

SEPTEMBER

newsletter

South Sudan Mission Trip Worship Experience

At all 3 services on September 7 & 8 our recently returned mission team of Kim Buchanan, Elizabeth Wimer, Quinn Wimer and Erica Johnson, will lead the worship service and share their experiences.



September Worship

Mission of the Month - HOPE for Ariang

"Living Life at the Kid's Table"

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Saturday August 31 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, September 1 9:30 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

SOUTH SUDAN MISSION TRIP WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Rev Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday September 7 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, September 8 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Mission of the Month

"Saying Yes...Saying NO"

Rev Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday September 14 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, September 15 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

COMMUNION AT ALL SERVICES

"Game Changers"

Rev Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday September 21 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, September 22 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

"When Storm Clouds Hover"

Rev Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday September 28 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, September 29 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

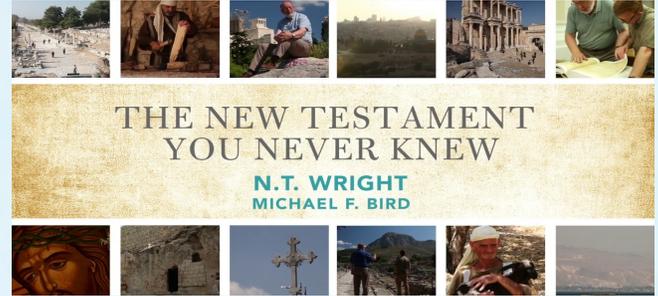
Pastor On-Call

One member of our Pastoral Care Staff will be on call 24/7, 365 days a year to respond to crisis situations or emergencies in our church family. The emergency phone number is: (315) 303-2308. Please leave a message and your contact information and the pastor on-call will return your call as soon as possible.

New Study: The New Testament You Never Knew With Pastor Alan, Starting September 29 @ 10 AM, Room 6

Do you know the real story behind the New Testament? We all share a fascination for discovering 'the rest of the story.' We enjoy learning the behind-the-scenes facts about seemingly familiar events. In this eight-session video Bible study, well-known Bible scholars N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird team up to take you on a tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament. You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today. Through reading the New Testament we continually discover that God indeed keeps his promises, but those promises don't always

look like what people expected. Especially when it comes to Jesus. Sessions include: The Books of the New Testament, The World of Jesus and the Apostles, The Life and Death of Jesus, The Resurrection of Jesus, The Ministry of the Apostle Paul, The Early Christians and the Church, The Mission of the Church, The Creation of the New Testament. Sign up today: office@dewittchurch.org.



Compassion Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you like to knit or crochet? Consider joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry. You can create shawls for those who are ill or experiencing loss or a square for military to wear in their helmet. For more information contact Nancy Bond, nancybond3@gmail.com

Prayer Request Cards

Prayer Request Cards are available at various locations in the church. If you have a prayer request you would like to share, please fill out the yellow card and drop it in a communication box or leave it in the office.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is group of members who commit to pray consistently for requests that come in the form of an e-mail. If you would like to receive prayer requests or no longer receive them, please alert Rev. Dr. Cynthia Mapstone, cmapstone@dewittchurch.org.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are lay persons who have completed 50 hours of training to learn how to come alongside someone experiencing a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitaliza-

tion, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

Stephen Ministers meet with their "care receiver" at least once a week for pastoral care with all conversations entirely confidential. Stephen

Ministers are also available after services to pray or talk with people who have concerns. Do you feel God tugging at your heart to find out more about being a Stephen Minister? Call the church office at (315) 445-0331

DeWitt Cemetery Association

For those of you who may never have taken a walk through the hallowed grounds of the beautiful DeWitt Cemetery adjacent to the church parking lot, we would encourage you to do so. Many historical graves are located there as well as those of so many of our own loved ones. The members of the DeWitt Cemetery Association, in our role as stewards of these sacred grounds, would also like to make you aware that there are lots available for purchase, for both full burial and cremation. The current DCA members are Doug Carmichel, Dale Randall, Al Ruthig, Ann DuPree, Bert Mersereau, Bob Westlake, Susan Westlake, Jean Eschner, Peter Seitz, Sibyl Smith, and Sue Patten. Should you have any questions about the cemetery, please feel free to contact Doug (315) 420-9019 or Dale (315) 445-8814.



