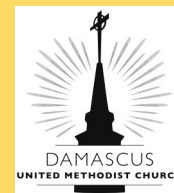


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
9700 NEW CHURCH STREET  
DAMASCUS, MD 20872  
PHONE: 301-253-0022  
E-MAIL: OFFICE@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG  
WEBSITE: WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

# THE BEACON

## SEPTEMBER 2019



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

#### **CLERGY AND STAFF:**

**Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor**

**Sherwyn Benjamin (Pastor B)  
Associate Pastor**

**Polly Edmonds Baldrige  
Minister of Music & Worship Arts**

**Nick Works  
Director of Youth Ministry**

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

**Jane Webb  
Office Manager**

**Linda Stastny  
Office Administrator**

**Stephen Kalnoske  
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts**

**Steve Malley / Bookkeeper**

**Lisa Marshall / Property Manager**

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

**Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian**

**Bob Tarpley / AM Custodian**

Dear DUMC Members & Friends,

With just a few days left before school starts again, I am reminded of the commercial for Staples that was popular a few years ago which showed a mother and several young kids buying their back-to-school supplies in Staples. As they shopped to the strains of Andy Williams singing that Christmas favorite, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," the mother sailed through the store on the back of the shopping cart, smiling. The kids? They marched along glumly.

I tend to share that mother's feeling, but not just because the kids return to school. September always seems like the true "New Year" to me as kids and teachers return to school and young adults head off to college. Early this morning I watched my neighbors across the street create a caravan of cars as they drove their oldest child and all her "stuff" off to her freshman year in college. It was all I could do not to cry; when we moved into the neighborhood this newly minted freshman was heading off to first grade with her younger brother accompanying her to the bus stop on her tricycle.

I love the excitement and promise of new beginnings that go along with returning to school. We have those here at church as well! As many children, youth, and adults head back to school, we launch a new ministry year at church with a wealth of opportunities for all ages. I invite you to look carefully through the pages of this edition of the Beacon to find out all of the great things that will be happening starting this month---sermon series, new classes, choirs, dinners, retreats and more.

Once you've looked over all that is going on consider trying something new or recommitting yourself to something you haven't done in a while. If you've been away this summer (or longer), you have been missed! As disciples of Jesus Christ, we need the church and the church needs us, not for its own sake but to be a presence in the world showing who God is by loving and serving our neighbors.

I hope to see you soon!

In Christian love,

Pastor Kathryn

About Our People	20
Announcements	13
Missions & Outreach	11
Office Information	19
Music & Worship Arts	9
Spiritual Formation	4
Worship Schedule	3
Youth Fellowship	8

## SAVE THE DATE – BISHOP’S MEETING

**Bishop LaTrelle Easterling** will be visiting each of the eight districts of our Baltimore-Washington Conference for conversation this fall. **Bishop Easterling will meet with laity** of our Central Maryland District on Tuesday, October 29 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd, Columbia, MD 21044.



### **Annual Church Conference Meeting Saturday, October 19, 2019 @ 9:00 am at Montgomery United Methodist**

This year’s Church Conference Meeting will be held as a Cluster Conference meeting.

That means that along with DUMC, other Damascus area UMCs will be meeting and that portions of the Conference will be held together before churches split off for individual meetings.

### **Worship Times Change AFTER Labor Day Weekend**

**Sunday, September 8 2019,**  
will we return to our  
will return to our regular worship schedule.

**Sunday Worship Services will return to  
8:15 and 11:00 am until Summer 2020.**

### **Connections Café will resume Sunday, Sept. 8**

DUMC’s Coffee Hour is held Sunday mornings  
between services.

**Come and enjoy a hot mug,  
a few nibbles, and relaxed fellowship.  
All are welcome.**



Come join us for a hot drink and a bite to eat at 9:30 am every Sunday in the Great Hall. Catch up with friends, hear about summer activities and fall plans, and connect with new folks. Or . . . you can grab a drink and go to your favorite class.

Gloria Maready, [spanishfortotscc@yahoo.com](mailto:spanishfortotscc@yahoo.com), and Marcia Hofman, [marciahofman67@gmail.com](mailto:marciahofman67@gmail.com), are the coordinators for this service and would like your help. Please e-mail either one for information about how you can become a part of this team.

**We need you!!!**

## Sundays in September

# "LOVE Is Our First Response"

**"We love, because God first loved us." – 1 John 4:19**

The theme of the Damascus Days Parade in July was "First Responders." As we thought about how to tie this into our mission as a church as we marched in the parade, we decided that as Christians, love is our first response. Jonathan Colburn created signs for us to carry and off we marched.

As we start the 2019-2020 ministry and school year, we are focusing on what we mean when we say, "Love is our first response" and will use the Scriptures to say more. Our homes, communities, nation, and world all need love to mend the fractures that are evident. Join us each week as we explore God's command that we love one another as we have been loved.

**September 1 – Love Is Our First Response** - We begin our five-week series on "Love" with Pastor B preaching on Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 & Luke 14:1, 7-14. Holy Communion will be celebrated. We will have a blessing for all as summer ends and we go back to school and work and backpack tags will be distributed. **Please note: This is the final Sunday of our summer schedule of worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**September 8 – Formed by Love** - We resume our regular Sunday schedule of two services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.; Pastor Kathryn will preach "Formed by Love" on Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Ps. 139. Rally Day will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. Come and sign-up for Sunday school for all ages, as well as other ministry opportunities for all ages. T-shirts with our "LOVE" logo will be distributed.

