



DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Serving Damascus Faithfully Since 1822

Rooted in faith, growing in love, branching out into God's world.



Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024 | 9:00 am

Welcome! We are a community of faith open to all and we are glad that you are here! We pray that this time of worship will be meaningful and uplifting for you. If you are with us for the first time this morning, please be sure to stop at the Welcome Station in the Narthex (at the back, where you enter the Sanctuary). A host is there to answer any questions you may have. We also have a gift for you.

Worship Accommodations: We want each person to have a positive worship experience at DUMC (Damascus United Methodist Church). To that end, we have large print bulletins and hymnals available in the Narthex, as well as hearing assistive devices that can be used with or without a hearing aid. Children's worship bags are also available. Please speak to a welcome team member if you want to use any of these.

Sunday Nursery Care: A staffed Nursery for children aged **six months through kindergarten** is provided beginning at 8:45 a.m. on the lower level. Our Nursery attendants are ready to welcome your child! A member of the Welcome Team would be happy to guide you to the Nursery. Children's worship bags are available in the narthex.

Today's Focus

Today we continue our sermon series on discipleship by examining how disciples obey God. As faithful disciples, and representatives of Christ in the world, we are called to embody the love of God in all things. This noble calling often becomes an obstacle. We may be challenged by daily interactions that conflict with our core values. In those situations, we must rely on our rootedness in faith to guide us through challenging times.

Prayer: *Through your grace, O Lord, grant me discernment in times of challenge. Amen.*

FAITH TIME WORSHIP SERVICE

Please mute all devices.

ROOTED IN FAITH

Our Shared Life and Witness

Please note various discipleship opportunities that may enhance your faith journey.

These can be seen on the large screen in the Chancel, and in the bulletin. We also invite you to sign the Attendance Pad, located on the inside end of the pew, and pass it along.

Our Common Vision:

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Prelude

Prelude on EVENTIDE

Stephen Kalnoske

*Call to Worship

Leader: God's love, strong and true,

People: Beckons us to walk on with hope in each step, lures us home, to the place just right.

Leader: God's love, everlasting and bold,

People: Sustains us when fear closes in and worry overwhelms, surprises us with glimpses of wonder and bursts of joy.

Leader: God's love, gentle yet persistent,

People: Graces us with rest in busyness, hounds us to follow the good path.

Leader: God's love, abundant and uplifting,

People: Dances around us like waves on the shore, dwells in us as a song steeped in praise.

Leader: God's love, forever leading us to sing and pray, serve and praise.

*Opening Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH #140

Children's Sermon

Why?

Rev. Phil & Poof

GROWING IN LOVE

Prayer for Illumination

Gabrielle Hulcher

Let us pray.

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us be steadfast in our hearing, speaking, believing, and living. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

1 John 4:7-21

PB, NT, p. 226

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Bow the Knee

Tom Fettke

*Gospel Lesson

John 15:9-17

PB, NT, p. 103

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon	The Evening Tide	Rev. Ayers
*Hymn	<i>My Faith Looks Up To Thee</i>	UMH #452
Pastoral Prayer		
The Lord's Prayer		UMH #895
Invitation to the Offering		
Giving Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	O Divine Redeemer JiYoung Savage, soprano	Charles Gounod

Ah! turn me not away, receive me, tho' unworthy!
 Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress!
 Answer me from Thy throne, haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid,
 Thy pity show in my deep anguish!
 Let not the sword of vengeance smite me,
 Tho' righteous Thine anger, O Lord!
 Shield me in danger, O Regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call.

O Divine Redeemer! O Divine Redeemer!

I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not my sins!
Forgive me, O divine Redeemer!
Night gathers round my soul; fearful I cry to Thee;
Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me!
Hear my cry, Save me, Lord, in Thy mercy;
Hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord!
O, divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon,
And remember not, O Lord, my sins!
Save, in the day of retribution, from Death shield Thou me, O my God!
O, divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!

