

DeWitt Community Church

A Christian Church for all People

NEWSLETTER December

Mission of the Month - In My Father's Kitchen

In My Father's Kitchen, Inc. (IMFK) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. It was founded by John and Leigh-Ann Tumino, and is a faith-based organization offering non-denominational and non-discriminatory assistance to homeless people through direct street outreach. As John and Leigh-Ann build relationships with chronically homeless individuals, they identify and meet the unique needs of homeless people not yet ready to leave the streets, and who refuse to stay in emergency shelters. As a result, IMFK provides food and basic necessities to homeless individuals where they live on the streets, on a consistent and compassionate basis, until the homeless individual is comfortable accepting help and working with community agencies to secure housing. IMFK has one full-time employee, one full-time volunteer, 30-35 core volunteers, and as many as 60 volunteers for community events.



Congolese churches and community organizations, IMFK gathers and distributes clothing in four major neighborhood giveaways each year, as well as responding to drop-in requests for food and materials on a daily basis.

UNDER THE BRIDGE STREET OUTREACH

IMFK's 'Under the Bridge' Street Outreach assists chronically homeless individuals who live on the streets of Syracuse and have a disability that prevents them from adequately caring for themselves. These individual's disabilities include substance abuse, mental illness, chronic illness and/or physical disabilities that make them vulnerable to crime, disease, hunger and hopelessness.



The biggest challenge in working with this population is their fearfulness, which is based on a lack of trust of others. Often this is compounded by repeated attempts and failures to improve their health and living situations. IMFK's street outreach overcomes these barriers by consistently and compassionately meeting homeless people where they live on the streets and building relationships with them individually.

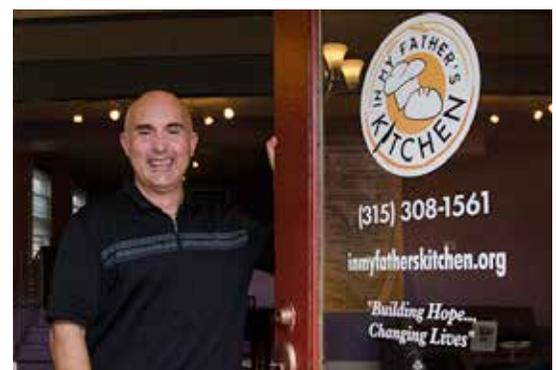
IMFK builds relationships by twice-weekly bringing food and emergency supplies to people where they live, under the city's bridges and overpasses. IMFK staff members build trust that translates into the ability to provide individuals with transportation to, and support with, homeless assistance programs and/or mainstream social services and housing programs. IMFK continues to support these vulnerable people helping them remain in housing.

IMFK staff and volunteers assist homeless individuals on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week in addition to their twice weekly deliveries of meals and necessities to over a dozen locations where homeless individuals congregate on the city streets and under bridges. IMFK maintains regular office hours at their 501 Hawley Ave. facility to accept donations, prepare meals and store clothing and supplies for distribution to those in need.

REACHING THE WORLD IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

The world has come to Syracuse. There are over 12 nations represented on Syracuse's north side. Many refugee families have fled their homelands in hopes of finding refuge from the horrors of war and violence in their lands. IMFK is there to assist these families in settling in and adjusting to life in the United States.

Working with the Nepalese, Burmese and



*Connecting people with Christ through community
Helping people grow in faith
Serving God by using our gifts to serve others*

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DECEMBER

WEEKLY IN DECEMBER

Please check the Weekly Announcements for any changes to the Church schedule.

SUNDAY

9:00 AM

Chapel Service (Miller Commons)

10:00 AM

Advent Study (Room 6)
Adult Bible Study (Rm 42)

11:00 AM

Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Nursery – Ages 0-3 (Rm 45)
Children's Sunday School (Rooms 46-48)
Youth Worship (Room 7)
Confirmation Class (Rm 8)

MONDAY

9:00 AM

Town of DeWitt Senior Program (Gym, Rooms 6, 7, 8, 10)

TUESDAY

1:30 PM

Program Staff Meeting (Library)

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM

Bible Study (Rm 42/Parlor)

9:30 AM

Stay & Play (Gym)

THURSDAY

6:00 PM

Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

7:15 PM

Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

FRIDAY

9:00 AM

Bulletin Inserts (Library)

SATURDAY

5:30 PM

Chapel Service (Miller Commons)