**September 15 – Seeking and Loving the Lost** - During worship we will bless the teachers and leaders of our Sunday school classes for all ages. Pastor Kathryn will preach on "Seeking and Loving the Lost" (1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10). Sunday school for all ages resumes between the two worship services.

**September 22 - Our Purpose is Love** – During worship, we will consider how we have been created by God to love. We will also present Bibles to our third-grade Sunday school students.

**September 29 – LOVE: Conclusion.** Pastor B will conclude our series on "LOVE" by helping us consider the many ways in which we can commit ourselves to loving actions in the name of Christ.



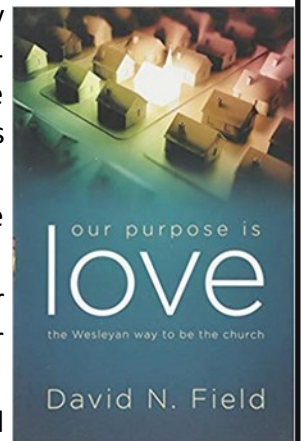
### **SUNDAY MORNING PASTOR'S CLASS:** **"Our Purpose Is Love: The Wesleyan Way to Be the Church"** **Sundays, September 15 – November 3, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.** **Dining Hall/Kitchen Side**

You are invited to join Pastor Kathryn for an eight-week study of this book by David N. Field. We will consider what it means to love God and our neighbor today—and why this is the answer to the conflict that divides and polarizes us. Learn more about John Wesley's understanding of God's love and how we embody God's love as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Each Sunday's class will stand alone, so if you are traveling or otherwise occupied on one or more Sundays, don't hesitate to join us.

To sign up for the class contact Linda in the church office at 301-253-0022 or [office@damascusumc.org](mailto:office@damascusumc.org). Let Linda know if you need a book or if you will secure your own book. Books are available through Amazon in paperback or Kindle format.

Remember, if you purchase items on Amazon, please use Amazon Smile and select Damascus UMC; a portion of each sale comes back to the church.



### Adult Sunday School Classes

All Classes start **September 15, 2019** and take place on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30.

#### Disciple Ship Voyage (DSV)

##### Small Group Study

Church Annex (Office) / Downstairs

Join the Disciple Ship Voyage (DSV) Adult Small Group Study as we get ready to kick off our fall season. We are in the process of selecting a new book for the fall so now is a great time to join us. We read our book in class so everyone can participate in the discussion [no homework]; on occasion we get side-tracked, but the conversation often leads to reflection, insight and healing. Additionally, we enjoy actively supporting mission activities during the year, like Earth Stewards street clean up, the DUMC Hospitality Service team, and the Holiday Gift program.

The DSV group meets in the Church Annex Building, lower level every Sunday during the school year from 9:30am - 10:30 am. We have read and discussed books from Max Lucado, Kyle Idleman, and John Ortberg. Most recently, we read "Moving Mountains" (Breaking Barriers to unleash your full potential), by Kevin Stevens and "Spirit Led Heart", by Suzanne Eller.

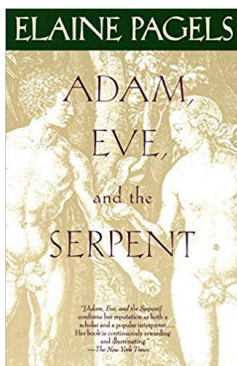
Join us Sunday, September 15 for our first meeting of the fall season. We'll break bread and breakfast treats (from the Connections Café), sip coffee or tea, renew friendships and meet new classmates. Bring a friend! There is always room for more DSV shipmates! If you'd like more information about our small study group, please contact Cathy Heinbaugh [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), Jeff Heinbaugh [heinbjc@comcast.net](mailto:heinbjc@comcast.net) or Don Hecht [don.hecht@avendra.com](mailto:don.hecht@avendra.com).

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday morning (9/16/19) or alternatively, feel free to drop in any Sunday morning and see how the DSV group can impact your life.

#### The Leslie Class

Annex / Conference Room

The 'Leslie' class will be starting "Adam, Eve, And the Serpent," by Elaine Pagels this fall. We are a group that openly discusses a variety of spiritual literature that is suggested by members of the class. All adults are invited to share their experience and listen to others. For more information contact Kathy/Steve Leslie at 301-253-2580.



#### OMG Adult Sunday School Class

Dining Hall / Kitchen Side

This is a discussion-based class, focused on furthering our individual faith journeys through sharing, reading and conversation. We always have a book, which we read in class (currently finishing "Simply Open: A Guide to Experiencing God in the Everyday"), but some weeks we opt instead to discuss that morning's homily, an event in the news or personal/family issues. For more information contact Jackie Perry (410-489-2557, [jackiedalr@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiedalr@yahoo.com)).

#### The Lovefeast Class

Great Hall / Stage Side

We will be reading and discussing the Gospel of Matthew this year. All adults are welcome. The discussions are theologically serious, as well as accessible, inclusive, and occasionally humorous. The contact for the class is Neil Dhingra at [anotherdhingra@gmail.com](mailto:anotherdhingra@gmail.com), if you have any questions.

New members are always welcome, and the discussions are self-contained, so if you miss a week, you can just join us the next week.





