
THE BEACON

From Resurrection to Spirit-Filled Living

Easter reminds us that life has the final word—God's life. The empty tomb is more than a moment in history; it is the heartbeat of our faith. Each spring, as we quietly (or not so quietly) proclaim, "Christ is risen!", we are invited to look around and notice the signs of resurrection in our own lives—reconciled relationships, a bit of new courage we didn't think we had, and the quiet persistence of love even in weary times.

But the Easter story does not stop at the empty tomb. Fifty days later comes Pentecost—when the Spirit rushes in, igniting hearts and pushing a timid group of believers out into the world. Resurrection gives us the message; Pentecost gives us the mission. As we live through these next three months together, my prayer is that we open ourselves to the Spirit's renewing fire—alive, joyful, and courageous in our everyday witness to Christ.

The Easter season always seems to linger in the air long after the lilies droop and the last trumpet note fades. In those weeks after the resurrection, the disciples were trying to figure out what it meant to live as people of the risen Christ—confused and uncertain at first, then slowly awakening to a new confidence grounded in grace rather than fear.

In a similar way, our post-Easter season invites us to do more than remember an event on the church calendar. It invites us to become resurrection people—to live as small but real signs of new life in a world that still knows brokenness, anxiety, and division. Every act of compassion, every word of forgiveness, every small gesture of peace—especially when no one is watching—is a way of saying, "Christ is risen indeed," not just with our lips but with our lives.

As we draw closer to Pentecost, the story widens. The Holy Spirit descends not only upon the disciples in the upper room, but also upon all who come after them, including us here at Damascus. It is the Spirit who turns our remembering of Easter into our living witness today. Pentecost reminds the church that resurrection is not the end of the story; it is the beginning of our mission, right where we live and serve.

Between Easter and Pentecost, the early church learned to wait, to pray, and to trust that God was preparing something new they could not yet see. We are also called to embrace a shared rhythm—waiting and trusting, listening and then acting, and welcoming the Spirit's energy into our worship, our service, and the everyday routines of our lives. Some days this process may feel thrilling, while on other days it may require slow, patient faithfulness. Both experiences are significant.

I pray that this Easter season in our congregation will be one of renewed joy and courage, as we allow the light of Easter to burn a little more brightly in us and the wind of Pentecost to nudge us outward in love. Christ is risen, the Spirit is moving, and the world still waits for the witness only the church—and yes, only this church—can give.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Myungha Baek Senior Pastor,
Damascus United Methodist Church

Spring Cleaning Your Finances: A Stewardship Opportunity

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” — 2 Corinthians 9:7

As the days grow longer and temperatures rise, many of us feel inspired to open the windows, clear the clutter, and refresh our homes. This same spirit of renewal makes spring an ideal time to take a fresh look at our financial stewardship.

Just as we organize our closets and tidy our spaces, consider taking a moment to reflect on your commitment to supporting the ministries of our church:

- **Is my giving pledge up to date?**

Has your pledge kept pace with rising costs that affect the Church’s ability to maintain its ministries and operations? If it has been a while since you updated the amount of your contributions, this might be time to evaluate whether an increase is possible.

- **Is my method of giving working well for me?**

Setting up automatic online giving can simplify your finances and ensure your contributions arrive consistently, even during busy seasons. The scan code or the link below will take you to the Church’s secure giving page, where you can make a one-time gift or set up an automatic plan. You may give using a bank account, debit or credit card, Venmo, or PayPal — simply choose what works best for you.

- **Am I giving intentionally?**

Take time to prayerfully consider whether your giving reflects your gratitude and aligns with your values. Faithful stewardship invites us to use our resources in ways that honor God and support the mission of the Church.

This spring, as you freshen your home, consider also refreshing your commitment to generous, joyful giving. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact **Mike Powers** at 515-494-3327 or mike.powers@damascusumc.org.

WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG/GIVE



**DUMC Operating Fund
Year-to-Date Financial Results
February 28, 2026**

	2026		2025
	Actual	Budget	Actual
Total revenue	\$99,566	\$109,198	\$95,647
Total expenses	\$132,836	\$149,719	\$134,959
Net deficit	<u>(\$33,270)</u>	<u>(\$40,521)</u>	<u>(\$39,312)</u>

To help sustain our operating ministries and support the daily work of DUMC, please consider making a contribution using the link above. To learn about other ways that you can contribute, please contact Mike Powers at 515-494-3327 or mike.powers@damascusumc.org. Thank you for your faithful support!

WWW.DAMASCUSUMC.ORG/GIVE



Cemetery:

Message from Bernardine, Cemetery Committee Chair

Our Cemetery was cleared of Christmas arrangements
on Ash Wednesday.

Permanent displays you may wish to use again
were placed near Boyer Chapel.

Prayer and Pastoral Care Requests:

As an ordained deacon, Rev. Helen Ballew serves
with DUMC in a specialized ministry of
pastoral care and adult discipleship.

To request prayers, a visit at home or in the hospital,
a spiritual care conversation in-person or by phone,
or the sacrament of Holy Communion -
please contact Deacon Helen at 301-253-0022 ext. 3 or
helen.ballew@damascusumc.org.

For urgent pastoral care needs,
please contact Deacon Helen at: 301-661-1149
and leave a message.

Fridays are her sabbath.



Holy Week

As the Lenten season draws to an end, **Sacred Path** invites you to journey to Jerusalem with Jesus and his disciples by walking the Labyrinth during **Holy Week**.

The **Stations of the Cross** originated with the earliest Christian pilgrims visiting Jerusalem and retracing Jesus' final steps as an act of prayer and piety in what is now famously known as the **Via Dolorosa** or "The Way of Sorrows". This well-traveled pathway winds its way through the Old City and is sometimes referred to by its lesser-known name, the **Via Crucis** or "The Way of the Cross". When pilgrimage to the Holy Land became more dangerous in person, Franciscan friars in the 14th and 15 centuries began erecting fourteen stations in local churches as an alternative.

Christian use of labyrinths as a tool for contemplation, prayer and worship date back to 324 A.D. but became more popular around the same time in the Middle Ages as a form of proxy pilgrimage and were built into some of Europe's larger cathedrals and churches during that time. Our own courtyard labyrinth is patterned after the famous labyrinth within the Chartres Cathedral in France. So, labyrinths and the Stations of the Cross are well suited aids to your spiritual journey through Holy Week.

The Stations of the Cross will be available in our Labyrinth from dawn to dusk beginning on **Palm Sunday, March 29th through Holy Saturday, April 4th**. Accompanying devotional booklets will be found in the Narthex, by the Parlor entrance, and in the wall pockets both inside and outside by the double doors to the courtyard.

Also, **World Labyrinth Day** this year is **Saturday, May 2nd**. **Sacred Path** also extends an invitation to "Walk as One at One" when people all over the world will walk their local labyrinths at 1:00 P.M. in a shared prayer for World Peace. Please join us.

Neema Kenya Mission

We want to give a huge THANK YOU to all who participated in our Super Bowl BBQ Fundraiser.



The BBQ Crew at work

This has become a wonderful and fun DUMC tradition, and we raised almost \$1300. Woohoo!

That money will sponsor 10 students for the 2026 academic school year at St. Stephens School in Ndere Village, in rural Gem Kenya. These children would not otherwise have this opportunity to go to school. Sowing seeds!

We pray for these children, that they may be rooted in faith, growing in love and branching out into God's world in their communities!



Adopt-A-Road Cleanup in 2026



Mark your calendar for the following Woodfield Road Clean Up dates. The Earth Stewards are inviting you to help clean up Woodfield Road on Saturday mornings at 8am as part of the Montgomery County Adopt-A-Road program.

All equipment will be provided: vests, gloves, bags, etc. Meet at the Woodfield Rd. end of the church parking lot.

For more info contact Jeff Heinbaugh at heinbjc@comcast.net.

