

DECEMBER

newsletter

December Worship

Mission of the Month - Red Cross "Sound the Alarm"

Mission of the Month: Red Cross: Sound the Alarm



Every day 7 people die in home fires. You can help change that.

The American Red Cross is teaming up with fire departments, volunteers, and partners to Sound the Alarm with home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events. Volunteers are installing free smoke alarms in at-risk communities across the country.

Since 2014, we've saved more than 600 lives and made more than 750,000 households safer.

Visit SoundTheAlarm.org to make a difference!



Every day, seven people die in home fires, most in homes that don't have working smoke alarms. That's why the American Red Cross launched our Home Fire Campaign in 2014 to help prevent these needless tragedies.

A critical part of the campaign is Sound the Alarm, a series of home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events held year-round across the country. Red Cross volunteers work alongside fire departments and other partners, to canvass at-risk neighborhoods, install free smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing alarms and

educate families about fire prevention and safety.

Working smoke alarms in a home cut the risk of death by half, and having an escape plan further improves the odds of survival. In just five years, these efforts have saved hundreds of lives and made hundreds of thousands of households safer.

Just \$15 can provide 1 smoke alarm. We invite our supporters to encourage their friends and family to join in the effort, by making a donation or by volunteering for the program.

Since the Home Fire Campaign started, it has been credited with saving at least 600. Volunteers have already installed more than 750,000 smoke alarms across the United States. (source: www.soundthealarm.org)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE IS ON THE WAY • A Vision of Hope -Rev. Dr. Cindy Mapstone
Saturday, November 30 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 1 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE IS ON THE WAY • Expectant Hope -Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Saturday, December 7 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 8 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Mission of the Month

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE IS ON THE WAY • Room For Hope -Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Saturday, December 14 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 15 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Pageant at Noon

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOPE IS ON THE WAY • Hope for Shepherds-Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Saturday, December 22 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 23 9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Child Friendly Service 4:30 PM
Traditional Candlelight Services 7, 9 & 11 PM

The First Sunday of Christmas-Rev. William A. Carlsen

Saturday, December 28 5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, December 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.

From the Senior Minister

There are four things that I want to share with you this month.

First

I want to thank Gloria Trode for her service with us as Director of Children's Music. Gloria served in this role with creativity and a profound love for children. She announced her plans to leave this position at the end of October and I will certainly miss her positive energy and dedication. Abel, Nick and Pastor Cindy will be working to fill the gap of this important area of ministry and as we look to find a replacement in the coming months. A big thank you and best wishes to Gloria!

Second

We are discovering a new trend in giving that is impacting many different institutions including churches. That trend is called episodic giving. It is a trend where people give not on a regular or consistent basis, but only when they are aware of a need. As we approached the end of our fiscal year in June, our giving was below what was needed by \$70,000. We worked hard to communicate this need, and the congregation responded with amazing generosity. We finished the 2018-19 fiscal year with the highest level of giving since 2001 which saw a huge spike after the events of 9-11.

I share this with you as we finish out the month of November, our giving is about \$40,000 behind. You are a generous congregation that knows that your generosity makes all we do possible. So I ask that as we move into the Advent & Christmas season, that you prayerfully consider how you might respond to this need.

Third

I have had many notes, e-mails, phone calls and face to face conversations with people over the last month regarding the coming transition as I retire. It appears that some are looking at this transition with at least a little apprehension. Change has a way of doing that, but let me give you these words of assurance; We have assembled an exceptional Senior Minister Search Committee which has



two years to accomplish their task. One of the purposes of my retirement announcement 2 years in advance was to provide plenty of time to do this transition well. We are a healthy church with an excellent staff and there is every reason to look to the future with great optimism. I believe that this is a time of looking forward with excitement as we anticipate 'the changing of the guard' at DeWitt. I encourage you to **PRAY DAILY** for those on the search committee and for the spirit of God to given them discernment and wisdom as they move forward in this process.

Fourth and Finally

The Advent Season is now upon us and it is a story of God's love for us; that God loved us so much that he came to us in the form of human flesh. Its not a new story, but a story that we needed to be reminded of again and again. This year's Advent Series is entitled "Hope is on the Way," and while we live in very unpredictable times, as people of faith we know that we are not without hope, but that God's hope is with us no matter what we face.

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!

