



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION: GIFTS FROM GOD: GIFTS TO GOD

"All that we are and all that we have belongs to God."

You've likely heard a sermon or two on this. But what does it really mean? The Stewardship Team has been reflecting on this as we've been planning this year. We'd like to share our thoughts so far.

First, God created us for a specific purpose. We are each uniquely gifted. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us "each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." Let's look at a few places where DCC has served others with our gifts and stewardship recently:

Connecting with our community:



- Holding a candle light vigil for the community after a tragic shooting at Chili's Restaurant directly across from our church.
- Hosting a large funeral for a recent high school graduate who tragically died and whose family was not connected to a church family.

Serving others:

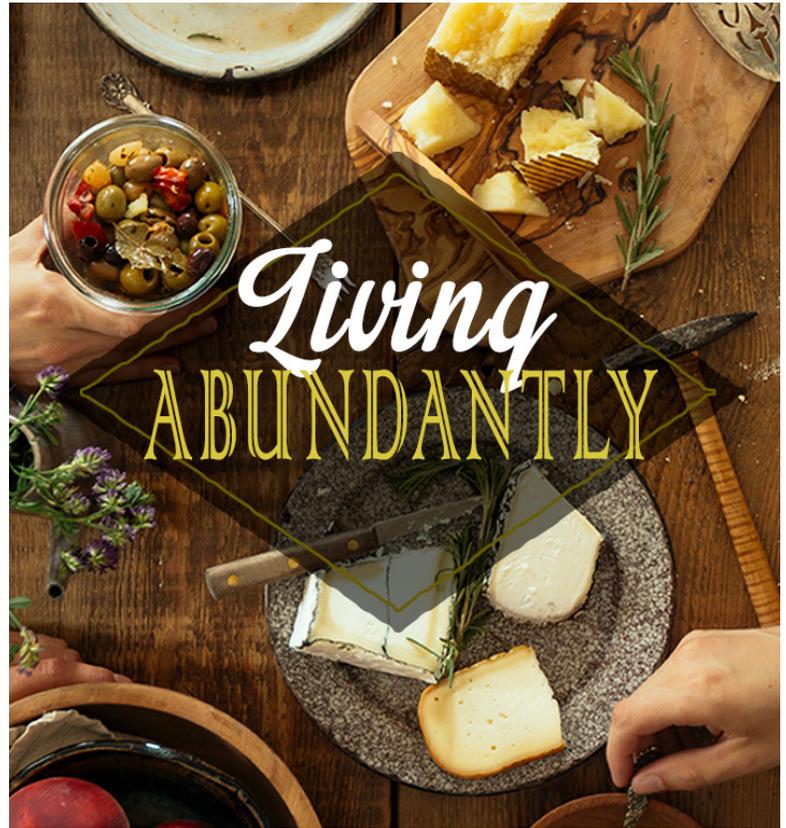


- Serving meals to the hungry at the Samaritan Center.
- Packing and sending 34 boxes of goodies to college students and military personnel.

Growing our faith:



- Holding spiritual retreats for our women's association and our Stephen Ministers.
- Starting a second disciple Bible study group.
- Hosting 2 Vacation Bible Schools in 2018.



God gifted people in our congregation and on our staff with skills to respond to these needs, organize appropriate resources, and the energy to make them happen. Our financial gifts make it possible for us to even consider them.

As we enter our stewardship season, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider how you can use the gifts God has given you to serve others through serving with Dewitt Community Church.

Kim Buchanan, Rachel Roney, Rick Hall, Pastor Alan Rudnick & Dot Hall

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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.



