle too;
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.”*

- WHO: Families of children in Sunday School ages 3-5th grade
- WHAT: Join DUMC and Damascus Help to support members of our community in need.
- WHEN: Our children will learn about the project on Sunday, February 23rd.
- WHY: The overall theme of our Sunday school classes this year is Loving God, Loving Neighbor. Jesus calls us to help those in need.
- HOW: There will be plastic bins in the downstairs lobby and narthex to collect the following:
- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| March 1: | Plastic Jars of Spaghetti Sauce |
| March 8: | Pasta or Rice |
| March 15: | Mac & Cheese boxes |
| March 22: | Plastic Jars of Peanut Butter |
| March 29: | Cans of Tuna and Chicken |
| April 5: | Canned Vegetables and Fruit |



Worship Arts & Music Events

February 2020

Stephen Kalnoske, Director of Music & Organist/Pianist
240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com



Lycoming Choir Joining Us March 8th!

The Lycoming College Chamber Singers will be joining us in worship at both 8:15 am and 11:00 am

Since its inception by Walter McIver in 1947, The Lycoming College Tour Choir has performed in prestigious venues throughout the United States and Europe, with additional excursions to China, Argentina, Canada, and Puerto Rico. The ensemble is open to all academic majors and is selected by competitive audition from the larger Lycoming College Choir. In addition to

traditional concerts, Tour Choir engages in outreach by collaborating with high school and community choruses, striving to generate a greater sense of community across all levels of music education. The choir's repertoire is broad, incorporating sacred and secular music in many styles and from all musical eras.

We will also give a Concert Performance at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

The 8th is sure to be a fantastic Sunday filled with amazing music, so come support and hear them in concert that night also!

SUNDAYS

11:15 - 11:45am **Cherubs Church** Music Room
4 yrs – 1st/2nd grades | Led by Stephanie Greer & Gloria Maready
Children attend first half of 11 am service and then meet in the Music Room. They will return to the Sanctuary around the time of the offering.

5:00 - 6:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsals** Music Room
6th thru 12th grades | Led by Stephen Kalnoske
Sings weekly @ 8:15 am Sunday worship service

MONDAYS

7:30 - 9:00 pm **Ring of Joy Handbells** GH/Stage
Primarily adults, but open to all ages | Self-led

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 - 5:15 pm **COMBINED Puppet Troupe** GH/Stage Side
Puppets for 2nd – 12th grades | Led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:15 - 6:00 pm **Choristers Choir Rehearsals** Music Room
1st thru 6th grades | Led by Stephen Kalnoske

7:00 - 7:30 pm **Men's Choir -** (starting Feb. 5) Music Room
For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

7:30 - 9:00 pm **Chancel Choir** Music Room
Primarily adults, but open to all ages | Led by Stephen Kalnoske
Sings weekly @ 11 am Sunday worship service

*As if we didn't have
enough great choirs sharing with us,
a second visiting Choir will be
joining us in service.*

Messiah College Concert Choir March 22 at both the 8:15 and 11:00 services

The Concert Choir performs a wide variety of choral repertoire, performing on-campus, in the greater Harrisburg area, and on annual tours, both regionally and abroad.



Rehearsals in Lent

We have a lot of great music planned for Lent and Easter, and all are invited to sing with us!

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SPRING SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 1

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner
- 6:30 pm Depart for Bowling in Gaithersburg

Sunday, March 8

- 4:00 pm UMYFO Meeting –Annex/CR
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner
- 6:30 pm Movie Night in the Annex

Sunday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 22

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner
- 6:30 pm Youth Activity: Gaelic Games

Sunday, March 29

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

Sunday, April 5 **Palm Sunday**

- 4:00 pm UMYFO Meeting - Annex
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Depart for Dinner & Bowling in Gaithersburg

Sunday, April 12 **Easter Sunday**

NO CWS, Youth Dinner, or Youth Fellowship
Happy Easter! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Friday, April 17

Youth Lock-In - Location to be Announced
Starts Friday at 7:00 pm - Ends Saturday at 8:00 am

Sunday, April 19

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal
- NO Youth Dinner or Youth Fellowship

Sunday, April 26

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

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

Rehearsal Schedule

Charles Wesley Singers
Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Combined Puppet Troupe
Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:15 pm
Great Hall / Stage Side

Meals Needed!!!!