Saturday, December 3

• 10 AM
Drop and Shop Child Care (Gym)

• 2:00 PM
Youth Christmas Cookie Decorating (Gym)

• 5:30 PM
Christmas Hymn Sing (Miller Commons)

Sunday, December 4

• 9 AM
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Room 9)

• 12:30 PM
Women's Association Free Ladies Luncheon

• 7:00 PM
Service of Lessons & Carols (Immaculate Conception Church Fayetteville)

Wednesday, December 7

• 7 PM
Christian Caring Committee Meeting (Library)

Saturday, December 10

• 8 AM
Women's Association Pie Baking (Big Kitchen)

• 10 AM
Artisans Against Hunger Craft Show (Gym)

• 3 PM
Syracuse Chorale Concert (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 11

• 9 AM
Women's Association Bake and Basket Bazaar (Gym)

• 12:30 PM
DCC @ The Samaritan Center

Tuesday, December 13

Church Office Closes At Noon
• 2 PM
History Committee Meeting

Saturday, December 17

• 10:00 AM
Children's Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

• 12:15 PM
Children's Christmas Pageant & Reception

Wednesday December 21

• 6:30 PM
Property Committee Meeting (Library)

Saturday, December 24

• 4:30 PM
Family Christmas Eve Service

• 7 PM, 9 PM, 11PM
Evening Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 25

• 11:00 AM
Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 26

Office Closed

COMING SOON

Sunday, January 1

• 11:00 AM
New Year's Day Service

Monday, January 2

Office Closed

Wednesday, January 4

• 7 PM
Christian Caring Committee Meeting (Library)

Friday, January 6

• 7 PM
Youth Lock-In (DCC)

Tuesday, January 10

• 9:00 AM & 3:30 PM
Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor)

• 12 PM
All Staff Meeting (Parlor)

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 17

• 5:30 PM
Finance Committee Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, January 18

• 6:30 PM
Property Committee Meeting (Library)

Tuesday, January 24

• 9:00 AM & 3:30 PM
Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor)

Thursday, January 26

• 10:00 AM
Cut Ups (Room 6)

Christmas Day Service

There will only be one Service on Sunday, December 25. The service will be at 11:00 AM in Miller Commons.

New Year's Weekend Service

There will not be a Saturday Night Chapel on Saturday, December 31 or a Sunday Morning Chapel on Sunday, January 1. There will only be one service on New Year's Weekend and that will be on Sunday, January 1 at 11:00 AM in Miller Commons.

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



I remember hearing the story of a man who was very frugal with his words. His wife often wondered if her husband really loved her, because he never said those words his wife longed to hear; "I love you." So one day she asked him about it and this was his response; "I told you that I love you on our wedding day, If that changes I will let you know."

During the Advent Season, many pastors feel the pressure to put some creative "spin" on the Christmas Story...something that their parishioners have never heard or thought of before. After racking my brain year after year to come up with some novel way to tell the old, old story, I've come up with this; just tell the story.

The Advent Season is a story of God's love for us. God loved us

so much that he came to us in the form of human flesh. It's not a new story, but a story that we needed to be reminded of again and again. This year's Advent Series is entitled "All I Want for Christmas," and while there may be many things on our Christmas lists that we want, the most valuable gift we can receive is not something that can be put under a tree, but the gift of love that comes in the person of the Christ Child laid in the manger.

I hope you will join with me in all of the services and activities that help us to celebrate this season of God's Love.

Rejoicing Always!

Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Senior Minister



Christmas Eve Services

4:30 PM
Family Service

7, 9, & 11 PM
Traditional
Candlelight
Services



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.

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 and respect.

NEWS & NOTES

Women's Annual Bake Sale and Basket Bazaar

Sunday, December 11, 12 PM - Fellowship Hall

Dec 11 will be the Women's Annual Bake Sale and Basket Bazaar held in the Fellowship Hall. Women's Association ladies will be asking for bake sale donations in the foyer on Dec 4. Peek at the baskets to be raffled and buy your raffle tickets on Dec 3-4. On Dec 11, stop and have a bowl of chili served by DCC Youth while waiting to see if you won a basket. Younger children can stop at the youth activity center and make a Christmas ornament. A fun day for the whole family.

Mature Seekers Upcoming Gatherings

Wednesday, December 21, 11:30am-1pm, Miller Commons

Mature Seekers (a group of 60+ folks) are invited to come enjoy lunch, good conversation and some lovely Christmas music by the DCC section leader quartet as well as some carol singing to get us all in the Christmas spirit. Please let Kay Paulsen or the office know, if you plan to attend so we know how much lunch to prepare.