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

WEEKLY IN NOVEMBER

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

SUNDAY

9:00 AM

Chapel Service
(Miller Commons)

10:00 AM

Adult Bible Study (Room 42)
Alan's Bible Study
(Miller Commons)
Confirmation Class (Room 8)

11:00 AM

Youth Worship (Room 7)
Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Nursery – Ages 0-3 (Rm 45)
Children's Sunday School
(Miller Commons)

MONDAY

5:30 PM

Disciple Bible Study (Parlor)

6:30 PM

Women's Bible Study
(Miller Commons)

TUESDAY

1:30 PM

Program Staff Meeting (Library)

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM

Bible Study (Rm 42/Parlor)

10:45 AM

Stay & Play (Gym/Offsite)

THURSDAY

12:00 PM

Bulletin Inserts (Library)

6:00 PM

Alcoholics Anonymous (Room 6)
Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

7:00 PM

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Room)

FRIDAY

NO SCHEDULED EVENTS

SATURDAY

8:30 AM

Food Addicts Anonymous (Rm 7)

5:30 PM

Chapel Service (Miller Commons)

COMING SOON

Sunday, November 4

• 12:00 PM
Women's Fellowship Meeting
(Miller Commons)

Tuesday, November 6

• All Day
Election Day Voting
(Miller Commons)
• 2:30 PM
Carrabba's Pasta Dinner (Gym)

Thursday, November 8

• 9:00 AM
Ruth Circle of Friends meeting
(Room 42)

Saturday, November 10

• 8:30 AM
Red Cross Blood Drive (Gym)

Sunday, November 11

VETERANS DAY
• 12:00 PM
Starting Point (Library)
• 12:30 PM
DCC at The Samaritan Center
(Off site)

Tuesday, November 13

• 9:00 AM & 3:30 PM
Stephen Ministry Peer
Supervision (Parlor)
• 9:30 AM
IF:EQUIP (Miller Commons)
• 12:00 PM
All Staff Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, November 14

• 7:00 PM
Christian Caring Committee
Meeting (Library)

Thursday, November 15

• 7:00 PM
Board of Trustees (Room 6)

Sunday, November 18

• 12:00 PM
Thanksgiving Congregational
Lunch (Gym)
• 5:00 PM
Sweet Hour of Sound
(Sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 21

• 6:30 PM
Property Management
Committee (Library)

Thursday, November 22

Thanksgiving (Office Closed)

Friday, November 23

(Office Closed)

Tuesday, November 27

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

Sunday, December 16

• 12:30 PM
Children's Ministry Christmas
Pageant (Gym)



New Women's Fellowship Needs A Name

The Women's Fellowship group is off to a great start! About 25 women attended on October 7.

Refreshments were plentiful and so was conversation and laughter. This group is a work-in-progress so please note: Our new start time is Noon-ish (after late service finishes) and we'll be there till 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is on November 4, so all DCC ladies are encouraged to come by for as little or as long as they can. Light lunch and dessert options will be available. Come with a suggestion for a new name for our group; perhaps something a bit more catchy and memorable than "Women's Fellowship"? Childcare can be arranged with one week's notice. If you have questions or wish to volunteer on an occasional basis, please contact Petie Rein petie7471@yahoo.com, or 315-637-0510. Thanks, and come on by!



FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



During my time in seminary I was truly fortunate to serve as an intern at Village Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas where Dr. Robert Meneilly was the Senior Minister. Dr. Meneilly was the founding pastor of what had become the largest Presbyterian Church in the country. I also had the privilege of being one of his Homiletics (Preaching) students as he taught at our seminary on an adjunct basis. Dr. Robert Meneilly was simply one of the

best preachers I have ever known, but he was very different than what I first expected when I walked in the door.

The congregation was without a doubt the most prominent protestant congregation in the Kansas City area with many well known civic leaders, local celebrities and sports stars counted among its members. So I expected his sermons to be deep and scholarly and that he would cater to the wealthy crowd that lived in that area. But to my surprise his sermons were very simple but challenging and filled with illustrations that anyone coming in off the street could easily understand.

When we talked about how he approached preaching, he would say; “don’t preach to your seminary professors, preach to the people who are in your pews ...most of our folks are successful in their own professions, but don’t assume that they have that level of sophistication when it comes to Scripture and Theology... preach like Jesus, who used common every day illustrations that his hearers could quickly understand...no one should ever leave without having something they can take with them and apply their life this week.”