Contact Liz Elliot, liz.elliott@verizon.net

Every Sunday night our Youth Fellowship meets for a time of devotion, fellowship and a meal. We have reached a part of the year where we no longer have adults signed up to provide meals for our Youth Fellowship.

We need your help ! !

Please let Liz Elliot know if you can provide a meal on any of the following nights:

March 8, 22, 29
and
April 5 & 26

Thanks for your help,
Nick Works

**The UMYFO monthly
meeting
will be held on
Sunday, April 5
at 4:00 pm
In the church office.**

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

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN MISSION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

- Harwood House which serves the community and whose proceeds support nearly 30 other helping organizations
- Change for Change Lent 2020 (February 26—April 12)
- Spring Plant Sale: May 1—20
- Spring Work Day: late April/early May at Safe Haven, Laytonsville
- DUMC Blood Drive: May 14, 2020
- Mission Sunday 2020: June 14
- Habitat for Humanity work trip: July 12—17, 2020 ([Go to http://www.damascusumc.org/serve/missions/](http://www.damascusumc.org/serve/missions/)), then scroll down the page and look for Habitat Information.
- Neema Kenya trip: August 13—24, 2020
- Rise Against Hunger Meal packing event: August 30, 2020,
- Volunteers In Mission trip: October 4—10, 2020, Fayetteville, NC

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE

- Amanda Jones-Dominguez & Memo Dominguez and daughters Sofia & Julia currently in MD from Nicaragua (They are with **Between Cultures**, an ongoing ministry in Nicaragua.)
- Dr. Belinda Forbes & husband, Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez & daughters, General Board of Global Ministries Missionary & dentist with Accion Medica Cristiana in Nicaragua, serving rural eastern villages
- Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena serving in Puebla, Mexico, with **Give Ye Them to Eat**
- The preschool children at St. Stephen's Church, Gem, Kenya, and the Joint Partners Clinic in Musasa, Kenya

THANK YOU'S

- To all who donated at the most recent Blood Drive, February 6. Thanks Cathy Heinbaugh for your work and that of your helpers, too. 51 units were donated!
- To Harwood House volunteers for the week-in, week-out work helping provide for our community and then supporting more than two dozen organizations that also help people with a variety of needs.
- To all who provided Christmas cards for our overseas missionaries. We have gotten grateful thank you's for them.

KENYA TRIP, AUGUST 2020

Neema Kenya Mission is planning a return trip to Kenya, August 13—August 24, 2020. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Jackie Perry: jackiedalr@yahoo.com, 443-605-6447. Deadline for commitment and down payment is March 15.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE during Lent

Lent is a time when faithful people make small sacrifices to remember Jesus' sacrifice. The Mission team invites all DUMC people to sacrifice in a way that benefits children by finding a container and saving change during the season of Lent. The change donated from Ash Wednesday to Easter (February 26 to April 12) will be donated to *United Methodist Committee on Relief* for their work/programs with children detained at our southern border. These children face great need. All donations--100%, given to UMCOR are spent on the need, not on administrative overhead. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children. The change will be received as part of the offering on the Sunday after Easter: April 19. The Mission Team suggests you put your collected change in a ziplock bag for the donation Sunday. If you don't have change, please consider writing a check for donating.

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FALL VOLUNTEER IN MISSIONS TRIP

October 4-10 is the next VIM trip. We are going to Fayetteville, NC to work on homes damaged by Hurricane Florence. They had massive flooding in that area from the storm. We stay at a center; sleep in bunk beds with indoor plumbing; take a cook with us; help someone who needs help; have a great experience as a team. If you are interested in participating:

- Contact Carol Yocum at 301-788-6446 or carolyocum@msn.com by June 14 (Fathers Day)
- Pay for your food, gas, and board: \$150 for the week (Check made out to DUMC for VIM)
- Participate in 2 team meetings in late summer and September

“GIVE YE THEM TO EAT” UPDATE

We at GYTTE Hope you are doing well in this new year. We have a lot of good news to share. For more information and updates on what's happening, please visit our website at: www.gytte.org

LAYTONSVILLE SAFE HAVEN REOPENING

On January 15, 2020, Safe Haven reopened. It is now a Montgomery County home for former men and women who are military veterans and need help getting their lives back on track. A couple of times a year a work team under the leadership of Doug Marshall, has help maintain the home and grounds. Again this spring there will be a Work Day. Stay tuned if you are interested in helping!