Message from the Board President:

*“Better not look down if you want to keep on flying
Put the hammer down - keep it full speed ahead
Better not look back or you might just wind up crying
You can keep it moving if you don't look down”*

-B.B. King

Welcome back to another program year at DeWitt Community Church! I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the beautiful summer weather, had some fun and relax a bit with family and friends. This month the Board will resume its attention to our church business, and I'd like to highlight a few items.

First a huge “thank you” to all who helped close our general contribution gap. We ended our fiscal year in the black after receiving very generous gifts in June that made up for shortfalls in the winter and spring. The work of the church is made possible by your donations and volunteer efforts, and we very much appreciate your support.

At our annual meeting the Bylaws amendment that fixed

our Board of Trustees at 15 members received overwhelming support. Nominating will continue their work to rebuild various committees. In the coming year we will be organizing periodic “Council on Ministry” meetings to give our volunteers a chance to report, communicate and coordinate.

Finally, concerning our outstanding debt, the Board approved a plan to restructure our loans for the long term. Thanks go to Jeff Roney, our Finance Chair, for negotiating options with the banks. Our first step will be closing on a low interest 30-year mortgage of our four residential properties. This will allow us to make regular payments covered by the rental income. Most of the paperwork is complete and we expect to close in the near future. After the mortgage is complete the remaining debt will be transferred to a new 10-year loan. As circumstances permit we'll have the ability to repay these loans early, but in the meantime we'll be making steady progress on payments and lock-in favorable interest rates.

Blessings to you all!

Eric W. Witschi, President



Communicating with Church Leadership

The Advisory Committee meets on a regular basis and serves to advise the Senior Minister. All members of the Advisory Committee are members of the Board of Trustees. Input, ideas, suggestions, and comments are always welcome and may be submitted by e-mail to advisory@dewittchurch.org. Those without access to email may place messages in the church's internal mailboxes or mail to Advisory Committee, DeWitt Community Church, 3600 Erie Boulevard East, DeWitt, NY 13214.

In order to ensure the integrity of church communications, we are not able to consider anonymous letters. The pastoral staff is always open to discussion of issues and concerns in a spirit of Christian community.

From the Senior Minister

With September comes the beginning of our new program year and many opportunities for spiritual and personal growth as we worship and serve together. Below are a few highlights for September that I want to make sure you are aware of.

South Sudan Worship Experience

On the weekend of September 7 & 8 our worship will be led by the South Sudan Mission Team and will give us the opportunity to share in their experience and look to future opportunities to partner with Hope for Ariang.

Homecoming

Homecoming is scheduled for Sunday, September 22. As a part of Homecoming there will be a BBQ Luncheon on the front lawn with activities for kids and an opportunity to learn more about opportunities for involvement during the 2019-2020 program year. During the worship services on

September 21 & 22, I will be sharing some major developments that are in the works that will play out over the next few years. Please be sure to make attending during this weekend a priority.

OUTREACH SERIES / FOCUS on Mental, Physical and Spiritual Health

Each year in the fall we plan a series of messages deliberately targeted towards the community around us. It is an opportunity to invite friends, colleagues and neighbors to join us. This year we are calling the message series “Healthy: Mind - Body - Spirit.”

During the last decade we as a community have experienced a dramatic increase in mental health issues. The suicide rate over the past decade has risen by over 30% in our country, leaving families isolated and devastated. We believe that not only acknowledging the pain of mental illness, but supporting, encouraging and giving hope is a

part of who we are as a congregation of Christ followers.

In addition to this series, we will be providing training during a weekend workshop scheduled for October 18 & 19 to help people walk beside others who are facing mental illness. This workshop will be attended by staff along with Stephen Ministers and anyone with our congregation that has interest. It will be lead by staff from Hutchings Psychiatric center. Information on registration will be coming out shortly.

I am truly excited about this upcoming program year at DeWitt Community Church and what God is doing in us and through us as a congregation.

Rejoicing Always,

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Senior Minister

The first meeting of the Women's Association is September 9 at 9:30 in the library.



If you have an interest in the purpose and activities of the Women's Association, please free welcome to attend this meeting.