**NOTE: Sunday School Events mentioned on this page pertain to 3 yr. olds through 5th Grade ONLY. Contact person for children 6th grade and older is Pastor B.**

**Sunday, September 1**

**9:30 am Service / Back to School Blessing**

**Join us to pray for and bless students, teachers and the multitude of others who give their time and talents for the good of our schools, our students and our community.**

**Sunday, September 8**

**9:30 am / Rally Day - Great Hall & Dining Hall**

**Come and meet the SS leaders and teachers, pastors and ministry staff, and register for your Sunday School class.**

**If you have special gifts or talents, maybe you'd like to volunteer using them? There will be opportunities to sign up for this on Rally Day.**

**9:30 am / Connections Café Opens - Great Hall**

**A time of fellowship to share in a cup of coffee & cake.**

**Sunday, September 15**

**8:15 and 11 am Services / Blessing of DUMC Sunday School Teachers**

**Join us in one of the services on this special day for our wonderful volunteers**

**9:30 - 10:30 am / First Day of Sunday School Classes**

**Ready, Set, Go !!!!!**

**Sunday, September 22**

**8:15 and 11 am Services / All 3rd graders will receive their Bibles.**

**Bring the family for this special event.**

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT Cora Horst,**

**Director of Children's Ministries**

**[cora.horst@damsacusumc.org](mailto:cora.horst@damsacusumc.org)**

**Office: 301-253-9798**

**LEADERS: Please be sure to call the office and reserve a table at Rally Day so you can share whatever ministry you're involved with here at DUMC.**

# Women's 2019 Fall Retreat - DUMC/Friendship UMC

Saturday, September 14 - 9-1 o'clock - Continental Breakfast

## "Praying in COLOR - Drawing Close to God"



**DUMC Great Hall**  
**9700 New Church Street**  
**Damascus, MD 20872**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

*We are very fortunate to have Christy Mossburg as our guest Facilitator, Artist, Writer, and Christian Director from Calvary Church in Frederick, MD. She has led many retreats!*

Child care needed ☐ **yes**

**Registration fee is attached: ☐ \$ 25, includes supplies and a Continental Breakfast. Make checks payable to DUMW**

**Deadline for registration is Friday, September 6, 2019**

**Please take your registration/check to the (Annex/CHURCH OFFICE)  
or mail your registration and check to:**

**DamascusUMW, 9700 New Church Street Damascus, MD 20872, Attn: Linda Stastny**

## Spiritual Formation (cont'd)

The Men of DUMC  
(and male friends, family & neighbors)  
are invited for a **Men's Night Out** on  
**Tuesday, September 10 @ 6:30 pm**  
**Carrabbas, 19935 Century Blvd.,**  
**Germantown, MD**  
**RSVP to Ted Ross @ 301-704-7992.**  
***Please plan to join us ! ! ! !***

### DUMC Men's Group

#### 2019 Remaining Schedule

Oct. 12: Annual Men's Picnic at  
Ted Ross' House,  
Gaithersburg, MD

October and November -  
Men's Mission Focused Project

## Jambo !!

It's been almost two years since DUMC began its relationship with communities in Kenya. As we await the next trip, we invite you to join us in learning and exploring Kenya through literature. This is an opportunity to dive deeper into Kenya's history and culture and connect more with Neema Mission. The first meeting will be on Saturday September 17. Please sign up and get more information by emailing Sylvia Otieno: [sylviata-bitha@gmail.com](mailto:sylviata-bitha@gmail.com). Location TBD.

## LADIES' NIGHT OUT

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

**When: Tuesday, September 10**

**Where: Bolder Restaurant**  
**17004 Frederick Road**  
**Mt. Airy, MD 21771**

**Phone: 410-489-2491**

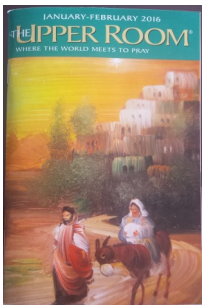
**Time: 6:00 pm**

**Please RSVP to the church office**  
**(either Linda or Jane)**  
**by Friday, September 6 at 301-253-0022.**

### **WWJD Circle is Changing !**

The DUMC Women's Group, formerly known as WWJD, is meeting at the Hornets' Nest restaurant in Damascus at 12:15 pm on Thursday, September 19. After lunch we will walk around the corner to the Boyer Chapel, by the Harward House Thrift Shop. Sally Boyer Smith will invite us into the chapel where she will tell us of its history. The meeting in the chapel will begin at 1:30 pm and is open to all interested persons, just show up. Although, you may need to park across Woodfield Road in the county lot, as the Thrift Shop is open until 3:00 pm.

If you'd like to join us for lunch email Marcia Hoffman, [marciahofman67@gmail.com](mailto:marciahofman67@gmail.com), or call her at 301-253-2960.