The first word in our mission statement at DeWitt Community Church is CONNECT; “Connecting people to Christ through the power of community.” So one question I ask, especially when it comes to worship and preaching is this; “are we connecting with

people who walk through our doors, both regular attenders and newcomers?” One question I always think about is “how effective are we in connecting with people who live within a 20 minute commute of the church.” Another question I ask is “how effective will we be in connecting with the unchurched, people who have little if any religious knowledge or background which is now a majority of the population.

As a congregation, we now offer quite a few opportunities for people to grow deeper in their faith; from small groups that provide a deeper levels of study and explanation of Scripture, to serve teams where people grow through “hands on” service.

What I hope you will see is that there is this kind of strategic triad that helps us live out our mission of Connecting, Growing, and Serving. In worship we want to continue to be very deliberate in exploring ways we can better connect with the community around us. Worship is often the first connection people have with a congregation, so we need to continually strive to be “user friendly” and seek to connect with the people of our community who are spiritually hungry. We need to recognize that many people outside our doors have trouble understanding the religious language that is often used in churches and that it is more of a barrier rather than a bridge.

It is a true joy to see our congregation live into and continually expand on living out our mission and understand the we are truly a community church for the community of Syracuse and for all of Central New York. Rock On!

Rejoicing Always!

Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Senior Minister

A NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION



*“The lunatic is in the hall. the lunatics are in my hall.
The paper holds their folded faces to the floor
And every day the paper boy brings more.”*

Rodger Waters; Pink Floyd

I write this message in the waning days of another political campaign season. The weeks have been filled with news stories, political ads, debates, promises and accusations. Recent hateful events involving mail bombs and a synagogue shooting add an exclamation point to all the overheated strife. How should we respond to this state of affairs?

This past month Rev. Alan Rudnick led a Bible study series on religion and politics, exploring how Christians can be a people of faith and seek the common good of society when selecting public officials. A recent essay by Timothy Keller, founder of Redeemer

Presbyterian Church in New York, points out that historical Christian positions on social issues don’t fall neatly into our contemporary two-party system. He writes, “Christians should be involved politically as a way of loving our neighbors, whether they believe as we do or not.”

Despite the chaos we should not retreat from the world, but instead engage and participate with our faith as a guide. It’s worth remembering that at a time of great violence and division in our past President Lincoln spoke of healing, “with malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right...” I would encourage us all to listen for understanding, speak out against injustice, and work with our neighbors for a common good.

Blessings to you all!

-Eric W. Witschi, President

NEWS & NOTES

Sunday,
November 11



Samaritan Center

Sign up online at
dewittchurch.org/Samaritan

STARTING POINT
Join us for a small presentation and conversation. See you there!
at DeWitt Community Church
Nov. 11 @ Noon in the Library

The JD-FM Pantry Needs 100 Boxes of Stuffing!!!
Food Pantry Donations
Please bring your donations by Tuesday, November 13

Women's Daytime Bible Study
IF: EQUIP
Second and Fourth Tuesdays through December 11
Miller Commons, 9:30 - 11:00 AM

REGISTER NOW AT DEWITTCHURCH.ORG/IF

MEALS ON WHEELS
of Eastern Onondaga County

PASTA DINNER
DEWITT COMMUNITY CHURCH
ELECTION DAY
★★★★★★

NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018 | 3:00PM - 8:00PM
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
\$11 ADULTS | \$9 SENIORS | \$6 KIDS 8 & UNDER

CATERED BY
CARRABBA'S
ITALIAN GRILL

NEW STUDY
the parables of jesus
Nov. 4, 11, & 19 @ 10 AM
room 10

International Students and Fellowship of Christian Athletes

As we continue to reach out to students at Syracuse University, LeMoyne College and Onondaga Community College we are looking for individuals and families who would like to play a part in helping these students feel at home in the Syracuse area. It may be helping with an event, adopting a student or two, or a willingness to host a dinner during holidays for students unable to travel home. If you are interested, please let us know. **For International Students**, contact Jane Hahn jhahn@dewittchurch.org **For Athletes**, please contact Mark Sommers drmarkes@umich.edu.