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Mark E. Sommers".

Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Senior Minister

Message from the Board President:

*"In the velvet darkness of the blackest night
Burning bright, there's a guiding star
No matter what, or who you are, there's a light...
A light in the darkness of everybody's life"*

-Richard O'Brien

In December the lengthening cloak of night bookends my typical workday in darkness. Our location downwind of the Great Lakes often adds a bit of overcast gloom or snow to the dwindling hours of light. A sunny day is a special treat, particularly on a weekend. We are creatures of the daylight. Although we've managed with clever artifice to push back the dark, this season can take a toll. Thankfully holidays can provide an antidote of joy to brighten or mood.

The Bible doesn't tell us Christ's birthday, but church leaders in the 4th century chose December 25th for Christmas, a date that coincided (at that time) with the winter solstice and other festivals celebrating the return of the Sun. Christmas, as we know it, is a mix of Christian, pre-Christian and secular traditions. Over the centuries Christmas has been no stranger to excess. In the 17th century Puritans banned Christmas due to its

association with drunkenness and misbehavior. Later, a number of cultural influencers like Washington Irving and Charles Dickens (with his story of redemptive holiday hauntings) restored some balance to Christmas - shifting the emphasis to family, children, charity and well-mannered revelry.

Perhaps today we also recognize some excess - too many parties, feelings of forced happiness, commercialism, and unrealistic expectations. We yearn to find our own joy, equilibrium, and shelter from the holiday frenzy. The delights and activities of this festive season can also be laden with mixed emotions. Difficult, sad, and tragic events in our lives take no holiday. For survivors there can be some comfort in the embrace and welcoming company of others - an emotional light in the darkness. Whatever your burdens and whoever you are - this Christmas Eve, don't be alone. Follow the candle lit path to our front door, enter into the light, and join us in song and celebration at DeWitt Community Church.

Blessings to you all!

Eric W. Witschi, President

Starting Point is the place for getting acquainted with DeWitt Community Church - finding a small group, learning about our ministries, and meeting church staff. Starting Point lasts for approximately 20 minutes and children are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend Starting Point, please contact the church office: 315-445-0331 or office@dewittchurch.org.



We need 35 volunteers total. Children 12 and over can help out front with the meal serve, and children under 12 can help in the kitchen doing dishes as long as they are accompanied by an adult.

Sign up at dewittchurch.org/Samaritan. If you need a car pool ride from the church and back, we will make arrangements for you.





Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good like medicine"

David VanSlyke

David Van Slyke is a member of DCC. His wife Wendy is very involved in a range of women's bible study and Christian education initiatives. Their children – Ryan (23), Ashley (20), and Anneke (17) – have all participated in a range of different groups and activities and are each confirmed at DCC. Dave has led groups in the past, is involved in Sunday morning bible study, and participates with the Samaritan Center volunteer group. Dave is the Dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, the Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business-Government Policy, and a Professor of Public Administration and International Affairs.

Elizabeth Chapman

Elizabeth Chapman began attending DCC about 1980. She and her husband, John Heslop, were married in the parlor at DCC. They have 5 married children, and (currently) 8 grandchildren. Elizabeth retired from her position as an Academic Medical Administrator in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Upstate Medical University 4 years ago. She enjoys many activities such as skiing, snowshoeing, cycling, hiking, kayaking, camping, cooking, reading, and of course, visiting with family. Elizabeth serves in DCC groups including Stephen Ministry, Worship Assistants, Compassion Cooks, Samaritan Center, hosting a small group series, and the search committee.

Sandy Gunn

I grew up in a small town in western Massachusetts, went to college at the University of Massachusetts, followed by graduate work at Ohio State. My wife, Fay, and I met while undergraduates; we have been married for 54 years, have two children and five grandchildren. After graduate school we moved to Buffalo where I taught at the UB School of Management for more than 30 years. I had the opportunity to teach in China beginning in 1985 and then later in Singapore. After fully retiring Fay and I moved to Syracuse. Our son Nathan has been in the Young Life organization here for more than 20 years and now is the regional director for CNY.