*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #94

*Offertory Prayer

God, your heart is wide open to us. You have given to us freely and taught us to return to you a portion of what we have. Grant us glad and generous hearts and help us be as open to you as you are to us. Help us use your gifts wisely and for the benefit of all your people. Amen.

BRANCHING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

*Recessional Hymn *Abide With Me* UMH #700

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*Benediction

*Postlude Improvisation S. Kalnoske

Prayer Requests, Joys, and Concerns

If you have any joys, concerns, or prayer requests that you would like to have included in the bulletin or the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the church office at (301) 253-0022 or office@damascusumc.org

Please pray for the General Conference of The United Methodist Church – and for the people and leaders of our denomination. This global gathering is convening in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3, 2024. They are the top policy-making body for the denomination. General Conference meets every four years to revise church law, approve plans and budgets for the denomination, and consider and adopt resolutions on moral, social, economic, and public policy issues. For information and updates about General Conference, please visit the home page of the Baltimore-Washington Conference website at www.bwcumc.org and click on the red button for “General Conference.”

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Inga Tokar, Yasuko Walcott, Todd Wilson, Sue Constantinides, Joyce and Earl Patrick, Sharon Warfield, Mary Emma Linthicum, Jean Barr, Ted Constantinides, David and Janet Lingrell, Nancy Nickerson, Pat Duvall, Stephen Tracy, Marilyn Kinsey, Pat Tregoning, Mary Nieter, Kate Musallam, Kathy (sister of Gail Kohlenburg), Kristin Smith (niece of Gina Wilson), Michael Dearin (nephew of Jacque Janss), Bob Duvall (father of Anita Duvall), and all who are facing health concerns.

Adult Book Studies

Stephen Leslie Class

When: Starting May @ 10:30 am, Where: ground floor library

Group discussion on Living Buddha, Living Christ by Thich Nhat Hanh

Disciple Ship Voyage (DSV)

When: Sunday, 4/14, 10:30 am, Where: Virtual, occasionally in person

Disciple Ship Voyage (DSV) Adult Small Study Group



Join the Disciple Ship Voyage (DSV) Adult Small Study Group as we read, study, and discuss this controversial and mind opening book.

The DSV study group will meet virtually, and occasionally in person.



Plant Sale weekend hours 9 am to 5 pm (4/27-28 and 5/4-5)
 Week days 4 -7 pm (4/29 - 5/1-3 and 5/6&7)

Community Engagement: Blood Drive



Blood Drive
 Damascus United Methodist
 Church
 &
 Damascus Lions Club

Register online at
www.redcrossblood.org and enter
 Sponsor Code: "DamascusUMCMD"

Dining Hall, Damascus UMC



Scan to schedule an appointment.

or

call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule your
 life-saving donation!

Friday, May 3, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Community Engagement



Laytonville Safe Haven

DUMC Local Ministry



WHEN: Saturday May 4th, 9am – 3pm

WHERE: Meet at DUMC parking lot at 9am, return to DUMC by 3pm.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

TOOLS NEEDED: shovels (for edging around gardens), garden trowels, pruning shears, rakes, leaf blower, tarps

PLEASE LET DOUG MARSHALL, WE NEED A COUNT FOR LUNCH:

dougandlisamarshall@yahoo.com OR 301-325-9071



7th Annual



Damascus Shred Fest!

Sponsored by the Damascus Lions Club & WesBanco

Secure document shredding & battery collection done on site. Limit 5 banker boxes or equivalent.

Saturday, May 4th 2024 9AM-12PM

Damascus United Methodist Church (Back Lot)

9700 New Church St, Damascus, MD 20872

Free to the public but donations are encouraged to support the Damascus Lions White Cane Drive for sight conservation. Questions?

Please contact Joe Howerton via email joehowertonsales@gmail.com



Damascus Theatre Company

DTC Kids

INTO THE WOODS JR.