FAMILY MINISTRY



Gloria Trode-Director of Children's Music
gtrode@dewittchurch.org

Young Singers, Young Ringers, & Treble Makers on hiatus. Resume regular schedule on January 6, 2019

Music Ministry for young people currently in rehearsal for annual Christmas pageant. Contact Gloria Trode for information.

11/4 9:45-10:45AM

Main Characters-Hannah Rizzo Abner in the gym

10:55-11:15 Full Cast & Sunday School in Miller Commons

11:15-11:55 Full Cast & Sunday School in Room 6

12:00 Full Cast & Sunday School in Miller Commons

Children's Ministry Schedule

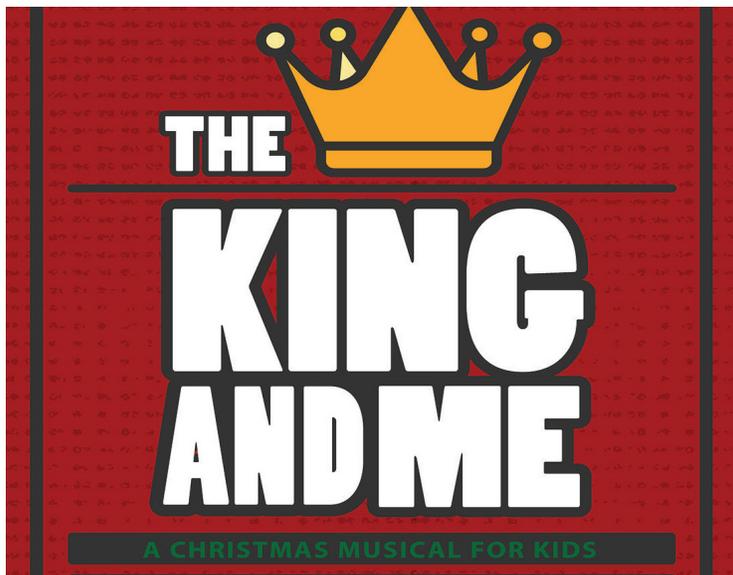
Sunday Morning Music Ministry for Young People

9:00-9:20 AM - Musikgarten - Room 9

All children ages 3 - 5

10:55 AM - Sunday School - Miller Commons

Parents: Please note that drop off and pickup for Sunday School pre-k through 5th grade is in Miller Commons.



Confirmation Retreat

This past October the DCC confirmation class participated in a fall retreat right here at Dewitt Community Church. The students and their mentors participated in learning more about the history of our church and then students were led into a classroom where games and bible study followed. Students made homemade pizzas and ice cream sundaes and also helped to set-up and prepare for our pancake breakfast fund-raiser. A big thank you to all the confirmation students that participated in our Saturday retreat!

Rev. Cindy Mapstone

Family & Congregational Care Minister
cmapstone@dewittchurch.org



Mary Chirello-Youth Ministry Director

Email: mchirello@dewittchurch.org

Call/Text: 315.247.0060

Middle and High School Programs

Youth ministry is involved with our local young life branches, community events, church outings and mission trips. Middle school and high school students connect and bond over faith, friendship and a commitment to pursuing the goodness of Christ through service in our local community. If you would like more information or would like a copy of our events calendar, please contact Mary.

Youth worship is made up of both middle school and high school students and gathers during the 11AM worship time in room 7. All students participate in group games or activities before splitting into two groups. Middle school is in one classroom and high school in another. Every Sunday is an opportunity for teens to get to know one another and dig deeper into their faith through Bible study, actives, crafts and games.



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.

