

JANUARY

newsletter



Mission of the Month: Hopeprint



It started with a vision... thousands of people stretching as far as the eye could see down an urban street dressed in their wide array of ethnic attire drawn together in some common identity. I (Nicole) was towards the back of the seemingly endless parade with a face covered in sheer joy, beckoning those on the sidelines to come and join this triumphant, hopeful journey. Several years later, we now have two homes on Syracuse's North Side with 10+ people who have intentionally moved into the neighborhood for the mission and vision of Hopeprint. Hundreds of people from our neighborhood and the community at large have joined what we call our "Hopeprint Family." While we offer various programs and opportunities several days a week now to invest in the lives of our neighbors, every part and piece of what we do goes back to its roots of relationships. Relationships change lives, becoming a people of hope empowered to thrive. We dream of the day our collective will be the catalyst for a unified neighborhood rich in culture and community.

Hopeprint's focus is on the empowerment of resettled refugees to thrive. While there are a number of entities working hard to assist

resettled refugees in surviving, we are focused on the post-resettlement time period and empowering them along the next steps towards a thriving life. We welcome them into our "family" through our hospitality gatherings and homes, mentor them along the steps to their goals for a thriving life, and connect with community resources that exist to support their endeavors. Think of it as the guides and fellow journeymen along the pathway from a life of survival to a life of thriving.

Some of the excellent support services for survival needs as well as tools needed in order to thrive are provided through some of the other great organizations in our community, and we seek to connect our family members to those resources without duplicating services as much as possible! We are grateful to serve on the Refugee Alliance and Community Integration Coalition that further facilitates that connectedness, and to be part of the tapestry of resources available in this community to make our vision a reality together!

Please visit Hopeprint.org to get involved by volunteering or making a donation.

January Worship

Mission of the Month - Hopeprint

God's Epiphanies: From Knowing to Experiencing

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Saturday, January 4	5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, January 5	9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons 11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Mission of the Month

New Beginnings : Crossing the Line

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday, January 11	5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, January 12	9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons 11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

New Beginnings : Refusing to Play it Safe

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday, January 18	5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, January 19	9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons 11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Communion at all 3 services

New Beginnings : Letting Go of Bitterness

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Saturday, January 25	5:30 PM Chapel Service/Miller Commons
Sunday, January 26	9:00 AM Chapel Service/Miller Commons 11:00 AM Traditional Service/Sanctuary

12:15 PM Miller Commons: Christianity from a Lebanese Perspective

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

Most of us know that the motto of DeWitt Community Church is a Christian Church for all people. As we continue to live out that motto, our perspectives are being stretched as people from different backgrounds and cultures become part of our congregation.

In the past few years we have seen people become part of our congregation from a wide variety of different countries and cultures around the world. It is a true joy to welcome people who add to our diversity, but also an opportunity for us to understand and learn from different customs and different perspectives

On Sunday, January 26, immediately after the 11AM service we will have an opportunity to learn more about Christianity from a Lebanese perspective. Dr. Ramsay Farah will be presenting the story of his family's faith journey as their extended family moved from Lebanon to the United States. Dr. Farah and his extended family, which includes his parents and siblings joined DeWitt Community Church several years ago and have been actively involved. Dr. Ramsay's presentation will help all of us to better understand our faith from the vantage point of a different culture. The program will begin at 12:15 with a light luncheon and we will rap up no later than 1:30

Over the past several years, Kathlyne and I have had the opportunity to get to know the Farah family as we have joined them for Sunday dinners featuring home made Lebanese feasts and time for extended discussions around the table. We have personally learned a great deal from getting to know the story of their family and how their experiences have shaped their faith as followers of Christ.

I want to encourage you to join us for the luncheon on January 26 and hear about a faith journey that will help you gain a broader perspective on the Christian faith from a different vantage point.

Rejoicing Always!

IN MILLER COMMONS

GAB
AND
GATHER
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

JANUARY 5
NOON-1:30

NEW
BEGINNINGS
NEW SERIES BEGINS JANUARY 11&12

SUNDAY JANUARY 12

STARTING
new
HERE **POINT**

@NOON
IN THE
LIBRARY

Message from the Board President:

*"And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time.
We can't return we can only look behind from where we came
And go round and round and round in the circle game."*

-Joni Mitchell

Perhaps, like me, you have a favorite carousel. Mine is nestled among the trees in a public park – a restored antique remembered from summer days. The ride around can be like cycles of the year, full of ups and downs, musical sounds, festooned with cherubs and clowns, and cheered on by ones we love. In real life of course our annual ride around the Sun is never quite the same. Seasons are similar, as is the liturgical calendar at DeWitt Community Church. January finds us in the last days of Christmastide, to be followed by Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas once again. Against this backdrop the events of our church life will play out.

The Trustees will meet in January, the midpoint of our fiscal year, to gage our balance of income and expenses. As I write these notes I don't know where we stand after Christmas, but we do know that after a very generous June we had fallen significantly behind budget

expectations this fall. Last month Rev. Dr. Sommers described our experience as "episodic giving," which I think feels a bit like a roller coaster. It's worth remembering that everything we do in our ministries is made possible by your continuing gifts, your time, and your talents – for which we give thanks.