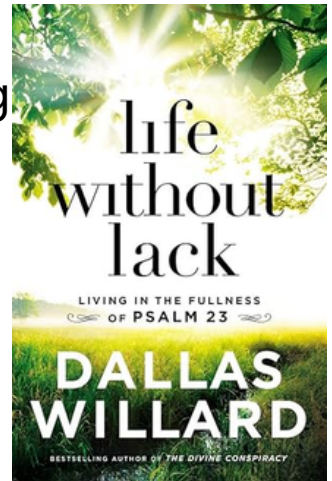


May 2
July 25
September 5
November 7

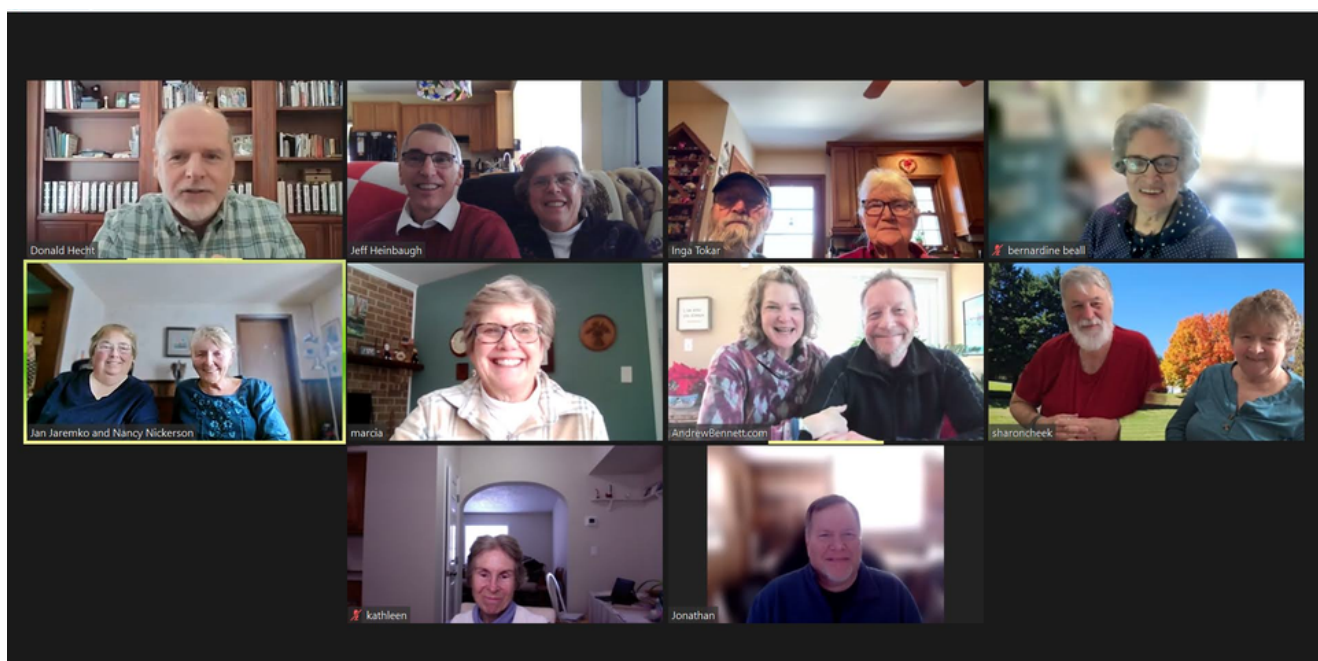


The Disciple Ship Voyage (DSV) Adult Small Group

started a new book in February, *Life without Lack*. DSV is on a journey to be thoughtful and loving disciples of Jesus Christ and to better understand how living like Christ applies in today's world. We read and discuss current Christian books, and have a moderate pace so we have lots of time for discussing each chapter. The DSV class meets virtually only every Sunday from 11am to 12pm. This small group is perfect for those who can't physically make it to church, but still want to participate in a DUMC small study group. For more information about our class, see our page on the DUMC website.



If you'd like to join us, please contact Cathy Heinbaugh (cheinbaugh@comcast.net), Jeff Heinbaugh (heinbjc@comcast.net), or Don Hecht (don.hecht@avendra.com) so we can add you to our email and a Zoom link to our weekly discussions.