Kay Paulsen

Dr. Kay Paulsen, adjunct instructor of voice at Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, has more than 40 years of experience as a professional singer and as a primary, secondary, and university music educator. The holder of a D.M.A. in voice performance & pedagogy from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Kay has sung with the Lyric Opera of Chicago; the Chicago and Atlanta symphony choruses; and as soloist with orchestras and choral societies throughout Illinois, Colorado, and Idaho. Affectionately known as "Dr. P" to her students, Kay is noted for her uncanny ability to diagnose damaged voices and return them to vocal health; she has trained vocal performers in varying genres, as well as training primary and secondary-level music teachers. She also works effectively with special needs performers. Many of her former students have gone on to establish professional singing careers in multiple genres all over the world. She earned graduate and undergraduate degrees in music from Northwestern University and Greenville University (Ill.), respectively.

Lauren Suarez

Lauren Suarez was born and raised in the Syracuse area, and lives in Pompey with her husband Jaime, and daughter Mia. She and Jaime joined the church in 2014 and were married here at DCC in 2015. Lauren is a Stephen Minister, and has also been involved in choir and various women and family ministry groups/activities since joining.

Greg Stock

Greg Stock and his wife Anne moved to Syracuse in 2011. It was a homecoming for Anne, who grew up at DCC. Greg joined the church in 2012. He is an orthodontist at Callahan, Flanagan, Smith and Stock Orthodontics. Greg and Anne led the Financial Peace University classes from 2016-2018 and they are active in Children's ministry where their daughters, Claire and Lauren, spend their time. Greg is currently Vice President of the Board of Trustees.

Dave Schneckenburger

Dave is the President of Thompson & Johnson Equipment Company, a material handling and compact construction equipment dealer. Thompson & Johnson represents top industry manufacturers including Toyota and Crown forklift trucks and Bobcat compact construction equipment, in a service area that encompasses primarily Upstate New York, east of Geneva. Prior to working for Thompson & Johnson in 1981, he worked for Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation as a Sales Representative. Dave is the past Board of Trustees President of both the Museum of Science Technology (MOST) and Dewitt Community Church and continues to serve on both Boards. He is past President of Onondaga Golf & Country Club, the Rotary Club of Dewitt and was the Committee Chair for the Syracuse East Region of Young Life. Dave is active with Centerstate CEO, serving as the Board Secretary and as a member of the Audit and Membership committees, and has and continues to serve on Thompson & Johnson suppliers' Dealer Councils. Personally, Dave has coached his children's softball, baseball and basketball rec. teams.

Dave met his future wife, Candee, at Westminster College. There he received his BS degree in Mathematics (magna cum laude) and served his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi, as president. Married in 1979, Dave and his wife live in Manlius and have a married daughter, a married son, and five grandchildren.

Theresa Avellino

My husband and I joined the church in 1993 and raised our three children here. I have lead the youth group, taught Sunday school, VBS and helped organize and support two mission trips to the Dominican Republic. I also served as chair of the Religious Education committee and served as a trustee. I have enjoyed participating in many other areas of the church and look forward to continuing to support this church that is open to all.

Rich Taylor

I'm 45 years old and moved to the Syracuse area at age 8 as my dad took the job as Minister at DCC. I've been involved in the church since then. I spent much of my childhood cleaning and setting up rooms for classes throughout the church. I work in technology sales and sales management. My wife Kelly and I have three children, Grace (13), Andrew (11), and Caitlin (9). We love the outdoors, Syracuse sports and spending time with family and friends.

Sue Hanselman

I have lived and worked in the Syracuse area all my life. I grew up in a Christian family. When I was a child, my family attended South Presbyterian Church, and later Eastern Hills Bible Church. Both of my parents lived their faith and taught me about Jesus from an early age. Through the years there were times of question and struggle, but I never doubted that God was real and that I wanted to follow Him.

From earliest memory, I wanted to be a teacher. I attended SU earning a BS in Elementary Education and a MS in Science Teaching. Upon graduation, I was hired by Liverpool Central Schools and I had the privilege of investing in students' lives for the next twenty-two years. I taught middle school science and math for three years then primarily team taught 6th grade science for the remaining years.

During my career I was involved in curriculum development both for Liverpool and a chemistry project for National Science Foundation. And it was a great experience to be a member of a team collaborating with Russian educators on environmental education methodology in Moscow.

In 1991, Dave and I were married...and I became a stepmother and grandmother. Today my favorite "job" is being a grandmother of now 13 grands, and 9 great-grands.