A PLACE TO DONATE GOOD USED FURNITURE

Carol Yocum is in her 5th year working for New Pathways of Pressley Ridge, Towson, MD. She coordinates a program for aging-out-of-foster-care young adults (age 21 in the state of MD) who are in the Baltimore region. Besides purchasing new household items for the young person's first apartment, she finds good condition, clean, used furniture for the homes of these young people and then delivers it. Furniture needs to be on a smaller, rather than massive, scale because most apartments do not have large rooms. Items of furniture most requested:

Kitchen tables & chairs

Small sofas & love seats—preferably in solid colors, no rips, no pet exposure, clean

Easy chairs & recliners

Side tables & coffee tables

Bed frames

Dressers & chests of drawers

Baby cribs with immovable sides (also nice if they convert to toddler beds)

Call Carol at 301-788-6446 or email cyocum@pressleyridge.org. Furniture is taken on an “as needed” basis; every young person has different requests. Thanks for any help!

DAMASCUS HELP DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in October: Chris Fletcher, Damascus Lions Club, Jimmie Cone, Damascus Amazing Race from Baker PTA, Bob Dickey's Damascus High School Social Studies Class, Cedar Grove Elementary School, Wilson Wims Elementary School, Damascus United Methodist Church, Damascus First Baptist Church, Montgomery United Methodist Church, Hyattstown United Methodist Church, Wesley Grove United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church, and Weis Market. We made 73 food deliveries serving 308 people, helped 10 families with financial assistance and gave 1 person a ride to an appointment.

Volunteer News: Damascus HELP thanks all the volunteers for their services to help the community. We wish everyone a happy holiday season with family and friends. Debbie Keller and Kathy Zegowitz, food drivers, have left their positions to move on to other endeavors. Thank you both for all of your assistance. Sandy Eaton has joined HELP as a food driver and OD. HELP is in great need of ODs, transportation drivers and furniture moving teams. If you know of anyone who might be interested in these opportunities and other positions, please have them contact Damascus HELP. Contact can be made through calling 301-253-4100, emailing dh20872@aol.com, or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.

Next Missions Committee meeting April 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

JUSTICE and COMPASSION

Love One Another Ministry



Love One Another (LOA) Ministry*

**A Reconciling Community*

Letter from Mosaic UMC, Oklahoma City, OK

We received a lovely, encouraging letter from Mosaic UMC in Oklahoma City, OK regarding our becoming a Reconciling Community. It reads in part: "For the justice work you have done in the time before this recogni-

tion, we rejoice. For your public declaration that your group will follow the mandate to fully love God and fully love all of your neighbors, we rejoice." *Thank you, Mosaic UMC!*

Interfaith Dialogue

Many of us attended the last 2 sessions of "Interfaith Dialogue on Gender and LGBTQ+ Sexuality" and found them interesting, meaningful, and beneficial. DUMC is hosting the 3rd dialogue on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 at DUMC. Topic: Discrimination faces within the LGBTQ+ community and our responsibilities as communities of faith. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Voter Registration Event

Our next voter registration event is tentatively planned for a date in March at Woodfield Commons. Please check for updates in the weekly emails and the church bulletin. Jane Clarke is organizing this event.

Voter Letter Writing Campaign

Our friends at River Road UUC are having a voter letter/post card writing campaign event on Sunday., March 15, from 10:15 - 11:15 and 12:15 - 2:00- GOVOTE2020. They plan to "Help bring voters to the polls through letter writing and canvassing. We'll use an effective form letter we get from our partner Vote Forward, a nonprofit 501(c)(4) nonpartisan organization.

Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 14 at 9:30 am in the Annex/CR. This may change since we may have the voter registration event at Woodfield Commons that day.

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

DUMC's, "Love One Another" Team invites you to a

COMMUNITY FILM SHOWING & DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, March 29 / 3:00 – 6:00 pm / Great Hall



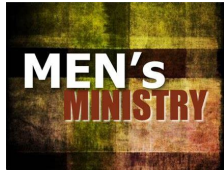
Jared Eamons, the son of a small-town Baptist pastor, must overcome the fallout after being outed as gay to his parents. His father and mother struggle to reconcile their love for their son with their beliefs. Fearing a loss of family, friends and community, Jared is pressured into attending a conversion therapy program. While there Jared comes into conflict with its leader and begins his journey to finding his own voice and accepting his true self.

