



APRIL newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEWITT COMMUNITY CHURCH | APRIL 2020



Sunday online worship will be available at 9 AM on YouTube and 11 AM on Facebook. You can also view online worship at the church website: www.dewittchurch.org. Email office@dewittchurch.org to be included in our email list, if you are not already receiving emails. Please know that while our community, nation, and the world are going through times of uncertainty, our congregation is actively continuing its ministries. Should you need us, even if it is just to talk or pray, we are available. We encourage you to connect with us on Facebook as we publish new content multiple times each day. Most of all, let us reach out and be Christ to one another during this time of change.



April Worship

Palm Sunday

Jesus On: Seeking God

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, April 5 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

Maundy Thursday

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

Thursday, April 9 7:00 PM YouTube & Facebook

Good Friday

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Friday, April 10 12:00 PM YouTube & Facebook

Easter Sunday

Looking In All The Wrong Places

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, April 12 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

The Path of Healing: Wounded and Resurrected

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Sunday, April 19 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

The Edge of Faith: Living Into The Liminal

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Sunday, April 26 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

*** All services will be online until we resume a regular schedule

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.



Social Media Schedule

FACEBOOK.COM/THEDEWITTCHURCH

MORNING

DEVOTIONS

MONDAY-FRIDAY AT 8 AM
SATURDAY AT 9 AM



MONDAY-THURSDAY
AT 10 AM

Bible STORIES

with Pastor Cindy



Music For
KIDS
WITH ABBY YOUNG
MONDAY-FRIDAY @ 10:30 AM

12 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

Abel Searor AT THE PIANO



let us pray for you
**PASTOR'S
TIME OF
PRAYER**
MONDAY-FRIDAY AT 2PM

New SONGS

WITH NIC MACLANE

4 pm Daily



NIGHTLY AT 8 PM
EVENING PRAYER
WITH PASTOR ALAN



9AM YouTube

sunday:WORSHIP

facebook 11AM

From the Senior Minister

As we all know, we are in unprecedented times as the Coronavirus has invaded our lives. At the same time, we are Easter people and we put our faith in the risen Lord. So WE WILL observe Holy Week, and WE WILL celebrate the Resurrection of Christ on Easter...we will just be doing it differently.

Since the spread of the virus has made it impossible to meet in person for worship and in the many groups and activities that are a normal part of our life as a congregation, we have gone "online." We have been positing online "Chapel Services" through Facebook and YouTube that are also available on our website www.dewittchurch.org. We have also been using Zoom to connect different groups and committees. So our many ministries have not stopped, we have just changed how we live them out. My hope is that as many people as possible can stay connected in our community during these challenging times.

As a result of this current crisis, please allow me to update you on a few items of importance.

All in person events and activities are suspended until further notice. If for some reason you do need access to the Church building, please call ahead.

The Church Office phone will be staffed remotely from 9AM – 4PM Monday through Friday 315-445-0331. The pastor on call line will continued to be staffed 24/7, 315-303-2308.

During this crisis, many of the ministries of the church continue, and so do the expenses. Your contributions are as critical as ever, so please continue



with your generosity if at all possible. Checks may be sent to the church office, or you can donate online by going to our website give.dewittchurch.org.

When we are able to resume normal activities, we will be revising our scheduled activities that we've

had to suspend during this crisis.

As many of you are aware, I was scheduled to be on sabbatical from mid-April to mid-July. Due to the current events, that plan will be altered as we navigate the challenges brought on by the virus outbreak

As we go through these unusual times, I would like to close by offering this prayer. Lord God, during these times of doubts and uncertainty, we look to you for strength and courage. Help us to live with faith, not fear as we face these challenges. Help us to take each day at a time and trust in the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Help us to walk through this upcoming Holy Week with a renewed sense of devotion and to celebrate your resurrection which gives us hope for the present and hope for all eternity. We pray this, in the name of Christ. Amen