Throughout my life I have been involved as student and teacher in numerous Bible studies. Attending different churches (denominational and non-denominational) and being exposed to different faith practices and beliefs has only served to deepen my faith and love for Christ and others. We have served as "Friendship Partners" with 22 international graduate students at Cornell and Syracuse Universities over the past 12 years.

My husband and I have worshipped with Dewitt Community Church since 2011 and we have been members since 2015. At DCC, I have appreciated Sunday morning worship, woman's Bible studies, Alan's Sunday School classes, the Disciple Bible study, as well as many fellowship opportunities. And I have just become a member of the Woman's Association Steering Committee.

I recognize what a great privilege and responsibility it is to sit on the Pastor Selection Committee. And I would like to ask you to pray for each of us for God's wisdom and direction.

Matthew 7:7

"Seek, and ye shall find"

A Look Ahead

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1 9:00 am Early Worship Service (Miller Commons) 9:00 am Nursery (Room 10) 9:45 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Room 9) 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:00 am Alan Bible Study (Room 6) 10:45 am Nursery (Room 45) 11:00 am Late Worship Service (Sanctuary)	2 9:30 am WA Steering Committee Meeting (Room 42) 7:00 pm Embassy Bells (Choir Room)	3 1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 6:00 pm Stephen Minister Meeting (Cindy's Office)
8 9:00 am Early Worship Service (Miller Commons) 9:00 am Nursery (Room 10) 9:45 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Room 9) 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:00 am Alan Bible Study (Room 6) 10:00 am Confirmation (Room 8) 10:45 am Nursery (Room 45) 11:00 am Late Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 am Sunday School (Miller Commons) 11:00 am Youth Sunday School Grades 5-12 (Room 7) 12:00 pm WA Basket Bazaar & Youth Chili Luncheon (Gym)	9 12:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor) 6:00 pm Compassion Cooks (Miller Commons) 7:00 pm Embassy Bells (Choir Room)	10 12:00 pm All Staff Meeting (Parlor) 1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30 pm Stephen Ministry/Peer Supervision(Parlor)
15 9:00 am Early Worship Service (Miller Commons) 9:00 am Nursery (Room 10) 9:45 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Room 9) 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:00 am Alan Bible Study (Room 6) 10:00 am Confirmation (Room 8) 10:45 am Nursery (Room 45) 11:00 am Late Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 am Sunday School (Miller Commons) 11:00 am Youth Sunday School Grades 5-12 (Room 7) 12:00 pm Christmas Pageant (Gym) 12:00 pm Samaritan Center (Samaritan Center) 7:00 pm Lessons and Carols (Immaculate Conception Church)	16 7:00 pm Embassy Bells (Choir Room)	17 1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library)
22 9:00 am Early Worship Service (Miller Commons) 9:00 am Nursery (Room 10) 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:00 am Alan Bible Study (Room 6) 10:00 am Confirmation (Room 8) 10:45 am Nursery (Room 45) 11:00 am Late Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 am Sunday School (Miller Commons) 12:00 pm Starting Point (Library)	23 12:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor) 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Embassy Bells (Choir Room)	24 1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 4:30 pm Christmas Eve 4:30PM Family Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) 9:00 pm 9:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 pm 11:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
29 9:00 am Early Worship Service (Miller Commons) 9:00 am Nursery (Room 10) 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:00 am Alan Bible Study (Room 6) 10:00 am Confirmation (Room 8) 10:45 am Nursery (Room 45) 11:00 am Late Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11:00 am Sunday School (Miller Commons)	30 7:00 pm Embassy Bells (Choir Room)	31 1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor)