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
in Miller Commons

IF: EQUIP WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS: SEPTEMBER 12, 26,
OCTOBER 10, 24, NOVEMBER 7, 21, DECEMBER 12,
IF 9:30-11:00 AM IN MILLER COMMONS

Mondays evenings from 6:30 – 8 PM
September 30 - November 18

Monday
Bible
Study **WOMEN ONLY**
"Faithful, Abundant, True"
by Beth Moore, Priscilla Shirer, and Kay Arthur

RSVP to office@dewittchurch.org before Friday September 6

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Gab & Gather
volunteer
MEETING SEPTEMBER 15
at 10 am

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

Join IF:Equip Women's Daytime Bible Study this fall to "Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All" as we study Advent Conspiracy by Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder as well as studying Mary by Eugene Peterson.

For some of us the Fall is not only the start of school but the start of the holiday season hustle and bustle: making gift lists, securing travel arrangements, planning dinners and parties, and much more. Our calendars and commitments during the holidays suggest we may be too busy preparing for Christmas that we miss out on preparing for Christ's birth. What if this year we covenant with each other to "Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All?" By definition, Advent means to prepare. So, this fall, we will prepare to prepare. We'll study scripture from the gospels and encourage each other in actionable practices to make room for Christ in the coming Advent season.

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 13, 6-10 PM
IN MILLER COMMONS
IF: GATHERING

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!



CHILDREN'S & YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINS 9/8 AT 10AM IN MILLER COMMONS

CONFIRMATION
MEETING FOR TEENS & PARENTS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 10 AM
CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 15 AT 10 AM

CONTACT CRAIG MABBETT AT CMABBETT88@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 315.436.0429

Volunteer
saturday september 14
SAMARITAN CENTER

September 27th
G-RATED MOVIE AT 5:30
PG-MOVIE AT 7PM
MOVIE Night
OUTSIDE IN THE CHURCH QUAD
SNACKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BLANKETS, CHAIRS, ETC.

SEPTEMBER 14 6-7:50 PM
5th - 8th GRADE YOUTH
WATER WARS
Please bring your swimsuit and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
RSVP to MCHIRELLO@DEWITTCURCH.ORG by September 11th.

HOMECOMING
— SUNDAY 9/22 AT NOON —
FELLOWSHIP. FOOD. FUN.

September 29th 1-3PM
at Deak & Skiff
APPLE PICKING
All Are Welcome
RSVP to office@dewittchurch.org
or 315-445-0331

RSVP TO OFFICE@DEWITTCHURCH.ORG

MEMBERSHIP

← GATHERING →

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
12:15 PM IN MILLER COMMONS

SEPTEMBER 22

Pie Sale

DO GOOD. FEEL GOOD.

BUY PIES!

Homemade pies to be made by members of the Women's Association. Please place your order by September 18 using this form:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How Many Pies?

Large Apple: _____ Large Pumpkin: _____ \$15 each

Mini Apple: _____ Mini Pumpkin: _____ \$8 each

Large Mountain Berry: _____ \$20 each

Please send payment with your order. Checks should be payable to DCC Women's Association. Pies will be available for pick up at Homecoming on Sunday, September 22nd. If you have questions or would like to help bake pies please call Judi Wilson at 315

Easy as Pie

Help Wanted for 6th Annual Women's Association Homecoming Pie Sale!

This year monies raised will be given to the chancel organ fund.

We're looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- order-takers
- shoppers
- supply donors
- apple pickers
- baking teams
- distribution team

The time is now. Order your pies using the form below, sign up to donate or shop for supplies, help with baking on 9/20 and 21 or bake a pie at home to donate!

Contact Judi Wilson at 315-345-6442 or judilee53@hotmail.com (put pies in the subject line)



Saving lives never looked so good.
Come to donate blood or platelets during the month of September and receive a FREE haircut coupon from Sport Clips.*

Blood Drive

Dewitt Community Church

Fellowship Hall
3600 Erie Blvd. East - Syracuse

Saturday, September 7, 2019
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the DeWitt Rotary

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit redcrossblood.org or use app (sponsor code DEWITTCC) to schedule appointment.

Appointments encouraged, walk-ins welcome.

Ask about Power Reds if type O-, A-, B-, O+.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Get Involved!

There are so many ways to get involved with the worship life here at DeWitt Community Church. As we prepare to start the program year give some thought to becoming a part of one of the many groups that helps to enrich the worship experience here at the church.

