

**Damascus United Methodist Church Small Group Summary
As of June 15, 2023**

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Not yet received.

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Shawl Ministry

Who led the discussion? Cathy Heinbaugh

Date of discussion: June 4, 2023

Formal or Informal? Informal

When was the group formed? 2006

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Cathy Heinbaugh cheinbaugh@comcast.net

Best way and time to contact: cheinbaugh@comcast.net

Purpose: We make prayer shawls, lap robes or quilts, fleece throws, baptism blankets and small prayer squares or pocket prayer quilts. The purpose is to create and share a tangible symbol of God's love and care for the recipient. The items are made with prayer and are blessed before distribution.

Meeting Schedule: We no longer meet in person, items are made on our own time and largely at our own expense.

Formal budget? None. There are occasional monetary gifts to the ministry, which we use to purchase supplies, but no formal budget.

Tech needs: None

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? There are no planned events and no plans for expansion.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? TBD

Areas for growth/Comments: There is a basket of shawls and robes in the Narthex, with extras in the coat closet in the Narthex and the Annex. There may still be a box of prayer squares in the Parlor with Stephen Ministry supplies.

The items are stored at my home, with Penny Weeda or Jan Mullinix, or at the church. Pastor Helen has been collecting and distributing the items.

I maintain a list of knitted, crocheted or quilted shawls and lap robes that are contributed. I do not track the fleece blankets. There is no attempt to track recipients.

Resources within the group: TBD

Members: Penny Weeda makes most of the items. Occasional contributors over recent years are: myself, Jan Mullinix, Sharon Walton, Elizabeth Bradley, Suzanne McClure, Allison Greer and Liz Elliott

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Steve Leslie Sunday School Class

Who led the discussion? Steve Leslie

Date of discussion: June 18, 2023

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? 197?

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Steve Leslie

Best way and time to contact: Stephen.Leslie1@verizon.net

Purpose: TBD

Meeting Schedule: Sundays throughout the year except for special church wide events

Formal budget? None

Tech needs: None

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Will continue to meet throughout the summer focusing on the Revelation in the New Testament and reading Bart Ehrman's new book Armageddon in Summer, 2023.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? To continue in-depth discussions of popular but scholarly books reflecting the wide range of interests in within the group. Authors as diverse as Huston Smith, Karen Armstrong, James K. A. Smith, Kay Kotan, Bishop Curry, Marcus Borg, Brian McLaren and Barbara Brown Taylor have been read in recent years.

Areas for growth/Comments: Though not formally voted on, the class has discussed the importance of becoming a reconciling church.

Resources within the group: There is a wide range of experience and perspectives within the class making for stimulating conversation. Many have been in the class for over a decade, some over two decades.

Members: Steve Leslie, Kathy Leslie, Rick Barr, Jean Barr, Bernardine Beall, Judy Benedict, Rocky Benedict, Bob Dennis, Kathleen Dennis, Cheryl Minekime, Jan Mullinix, Carol Yocum,, Carol Martin and Tess Mills

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Love Feast Adult Sunday School

Who led the discussion? Brad Turner-Little

Date of discussion: June 4, 2023

Formal or Informal? Formal (Adult Sunday School)

When was the group formed? 1998

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Brad Turner-Little

Best way and time to contact: Cell – 240-678-7411

Purpose: Christian Education- Grow in our faith.

Meeting Schedule: Every Sunday when there is Sunday school

Formal budget? None

Tech needs: When we combine with OMG for church-wide studies, large screens are used, etc.

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Plan for a few social events then resume meeting in the Fall.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? Continue reaching out to members who left during Covid.

Areas for growth/Comments: Faith, communication, and reconnecting.

Resources within the group: Parents who cook for youth, church events and coordination, committees, choir members.

Members: Karalee Turner-Little, Brad Turner-Little, Jolene Baxter, Jeff Baxter, Kae Johnson, Kelly Shiflett, Kurt Shiflett, Derek Johnson, Kelly Bradburd, Barry Bradburd, Tanya Cappelutti, Nathan Cappelutti, Nahry Minars, Lisa Fruth, Carol Martin, Arlene Vlastic, Kelly Vlastic, George Vlastic. Karen Robertson, Ryders

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Discipleship Voyage Adult Class (DSV)

Who led the discussion? Don Hecht, Jeff Heinbaugh, Cathy Heinbaugh

Date of discussion: June 4, 2023

Formal or Informal? Informal

When was the group formed? Don & Jeff took over leadership about 2011

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Don – donalddhecht@gmail.com, Jeff - heinbjc@comcast.net

Best way and time to contact: Both, by email

Purpose: Comradery and book study. Desire to grow as disciples and challenge ourselves.