December 2019

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
4	9:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:15 am Stay and Play (Gym) 12:00 pm Worship Team Meeting (Library) 7:00 pm Christian Caring Committee Meeting (Library)	5	2:30 pm Wyldlife (JD Middle School) 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	6	5:00 pm Drop and Shop (Gym and Miller Commons) 6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	7	9:00 am Altar Guild (Sanctuary and Miller Commons) 9:00 am MOW Bottle Drive (Cemetery Lot) 9:00 am WA basket Bazaar Set Up (Gym) 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)
11	9:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:15 am Stay and Play (Gym) 12:00 pm Worship Team Meeting (Library)	12	9:30 am If: Equip (Miller Commons, MCK, Nursery) 10:00 am Ruth Circle of Friends Meetings - Room 42 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 6:00 pm Wyldlife (Room 7) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	13	9:00 am CNY Artisans Craft Show (Gym) 6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	14	8:30 am CNY Artisans Craft Show (Gym) 9:00 am Altar Guild (Sanctuary and Miller Commons) 11:00 am Mid York Doll Club (Room 6) 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)
18	9:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:15 am Stay and Play (Gym) 12:00 pm Worship Team Meeting (Library) 5:30 pm Christmas Caroling Snacks (Miller Commons) 6:00 pm Christmas Caroling (Offsite) 6:30 pm Property Management Committee (Room 42) 7:00 pm Board of Trustee Meeting (Room 6)	19	6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	20	6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	21	9:00 am Altar Guild (Sanctuary and Miller Commons) 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)
25	11:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) 9:00 am Adult Bible Study (Rm 42) 10:15 am Stay and Play (Gym) 12:00 pm Worship Team Meeting (Library)	26	9:30 am Cut Ups (Room 6) 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	27	6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	28	5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)



4:30 PM
Family Service

This casual service is designed for families with younger children. It features our Children's Choir and carols. Childcare and Nursery are provided.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve
Services

IN THE CUSE



7, 9 & 11 PM
Candlelight Services

A Syracuse tradition. Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child with all your loved ones at any of our 3 traditional evening services. ASL interpreter and nursery available at 7 PM.

Additional parking is available across the street at Shoppingtown Mall. A Police Officer will be directing traffic on Christmas Eve to ensure everyone crosses the street safely.



Christmas Pageant

December 15 at Noon in the Gym

Parent's Night Out!



Open to all children age 3 through 4th grade. Must be potty trained.
Register online at dewittchurch.org/dropshop.

Caroling Opportunities



5:30 Service Carol Sing
Saturday December 14 @ 5:30p.m. in Miller Commons

Lessons and Carols
Sunday December 15 @ 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

Christmas Caroling
Saturday December 18 @ 5:30p.m. meet in Miller Commons

Family Ministry Team



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Mapstone
Family and Congregational Care Minister
cmapstone@dewittchurch.org

Mary Chirello
Youth Director
mchirello@dewittchurch.org



December Youth Events:

Dec 6th - high school volunteers needed

All High School Students are encouraged to volunteer with Drop 'N Shop on December 6th. We'll be helping children with crafts, games and other activities. After Drop 'N shop ends at 9pm youth group school students are invited to stay until 10:30pm to hang out use the bounce house and play games. Please sign up with Mary Chirello to volunteer: 315-247-0060 or mchirello@dewittchurch.org

Dec 8th

Annual Youth Chili Lunch and women's basket bazar

Come support our women's ministry and family ministry as we combine to serve delicious homemade chili benefiting the youth group, and auction of baskets and treats benefitting the women's association. Event begins after church at 12pm in the church gym.

Dec 15th

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be held on December 15th in the DCC gym at 12:30pm. Come join us as we support our community and get into the Christmas spirit. A light lunch will be provided before the start of the show.

Dec 18th

Christmas Caroling with your friends and family is one of the best ways to get into the spirit of the holiday and share the wonderful news of Jesus' birth. If you, your friends, family or children would like to participate in Christmas caroling this year, please sign-up with Mary Chirello. We'll meet in Miller Commons for some Christmas treats at 5:30pm and head out to the local neighborhoods via carpooling at 6pm.



No Children or Youth Church School on December 22 or 29th due to the holiday

CHRISTMAS GIVING POLE

Once again this year we are providing Christmas wishes for those in need. We are partnering with Jamesville DeWitt Ecumenical Food Pantry and the Samaritan Center to provide Christmas wishes including hats, gloves, scarves, and other items for children. If you wish to participate, please take a tag from the Giving Pole which will be set up in Miller Com-

mons for Saturday evening and Sunday 9AM services, and in the Narthex for the Sunday 11AM service starting the weekend of November 23 & 24. The Giving Pole will be set up in the same area where the Christmas Baskets from the Woman's Association will be set up. When you take a tag, we will take your name, phone number and email address and the tag code number which will be on the tag you take. Please return unwrapped gifts and tags with the

code number clearly showing to the church office during office hours. After hours, please leave gifts in the bags provided in the Narthex and in Miller Commons. Please return the gifts no later than Monday, December 16. Thank you very much for your generosity!! If you have any questions, please contact Craig Mabbett at 315-436-0429 or by email at cmabbett88@gmail.com.