## 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!

# DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

### Sunday, September 8

6:00 pm Youth Kickoff Event @ the Hulchers

### Sunday, September 15 (Sunday School begins)

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Scavenger Hunt

### Sunday, September 22

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Devotion and Game night

### Sunday, September 29

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Outdoor Games @ Damascus Regional

### Friday, October 4

6:30 pm DHS vs. Seneca Valley

9:15 pm 5th Quarter event @ DUMC

### Sunday, October 6

6:00 pm Youth Dinner

6:30 pm Cookies for College Students

### Sunday, October 13

Bonfire and Hayride @ Ross' Home

### Friday, October 18

6:30 pm DHS vs. Wheaton

9:15 pm 5th Quarter event @ DUMC

### Friday, October 25

6:30 pm DHS vs. Blake

9:15 pm 5th Quarter event @ DUMC

### Sunday, October 27

4:00 pm Trunk or Treat Event  
DUMC parking lot

**The UMYFO monthly meeting will be held on  
Sunday, September 15  
at 4:00 pm**

**For questions or more information,  
contact Pastor Nick at  
[nick.works@damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)  
or 240-751-6695.**

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

### Begins September 8

**Youth Bell Choir, Sundays @ 4 pm  
in the Great Hall**

**CW Singers Rehearsal, Sundays @ 5 pm  
in the Music Room**

**Youth Puppets, Wednesdays @ 5:15 pm  
in the Great Hall**

### Start Date TBD

**Youth Praise Band  
Rehearsal times TBD by group  
in the Youth Chapel**

**Sunday, September 8, 2019  
at 6:00 pm**

## YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF EVENT

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW  
WHAT IS GOING  
TO HAPPEN????**

**COME TO THE KICKOFF  
PARTY**

**To Grill, Chill and a  
Back to School THRILL !!!**

- Everyone is welcome including parents to enjoy an evening of fun.
- We will be talking about the upcoming year's schedule and signing up to help out.
- Dinner will be provided.
- At the home of the Hulchers



# Worship Arts News and Events

September 2019

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

240-750-8287 | [polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org](mailto:polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org)

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | [stephenkarnoske@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkarnoske@gmail.com)

## REHEARSALS RESUME SOON!! COME JOIN US THIS YEAR

Opportunities are available for all ages and all forms of artistry – come sing, play bells, display your artwork, explore puppetry, present a dramatic reading, play your instrument, share your poetry, etc., etc. If you don't see an opportunity for you here, talk to Polly Baldrige about creating one.

## ENSEMBLE SCHEDULES FALL 2019

### SUNDAYS

#### 9:45 am Praise Band

Youth Chapel | Begins Sept. 15

Plays weekly at Youth Sunday School during breakfast | Coordinated by Polly Baldrige

#### 11:00 am Cherubs Church

Music Room | Begins Sept. 15

4 yrs – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades | Led by Stephanie Greer & Polly Baldrige

Children attend first half of 11 am service and then have sacred music, games, and movement

#### 4:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir Rehearsals

GH Stage | Begins Sept. 8

6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades | led by Tom Baldrige

#### 4:00 pm Choristers Choir Rehearsals

Music Room | Begins Sept. 15

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades to 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades | Led by Polly Baldrige

Includes singing, worship education, and handbells

#### 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsals

Music Room | Begins Sept. 8

6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades and up | led by Polly Baldrige

Shares weekly @ 8:15 am Sunday worship service

### MONDAYS

#### 7:30 pm Ring of Joy

GH Stage | Resumes Sept. 9 (75-minute session)

Primarily adults, but open to all ages | led by Polly Baldrige

### WEDNESDAYS

#### 4:30 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus

GH Stage Side | Resumes Sept. 11 (45-minute session includes snack)

Puppets for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades | led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

#### 5:15 pm Youth Puppets

Great Hall | Resumes Sept. 12 (45-minute session)

Puppets/drama for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

#### 7:00 pm Men's Choir

Music Room | Begins Sept. 18

For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

#### 7:00 pm Women's Group Vocal Instruction

GH Back | Begins Sept. 18

Singing technique session with Polly Baldrige

#### 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Music Room | Begins Sept. 11 (90-minute session)

Primarily adults, but open to all ages | led by Polly Baldrige

Shares weekly @ 11 am Sunday worship service

#### 8:15 pm Concert Choir

Music Room | Begins Oct. 2

Primarily adults, but open to all ages | led by Polly Baldrige

Working on Handel's *Messiah* for Dec. 22, 9:30 am performance

**Wednesday, September 11**

**at 7:00 pm**

Chancel Choir will meet for fellowship and robe assignments in the Choir Room. Before our first rehearsal at 7:30 pm.

### NOTICE

Schedule Change for  
Children's Choirs  
This Fall - Trial Basis!  
*See more information  
on next page.*



Acolytes and cross-bearers of all ages are needed to lead worship at Damascus UMC. Lighting candles, leading the procession, assisting with the offering and communion are special jobs – contact Polly Baldrige if you are interested in being an acolyte or cross-bearer or if you might be willing to shepherd this important ministry in the life of our congregation.

# Worship Arts News and Events

September 2019

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

240-750-8287 | [polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org](mailto:polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org)

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | [stephenkarnoske@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkarnoske@gmail.com)

The Cherubs and Choristers Choirs will try meeting on Sundays for rehearsals from September – December 2019. We will see how it goes and then decide if that timing works better for our children and families on a permanent basis. These changes are an attempt to make participation more accessible to children and families with weekday transportation limitations, to encourage worship attendance and participation for children and families, and to maximize the timing of our staff and volunteer leaders.

**Cherubs:** All 4 year olds – 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders are invited to attend the 11 am service on Sundays – after the first part of the service, they will gather and go together to the Music Room for a time of sacred music, games, instrument playing, and movement.

**Choristers:** All 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders – 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to gather on Sundays at 4 pm in the Music Room to sing, learn about sacred music and hymns, experience handbells and other percussion instruments, and prepare for musicals and special services.