- **Chancel Choir**

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday nights at 7pm starting in September and helps to lead worship at the 11am Sunday service as well as a number of other times during the year. This group is made up of volunteers as well as four section leaders. There are NO requirements for joining the choir. You do not have to be able to read music. You do not have to be able to come to every rehearsal and every service, there is no attendance policy. What we are looking for are people that enjoy singing and want to be a part of enriching the music at the 11am service.

- **Bell Choir**

The Bell Choir rehearses on Thursday nights at 6pm starting in September and plays about eight times a year at the 11am worship service. Reading music is helpful in this group but it primarily relies on an understanding of rhythm. All of the special “ringy things” that we do are things that we can teach you. Most importantly, you have to have a sense of humor.

- **Worship Team**

We are hoping to enrich the worship at the 5:30 and 9am services with additional musicians - both vocalists and instrumentalists. This group would meet at mutually agreed upon times to rehearse music and create a schedule that meets the needs of those involved. Any musician at any level is welcome.

- **Worship Assistants**

Worship assistants generally serve about once a month at one of our three services. They help to lead the congregation through the service and lead the time of prayer. The schedule is created around your availability and tailored to meet your needs.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of these ministries or have questions please ask. You can email me at: asearor@dewittchurch.org or Nic MacLane at nmaclane@dewittchurch.org or come talk to us before or after a service.

Mission of the Month: HOPE for Ariang

We believe in the transformative power of literacy education to enable people to reach their full human potential and human development.

HOPE is primarily involved in improving the access to and quality of education in Ariang. To achieve these, HOPE provides additional social services such as clean water, health care, and economic opportunities, which if left unattended, pose a barrier to villagers' educations. Finally, HOPE raises awareness in the US and abroad about the current situation in South Sudan and the need for a better education system in South Sudan.

HOPE serves the people of Ariang village and neighboring rural communities. The nation has been

destroyed by twenty-two years of civil war with the North, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 2.5 million people and the displacement of more than six million. In addition, what little infrastructure existed prior to the conflict has since been decimated. The organization places special attention on overcoming the economic and societal barriers that affect women and girls, and recognizes the importance of providing education to reduce the gender gap. HOPE seeks to create a sustainable model in Ariang that can be replicated to empower people in other regions of the country.

With your generous support we can help educate a new generation of children, giving them the opportunity to live a life free from the ravages of

war and poverty in Sudan. Whether you provide a one-time gift, commit to a monthly donation, or contribute your time to educate others about HOPE for Ariang's mission, we thank you. Visit hopeforariang.org/donate/ to learn more.



HOPE
FOR ARIANG

**Roar! VBS was a success!
Thank you! It takes a village...**

Roar! Station Leaders

Registration Station – Alyssa Eighmey
 Sing & Play Roar & Safari Celebration - Anne Stock
 Sing & Play Sound – Evan Perkins
 Imagination Station - Craig & Nataline Mabbett
 KidVid Cinema – Pastor Cindy, Mary Chirello, Maeve
 Dougherty, Gloria Trode, Robert Cavalluzzi
 Hungry Herd Cafe - Alishia Mahar
 Stampede Sports - Kai Blair
 Wild Bible Adventures - Danielle Mercado
 Spotlight VBS - Peter Hawley

Crew Leaders and Assistants

Robert Cavalluzzi
 Charlene James
 Bella Menendez
 Jessica Weaver
 Mona Farah
 Kellan Johnson
 Saphira Pratt
 Julie Weaver
 Maya Wunderlich

Life is wild * God is good

Little Paws! Pre-School

Director & Bible Adventures - Barbara Turner
 Craft & Play - Anna Ferrick
 Exploration Station – Caleigh Menendez
 Games - Ally Street
 Crew Leaders - Jacek & Jarek Polak
 Michaela Fay

Decorations, Set Up & Break Down

Crew & Station Leaders
 Amelia Witschi, Eric Witschi & Erica Johnson

Donations

Shari Busky
 Carol Deecher
 Ellen Dupree
 Petie Rein

Hospitality

Mary Chirello
 Liam McDonough
 Mick Thorpe

Fearless Leader - Gloria Trode

Coming this Fall

Music for young children during 9AM worship
 Music for young children during the 10AM music hour
 Seeking Youth interested ringing bells and/or singing in
 small ensembles