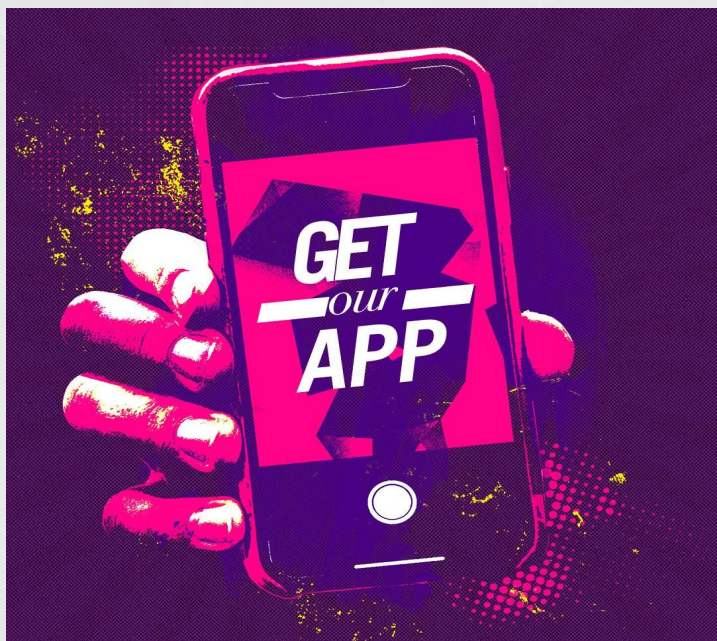


Download Our FREE Church App

TODAY!!!

Android users: Search DeWitt Community Church in the GOOGLE PLAY STORE

Apple users: Search Sharefaith in the App Store, download that app and when it loads search DeWitt Community Church!!!!



Message from the Board President:

*"Only love can make it rain
The way the beach is kissed by the sea...
Only love can bring the rain
That falls like tears from on high
Love, reign o'er me, rain on me, rain on me"*
-Pete Townshend

As I sit down to write this morning, an overcast sky promises an early spring rain. The rebirth of nature is just around the corner. It's perhaps inevitable that I address the role of our Church in the current pandemic. There is still much to learn about COVID-19, but it's clear now that its afflictions are indiscriminate – disregarding age, wealth, politics or race. We're all in this together.

As a Church so much of what we do involves physically coming together as a group for worship and fellowship, yet that is exactly what we mustn't do to slow the spread of this virus. We're fortunate to live in a time when we have the technology to offer on-line worship, devotionals and meetings. Although we've postponed a few events and limited the use of our building, it is our intent to maintain our ministries for as long as our resources permit. Our hard working staff remains dependent on your generosity as much now as during "normal" times. We endeavor to be the "virtual glue" holding our community together.

I recently read an article about two women of great age who lived through the 1918 flu pandemic, annual waves of polio, the Depression, and the Holocaust. Historically, incurable illness was relatively commonplace – we are just not used to it due to the advances of medical science. One commentator shared, "...we should all reflect on how fragile life, civility and yes, even simple kindness can be when our comforts and ordered existence starts to unravel." This Lenten season we've been reminded of Christ's Sermon on the Mount, and in one example Christ uses the rain to illustrate God's love for all humanity. He sends rain on both the just and the unjust and we're challenged to follow that example.

So, during this unsettled time we should be mindful of the needs of our neighbors. Recognize that there are those who suffer from loneliness, unemployment, or illness. Others place themselves at risk to maintain vital services. The precautions we take benefit everyone. Faced with uncertainty it's natural to feel anxiety – but try to remain patient and calm even though we can't know what will happen. Panic and selfishness are as contagious as the plague. I look forward to the day when we can all gather together again to give thanks and celebrate our deliverance. In the meantime, may we be a blessing to others like a refreshing rain.

Blessings to you all!