Meeting Schedule: Most summers between Sept and May

Formal budget? None

Tech needs: Current hybrid technology works, usually Zoom (though limited due to church location)

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Perhaps a summer brunch after church. Will kick off fall with a new book.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? Identify a new book.

Areas for growth/Comments: Faith, communication, and reconnecting.

Resources within the group: Need to find someone who can take the lead for the class in the future as Jeff and Cathy have moved part time to TN.

Members: Carol Clark, David & Sharon Cheek, Vicki Young, Mike & Inga Tokar, Dave & Janet Lingrell, Jonathan Colborn, Marcia Hofman, Tess Mills, Bonnie Buster, Jane & Pete Clark

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OMG Adult Sunday School Class

Who led the discussion? xxx

Date of discussion: xx

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? The core group began in 1999 as the Parenting in Faith class, focused on parenting young children. After the class leaders moved, we regrouped in 2009 as OMG. Our kids were all involved in youth group and choir tour. As our children became close friends, we also became very bonded with one another and with each other's kids. That continues to this day, through weddings, babies, tragedies and joys

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Jackie Perry (also known as Jackie Dalrymple), jackiedalr@yahoo.com, 443-605-6447

Best way and time to contact: (evenings and weekends are best).

Purpose: We are a Sunday School class that values a supportive faith community and also a strong sense of fellowship and personal connection.

Meeting Schedule: Sunday mornings for class (sometimes studying a book, sometimes pursuing a "mission," sometimes supporting a need within the group)..

Formal budget? N/A

Tech needs: N/A

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Food trucks, Yard sale, mission trip to Kenya

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? To support one another and to use our synergy to help rebuild parts of DUMC that are important to us.

Areas for growth/Comments: Still evolving.

Resources within the group: High energy, solid ideas, good follow-through TBD

Members: Jackie Perry, Sue and Ted Constantinides, Tina Faass, Susan and Dan James, Phil and Gabrielle Hulcher, Gina and Bob Wilson, Wellington and Gladys Otieno, Karen Taylor, Linda Rice, Pam and Mark Nehring, Beth and Doug Taylor, Liz Elliott, Angie Thompson, Mike Springirth

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Initiatives that began with our class:

OMG Adult Sunday School Class

Initiatives for 2023

Neema Mission: In 2017, 12 of us traveled to Kenya to visit the homeland of our OMG classmates, Gladys and Wellington Otieno. From that was born the Neema (Grace) Kenya Mission, supporting Joint Partners Medical Clinic and St. Stephens pre-school and cultivating a relationship with our Kenyan partners. We are planning a return trip to Kenya in September 2023

Food Trucks: We spent considerable time and energy in 2021/2022 brainstorming about post-pandemic rebuilding. We chose food trucks in Spring 2022 as a safe and tangible way to re-establish a sense of community within our congregation and with our Damascus neighbors.

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Connections Café'

Who led the discussion? xxx

Date of discussion: xx

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? When was the group formed? loooong time ago. Reconstituted post-COVID about a year ago.

Group leader, cell/e-mail: - Liz Elliott, liz.elliott@verizon.net, cell 301-651-9072.

Best way and time to contact: E-mail best way to contact

Purpose: offer inviting space after service to enjoy coffee, a treat and fellowship

Meeting Schedule: Every Sunday

Formal budget? None - we do put out a basket for folks to put in a few dollars that covers the cost of coffee, creamer, etc. I purchase some treats and more show up on Sunday morning.

Tech needs: None

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Every Sunday after service

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? Keep the Café going!

Areas for growth/Comments: More folks to help who do not already have another job on Sunday mornings, as it can be a lot to sing in the choir and set up the Café.

Resources within the group: a growing number of folks willing to help, we could always use more helpers

Members: Pam Nehring pamela.nehring@gmail.com, 301-233-1267; Marcia Hofman marciahofman67@gmail.com 301-455-2960; Doug Marshall dougandlisamarshall@yahoo.com 301-325-9071; Steffany Cartellone steffanyc@mac.com; Courtney Hebert schebert@hotmail.com 301-785-4931; Sarah Williamson sarahmarti@gmail.com 304-906-7348; Gina Wilson mozzarellarn@gmail.com 301-785-3778; Traci Tracey ceeunheaven@yahoo.com 720-234-8083; Angie Thompson althomp321@gmail.com; Georgie Pomeileau gawenski@gmail.com

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Kitchen Committee

Who led the discussion? Laura Hanlon

Date of discussion: June 5, 2023

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? January, 2023

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Laura Hanlon, Co-Chair, jkjmom92@yahoo.com, cell: 240-286-8961 (best time to contact: anytime), Cathy Dobranski, Co-Chair, cathdobr@gmail.com, cell: 240-855-6856

Best way and time to contact: See above

Purpose: The kitchen was closed during covid. It was decided once the church started opening up again to form a Kitchen Committee to re-open the kitchen for our church members and the community. This also means making sure the kitchen and volunteers are complaint with Montgomery County.