Wednesday, January 18, 11:30am-1:30pm, Miller Commons

Mature Seekers (a group of 60+ folks) are invited to come enjoy lunch, good conversation and a power point presentation by author, Mel Rubenstein, based on his book titled, "The Peacetime Draft During the Cold War", in which Mel tells the stories of 13 Syracuse area men, including our Rev. Ted Taylor, concerning their service to our country during the dangerous period between the Korean and Vietnam wars. You won't want to miss this. Ted Taylor plans to be there as our resident celebrity from the book. Come join us and bring a friend. Please let Kay Paulsen or the office know, if you plan to attend so we know how much lunch to prepare.

Samaritan Center News

We now have a new team in place that will coordinate the Serve Teams that carry out our involvement in feeding the hungry in downtown Syracuse. The new team includes Amy Dupell, Craig Mabbett and James Fayle.

We are scheduled to serve the following dates:

2016

Sunday, December 11

2017 Dates

Sunday, February 19 (President's Day Weekend)

Friday, April 14 (Good Friday)

Sunday, June 18 (Father's Day)

Sunday, August 6

Sunday, October 8 (Columbus Day Weekend)

Sunday December 3

We want to encourage groups serving together...staff, choir, youth, adult groups & also encourage families to serve together.



Free Turkey Luncheon for Ladies

December 4, 12:30PM - Miller Commons

The Women's Association will be hosting a free turkey luncheon for ladies on Dec 4. All women of the church are invited. Admission is knitted hats, mittens, scarves, or socks for the Samaritan Center.



December Middle Adult Gathering

Tuesday, December 6, 6 PM - Sommers Residence

After much delay, we are finally going to have a get together of the Middle Adult Group. This group is intended for 40, 50 & 60 somethings. Please RSVP to msommers@dewittchurch.org. We hope you can join us. -Mark & Kathlyne Sommers



Christmas Carol Sing

On Saturday, December 3, in place of the 5:30 Chapel Service we will be having a Christmas Carol Sing with special Christmas music and refreshments afterwards.



Service of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 4 at 7:00 pm at Immaculate Conception Church in Fayetteville we will be gathering with other Christians in the community for the annual service of Lessons and Carols.

Decorated For Christmas

The Sundays of December

Plan a trip to the Parlor. Enjoy the beauty of our Christmas Tree and the magnificent needlework.



YOUTH/CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry Announcements

Sheana Martin Zombek | Kristen Seamans

szombek@dewittchurch.org | kseamans@dewittchurch.org

SUNDAY 9:00 AM Early Service: Nursery in Room 45

SUNDAY 10:00 AM Education Hour:

Nursery in Room 45 for children of parents taking a class.

Play Hour in Room 44 for Pre-K- 1st grade of parents taking a class.

SUNDAY 11:00 AM - Children's Wing, Upstairs

Family In Worship Sundays - 12/25 (no nursery)



Chili Lunch

Calling ALL YOUTH! We'll be holding a chili lunch on Sunday December 11 in the gym. All proceeds will benefit our youth and that means the more money we raise, the more money we'll have to fix up the youth wing, have awesome food and activities and make church a place where you WANT to hang out! We need your help! If you'd like to make crock pot of chili and/or help serve and prep we want YOU! Call or e-mail Wendy Van Slyke, wendyvanslyke@gmail.com or Mary Chirello 315.247.0060/mchirello@dewittchurch.org.



Lock In

January 6 and 7, 7 PM - 7 AM

We're having a lock-in!!! Friday night at 7PM through Saturday morning at 7AM we'll be having one of the best parties of the year. It's so big that we're combining two churches. Join DCC and Holy Cross Church as we play games, eat lots of food and stay up super late on January 6 and 7. Open to 8th-12th graders. Invite your friends! RSVP to Mary NO LATER than December 19th! \$10 per person.

Youth Worship

Sundays at 11:00 AM in Room 7

Come and celebrate the Lord with song, prayer and fellowship! E-mail Mary Chirello for details. mchirello@dewittchurch.org.

Youth Group

Youth group and most youth events will be held on Wednesday nights this year. Feel free to e-mail Mary Chirello for more details. mchirello@dewittchurch.org.