## DUMC 2019 SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES PREVIEW

All Saints Organ Concert – Sunday, Nov. 3, 7 pm

Handel's *Messiah* – Sunday, Dec. 22, 9:30 am

### Flute Choir

Did you play flute in high school or college and enjoyed it, but haven't played it in years (or decades)? Would you like to play your flute again with a group but have no place to play it? Do you need to look up the fingerings for anything above a high G or can't still reach a high G, lol? Then this group is for you!



The DUMC flute choir is now forming. We'll meet weekly or bi-weekly to practice together at a date/time convenient for the group and then share during worship service once we are ready. All levels of flute players are welcome to come for this flute fellowship; we will choose music accordingly. Contact Liz Vanderham by phone or text 301-648-4493 or by email [vandercation@gmail.com](mailto:vandercation@gmail.com) to join or for more info.

### New Praise Artisans Guild

#### Volunteers/Leaders Needed!

We are moving toward a special Sunday/Season-based leadership model, where one person will organize decorations for a single event/season in the church calendar, rather than having responsibility for the whole year. Look at your calendar and decide when you might like to sign up!!

- ◇ World Communion Sunday (October)\*  
\*Stephen Ministry will cover
- ◇ All Saints Day (November)
- ◇ Thanksgiving Day (November)
- ◇ Advent/Christmas (December)
- ◇ Epiphany (January)
- ◇ Ash Wednesday (February)
- ◇ Lent (March/April)

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

## SUMMER/FALL 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.
- Crop Walk in Damascus; October 6, 2019, with 25% of money going for food for Damascus HELP food bank.
- Fall Volunteers in Mission trip to Fayetteville, NC; October 6-12, see Carol Yocum for more info.
- Fall Mission Sunday; October 27.
- Missionary visit from Dr. Belinda Forbes, (dentist from Nicaragua); November 17.
- Possible Kenya trip Fall, 2020.
- Opportunities through Damascus Faith Connections to provide turkeys and dishes for a community meal on Thanksgiving Day and to serve (held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Damascus).

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## Pray for those who serve and share God's love

- 1) Amanda Jones-Dominguez & Memo Dominguez and daughters Sofia & Julia currently in MD from Nicaragua (Between Cultures)
- 1) 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
- 2) Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena serving in Puebla, Mexico, with *Give Ye Them to Eat*
- 3) The Ndere children @ St. Stephens School and the Joint Partners Medical Clinic in Kenya

**Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event in Honor of Martin Carr:** On Sunday, August 25, following the 9:30 worship hour, 63 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS are packing 10,152 meals (34 cents a meal) in approximately 2 hours. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN MONETARY GIFTS TO HONOR MARTIN CARR AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PACKED THE MEALS!! For information about Rise Against Hunger:

<http://riseagainsthunger.org/>

**49th Damascus Annual CROP Walk** is on Sunday, October 6. It is a fundraiser for Church World Service (CWS) and Damascus HELP. It will be held again at the Damascus Regional Park on Kings Valley Road starting at 2:00 p.m. (Registration at 1:45 p.m.) Donations can be made by check, cash or on-line by credit card. The website address is CROPHungerWalk.org. Search for Damascus and register your group for online giving. Contact Kay Orr at 301-253-4901 to advise her of your interest and to receive materials for walkers and sponsors. DUMC walkers can get more information from Bernardine Beall.

## **Thank You's**

- To those who pray for and support financially with extra gifts for our missionaries
- To Anita Duvall, Noah Lenker, Jeff Heinbaugh, Cathy Heinbaugh, Jonathan Works, Cole Taylor, Arthur Hulcher, Bill Maynard, Dean Elliott & Rob Hallin for their week of work in Western Maryland for Habitat for Humanity (see page # of this Beacon for article)
- To all in the congregation who made donations in Martin Carr's honor for the Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on August 25. Our goal was \$3500. To date the gift is **\$5,063.05!**
- To the 36 adults and teens signed up for packing meals on August 25. Only 14 more volunteers needed!
- To Cathy Heinbaugh and her team who facilitated the Red Cross Blood Drive
- To all those who knit and crochet prayer shawls monthly for those facing a bump in their life's road

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

## YOUR MISSION \$\$\$ AT WORK

Damascus UMC recently contributed \$1,387.00 to the Peace Academic Center on the Hopi Reservation that we have supported for many years. This will help with the purchase of school supplies for the upcoming school year. The July 2019 team spent the week getting the school classrooms ready for the new school year's teachers and students.

## Dr. Belinda Forbes, dentist ministry, in Nicaragua: Visiting DUMC, Sunday, November 17

As a congregation we provide salary support for Dr. Forbes out of our Mission Budget (\$1,500) along with a number of other congregations across our denomination. Belinda is from New England and has been doing dental mission work in Nicaragua for more than 25 years. She works with a team of people who provide assistance to nine rural communities in eastern Nicaragua on the Caribbean side of the country. There are no roads to these villages. Her team consists of a dentist, a physician (her husband), an agriculturalist, a social worker, and a disaster relief coordinator. We also made a commitment to support the training of new dental assistants in these rural communities for 5 years.

Belinda will be with us in worship and during the Sunday School hour will dialogue to share recent information on the ministry in Nicaragua.

## DAMASCUS HELP AUGUST NEWSLETTER

**Thanks to the following groups and individuals for food donations made in JUNE:** Damascus Delivers and Damascus Recreation Pool Association Dolphins Swim Team – organizer Jasmine Ventura, Shoppes at Damascus Electric, Damascus United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Catholic Church and Butler's Orchard.

