

**DeWitt**  
Community Church  
*A Christian Church for all People*  
3600 Erie Blvd. E.  
DeWitt, NY 13214  
315-445-0331  
dewittchurch.org



# AUGUST

## newsletter

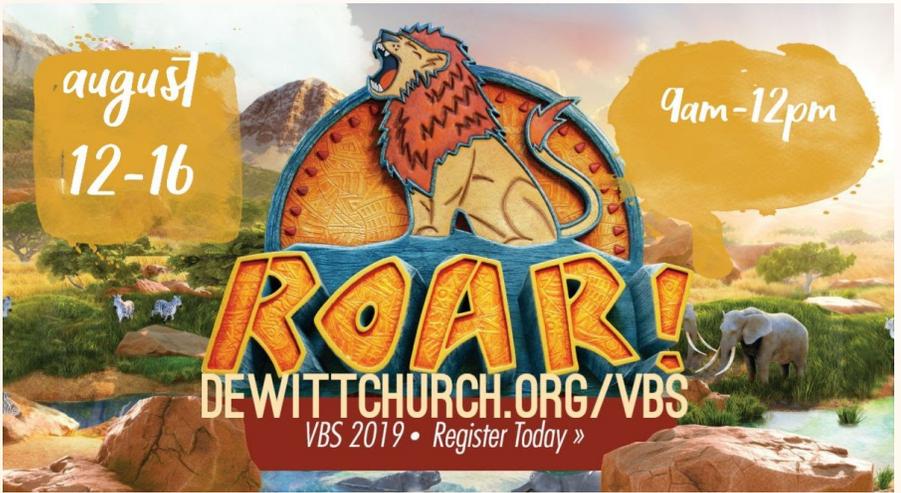
### Here Comes ROAR VBS!!!

At Roar, kids discover that God is good.....  
.....even when life gets wild!

Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Wild Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through some-

thing called God Sightings. Each day concludes with the Safari Celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time.

ROAR! Life is wild, God is good is for kids that have completed kindergarten through fifth grade (register for grade completed) and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. daily.



### August Worship

Mission of the Month - Blessings in a Backpack

**"Journeying in James:  
Does God Test or Tempt Me?"**

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick  
Saturday August 3 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons  
Sunday, August 4 9:30 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary  
**Mission of the Month**

**"Journeying in James:  
Doing or Believing?"**

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick  
Saturday August 10 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons  
Sunday, August 11 9:30 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

**"Journeying in James:  
Do Words Have Power?"**

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick  
Saturday August 17 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons  
Sunday, August 18 9:30 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

**"Truth and Trust"**

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers  
Saturday August 24 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons  
Sunday, August 25 9:30 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary  
**Communion at both 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.

## 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](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org).



### THE NEW TESTAMENT YOU NEVER KNEW

N.T. WRIGHT  
MICHAEL F. BIRD



## Compassion Ministry

### Stephen Ministry

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Pastor Cindy Mapstone, Judi Wilson, Dot Hall, or Kay Paulsen.

The Stephen Leaders are excited to announce that we will be holding a training class for new Stephen Ministers in January 2020. If you feel called to become a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Cindy Mapstone at [cmapstone@dewittchurch.org](mailto:cmapstone@dewittchurch.org) for details!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:paulsenk@dewittchurch.org).

## Summer Hymn Sing

Join us on Saturday, August 17 at 5:30 PM for a Dewitt Community Church Hymn Sing. We'll be joining together in song and celebration. Directly following will be a cookout. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to pass. Childcare will be provided. Use the bulletin tear off or contact the office ([office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org)/315-445-0331) to RSVP!



This ride is a way to raise funds for a special projects around the church. This year all gifts to Pedaling with the Pastor will go towards upgrading, sound, lighting and video technology in Miller Commons. We invite you to contribute to Pedaling with the Pastor online at [dewittchurch.org/pedal](http://dewittchurch.org/pedal) or by calling the church office, 315-445-0331.

## Message from the Board President:

*"Hello Muddab, hello Faddab  
Here I am at Camp Grenada  
Camp is very entertaining  
And they say we'll have some fun if it stops raining"*  
Allan Sherman & Lou Busch

Summer is the time for camp and family vacations. Children get to explore the world, free from the regimens of school, and if they're lucky - parents get a bit of a break as well. I can still recall an Adirondack family vacation when I was quite young. Besides the North Pole and Frontier Town, highlights included Dad rescuing my brother from drowning in the motel pool, carsickness on mountain roads, and our crayons melting under the car's rear window. It would be many years after before we made another family trip.