Meeting Schedule: Once a month

Formal budget? No budget at this time

Tech needs: No tech needs at this point.

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? The Kitchen Committee is still tossing around ideas. We are hoping to schedule some food events Fall 2023. More to come...

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? The Kitchen Committee is working to find ways to reopen the DUMC kitchen. Before covid the kitchen was used to gather the church members and outside community. The kitchen was also used as a means for fundraising. The kitchen is also an important part of funerals; allowing families and friends to gather after a funeral. The Kitchen Committee is also working on licensing needed by Montgomery County, so we are in compliance.

Areas for growth/Comments: There are many areas for growth, the Kitchen Committee is working on those areas at each meeting. More to come...

Resources within the group: Heavenly Servants - Lisa Marshall has the complete list of church members who are willing to help in the Kitchen and other areas of the church.

Members: Laura Hanlon, Co-Chair, Cathy Dobranski, Co-Chair; Kenny Sue Robertson, Funeral Committee; Sue Suddath, Funeral Committee and Pantry Manager; Becky Smith, Funeral Committee; Lisa Marshall, Secretary; Liz Elliott, Treasurer; Doug Taylor, Traci Tracy

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Stephen Ministry

Who led the discussion? ?

Date of discussion: June 6, 2023

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? 2005-2006

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Jan Jaremko, 240.277.5884, c.jan.jaremko@gmail.com

Best way and time to contact: anyway, any time

Purpose: Well-trained and supervised lay caregivers who provide one-to-one, distinctively Christian care to members of congregation and community experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time in life. Work with pastor(s) and Stephen Leaders to match Stephen Ministers to individuals in need.

Meeting Schedule: "Supervision" or "peer support" occurs usually 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. Stephen Ministers meet with care receivers individually once weekly. All information is confidential.

Formal budget? Yes

Tech needs: AV expertise needed periodically for training, Zoom meetings, and special services.

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Supervision/peer support meetings to be held regularly, recruit new ministers, leaders, and care receivers. Push to train new Stephen Ministers and leaders.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? Train at least 2 Stephen Ministers and 2 Stephen Leaders. Focus on recruiting male ministers/leaders if possible (loss of several male members of the ministry within the last three years). Better communication with congregation and community about our mission/services.

Areas for growth/Comments: Members of ministry more representative of the church membership makeup (gender, ethnicity, age, etc.) Training and continuing education. Use relevant people both in church and in community to refer people for care.

Resources within the group: Well trained caregivers for one-to-one distinctively Christian caregiving. Members conduct training and continuing education. Service of Peace, Hope, and Love (Light) annually just before the Christmas holidays. Can assist pastoral staff in many ways if required.

Members: Jan Mullinix, Jan Jaremko, Janet Cornelius, Patti Davis, Penny Weeda, Kolash Belete, Mary Walcek, Pam Nehring, Carol Martin, Cathy Heinbaugh, Inga Tokar, Pat Duvall, Liz Elliott.

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Love One Another Ministry; Informal: LOA

Who led the discussion? Charlotte Kibak

Date of discussion: June 7, 2023

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? January/February 2019

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Charlotte Kibak, chaphil1@earthlink.net; charlotte.stepms@gmail.com; 301-056-6056

Best way and time to contact: Texting is best

Purpose: Focus is on social justice issues

Meeting Schedule: We met monthly until December 2022. Since then we communicate through our Facebook group and email.

Formal budget? We have an item on the church's budget (\$350?). We would use that for welcome events, presentation events or book reading supplies

Tech needs: When we meet, it's via Zoom. Several of our members are still cocooning due to COVID. We might need help with an event or presentation.

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? We committed to hosting 2 events this year. Nothing has been confirmed. One possibility is sponsoring a session about using correct language with our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? See above

Areas for growth/Comments: See how 2023 goes with hosting 2 events and participating in community events. Evaluate at that time. It would be great to increase our visibility and include church members in our activities.

Resources within the group: LOA has a Facebook page where members post content relevant to the purpose mentioned above.