**In June Damascus HELP** made 51 food deliveries serving 191 individuals, helped seven families with financial assistance and two families with clothing. **Volunteer News:** Damascus HELP thanks all the volunteers for their services to help the community. We extend our sympathy to the Duvall family in the passing of Bill Duvall, one of our faithful food drivers for many years. We wish Susan Allison a speedy recovery due to a recent illness. HELP is in great need of ODs, transportation drivers and furniture moving teams. If you know anyone who might be interested in these or other positions please have them contact Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100, dh20872@aol.com or [www.damascushelp.org](http://www.damascushelp.org) for additional info.

## A MISSION MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY IN MEXICO WITH NAN MCCURDY AND MIGUEL MAIRENA

Hi Friends, Please consider and pray about coming on an AWARE team of mission work/study Nov. 29-Dec. 7. If you are interested, please contact Carol Yocum, chair of missions [carolyocum@msn.com](mailto:carolyocum@msn.com) for further details.

## PROJECTS FROM THE BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES THROUGH UMCOR

**You are changing lives---** About **one out of every nine** people in our world lives with chronic malnutrition. Worldwide, water scarcity affects **four out of every 10** people.

Statistics such as these can be alarming — and overwhelming. But through your support of UMCOR's sustainable development efforts, those statistics, and people's lives, are changing every day. Our Food Security program funds projects that are increasing people's ability to provide healthy, nutritious, sustainable food for themselves. Our WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) program is reducing waterborne illnesses and enabling the equitable distribution of water. Through your generosity, communities have access to basic rights such as food and water, and UMCOR can share knowledge, skills and tools that enable people to become self-sufficient and resilient. We've made great strides together, but our work is far from complete.

**Give to UMCOR's Sustainable Development projects today** and strengthen our momentum to bring long-term solutions to communities around the world. **Saving lives by Saving Livelihoods.** Through the distribution of seeds, saplings and water-harvesting systems from UMCOR partner Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), farmers in India plagued by drought and despair are seeing signs of new life.

## Announcements

### Habitat 2019 Trip Recap

A team of 10 youth and adults made our annual pilgrimage to Garrett County in Western Maryland July 14 through 19 to help build homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat provides a "hand-up", not a "hand-out". Each Habitat home is sold, not given, to a qualified applicant. Habitat makes no profit on the sale of the home and does not charge interest on the mortgage loan. To help keep costs down, Habitat builds modestly sized homes, using volunteer labor where possible.



This year, we continued our work in the Hopeland Village area, a development southeast of Oakland, MD where we've been working for at least five years. On this trip, most of our group spent the week installing vinyl siding on an entire house. The rest of us worked to install flooring in the living area, laundry/utility room, and closets of several other homes. We will probably continue our work in the Hopeland Village for another year or two while the last few homes are built out.

In addition to other qualifications, each homeowner applicant must perform 250 hours of "sweat equity" per adult in the household. This year we met two applicants at opposite ends of their "sweat equity" requirements. One applicant was just starting her hours during our visit, while the other was performing the last of her hours on the final day of our trip. Hopefully, when we return next year, we will see these two families in the homes we worked on this year.

Our team consisted of Anita Duvall, Noah Lenker, Jeff Heinbaugh, Cathy Heinbaugh, Jonathan Works, Cole Taylor, Arthur Hulcher, Bill Maynard, Dean Elliott, and Rob Hallin.

Written by Anita Duvall

### WHERE DO I STAND???

Do you have an area in your life that you'd like to discuss with someone confidentially? Every day we are exposed to contentious and very serious issues. These issues involve healthcare, racism, immigration, religion, politics.....you name it! It is as if we are asked to look at only the ends of the continuum, forgetting

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



everything in between. Often there is a long journey and process involved in deciding where we stand on issues with our minds, hearts, and souls. **DO YOU NEED AN ADVOCATE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF?** Today's climate sometimes does not allow for a welcoming space to openly explore these issues inside of our homes, our places of employment, inside our churches, and/or our relationships.

PERHAPS YOU CAN USE A STEPHEN MINISTER FOR THESE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS. IF YOU ARE SUFFERING INWARDLY FOR ANY REASON AND NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE IN A CONFIDENTIAL AND NON-JUDGMENTAL SETTING. CALL US!!!! Contact Jan Mullinix at 301-518-2204 or the church office at 301-253-0022.

### The Wednesday Fellowship Dinners are Returning !!!

September is almost here and it is time to begin planning for the Fall. Dinner will be held on the **2nd Wednesday of each month**. So please join us on the date below at **6:00 pm**.

September 11: Oven baked BBQ chicken, potato salad, green beans, sliced fresh tomatoes, bread and dessert

\*A menu will appear in each monthly Beacon and in the Sunday Bulletin.

We will continue the "pay as you can" policy. But, the suggested prices have increased to \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 10 and under. There is a family cap of \$25.00. Inflation is even causing difficulties for us.

As always, we can use extra hands to help in preparation, serving and clean-up. Many hands do make lighter work. If you feel you can spare a little time on the days we have dinners please give us a call or send an e-mail to: Kenny Sue Robertson [charrobe@verizon.net](mailto:charrobe@verizon.net) 301-471-7298

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

PS : Menus are always subject to change.....



## Announcements (cont'd)



### Love One Another (LOA) Ministry

**Thank you!** To all who joined us on July 28 for the screening and discussion of the movie “The Hate U Give.” It was a powerful afternoon with about 40 participants from Covenant UMC, St. Anne’s, and DUMC attending and conversing about issues related to race, economic justice, the media and family.