At DeWitt Community Church August is time for Vacation Bible School (VBS). This year's theme "Roar" imagines our education wing and gym transformed for an epic African Safari adventure! Every morning for one week, from August 12 through 16, the children will engage in a number of creative and

learning activities to help them experience the goodness of God even when life is challenging or "wild." There will be a program for "Little Paws" – preschool children from 3-5 years old, and older children from kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. VBS is a wonderful event where everyone learns together.

It's our staff and volunteers who make the VBS program possible. This year's leaders include Gloria Trode, Barbara Turner, Ann Stock, and a host of other Station Leaders and Crew Leaders. They deserve our thanks and support. The team can use a few more volunteers, so if you're able please sign up to help. If you're not able to help Monday through Friday, there are other opportunities to assist. Decorating for VBS will take place Saturday 8/10 and/or Sunday 8/11 after worship. Donations of snacks/supplies are welcome – see the donation sheet for items in the church narthex. Finally, helping with the cookout lunch on Friday 8/16, or breakdown and cleanup later that day is also needed. We pray that you will be part of our Summer 2019 VBS, making memories and putting God's love into action.

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](mailto: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.

## *From the Senior Minister*

During one of our staff meeting a few weeks ago we discussed an article on "The Epidemic of Loneliness in America," which stated that nearly half of all American report feeling lonely either often or always. This same article reports that only half of Americans have meaningful in-person social interactions such as having an extended conversation with a friend or spending quality time with family on a daily basis.

Even in this time where people are "over-connected" on social media, many in our society feel isolated and alone.

One of the most important things that we as a church offer is the ability to connect not only with God, but the ability to build relationships and a

develop community. This coming year we will be working to continue to build both informal and more structured groups where people can develop healthy, authentic relationships with other.

As we move into the new program this September, I encourage you to get involved in one of the study groups or a more informal gatherings that will be offered. We grow not only a spiritually but as whole and healthy individuals as we become involved in community with others.

Rejoicing Always

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers  
Senior Minister

# Announcements

**CARRABBA'S**  
ITALIAN GRILL®

== cares ==

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019**  
**11:00 AM - 10:00 PM**

We invite you to join us at  
Carrabba's Italian Grill for lunch or dinner  
to benefit **DeWitt Community Church**

Present this flyer or identify yourself as a supporter and  
**we'll proudly donate 15 % of your total check!**

  
*A Christian Church for all People*

550 Towne Drive • Fayetteville, NY 13066

## Dine at Carrabba's and help DCC!!

During the month of August, DeWitt Community Church and our friends and neighbors will have an opportunity to support DCC's effort to replace our Chancel Organ through our ongoing relationship with Carrabba's Italian Grill in Fayetteville. By simply presenting the provided "Carrabba's Cares" coupon on August 8 when having lunch or dinner at the restaurant or ordering take-out/delivery, you will not only have a delicious meal, but will generate a donation to DCC of 15% of your bill. The donations will be earmarked for support of our fundraising efforts to replace the organ... a mission Carrabba's sees as a benefit both to our congregation and the greater community. **Please feel free to photocopy the coupon and share them during the month with friends, family and neighbors!**

**August 25, at 10:45 in Miller Commons**

**MEMBERSHIP  
GATHERING**  
*Growing Together*

**RSVP to [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org)**

## Mission of the Month: Blessings in a Backpack

Blessings in a Backpack is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization currently feeding over 87,000 children in 1,092 schools in 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. Every school-aged child in America has the nourishment needed to learn and grow. As a leader in the movement to end childhood hunger, Blessings in a Backpack strives to ensure children do not go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action. There are more than 13 million children in this country who are at risk of hunger. The consequences of hunger are much more than a growling stomach. Poor nutrition can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement. Children are fed during the school week by federal government programs, but we want to make sure they're getting nutritional meals over the weekend, too. \$130 will feed one child on the weekends for one 38-week school year through the Blessings in a Backpack program. The Results: Nourished Kids Ready to Learn. Food is an essential building block, and in this case truly is a blessing, especially to a hungry child! Visit [blessingsinabackpack.org](http://blessingsinabackpack.org) to find out the various ways in which you can help Blessings in a Backpack feed more children.