Our discussion will focus on the significant harm that societal prejudice and family rejection has on LGBTQ+ people, particularly youth. Resources for how to show love, support and affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community will be available.

Light refreshments will be served.

Announcements

Men's Night Out for March, 2020



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

Monday, March 9 @ 6:30 pm

Hornets Nest Grille
9876 Main Street, Damascus, MD
RSVP to church office by Friday, March 6
@ 301-253-0022.

Please plan to join us ! ! ! !

Women's Ministry

Ladies Time Out

**Let's go to Brunch for St. Paddy's Day, &
bring your leprechaun with you !!!**

Will take place on **SUNDAY, March 15**
at 1:00 pm at Monocacy Crossing
4424 Urbana Pike
Frederick, MD 21704

We will meet at **12:30** in the DUMC parking lot to
depart for the restaurant.

**Please RSVP to the church office by
Friday, March 13 at 301-253-0022.**

DUMC Men's Group — 2020 Schedule

Mar 9:	Men's Night Out, Hornet's Nest, Damascus
April 13:	Men's Night Out, Mission Barbeque, Germantown
May 11:	Men's Night Out, Mt. Airy Inn, Mt. Airy
June 12 & 13:	Annual Retreat, Hallowood Retreat Center, Comus
July 13:	Men's Night Out - Mt. Airy Tavern, Mt Airy
August 10:	LongHorn Steak House, Germantown
Sept. 14:	Men's Night Out, CarterQue BBQ, Barbeque, Mt. Airy
Oct. 3:	Annual Family Picnic, Ted Ross' House, Gaithersburg
Nov. 9:	Men's Night Out, Carrabba's, Germantown

Prayer Requests

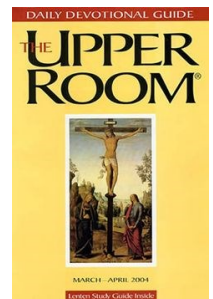
The Intercessory Prayer Group invites
you to write any prayer requests
on the prayer cards located in the pews.

Prayer cards should then be
placed in the offering plate.

All requests will be kept confidential.
Prayer requests may also be made on-line at
www.damascusumc.org.

The 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!

Announcements (cont'd)



Beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 26)
we will hold our early morning Lenten Communion services
at 6:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays through April 1.
These services are followed by a light continental
breakfast in the Great Hall.

We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to take a Wednesday to host a light breakfast for this small group of around 12 people which includes youth and adults. If you would like to host a simple breakfast one week (for example fruit, bagels, cereal, yogurt, muffins, juice, etc., are fine), please contact Pastor Kathryn at kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org or call her at the office at 301-253-0022.

Come Build Houses With Us This Summer Applications Now Available

DUMC will once again be traveling to Garrett County in Western Maryland this summer to help build homes through Habitat for Humanity. Our trip will be July 12-17. The cost will be \$175 per person. The trip is open to anyone who will be at least 14 years old by July 12 (though with limited participation for those under 16). More information and applications are now available on the church website at <http://www.damascusumc.org/serve/missions/> then scroll down the page and look for the Habitat links.



Contact Anita Duvall for more information (habitatdumc@gmail.com or call/text 240-485-7650).



Save the Date!

VBS is on a quest for the
king's armor,
July 6-10, 9 am – 12 pm.

Volunteers are needed NOW to help with planning, the week of VBS to lead classes, and the week after to clean up. It's going to take a lot of work to get us to North Castle! Thank you for considering volunteering your time. It's going to be a BLAST!

Contact Cora Horst,
cora.horst@damascusumc.org
or 301-529-3047 to volunteer.

NOTE : Registration forms and Youth Helper applications are on pages #19 & #20 of this Beacon..

Harwood House Thrift Shop

The Harwood House Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers. If you have 2 hours to spare each month on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday we could really use your help. Especially on Saturdays we are in need of cashiers. No experience necessary. Training available and someone to stay with you until you feel comfortable. Any of the three days are open and volunteer times are 11:00am-1:00pm or 1:00pm-3:00pm. Only one day a month!

If you been thinking of getting involved with a DUMC mission this is a great place to start. Please email Kathy Leslie at Kathleen.leslie@verizon.net to volunteer.



Announcements (cont'd)

REMINDER...

Please remember when filling out the pew envelopes for offering to put both your **FIRST** and **LAST** name.

We have several families with the same last name and we want to make sure we properly credit your contribution.