Our January Trustees meeting will also review the detailed plan for our Sr. Minister's sabbatical leave. The sabbatical is a gift of time for both rejuvenation and study – a reward for over 11 years of service to our church. We expect Rev. Sommers' sabbatical to take place after Easter this year and end about mid-July. The plan will address his topic of study, how his responsibilities will be covered during those few months, and reporting out after his return. This is the first time (to my knowledge) that our church has granted a sabbatical; however, other churches do so as a strategy for longer retention of ministers. As we engage in our search for the next Senior Minister, it's my hope that a successful sabbatical experience for both church and minister will set a positive precedent that helps us to recruit and retain talent.

Blessings to you all!

Eric W. Witschi, President



Tuesday, January 7 At 9:00 AM
Tree take down party in the Parlor with the Cross-Stich Guild. We need tall people, young people, and "sitters".

A Message from the Women's Association

On behalf of the Women's Association, I would like to thank those who attended the annual Women's Retreat on Nov 9. There were 38 attendees, including some guests, of 44 registered, and we all enjoyed and were inspired by The Positive Power of Humor by Yvonne Conte. From the ice breaker (thank you Lauren) to the lunch (prepared by Nick and Cathy Loziponi, thank you) and short worship service (thank you Cindy Mapstone) it was a wonderful time of fellowship. Thank you to all.

As we heard from Yvonne Conte at the Retreat, she will be presenting her Day of Joy Women's Conference on April 25, 2020 at Believer's Chapel on Thompson Rd from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, and \$30 for a group of 10+. This includes lunch and 3 speakers including Yvonne. Proceeds are to benefit HW Smith Elementary School in Syracuse. We are in need of someone who would be interested in coordinating reservations and carpools so that we can get a better price on the tickets. If you have any interest in helping us, please contact me at Atee1@twcnj.rr.com.

Thank you, Angela Todisco

A Look Ahead

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>5</p> <p>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) 11:00 am Youth Sunday School Grades 5-12 (Room 7) 12:30 pm Gab and Gather (Miller Commons)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 am WA Steering Committee Meeting (Room 42)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>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) 11:00 am Youth Sunday School Grades 5-12 (Room 7) 12:00 pm Samaritan Center 12:00 pm Starting Point (Library)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00 pm All Staff Meeting (Parlor) 1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30 pm Stephen Ministry/Peer Supervision(Parlor) 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Parlor)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>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) 11:00 am Youth Sunday School Grades 5-12 (Room 7)</p>	<p>20 Office Closed</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Parlor)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>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) 11:00 am Youth Sunday School Grades 5-12 (Room 7) 12:15 pm Middle East through Palestinian Eye (Miller Commons)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1:30 pm Program Staff Meeting (Library) 3:30 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor) 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Parlor)</p>

January 2020

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	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 Baby Boot Camp (Gym)	2 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	3 6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	4 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)
8	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 Baby Boot Camp (Gym)	9 9:30 am If: Equip (Parlor, Parlor Kitchen, Nursery) 10:00 am Ruth Circle of Friends Meetings - Room 42 5:30 pm Financial Meeting (Room 6) 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	10 6:00 pm AA (Room 6) 7:00 pm Board of Trustee Meeting (Room 6)	11 9:00 am Stephen Ministers Potluck (Parlor) 11:00 am Mid York Doll Club (Room 6) 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)
15	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 Baby Boot Camp (Gym) 6:30 pm Property Management Committee (Room 42)	16 12:00 pm Younglife Pasta Dinner (gym and Gym Kitchen) 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	17 6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	18 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons) 6:00 pm Glow Hard Capture the Flag (Church-Wide)
22	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 Baby Boot Camp (Gym)	23 9:30 am Cut Ups (Room 6) 9:30 am If: Equip (Parlor, Parlor Kitchen, Nursery) 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	24 6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	25 5:30 pm Saturday Night Chapel Service (Miller Commons)
29	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 Baby Boot Camp (Gym)	30 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	31 6:00 pm AA (Room 6)	

Family Ministry Team



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Mapstone

Family and Congregational
Care Minister

cmapstone@dewittchurch.org

Family Ministry Sunday Schedule

Nursery Rm 10, 9-10:45 AM, Rm 45
10:45 AM-12 PM Ages Birth - 4 yrs

Confirmation Class
10-11 AM In Room 8

Youth Sunday School (grades 5-12)
11 AM to Noon Room 7

Sunday School (grades PreK - 4)
11 AM to Noon I Miller Commons



Mary Chirello

Youth Director

mchirello@dewittchurch.org

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

SUNDAY VOL
JANUARY 12

FOR ALL CONFIRMANDS

UNTOON
EER TO 3PM

SAMARITAN CENTER

GLOW IN THE DARK

CAPTURE

JANUARY 18 @ DCC

7-9PM

FLAG

JANUARY 24 7-9 PM ROOM 7

HIGH SCHOOL

MOVIE

night

Invite your friends





A Theology of Neighborliness

As I watched the trailer for "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" starring Tom Hanks, my childhood flashed before my eyes. I recalled growing up in the 1980s sitting in front of the TV watching Fred Rogers in "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." And I remember learning an important lesson of life: being neighborly.