Friday, May 17, 2024 at 7:30PM
Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 2PM & 7:30PM
Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 2PM
at Damascus United Methodist Church
9700 New Church St, Damascus

\$15 General Admission/\$12 DTC Members
\$10 Senior Citizens/Students K-12/Children 2-5



World Labyrinth Day falls on **Saturday, May 4th** this year. **Sacred Path** invites you to take this opportunity to **“Walk as One at One”** when people all over the world will walk their labyrinths at 1:00 PM in their respective local time zones. Please consider a labyrinth walk between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM that day.

Week of April 28 – May 4

Sunday, April 21

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

9:00 am – 10:00 am

9:15 am – 10:30 am

10:00 am – 11:15 am

10:15 am – 11:15 am

10:15 am – 11:15 am

Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)

Faith Time Service (Worship)

Frogs Faith Time (Undercroft/DH)

Connections Café

Dad's Faith Time (Annex Downstairs C/R)

Faith Time (Youth/Adult Small Groups)

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Youth Group (D & D Night- YC)
AA - Sunday Night Meeting

Monday, April 29

8:00 am – 12:00 pm
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Harwood House (Vol. Workday)
Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)
DTC – ITW, Jr. Rehearsal (YC)
Kinship Singers Credo Collab. rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, April 30

8:30 am – 2:00 pm
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
5:30 pm – 9:30 pm
6:15 pm – 7:30 pm

Harwood House Thrift Shop (Vol. Workday)
Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)
Harwood House Thrift Shop (Vol. Work Session)
ASCYO Rehearsals (GH & MR)
Confirmation (YC)

Wednesday, May 1

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm
5:15 pm – 6:00 pm
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)
Harwood House Open 4-6 pm
Cherub Choir Rehearsal (GH/SS)
Chorister Choir Rehearsal (MR)
DTC - ITW, Jr. Rehearsal (YC)
Adult Choir Rehearsal (MR)

Thursday, May 2

10:00 am – 11:00 am
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

National Day of Prayer
Staff Gathering
Harwood House Thrift Shop OPEN
Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)
Sharp Voice Studio Lesson (Sanctuary/MR)
ASCYO Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
DTC Makeup Workshop (YC/GR)

Friday, May 3

10:00 am – 3:00 pm
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive (DH)
Harwood House Thrift Shop OPEN
Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)
AA - Friday Night Meeting (Dining Hall)

Saturday, May 4

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Mission Plant Sale (Pavilion)

9:00 am – 12:00 pm
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
11:00 am – 3:00 pm
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Lion's Club Shred Fest (Rear Parking Lot)
Laytonsville Safe Haven Workday (Offsite)
Harwood House Thrift Shop OPEN
DTC – ITW, Jr. Rehearsal (GH)
ASCYO "Rebirth" Senior Solos (Sanctuary)

PASTORS AND STAFF

Rev. Phil Ayers, Senior Pastor

301-253-0022 ext. #2; cell: (301) 751-3262; phillip.ayers@damascusumc.org

Rev. Helen Ballew, Minister of Connection and Care

(301) 253-0022, ext. #3; cell: (301) 661-1149; helen.ballew@damascusumc.org

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager/Room Reservations

Cell: (301) 253-5241; lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org

Rick Barr, Office Administrator

(301) 253-0022; rick.barr@damascusumc.org

Cora Horst, Director of Pleasant Plains Preschool

Cell: (301) 253-9798; pleasant.plains@damascusumc.org

Mike Powers, Bookkeeper

cell #515-494-3327 Mike.powers@damascusumc.org

Stephen Kalnoske, Director of Music and Organist

Cell: (240) 832-2112; stephen.kalnoske@damascusumc.org

Angie Thompson, Director of Children's Music Ministry

Cell:301-466-4940

Tina Kelly, Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministry

Cell: (240) 678-9248; tina.kelly@damascusumc.org

Sydney Fennington, Communications Manager

communications@damascusumc.org

DAMASCUS UMC | 9700 New Church Street | Damascus, MD 20872

Office Phone: 301-253-0022 ext. #1

Web: DamascusUMC.org | Email: office@damascusumc.org