Pew Envelope

\$	Amount	Envelope No.
Name		
Address		
City, State	Phone No.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Offering	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Offering
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		



CEMETERY INFORMATION

Cemetery Christmas displays will be removed on Ash Wednesday.

Those made of permanent material are placed at the end of the row, under the arborvitae trees, where you may recover them.

Any displays left after Easter will be donated to the Thrift Shop.

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry
Monday, March 16 at 12:30 pm
in the Annex (Church Office)

The DUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry combines a love of knitting and crocheting within a caring ministry to provide comfort during challenging times. Each item is made with prayer and is blessed so that it might offer tangible evidence of God's love. We make prayer shawls, lap robes, fleece prayer blankets, prayer squares and baptism blankets.



If you would like to participate in this ministry, please join us at any of our monthly meetings. We meet the third Monday of each month at 12:30 in the church office conference room. We can provide support for your projects and even basic instruction if you want to learn. Donations of yarn, fleece, or monetary contributions can be dropped off in the office.

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or someone you know, please feel free to take one from the basket in the Narthex. We just ask that you put your name and the name of the recipient in the log book so we can avoid giving several shawls to the same person. Prayer squares are available in the narthex, the parlor and in the Welcome Bags. You may also contact one of the pastors or Cathy Heinbaugh at cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742.

WHERE DO I STAND???

Do you have an area in your life that you'd like to confidentially discuss with someone who will not be judgmental? Every day we are exposed to contentious and very serious issues that can affect our lives in major ways. These issues include employment, healthcare, racism, sexism, immigration, religion, politics, sexual orientation and gender identity.....you name it! It seems sometimes though, that we are asked to look at only the black and the white, the extremes of each issue, forgetting everything in between. Often there is a lengthy process involved when we take a personal journey to decide where we stand on issues. The process involves our minds, hearts, and souls. Sometimes we change our minds and this, too, is a process. Our church denomination itself is struggling with some of these issues.

DO YOU NEED AN ADVOCATE TO HELP YOU BE TRUE TO YOURSELF?

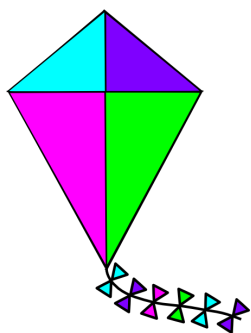
Today's climate sometimes does not allow for a welcoming space to openly explore, evaluate, or discuss these issues inside of our homes, our places of employment, inside our churches, and/or our relationships. Stephen Ministers are not therapists; however, they can listen and listen well without judging.

PERHAPS YOU CAN USE A STEPHEN MINISTER FOR THESE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS. IF YOU ARE SUFFERING **FOR ANY REASON** AND DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE IN A CONFIDENTIAL AND NON-JUDGMENTAL SETTING, CALL US!!!!

Contact Jan Mullinix at 301-518-2204 or the church office at 301-253-0022.



Announcements



KITE-MAKING WORKSHOP & TEST FLIGHTS!

When: Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 10:00 am

Where: at the home and yard of Kitty McNaughton-Ayers
23310 Peach Tree Rd., Clarksburg, MD 20871

Cost: \$35.00 / team, all materials included. (Pay cash or check on arrival.)

RSVP: Text or call Kitty—(301) 412-0704, to reserve your place.

This is a parent/child or grandparent/child activity, and the child should be age 7 or older;
I have room for **4 “teams”** to construct a diamond kite in my work space inside,
and the perfect yard, in sight of Sugarloaf Mountain, to test fly our kites!
*(If the wind or weather don't co-operate for the test flight, there will be
“wind/rain checks” for the outdoor portion of this workshop!)*

ROBERT M. TREGONING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation

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 attending Blake High School, Clarksburg High School, Damascus High School, Paint Branch High School or Damascus United Methodist Church who will be enrolled in a full time undergraduate program at an accredited college/university in Maryland for the fall 2020 term. The recipient will be selected based upon academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, community service, character and leadership.

Award Amount & Purpose

The scholarship award may be up to \$2,000. The scholarship may be used for tuition, books, or room and board.

Timeline

Scholarship applications are available on-line at www.damascusumc.org,

Completed scholarship applications must be submitted via email by **April 1, 2020** to the Greater Washington Community Foundation (The Community Foundation) via scholarships@thecommunityfoundation.org with “Tregoning Scholarship Application” in the subject line. All applicants will receive a confirmation email prior to the deadline. If you do not receive a confirmation before 5pm on April 1st, please contact Kate Daniel at 301-495-3036 x 169.