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, September 7 from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Conference Room in the Annex. We usually meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, but due to the Women’s Retreat, we’re moving our meeting time.

**Next Event:** Saturday, September 28 from 11:30 – 1:00 we’re hosting a “Welcome to Damascus” lunch for our new neighbors at Woodfield Commons. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Jane Clarke at [jjclarke57@gmail.com](mailto:jjclarke57@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** Be sure to stop by our table on Rally Day, September 9 between 9:30 and 10:30 am.

**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.



- 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 area, 4 PM – 5:30 PM (Tues. & Thurs.) during the school year.

For more information, please send e-mail to [Debbie@Faith-Connections.org](mailto:Debbie@Faith-Connections.org) or visit [www.Faith-Connections.org](http://www.Faith-Connections.org)

“...Love your neighbor as yourself” Matt. 22:39

## Announcements (cont'd)

### *Young at Heart Fall Event* **Duckpins at Mt. Airy Bowling Lanes**

September 28  
10:00 am - 11:30 am

\$4 per game / \$4 shoe rental

Lunch to follow at Mt. Airy Tavern from 12 - 2 pm.  
Please RSVP to the church office by 9/15 at 301-253-0022.



### **COME JOIN US FOR A YOUNG AT HEART NIGHT OUT Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 7:30 pm**

Emmy Award-winning actor Craig Ferguson will be performing his **Hobo Fabulous Tour** at the Weinberg Theater for the Arts on Wednesday October 9, 2019 at 7:30.

Craig is the former host of CBS' *"The Late Show with Craig Ferguson"*. Craig's diverse career includes film, television, the stage and as an author. He recently reprised his character, Gobber, in the third installment of the animated feature *"How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World"*. He also released his third book *"Riding the Elephant: A Memoir of Altercations, Humiliations, Hallucinations and Observation"*. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Craig got his start in music and acting before discovering his knack for comedy.



Join us for a fund evening of entertainment by Craig Ferguson. **We have 20 seats reserved for this performance at a cost of \$59.50 per person.** Please call or email Jane Webb to reserve your tickets (301-253-0022 or [jane.webb@damascusumc.org](mailto:jane.webb@damascusumc.org)).

### **Prayer and Healing Service Sunday, September 15 @ 7:00 pm**



Join us for this service held monthly in the Parlor or just off the main Sanctuary area.

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.

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

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself, or if you would like to give one to someone you know, please feel free to take one from the basket in the Narthex. We just ask that you put your name and the name of the recipient in the log book. The purpose of the log is to try and be sure that several people don't give shawls to the same recipient. You may also contact one of the pastors, Cathy Heinbaugh at 301-253-0742, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), or Jan Mullinix at 301-482-1122, [jmullinix74@yahoo.com](mailto:jmullinix74@yahoo.com).

## Announcements (cont'd)

### Calling all Crafters and Makers!



The DUMW Holiday Bazaar and Pulled Pork/Oyster Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. Your hand-crafted donations are one of the highlights of the event, and it's time to get your creative juices flowing. All proceeds from the sale of your creations go to the United Methodist Women who support many missions and ministries of our congregation.

The contact person for craft table donations this year is Cathy Heinbaugh, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), 301-253-0742.

### Interested in joining a Sunday morning Welcome Team?



Have you observed the Welcome Team members on duty at each service? Have you thought that you would like to be a part of one of the teams? If so, please read the brief summary of the various roles and complete the form at the bottom.

Welcome Team members (greeters, ushers and host) are asked to arrive 30 minutes before and stay 10 minutes after the service.

**Greeter** - greet people as they arrive and exit the service

**Host** - stand at the Welcome Station to answer questions, provide informational brochures, and distribute welcome gifts to guests

**Usher** - distribute bulletins, collect offering, and 'dismiss' pews during communion

Place the completed bottom half of your form at the Welcome Station or leave it at the church office. Thank you! Questions? Contact the church office OR Judy or Rocky Benedict

### I want to join a Sunday morning Welcome Team!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone contact: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(This contact information will be shared with all Welcome Team volunteers.)

I am committing to join a Welcome Team as: \_\_\_\_\_ Greeter,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Host, and/or  
\_\_\_\_\_ Usher

Service Time: \_\_\_\_\_ 8:15 \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00

I am committing to join a Welcome Team: \_\_\_\_\_ one Sunday a month  
\_\_\_\_\_ two Sundays a month



## **Save the Date!** **November 2, 2019**



### **Our Annual Bazaar & Dinner !!!**

**10:00 am - 5:00 pm: Bazaar**

**11:00 am - ????: Dinner**

**We have a new menu this year !**

**Smoked Pulled Pork - YUMMMMM!**

**But we kept those famous DUMC Women Oyster Pats!  
We will also have lots of delicious sides.**



**So we're calling this "Pig Out Chesapeake Style."**

### **Our Bazaar is bigger and better than ever !**

**Homemade Baked Goods**

**Handmade Crafts**

**Country Store and more**



Please help the Damascus United Methodist Women make this a successful event! You will hear of ways to help from our committee chairs soon, but we would like to hear from you. All proceeds go to make our church, our community and our world a more friendly place.

**To Volunteer feel free to call:**

**Kenny Sue Robertson @ 301-253-5405 (food)**

**Arlene Vlasic @ 301-706-0951 (bazaar items)**

**or Hazel Strahorn @ 443-553-9848 (Suggestions, complaints or just to say Hi!)**

## Thank You's

Thanks so much for the calls, cards and expressions of sympathy on the death of our brother, Jack. It is comforting to know that we have such a caring church family.