Soul Food Sunday

December 4

We're excited to have a combined Sunday morning worship with Children's and Youth Ministry. The lesson will be "A Child Called Immanuel."

Christmas Cookie Decorating and Pizza

Saturday December 3, 2 - 3:30 PM

Following Drop and Shop in the gym. Come frost cookies, eat some pizza and jump in the bounce house! Open to all 6th-12th graders.

Drop and Shop

Saturday, December 3, 10 AM - 2 PM.

Get away for a few hours to finish up your holiday shopping! Bring the kids to DCC and let them have fun while you brave the crowded Malls and Shopping Centers! Cost: \$5 for 1 child or \$10 per family! Email childrensministry@dewittchurch.org to sign up!

Instagram

Follow us on Instagram to get more updates and photos!

[dcc_youthmin](#)



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 for yarn and patterns.

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 Kay Paulsen, paulsenk@dewittchurch.org.

Help Us Help You

If you live alone and your family is scattered or lives far away, consider giving Kay Paulsen contact information for someone in your family or a close friend we can contact if you are ever in an emergency situation and unable to speak for yourself. You may give her that information by contacting the church office, sending her a note at the church, or by e-mail at: paulsenk@dewittchurch.org.

Compassion Cooks Cookie Night

Friday, December 2, 6-7:30pm, in room 10, Compassion Cooks will be packaging Christmas goodie containers to be distributed to some of our members in nursing homes, homebound or those who live alone and whose families live far away. If you know of someone in that category, please let the office know so we can make sure they receive a container of Christmas goodies. It's a fun evening filled with sweet things. All participants are asked to bring 3-4 dozen homemade cookies or other Christmas goodies. Tasting is the most popular part of the evening. If you wish to participate, let Kay Paulsen know you are coming and what you will be bringing, paulsenk@dewittchurch.org.

Christmas, the Season of Joy

As the Christmas holiday approaches, give a little encouragement to those on the weekly Prayer & Care list by taking time to send cards and notes. It means so much!

Remember DCC's Active Military

Send encouragement to Riley-Joseph McMahan-Army (son of Hank & Jenn Chapman): Riley has been deployed to Afghanistan. PFC McMahan, HHC 3-187 IN, TB DWYER, APO, AE 09354



Thank you to DCC's Stephen Ministers

These lay ministers walk beside individuals in the congregations going through a time of transition, difficulty or crisis. They meet with their care receiver on a one to one basis weekly until the need has passed. Please take time to thank them for their yearlong gift of caring.

DCC Stephen Ministers (**Stephen Leader,* Peer Supervision Facilitator)

Paul Bakke	Dot Hall	Sue Bakke	David Hanselman
Bill Bigelow*	John Heslop	Nancy Bond **	Kay Paulsen **
Kim Buchanan	Petie Rein	Ron Buchannan*	Patricia Scott
Elizabeth Chapman	Jane Hahn	Judi Wilson **	Mattie Van Glynn

A NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION

Hello Friends. It is truly the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!!

First, on behalf of your Board of Trustees I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and hope that you have the most meaningful Christmas holiday season ever. This year I further invite you to seriously consider joining us at DCC for worship services each week throughout Advent. We sincerely believe that you will find spiritual fulfillment here and be happy that you did. This time of year can become so overwhelming with activities, shopping, preparations and distractions that we often miss the true meaning of the Christmas season; the anticipation of the birth of the Christ child. We invite you to let the worship and atmosphere of our wonderful church help to calm your soul and focus your thoughts during this sometimes crazy time. DCC offers so much during the Christmas holidays; incredible music to lift the soul, fellowship amongst our church "family", beautiful decorations throughout the building, our young children's joy & anticipation and an opportunity to unwind, focus and thoroughly experience the joy of the season. Please consider committing to this additional worship during this month and join us to connect to what is truly important. And if there is anything that we can do to make your experience more meaningful please do not hesitate to let us know. Once again Merry Christmas to all and *come let us adore him!!*

Rick Hall

President- DCC Board of Trustees

'TIS THE SEASON TO CONNECT



It's the most wonderful time of the year and it's the busiest time of the year! Between Thanksgiving and Christmas our lives can get pretty busy with the holiday parties, Christmas shopping, and preparation for friend and family gatherings. In the midst of this season, many Christians think that Christmas starts in December - but it doesn't! We have a season before Christmas called Advent.

Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us to prepare for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas. The word "advent" is derived from the Latin word, *adventus* meaning "coming" or "arrival". For hundreds of years Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Christ. By lighting candles and recounting the Christmas story during worship, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth and become more excited about Jesus' coming in the past, in the future, and in our own lives.

Advent helps us prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth by raising our sense of expectation and wonder. As we enter the season of Advent, I encourage you to connect! Connect with others and experience this season of Advent with anticipation and celebration:

Young Adults: Led by Pastor Alan Rudnick. This group consists of people in their 20's, 30's, and early 40's and meets monthly. December date is to be announced.

Middle Adults: Led by Pastor Mark Sommers. This group consists of people in their mid-40's, 50's, and 60's. The next group gathering is Tuesday, December 6, 6 PM at the Sommers' Residence.

Senior Adults: Led by Kay Paulsen. This group consists of people in their late 60's, 70's, and older. Their next group gathering is Wednesday, December 21, 11:30am-1pm in Miller Commons.

Sunday Morning Groups: During December, there are two Bible studies offered. First is a studying on the book of Isaiah led by Betsy Synder and meets in room 42, starting at 10:00 AM. Second, Pastor Alan is leading a study of the Nativity of Jesus that studies the characters of Mary, Joseph, The Shepherds, and Wise Men. Pastor Alan's study meets in room 6 near the gym at 10:00 AM.

Serve Groups: Our compassion cooks meets regularly to cook meals for those in our church experiencing difficulty or loss. We regularly send groups to the Samaritan Center in Syracuse to serve meals to those in need. Our next trip is December 11. Our Ushers and Greeters regularly assist and welcome worshipers to our church services. We regularly seek volunteers to minister and work with our children and youth.

If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact the church office: 315-445-0331 or office@dewittchurch.org.

It's my prayer that you will set aside the busyness of the holiday season and connect or serve with our church community. May this season of Advent reveal the hope of anticipation, and the season of Christmas bring all the joy and celebration that God has to offer.

Love and Grace,

Alan Rudnick

Rev. Alan Rudnick





DeWitt
Community Church
A Christian Church for all People

3600 Erie Boulevard East | DeWitt, New York 13214
315.445.0331 | office@dewittchurch.org
www.dewittchurch.org

December Worship

Mission of the Month - In My Father's Kitchen

All I Want for Christmas:

Seeing Things Differently — *Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers*

Saturday, December 3 5:30 PM Carol Sing/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 4 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Service of Lessons & Carols
At Immaculate Conception - Fayetteville

Mission of The Month - All Services

All I Want for Christmas:

A Strong Foundation — *Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers*

Saturday, December 10 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 11 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

All I Want for Christmas:

A New Way of Living — *Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers*

Saturday, December 17 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 18 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary
12:15 PM Children's Pageant/Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services — *Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers*

Saturday, December 24 4:30 PM Family Service/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Candellight Service/Sanctuary
9:00 PM Candellight Service/Sanctuary
11:00 PM Candellight Service/Sanctuary

Christmas Morning Service — *Rev. William A. Carlsen*

Sunday, December 25 11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

New Year's Day Morning Service — *Rev. William A. Carlsen*

Sunday, January 1 11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

DeWitt Community Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Mark Sommers *Senior Minister*
Rev. Alan Rudnick *Executive Associate Minister*
Rev. William Carlsen *Adjunct Associate Minister*
Rev. Edwin "Ted" Taylor *Senior Minister Emeritus*
Dr. Landrum "Hap" Wooten *Associate Minister Emeritus*
Dr. Kay Paulsen *Director of Congregational Care*
Gloria Trode *Director of Children's Music*
Abel Searor *Director of Worship Arts Principal Organist*
Nic MacLane *Director of Family Worship*
Mary Chirello *Youth Director & Hospitality Coordinator*
Kristen Seamans *Interim Children's Ministry Director*
Sheana Martin Zombek *Children's Ministry Coordinator*
Peter Hawley *Communication Coordinator*
Jane Hahn *Bookkeeper*
Ellen Butler *Office Assistant*
Jill Reid *Office Manager*
Mick Thorpe *Director of Building Services*
Reinaldo Mercado *Building Staff*
Liam McDonough *Building Staff*

Newsletter Article Submissions

Newsletter article submissions can be made by email to newsletter@dewittchurch.org. Please plan ahead as the newsletter deadline is the 15th of each month. Thank you.



Come Home for the Holidays

www.dewittchurch.org

DeWitt
Community Church