Our own Brittney Tarpley (DUMC's lead custodian) recognized as Fire by MCPS.
Glad they recognized what we already knew! ~ Lisa Marshall

The graphic has a dark, fiery background with orange and yellow flames. At the top, the text "MCPS 'FIRE'" is in large, bold, white letters, with "RIBBON" below it in large, outlined orange letters. Underneath "RIBBON" is the phrase "UNLEASHING POTENTIAL" in white. On the left side, the name "BRITTNEY TARPLEY" is written in large, bold, white letters, with "ROCKWELL ES" in orange below it. At the bottom left is the MCPS logo, which consists of a white flame icon followed by the letters "MCPS" in white. On the right side, there is a yellow-bordered photo of Brittney Tarpley, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark blue hoodie. She is holding a black pillow with the text "BE awesome TODAY" in white. The background of the photo shows a classroom with an American flag and various educational materials.

March 8th Confirmation Road Trip

Tour kicked off from MUMC parking lot at 9 am and ended at same location at 6:30 pm. This year the confirmation group participated in a conference wide outing that involved visiting 3 historic sites important in the evolution of Methodism in the US and in Maryland.

In attendance – in order of seating Adriane Tish, EunJoung Joo, Wendy King, Julia King, Samantha Tish, Abigail Baek.



March 8th Confirmation Road Trip

At Old Otterbein we participated in service with other confirmation groups, and explored the old site of the church built in 1785.



Next we headed to Lovely Lane UMC and Museum.



The museum houses many artifacts from the early days of the circuit riders including Bishop Francie Asbury.

March 8th Confirmation Road Trip



This is just one view of us in front of the pulpit.

We didn't get a picture of the ceiling but it has a beautiful painting of a stary night sky.



Our last official stop was at Sharo Street memorial. We Didn't get a picture of the group here.



Our last stop was probably everyone's favorite as the ice cream was amazing. Moo Moo Cow in Baltimore. Great regular and dairy free Ice cream.

Creating Senior Binders – Pages due 5/8/26

The binder is filled with pages contributed from family members and friends and other members of the congregation who would like to contribute. There is no right or wrong way to create a page or 2 or 3. Say what is on your heart and use your creativity. Our past Seniors have enjoyed receiving these binders finding them inspirational and comforting during the next step in their lives.

Action Needed:

If you know one of our graduating seniors and would like to create a page here is what you need to know:

Pages should be 8.5 x 11

Pages can include:

- Photos
- Favorite memories
- Scripture
- Encouraging words
- Letters
- Or any other creative ideas you have

This year's Seniors:

Elizabeth Baker
Zoie Gregory
Caleigh Hoffman
Esme Lacquement
Lily Lucia
Kate Shiflett
Caleb Vaughn

Pages can be delivered hard copy or electronically to Kelly Shiflett or the Church office

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Prayers

For those times when you are feeling anxious, uncertain or the doubts start creeping in.

Heavenly Father,

When negative thoughts come my way, help me reject them and look to You and Your promises.

I know Your special plan for my life begins with my thoughts.

Renew my mind today so I can reflect Your truth and live an abundant life of faith.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Dear Holy Lord

You are the answer to every question I may ever have in my life. Help me to always turn to You when I am faced with challenges I do not understand. Please prepare my heart and mind so the seeds of love you sow in my life sprout and grow. In Jesus' dear name I pray, Amen.



Emma I first really got to know you during your 4th and 5th grade Sunday School Classes. You always kept Ms. Inga and I on our toes. It was fun to see you in action and your input on the videos we did those year was fun.



Just to jog your memory and hopefully make you smile, I have included a few screen shots from the videos. This particular picture was when the class was reading Psalm 119:134 from various versions of the bible. You were reading it from a bible dated from 1892 King James version.

**The new DUMC Beacon is issued quarterly.
The next Beacon will be sent out in July.**

**Have information to share?
Please plan ahead -
send information to Jennifer Stultz
Jennifer.Stultz@Damascusumc.org**

**Information for the next issue
must be submitted by June 16, 2026!**

Talk to Us

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