The scholarship will be announced to students in June. Pending required paperwork, the scholarship grant is sent directly from The Community Foundation to the college/university of the awardee. Awardees that successfully complete each academic year may be eligible for additional scholarship grants.

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 (cont'd)

Upcoming Young at Heart Events for 2020

(Sign up through the church office)



Call Sandra Malley, 240-745-2283, if you have any ??

Events are subject to change or
cancellation if you wait too long to sign up!

March 6, Friday, 9:30am: Coffee & Conversation

McDonald's –Damascus / No reservation needed for this gathering—just come.

Future Coffee and Conversations will be added for other locations if there is interest!

March 15, Sunday, Weinberg Center , Frederick: *Silent Film accompanied by the mighty Wurlitzer.*

Carpool leaves DUMC at 2:15 pm, Movie starts at 3:00 pm. RSVP by March 10 with church office & indicate if you need a ride or can offer a ride. *He Who Gets Slapped* stars Lon Chaney, Norma Shearer & John Gilbert

April 21, Tuesday play half-price at Top Golf in Germantown:

Cost for 2 hours of play is approximately \$4.50. Ever been bowling? Well at Topgolf you play in a bay, rather than a lane. From that bay, you hit micro-chipped golf balls into giant targets in their outfield to score points.

May, Date to be determined; Roos *2 U in Germantown.*

Limited to 12 people. Interact with kangaroos and wallabies.

June 5, Friday, Tour of Historic Dobbin House: in Gettysburg with Lunch. Mother Seton Museum and Historic Cemetery, Emmitsburg

July 7, Tuesday, Chataqua: *Montgomery Community College in Germantown. Globe Theatre.* Program: Mary Church Terrell

July 29, Wednesday, Bay Lighthouse Cruise from Annapolis

September: Day of Service (Place and date to be determined)

October Drive: along Skyline Drive to see Fall Foliage

November 28: Tuba Christmas at the Weinberg in Frederick

December: lunch out (date and place to be determined)

BWC Scholarship Application Process Now Open

The BWC awards scholarships are for qualified students currently attending college, as well as high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2020. The application process opens January 3 and closes March 5. To be considered for a scholarship, students must complete the full online application which includes uploading their current transcripts. In addition, the student must provide contact information for their pastor and one additional church reference. The pastor and reference will be contacted and asked to submit information on the student's participation in the local church. The entire process will be completed online. Learn more and apply -- <https://www.bwcumc.org/administration/local-church-resources/scholarships/>.

Announcements (cont'd)

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners ! ! !

This year's dinners will continue to be held once a month
So mark your calendars!

March 11: **Beef Brisket, Smashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Stewed Tomatoes, Salad,
bread & butter, and dessert**

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates for
2020: April 8 / May 13 / Jun. 10

The **Welcoming Wednesday Dinners** are served in the Church Dining Hall.
We serve **at 6:00 pm.**

We thank you for your past support and are looking forward to a year filled with fun, love and good fellowship.

About Our People

Congratulations to *Julia (Robertson) Pruiksma* and *Michael Pruiksma* on the birth of their daughter **Mila Naomi Pruiksma** born on February 11. Grandparents are Bill & Janet Robertson and Emma & Frank Pruiksma.



As some of you know, **Linda Stastny**, our Office Administrator, is retiring after 19 years of service to Damascus UMC. Linda's last day in the office will be Friday, February 28. **Today** at both the 8:15 and 11:00 am services, we will recognize Linda for her faithful service. Additionally, we will have a reception for her during the Connections Café coffee hour (9:30-10:30 am) in the Great Hall. Please plan to join us as we celebrate Linda's retirement with her and wish her well in her new endeavors in Nashville, Tennessee!

A Special Thank You

Dear Friends:

I am overwhelmed by the many friends here at DUMC who sent me cards and offered to pray for me and my family following the recent death of my mother. Your kind words offered me great comfort. She was the "glue" to our large family and will be greatly missed. She died suddenly and peacefully at home as she had wished.

It is also with bitter sweetness that I will say goodbye when I retire at the end of February and soon be moving to Tennessee to be near my daughter and her family. I am grateful for the many friends I have made here at DUMC over these past 19 years.

Be strong in the Lord by knowing His word.