In Christian Love,  
Delores and Roz



A big Thank You to all who supported me with my Boy Scout Eagle Project! I felt very supported from both the helpers I had that day and financially from many. I was able to cover the entire cost by your contributions. There was no cost to the church! Please stop by the Pavilion and see the new bird netting!

Sincerely,

Arthur Hulcher, (almost) Eagle Scout



**The messages listed below were received by the Missions Committee of our church . . . . .**

Dear Friends, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be — *Thank You !*

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in the U.S. and in more than 60 countries in which UMCOR and partnering agencies engage in direct ministry to persons in need.

May we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and nation backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Donations sent were: \$1,795 to UMCOR for where most needed and  
\$150 sent to UMCOR for Global Migration.

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary  
Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer  
UMCOR



Thank you so very much for this most generous gift and for your continuing prayers. Donation sent: \$1,387.05.

Bill Zuercher  
Peace Academic Center-HMSF  
Newton, Kansas



We gratefully acknowledge the donation of \$455 to Damascus Help, Inc. on July 11, 2019 from your church. Please thank all of the congregants. Your generous contribution is so much appreciated and essential to support our community efforts.

We are a 501©(3) agency and your gift is tax-deductible. In accordance with tax regulations, we state that you have not received any good or service from us in exchange for your contribution.

We again thank you for your generous donations(s) and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Janet Buckley  
Correspondence Secretary



### Office Info

**Main office: 301-253-0022**

**Kathryn Woodrow, ext. #103**  
**[kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org](mailto:kathryn.woodrow@damascusumc.org)**

**Sherwyn Benjamin, ext. #104**  
**[sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org](mailto:sherwyn.benjamin@damascusumc.org)**

**Polly Edmonds Baldridge,**  
**Minister of Music & Worship Arts**  
 cell: 240-750-8287 / [polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org](mailto:polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org)

**Stephen Kalnoske, Organist**  
cell: 240-832-2112  
[stephenkarnoske@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkarnoske@gmail.com)

**Cora Horst, Director of Children's Ministries**  
office: 301-253-9798  
[cora.horst@damascusumc.org](mailto:cora.horst@damascusumc.org)

**Nick Works, Director of Youth**  
cell: 240-751-6695 / [nick.works@damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)

**Jane Webb, Office Manager**  
cell: 240-620-6920 / [jane.webb@damascusumc.org](mailto:jane.webb@damascusumc.org)

**Linda Stastny, Office Administrator**  
ext. #102 / [office@damascusumc.org](mailto:office@damascusumc.org)

**Lisa Marshall, Property Manager**  
cell: 301-253-5241 / [lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org](mailto:lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org)

**Steve Malley, Bookkeeper**  
ext. #106 / [steve.malley@damascusumc.org](mailto:steve.malley@damascusumc.org)



**The Office will be closed  
on Monday, September 2  
in observance of Labor Day.**

**We will reopen on**

## Administrative Meetings

**September, 2019**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 5  | First Thursday Ministries Meeting<br>7:00 pm in the Sanctuary<br><br>Trustees Meeting to follow<br>in the Great Hall - stage side<br><br>Missions Committee Meeting<br>In the Great Hall - back side |
| Sept. 15 | UMYFO will meet<br>4:00 pm in the Annex/CR   |
| Sept. 17 | Technology Committee Meeting<br>7:00 pm in the Annex/CR  |
| Sept. 19 | SPRC Committee will meet<br>7:00 pm in the church Annex/CR   |
| Sept. 26 | Administrative Board Meeting<br>Dining Hall /back side   |



Reminder

## IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

## THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING

ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION  
IN THE **OCTOBER** BEACON **WILL BE**  
**WEDNESDAY, September 18**

(For Beacon to publish on **Sunday, Sept. 29**).

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

## Thank You !

## 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 Kathryn is off on Fridays.

Pastor B. is off on Mondays.

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.

## About Our People

**Congratulations to Valerie (Maggio) & Jesse Mandlekorn** on the birth of their son, Bryce Andrew, on August 13. Proud grandparents are Jim & Cindy Maggio and Gary & Nancy Mandelkorn.

**Pray for Dorothy Nelligan and family** with the passing of **Bill Nelligan** (92) on July 23 in Rockville, MD. His memorial service will be held here at DUMC on Friday, August 30 at 11:00 am; **Roz Bowman and Delores Neal** with the passing of their brother, John Bell (82), of Frederick, MD, on July 30.

**Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery:** **Pennie Adams, Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Sylvia Bellefleur** (vocal chords), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend), **Bob Braden, Martin Carr, Ann Cochran, Judy Dalrymple** (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), **Pat Duvall, April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Debbie Hoar, Pat Hunt** (Liz Vanderham's mom), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella, Nancy Nickerson** (recuperating at home), **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), **Dorothy Stull** (at home under hospice care), and **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus).

**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, JP Feuillet, Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Dave Lingrell, Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew), **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister), **Kristen Smith** (Gina Wilson's niece), **Marie White** (Pat Duvall's sister-in-law).

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

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## Prayer Requests

The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to write any prayer requests on the prayer cards located in the pews. Prayer cards should then be placed in the offering plate.

All requests will be kept confidential.

Prayer requests may also be made on-line at [www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org).

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## 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](http://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.