As a child, I did not think that was a radical message. In fact, the message and how it was presented were downright pedestrian. As an adult, I now realize the radical nature of Fred Rogers's teaching. His lessons on neighborliness articulate a theology for Christians living in a culture seemingly devoid of neighborliness and for churches struggling to survive in a world of declining religious participation.

Many know that Rogers was a devout Christian and a Presbyterian minister, but few are aware that he was prohibited from talking about God on his television show. Even so, each day he walked into the studio and prayed, "Dear God, let some word that is heard be Yours." With that prayer, Rogers enacted through public television a theology of his calling and his work. In his programs, he taught a theology of neighborliness. Without ever mentioning God or Jesus, he taught millions what it means to embody a theology of neighborliness.

A theology of neighborliness is what Jesus taught in the parable of "The Good Samaritan." Jesus told this story because an expert in the Law of Moses asked, "Who is my neighbor?" The parable illustrates that a neighbor is anyone in need of God's love, compassion and grace. Embodying these qualities of servanthood is true neighborliness, which has little to do with merely being friendly.

American Christians have largely forgotten a theology of neighborliness. For much of the 20th century, American

Christians have been taught that what goes on in the confines of their church on the corner constitutes the activity of God. In actuality, God dwells not only in the church building but out in the streets of the neighborhood. As that neighborhood changes, the church increasingly does not reflect those who now live in its neighborhood, an experience especially common among Euro-American churches.

Fred Rogers, in Christ-like neighborliness, introduced his young viewers to people from all walks of life, showing them who their neighbors were – including people who did not look like or act like them. He brought the neighborhood front and center into children's lives.

As adults, we have forgotten about the neighbor and the neighborhood. We have forgotten that the embodiment of Jesus' message is not about getting more people in the pews but going forth to live and minister in collaboration with God in the redemption of the world. Many Christians and churches who hang their hat on the Great Commission believe they are the missionaries who hold this responsibility. In reality, God is the missionary. We are invited to join the journey as partners with God.

As an adult, a pastor and a theologian, I realize that Mr. Rogers was not just talking to children, but to grown-ups as well, including those of us who are church leaders. Christians in the 21st century can learn much from Mr. Rogers. Now, more than ever, churches need to discover what God is up to in the neighborhood and then employ a theology of neighborliness that invites and welcomes all, serves all and works alongside their neighbors toward God's justice for all.

Love and Grace,

Alan Rudnick

Rev. Alan Rudnick

BIBLE STUDY

IF:Equip Women's Bible Study

Join IF:Equip Women's Daytime Bible Study this winter as we study *No Other Gods* by Kelly Minte. We'll study scripture from the gospels and encourage each other in actionable practices to make room for Christ in our lives. To learn more please contact Chrissy at chrudnick@gmail.com.

New Study: Counterfeit Christianity

w/ Pastor Alan - Sundays, Starting Jan. 12, room 6

Historic heresies didn't die or fade away in Christianity. Each generation boasts its own. In this DVD study, participants will study simple confusions or misunderstandings about impenetrable mysteries of divine revelation. This study will cover divine determinism, moralistic therapeutic deism, and the prosperity gospel. We'll study major heresies in Christianity and how the church dealt with them, the players, and what we can do to address these faith issues in order to educate others about Jesus, God, and salvation.

IF: EQUIP WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
 thursdays: jan 9 & 23, feb. 13 & 27,
 mar 12 & 26, apr 16 & 30, may 14 & 28
 IF: from 9:30-11 am in the parlor

COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY

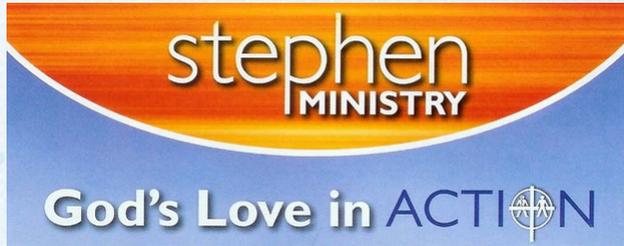
SUNDAYS @ 10 AM IN ROOM 6





Meals On Wheels Bottle Drive

Meals on Wheels has another bottle drive coming up on Saturday, February 8. 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 cmapstone@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.



OFFERING COUNTERS

Offering Counters Thank you & Help Wanted.

Big Thank you to John Heslop, Warren Machell, Jean & Hugh Williams, and John Wyman for another wonderful year helping with counting the offerings every week. If you are interested in helping out counting the weekly offerings, please let Jane Hahn know by email: jhahn@dewittchurch.org.



Thank you for sharing Christmas with us at DeWitt Community Church

