

## CONNECTION CARD

Tear off and drop in the Offering Jar  
or in one of the Internal Mailboxes.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, & Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

- I am new to DCC.
- I am a returning guest.
- I would like to receive the monthly newsletter.
- I would like to receive the weekly e-mail announcements.
- I am updating my contact information.
- I would like to speak to a member of the Pastoral Staff.
- I would like to attend Starting Point.
- I would like to receive care from a Stephen Minister.

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### The service I usually attend is:

- Saturday 5:30 PM
- Sunday 9:00 AM
- Sunday 11:00 AM

### I would like to know more about:

- Children's Ministry (Birth-5th Grade)
- Youth Ministry (6th-12th Grade)
- Small Groups
- Worship Arts
  - Choirs  Handbells  Drama
- Baptism  Membership
- Confirmation  Wedding
- Starting Point
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Current Volunteer Opportunities:

- Hospitality Team
- Ushers
- Youth Ministry Sunday School
- Children's Ministry Sunday School

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers, Senior Minister  
Rev. Alan R. Rudnick, Associate/Executive Minister  
Rev. Cindy Mapstone, Associate/Family & Congregational Care Minister  
Rev. William A. Carlsen, Adjunct Minister  
Rev. Edwin F. Taylor, Senior Minister Emeritus  
Dr. Landrum H. Wooten, Associate Minister Emeritus

### Staff

Abel Searor, Director of Worship Arts/Principal Organist  
Gloria Trode, Director of Children's Music  
Nicholas MacLane, Director of Creative Worship  
Mary Chirello, Youth Director & Hospitality Coordinator  
Mick Thorpe, Director of Building Services  
Alyssa Eighmey, Office Manager  
Peter Hawley, Communications Coordinator  
Jane Hahn, Bookkeeper  
Reinaldo Mercado, Building Staff  
Liam McDonough, Building Staff  
Jim Surdam, Building Staff

**Ministers:** The Entire Congregation

### Connect with us!

Office 315-445-0331  
Pastor on Call (24/7) 315-303-2308

### Helpful Links

**Website:** [www.dewittchurch.org](http://www.dewittchurch.org)  
**Facebook:** DeWitt Community Church



*“Prophet, Promise & Preparation”*

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6

**Sunday, December 9, 2018**

**11:00 AM**

## Welcome to DeWitt Community Church

December 9, 2018 — 11:00 AM

### Thought for Today

“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.” -Amos 3:7

Prelude "See Amid the Winter's Snow" by Kevin Keil

Invitation to Worship

\*Opening Hymn **Comfort, Comfort Now My People (#155)**

\*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

**People: Make God’s paths straight.**

Leader: Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled.

**People: The crooked will be made straight.**

Leader: The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed.

**People: All will see the salvation of God.**

Leader: See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking.

**People: Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord.**

\*Unison Prayer:

**Lord speak to us through the words of the prophets. Speak to us through the whispers of Your Spirit. Prepare us for Your coming. Prepare us for Your presence. Change us so that we may be aligned to Your ways instead of expecting You to bless our ways. Use us to make straight the road for You to travel so that Your ways may be known, and may come to pass. We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Greeting & Announcements

*If you are a guest with us today, please stop by the Welcome Center for a special gift.*

Children’s Pageant Music **“We Wait”** by Rob Howard

Children’s Message

Lighting the Second Candle of Advent The Walter-Ferrick Family

Reader 1: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.

Reader 2: We seek Your comforting peace. Both mighty and tender, You come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You.

Reader 1: We remember times when we have sought such a God, both mighty and tender. We recall Your healing touch, Your abundant provision, and Your spirit of peace in the midst of pain.

Reader 2: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God. Let us join together in our Advent response.

**People: Saving God, look upon Your world and heal Your land and Your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as You are. Amen.**

Advent Candle Sung Response

**Heaven cannot hold Him, nor the earth sustain; Heav’n and earth shall fade whene’er He comes to reign:**

**In the bleak midwinter stable place sufficed, for the Lord incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

Hymn of Prayer **Star-Child (#223)**

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation To Give

*Visit [give.dewittchurch.org](http://give.dewittchurch.org) on your mobile phone or other internet connected device to give online.*

Offertory

\*Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving (#34)

Scripture Readings Malachi 3:1-4 (GNT) (p. 976)

The Lord Almighty answers, “I will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger you long to see will come and proclaim my covenant.” But who will be able to endure the day when he comes? Who will be able to survive when he appears? He will be like strong soap, like a fire that refines metal. He will come to judge like one who refines and purifies silver. As a metalworker refines silver and gold, so the Lord's messenger will purify the priests, so that they will bring to the Lord the right kind of offerings. Then the offerings which the people of Judah and Jerusalem bring to the Lord will be pleasing to him, as they used to be in the past.

Luke 3:1-6 (NIRV) (pp. 1044-45)

Tiberius Caesar had been ruling for 15 years. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. Herod was the ruler of Galilee. His brother Philip was the ruler of Iturea and Traconitis. Lysanias was ruler of Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. At that time God’s word came to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert. He went into all the countryside around the Jordan River. There he preached that people should be baptized and turn away from their sins. Then God would forgive them. Here is what is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet. It says, “A messenger is calling out in the desert. ‘Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for him. Every valley will be filled in. Every mountain and hill will be made level. The crooked roads will become straight. The rough ways will become smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem **“A Spotless Rose”** by Tom Shelton

Message “The Christmas Walk: Prophet, Promise & Preparation” Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

\*Closing Hymn **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (#191)**

\*Blessing

Postlude

**Worship Assistant:** Rev. Alan Rudnick **Flute:** Kathy Egloff

**Children's Pageant Director:** Gloria Trode

**Soloist:** Lauren Mosier

**Accompanist:** Andreia Krantz

\*Congregation stands

## Christmas Caroling

December 11 at 6 PM

We'll be leaving promptly at 6PM but please feel free to come beforehand and have a refreshment. All generations are welcome and encouraged to participate! We hope to see you all there! Wear any Christmas attire you have! To sign-up please contact Mary Chirello at 315-247-0060 or [mchirello@dewittchurch.org](mailto:mchirello@dewittchurch.org)

## Younger Adult Christmas Party

Friday, December 21 5:45PM-7:45PM

Join us for our Annual Younger Adult Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange at Ben and Nancy McDaniel's house. We'll eat, socialize, and exchange ornaments. Every adult should bring one ornament. Families, bring your children and youth. We'll have childcare help for little ones. Please see the "What to Bring List" to bring drinks, appetizers, main dish, or dessert. RSVP, location, and what to bring @ <http://evite.me/nVJ9VzxBVe>.

## Middle Adult Gathering

Friday, December 23 at 6PM at the Home of Mark & Kathlyne Sommers

The Middle Adult Group is generally comprised of people who are in their 40' 50's and 60's. We gather every few months in different homes for dinner, conversation and a brief devotional thought. Usually the host home provides the main dish and everyone brings a dish to pass. For more information and to RSVP please use the form below.

**For info on any event, or RSVP, fill out the form below and drop it in the Offering plate or internal mailbox**

Event: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_