Thank you for your outpouring of fellowship and compassion. Here are some pictures from the Women's Retreat, Stephen Minister's Retreat, Compassion Cooks, and the Pancake Breakfast. God bless you all for sharing your gifts with us.

Red Cross November Blood Drive

This is your opportunity to PAY IT FORWARD by giving blood. Think about cancer or leukemia patients, organ transplant or other surgery patients you may know. Remember 1 in 3 people will need blood in their lifetime. Maybe a family member or friend. Our goals have gone up this year and we'd like to see a couple of new givers this year to help meet those goals. To make your appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to Redcrossblood.org or download the app, using sponsor "Dewittcc". You can even answer the medical questions on line with RAPIDPASS to make the process quicker. If you prefer to help at our check in and hospitality tables just call Angela Todisco at 315-430-0220 or email Atee1@twcny.rr.com. Thank you all who chose to Pay It Forward and participate in our Blood Drive



Blood Drive

Dewitt Community Church

Fellowship Hall
3600 Erie Blvd. East - Syracuse

Saturday, November 10, 2018
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



WE HAVE A MORAL IMPERATIVE TO STOP HATE —



We have unfortunately experienced two tragic events of violence and hate recently. In Pittsburgh, a Jewish synagogue was traumatized when a gunman shot and killed 11 people. Here in DeWitt, across the street, two people were gunned down and killed at Chili's restaurant. As a father to three children, I am worried about our nation's future. I sense we are at a crisis moment in our nation as these events

increase.

After the Pittsburgh shooting, I decided to go to Facebook and reach out to some of my Jewish friends. I wanted to see how they were and how they were responding to the shooting. Most of my Jewish friends expressed shock, grief, and overwhelming sadness. Many of them also expressed that they will not allow hate to govern their faith practices or shake their identity as Jews. I was taken back their determination in the face of such evil acts. I understand their fear. I admire their determination in the face of unprecedented antisemitism. Right now, in the era of an American President who said there "were very fine people" chanting and marching alongside Neo-Nazis at the "Unite the Right" in Charlottesville, it is a fearful time to be Jewish. According to the vice-president of the Anti-Defamation League, antisemitism incidents increased by almost 60% in 2017. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 53% of all religious-based hate crimes in 2017 were against Jewish people. These are shocking numbers.

We as Christians can not sit on the sidelines in America when hate and antisemitism are so brazenly being played out in the public

square. We Christians cannot be silent. Our voices must be heard alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters. We must stand with the Jewish community not because of such platitudes of "Jesus was a Jew". Such sentiments are patronizing and inauthentic. We must stand with the Jewish community because it is the right thing to do. The clarion call of love requires us to not sit idle. If we are to love both God and neighbor as Jesus commanded, then love requires action. As Christians, we are called to identify evil and to call out evil. Romans 12:9 reads, "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good." If we live the scripture faithfully, we love one another by naming evil - all evil - and resist evil. We cling to what is good. And, what is good? Goodness is honored when we denounce public officials of their hateful rhetoric. Goodness is sincere love made real when we embrace our Jewish brothers and sisters in their time of pain and tragedy and listen. Listen to their pain, fear, and hopes. Let us listen to how we can help.

Seeing a traumatic hate crime unfold on the news is unsettling for adults, but I learned from my son a lesson in the midst of all this pain and trauma: love is not only a Christian quality. Love is a human quality. Care of neighbor is not conditional. Let us as Christians listen and walk with our Jewish brothers and sisters. We may not have the same religious practices or beliefs, but we can agree that hate and violence have no place in our world. We must cling to what is good: love.