God's blessings to you all....

Linda Stastny



Office Info

PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

Kathryn Woodrow, ext. #103

kathryn.woodrow@damascusmc.org

Sherwyn Benjamin, ext. #104

sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org

STAFF:

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist

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

Nick Works,

Director of Youth

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

Cora Horst

Director, Children's Ministry

Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

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

Jane Webb, Office Manager

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

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager

cell: 301-253-5241

lisa.marshall@damascusmc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper

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



If you or a member of your family would like to be baptized or received into membership in the church, please contact the church office or Pastor Kathryn at 301-253-0022 or Kathryn.Woodrow@damascusumc.org.

Administrative Meetings

For March, 2020

March 5	Staff Meeting 10:00 am in the Annex/CR
March 5	Trustees Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Great Hall/back
March 5	Missions Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Great Hall/SS
March 8	UMYFO Committee Meeting 4:00 pm in the Annex/CR
March 19	SPRC Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Annex/down
March 17	Technology Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
March 26	Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

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 closes for lunch (approx. an hr.) and occasionally closes early.

Additionally,

Pastor Kathryn is off on Fridays.

Pastor B. is off on Mondays.

Jane Webb is off on Mondays.

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



IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

IN THE **APRIL, 2020** BEACON

WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

(publishED on **Sunday, March 29**).

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

Thank You !

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

Age 4 – entering 5th grade

July 6 - 10, 2020 · 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 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 _____

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Name _____

Grade entering _____

Name _____

Grade entering _____

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.)

Does your child receive accommodations at school that would help them to have a more enjoyable VBS?
Please provide details below so we can make arrangements.

In case of an emergency, I give permission for Shady Grove Hospital to treat my child/children for any accident or injury that occurs during VBS 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 _____

Damascus United Methodist Church
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION
2020 VBS -- Form for Youth Helpers

(Please fill out a form for each youth helper and return to the Resource Room or the Church Office)

Return this form ASAP

We can only use a limited number of youth helpers this year

DATE OF VBS WEEK: **July 6 – 10, 2020** (Please plan to work 8:30 am-12:30 pm each day)

Name _____ T-Shirt Adult Size S M L XL

(Please circle one)

Grade Entering (6th and up) _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address _____

Allergies or other concerns _____

In case of an emergency, I give permission for Shady Grove Hospital to treat (name of youth)
_____ for any accident or injury that occurs while attending Vacation Bible School.

Name of Doctor _____ Telephone # _____

Emergency Contact _____ Telephone# _____

As a youth helper for VBS, I understand that:

- ***I must attend the mandatory training meeting on July 5th, 2020 (Time: 3:00 – 4:00 pm),***
- ***I must complete the Safe Sanctuary Covenant Form with parent signature,***
- ***I will be a role model for the children at all times during VBS week,***
- ***I will fulfill my duties as described at the training meeting,***
- ***I will act appropriately at all times, keep my cell phone tucked away during VBS hours, and I will call the adult leader, with whom I am working, if I need to be absent any of the days during that week.***

Signed (youth): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate any dates/times you will **not** be able to help during VBS: _____

Remember to complete the Safe Sanctuary Covenant Form, which must be turned in with this application.)

Any questions? Please call the office at 301-253-0022 or email Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

Age 4 – entering 5th grade

July 6 - 10, 2020 · 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

(Notes to parents --- please keep this page!)

- 1) A donation of **\$30** per child is requested at the time of registration or may be made during the week of Vacation Bible School to help offset our costs. Cash, or checks made out to Damascus UMC, are greatly appreciated.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Our primary mode of communication to parents will be via email, which is why we request your email address. A week before VBS, you'll receive an email indicating the class to which your child is assigned and the classroom location.
- 4) If you would like to volunteer to help during VBS, please send an email to Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org. Adult helpers are needed and most welcome! You will need to complete Safe Sanctuary training and associated forms, so please sign up early. You can also volunteer to be a floater to help for one, two, or more days during VBS as your schedule allows. Thanks!
- 5) We welcome a limited amount of **Youth helpers** (grades 6th -12th) to help us during Vacation Bible School. Students can earn SSL hours, and have a great time helping the children. Youth helpers need to complete a *Youth Helper Registration* form and a *Safe Sanctuary Covenant Statement* form, which are available in the Resource Room and online at <http://damascusumc.org>.

Feel free to contact Cora Horst, cora.horst@damascusumc.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.