Baskets are on display and bidding is open now!

BAKE & BASKET BAZAAR

DECEMBER 8 AT NOON IN THE GYM

Along with a chili lunch put on by the Jr High and High School groups

The Women's Association will be having their Annual Bake and Basket Sale on Dec. 8 after the 11 AM service, in the Gym along with a chili lunch put on by the Jr High and High School groups. Baskets will be on display and tickets sold before and after every service until Dec. 8. We have many exciting baskets! Baked goods should be brought to room 8 on Dec. 7, between 2 and 5 PM, for storage and pricing.

In the Christmas story we traditionally focus on the infant Jesus, Joseph, angels, and shepherds but what about the women of the story? Women in the story of Jesus' play a critical role. In this study, we will learn, reflect, and examine how Elizabeth, Anna, and Mary give powerful witness to God's revelation of the Good News. Each woman brings powerful and unique gifts and perspectives to the Christmas story. Led by Pastor Alan and Pastor Cindy.



JOIN US FOR LUNCH & DESSERT

GAB & GATHER

NOON-1:30PM

MILLER COMMONS

Come for as long as your schedule permits

CHILD-CARE AVAILABLE WITH 1 WEEK NOTICE

Our next meeting is January 5, 2020

Our first women's fellowship meeting this year was held November 3. We were treated to light lunch brought by volunteers and also to the beautiful piano music and song of Emily Virgil. Thank you, Emily! Thanks also to Glenda Crenshaw for her enthusiastic presentation of a fun ice-breaker. Come join in next time if you're up for some fun, a bite to eat, and maybe meeting someone new!

Compassion Ministry

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 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 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.

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, hospitalization, 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.

Middle Adult Gathering

Friday, December 13 at 6PM at the Home of Mark & Kathlyne Sommers

The Middle Adult Group is generally comprised of people who are in their 40's 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 to the church office, 315-445-0331, or office@dewittchurch.org.

Compassion Cooks

On Monday 12/9, will be putting together cookie trays for the shut-ins in our congregation. Please join us in Miller Commons at 6 pm with a few dozen cookies for fun, fellowship and packing. If you know of someone who would like to receive cookies please email Pastor Cindy, cmastone@dewittchurch.org



Meals On Wheels Bottle Drive

Meals on Wheels has another bottle drive coming up on Saturday, December 7. It will be at the usual two locations: DCC parking lot and at SNO-TOP in Manlius, from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. We will have volunteers at both sites to assist with donations. Thanks for your generous support of MOW!

Have You Considered Being a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministry is currently recruiting for our 2020 Stephen Minister Training Class. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Cindy at cmastone@dewittchurch.org or stop in the church office to pick up an application form. Training will take place each Tuesday evening, 1/14-5/26 from 6-8:30 pm. in the DCC Parlor. If for some reason you can't make it to every scheduled class, Skyping in is an option. There will be current Stephen Ministers available before and after each worship service on the weekend of November 16th & 17th to answer questions.

Thank You to everyone who made our Stewardship Celebration Lunch such a success. We are so glad that you are part of the DCC family. God Bless You!



Christmas Memorial Flowers



The Altar Guild this Christmas season will fill the Sanctuary, the Narthex, and Miller Commons with festive flowers, trees, and wreaths to set a wonderful, peaceful, and prayerful atmosphere in which we can celebrate the birth of Jesus. Your Christmas Memorial Gift will provide you an opportunity to honor someone special, to remember a loved one, or to celebrate a meaningful event in your life. The booklet will be available in the Narthex beginning **Saturday, December 18th** and throughout the Christmas season. This tradition is made possible by your generous support.

Payments may be made through
check, cash, or credit card at the Church Office.
You may also mail payment with your message form to:

**DeWitt Community Church
3600 Erie Boulevard East
DeWitt, NY 13214**

Please choose how you wish to have your message in the Christmas Memorial Booklet:

In Honor of In Memory of In Celebration of

_____ from _____

The deadline for donation is **Wednesday, December 13th**.

Thank You

The DeWitt Community Church Altar Guild