Members: Members: Small but mighty: Active during COVID: Lisa Marshall, Mandy Sellers, Jane Clarke, Mary Busby, Joyce Szekelyi, Helen Ballew, Bernardine Beall, Cheryl Menekime, Kelly Bratburd. Not active: Carol Yocum, Cheryl Minekime, Cora Horst, Jean Barr, Rick Barr, Mary Neiter

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DUMC Cemetery Committee

Who led the discussion?	Marcia Hofman interviewed Bernardine Beall
Date of discussion:	June 3, 2023
Group Name	DUMC Cemetery Committee
Formal or Informal?	Formal
When was the group formed?	The current committee was formed 11 years ago when some grave stones required repair.
Group leader, cell/e-mail	Bernardine, committee chair 301-253-2014 (home) BERNARDINEBEALL@gmail.com or Gary Richard, superintendent 301-253-2287 (home) 301-639-8383 (cell)
Best way and time to contact	Bernardine- call or email: Gary – call either number
Purpose	Make sure that cemetery records and property are properly maintained.
Meeting Schedule	Bernardine and Gary talk frequently
Formal budget?	No. Gary has the cemetery check book and record of CDs at the bank
Tech needs	Bernardine would like to have a link on the church website to the cemetery records.
Planned events for the next 6 months, next year?	The Easter sunrise service held in the cemetery is an annual event. This fall there will be a service to install a tombstone of Captain Peter Boyer who died in 1805. His stone was found on farm property.
Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year?	
Areas for growth	They would like to open Boyer Chapel for more events.
Resources within the group	Bernardine and Gary know the history of Damascus and its residents. Liz Vanderham has genealogy research skills.
Members	Bernardine, Gary, Liz Vanderham, & Jackie Perry.
Note:	Trustees have a contract with NU Horizon Lawn & Landscaping LLC. It's for about \$6,000 - \$7,000 per year.

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Sacred Path Labyrinth Committee

Who led the discussion? Jan Mullinix

Date of discussion: N/A

Formal or Informal? Formal

When was the group formed? 2022

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Jan Mullinix 301-518-2204, jmullinix74@yahoo.com

Best way and time to contact: Email

Purpose: “Why does the labyrinth attract people? Because it is a tool to guide healing, deepen self-knowledge, and empower creativity. Walking the labyrinth clears the mind and gives insight into the spiritual journey. It urges action. It calms people in the throes of life transitions. It helps them see their lives in the context of a path, a pilgrimage. They realize that they are not human beings on a spiritual path, but spiritual beings on a human path. To those of us who feel we have untapped gifts to offer, it stirs the creative fires within. To others who are in deep sorrow, it gives solace and peace. The experience is different for everyone, because each of us brings different raw material to the labyrinth. We bring our unique hopes, dreams, history, and longings of the soul.” Dr. Lauren Artress

Meeting Schedule: Monthly

Formal budget? No

Tech needs: Printing for flyers and social media, email

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Possible program with Montgomery UMC in July. Will develop programs this summer for the coming year.

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? Increase use of the labyrinth within our congregation and also by others in the Damascus area community.

Areas for growth/Comments: Increased awareness and interest leading to usage

Resources within the group: Computer skills to develop flyers, send emails and post on social media.

Members: Jan Mullinix, Cheryl Minekime and Rick Barr

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Welcome Team

Who led the discussion? Liz Elliott as Jane Clarke is OOT

Date of discussion: June 15, 2023

Formal or Informal? Informal

When was the group formed? not sure exactly, but we've been around for quite a while

Group leader, cell/e-mail: Jane Clarke, jjckarle77@gmail.com

Best way and time to contact: jjckarle77@gmail.com

Purpose: We share a friendly hello and hand out bulletins on Sunday morning before service, serve as ushers and help visitors find Sunday School classes as needed. We distribute Welcome bags to new folks. We also greet for special services during Holy Week, Christmas etc.

Meeting Schedule: There is a Sunday morning rotation of greeters, with additional folks who can serve as subs if needed.

Formal budget? I don't think there is one; Jane will know for sure.

Tech needs: None

Planned events for the next 6 months, next year? Continue with regular greetings

Goals of the group within the next 6 months, next year? Add additional greeters who are interested

Areas for growth/Comments: I'll wait on Jane Clarke to add more

Resources within the group: TBD

Members: Kelly Shiflett, Liz Elliott, Cheryl Minekime, Carol Martin, Jeff Heinbaugh, Cathy Heinbaugh, Jane Clarke, Pete Clarke, Bob Newlin, Colleen Newlin, Arlene Vlasic, Don Hecht, Julie Sain, Yasuko Walcott, Michelle Wilson, Pat Duvall, Amy Nisonger, Susan James