Love and Grace,

Alan Rudnick

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Mission of the Month-Honor Flight Syracuse

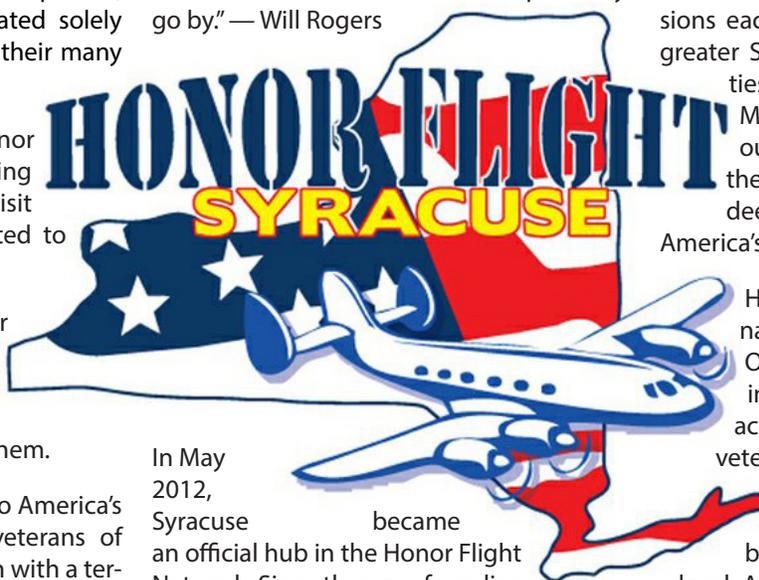
Honor Flight, Inc. and affiliated hubs in the national Honor Flight Network are private, not-for-profit organizations created solely to honor America's Veterans for their many sacrifices.

MISSION STATEMENT: Honor America's veterans by transporting them to Washington, D.C. to visit the national memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

GOAL: Help every single war veteran in the greater Syracuse area, willing and capable, to obtain a flight (or a bus-trip) to visit THEIR memorial at NO COST to them.

PRIORITY: Top priority is given to America's most senior-citizen heroes – veterans of World War-II and any war veteran with a terminal illness. Additionally, the program has begun our outreach to Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. In the future, veterans of other conflicts will be served on a chronological basis.

MOTTO: "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by." — Will Rogers



In May 2012, Syracuse became an official hub in the Honor Flight Network. Since then our founding board and core group of volunteers have built a viable, long-term organization to provide "the Honor Flight Mission" experience to all veterans across all conflicts.

Honor Flight Syracuse continues to execute our ambitious plan to fly at least two (2) missions each year to serve Veterans from the greater Syracuse area – covering ten counties in Central NY, Northern NY, and the Mohawk Valley. We exist to express our deep and undying gratitude to the service men and women who so deeply sacrificed to win and maintain America's freedom.

Honor Flight Network receives no national, government sponsorship. Our funding comes primarily from individuals that recognize the great accomplishments and sacrifices of veterans and want them to see their memorial before it's too late. Other significant contributors have been fraternal organizations such as local American Legion & VFW posts and chapters, as well as some business sponsorship. Thank you for making Honor Flight your January Mission of the Month.



November Worship

Mission of the Month - Honor Flight

"Living Abundantly: Where Are Your Treasures?"

Rev Cindy Mapstone

Saturday November 4

Sunday, November 5

5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Mission of the Month

"Living Abundantly: What's In Your Wallet?"

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Saturday November 10

Sunday, November 11

5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Communion at all 3 services

"Living Abundantly: What's In Your Heart?"

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday November 17

Sunday, November 18

5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

12:15 PM Congregational Lunch/Gym

Last Sunday Before Advent

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Saturday November 24

Sunday, November 25

5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons

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. Cindy Mapstone *Associate/Family & Congregational Care Minister*

Rev. Edwin "Ted" Taylor *Senior Minister Emeritus*

Dr. Landrum "Hap" Wooten *Associate Minister Emeritus*

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*

Alyssa Eighmey *Office Administrator*

Peter Hawley *Communication Coordinator*

Jane Hahn *Bookkeeper*

Mick Thorpe *Director of Building Services*

Reinaldo Mercado *Building Staff*

Liam McDonough *Building Staff*

Jim Surdam *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.



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.