



The Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers  
*Senior Minister*  
The Rev. Alan R. Rudnick  
*Associate/Executive Minister*  
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone  
*Associate Minister*  
The Rev. William A. Carlsen  
*Adjunct Minister*

March 19, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of DeWitt Community Church,

During this time of challenge, we are reminded that the church is not a building or even a physical location, rather it is a body that is connected through God's spirit. **We as a church will continue to do ministry, it will just take different forms during this period of time.**

Last night the Board of Trustees (our governing body) made the following decisions on how to proceed in light of current circumstances:

**Effective this weekend we will move to an online worship experience, and we will cease meeting physically together for worship until the current health crisis is resolved.** This weekend's online worship service will be available this Sunday at 11AM. Instructions on how to view the online service will be on our website, [www.dewittchurch.org](http://www.dewittchurch.org). The service will also be available at [www.facebook.com/thedewittchurch](https://www.facebook.com/thedewittchurch). Even if you are not on Facebook, you can visit our Facebook website for information. If you have not been receiving e-mails from the church office and wish to connect via e-mail, please call the church office at 315-445-0331 or let us know by sending a note to: [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org).

**Effective immediately, all meetings of groups and committees will take place online.** Our selected online platform will be ZOOM. Instructions on how to use this online tool will be supplied to groups.

**We are developing a daily schedule of available online resources and programing.** This information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

**Effective immediately, use of our building will be limited, and only to groups of 10 or less with approval of the pastoral staff.** If you need access to the building, please call in advance 315-445-0331. When the building is open, the Library will be made available for those desiring a space for personal prayer.

**The church staff will be working remotely and are available by phone and email.** The church office number 315-445-0331 will be staffed remotely to answer any questions and to provide contact information on how to reach individual staff members and church leaders.

**We will continue to work with families and individuals** during life events such as weddings, funerals and baptisms and in providing pastoral care, adapting to the circumstances as needed.

**Please know that while our community, nation and even the world are going through times of uncertainty, our congregation is actively continuing its ministries.** The pastoral staff, program staff, church leaders and ministries will be reaching out and connecting with people one on one and in small groups through an online presence. Should you need us, even if it is just to talk or pray, we are available. If you don't have contact information for the person you want to reach, please call the church office 315-445-0331 or the Pastor on call at 315-303-2308.

During this time, I also want to encourage you to continue your generosity and stewardship to the ministries of our congregation. Your gifts assure that these important ministries will continue, even during these challenging times. Contributions can be mailed to the Church office; 3600 Erie Blvd. East, DeWitt, NY 13214 or made online by visiting [give.dewittchurch.org](http://give.dewittchurch.org).

Finally, I want to encourage you to be an encouragement to others. Take a moment to call someone who might be lonely or afraid. Pray for one another, our nation, and our church. Pray that people may find great comfort and hope through our common faith in Christ.

May the peace of Christ be with you, now and always!

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers  
Senior Minister