Eric W. Witschi, President

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

Attention Knitters and/or Crocheters: Our congregants are always in need of the comfort of our prayer shawls. Patterns and yarn are available. Contact Nancy Bond (nancybond3@gmail.com/315-637-9571) and she would be glad to answer questions or fill your needs. Thank you.

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.

Family Ministry Team



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Mapstone
Family Minister
cmapstone@dewittchurch.org



Abby Young
Children's Music Director
ayoung@dewittchurch.org



Mary Chirello
Youth Director
mchirello@dewittchurch.org



SEND YOUR
9TH-12TH
GRADERS ON
A JOURNEY
INTO THE
HEART OF
SYRACUSE!



We hope you'll join us as we celebrate our 2020 confirmands on Sunday, May 17 at 11 AM in the sanctuary. A light reception is to follow. If you would like to donate cookies for the occasion, please let Mary know.



July 19 - 23

This 5 day service event is open to all students in 9th-12th grade! Spend a week serving your community, spending time together growing with your friends in Christ, eating some amazing food, and having one of the best weeks of your life! Registration will be filling up quickly, so sign up with Mary ASAP- 315-247-0060/mchirello@dewittchurch.org

BIBLE STUDY

IF: EQUIP WOMEN'S BIBLE

STUDY

WILL CONTINUE

TO MEET VIA ZOOM!

IF:

IF: Equip Women's Bible Study

The spring study: **No Other Gods** by Kelly Minter

Location: until further notice, the comfort of your own home via ZOOM!

Time: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Email chrudnick@gmail.com for each week's ZOOM gathering link. Please prepare for each gathering having read the session's 5-day study. Bring your coffee and/or tea, snack, Bible, and study guide to the table!

* Due to the change in the school schedule we've adjusted our previously communicated schedule so that we meet on the second and fourth Thursdays in April.

April 9th* – Session 7: NO OTHER GOD CAN DO THIS (pg. 140–165)

April 23rd* – Session 8: CHOSEN TO BEAR FRUIT (pg. 166–193)

May 14th – Study TBA

May 28th – Study TBA

MOSES

In the Footsteps of the
RELUCTANT PROPHET

w/ Pastor Alan - Sundays at 10 AM

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet

This study will continue as planned but will be held online. You can join on Sunday at 10 AM by visiting [Facebook.com/thedewittchurch](https://www.facebook.com/thedewittchurch). Contact Pastor Alan for more information, arudnick@dewittchurch.org. We will retrace Moses' life by walking in his steps in Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, this study guides us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had successfully fulfilled the role he was given.

you'll
get
through
this

HOPE AND HELP FOR YOUR TURBULENT TIMES

New Study: You'll Get Through This

Sundays @ 10 AM via Zoom w/ Pastor Alan, starting April 19
You fear you won't make it through. We all do. We fear that the depression will never lift, the yelling will never stop, the pain will never leave. In the pits, surrounded by steep walls and aching reminders, we wonder: Will this gray sky ever brighten? Does this load ever lighten? In *You'll Get Through This*, we'll study how God doesn't promise that getting through trials will be quick or painless. It wasn't for Joseph--tossed in a pit by his brothers, sold into slavery, wrongfully imprisoned, forgotten and dismissed--but his Old Testament story is in the Bible for this reason: to teach us to trust God to trump evil. Email Pastor Alan for a link to join the study.



My, what an interesting spring we're all having, a little outside the norm for sure. I hope that everyone is coping with all the lifestyle changes we're in the middle of, so that we can keep ourselves and families healthy and well. Much as I'd like to get out of cleaning my house and closets, and would like to see grandchildren, I'm glad and thank God that I'm healthy and able to do what I can.

As for the Women's Association going on, we are making some changes we want you to know about.

We all enjoyed Yvonne Conte so much at the

Women's Retreat in November and were looking forward to her Day of Joy Women's conference on April 25. This has been cancelled and re-scheduled for Oct 17 at Believer's Chapel. As we get more information, we will let you know so that we can go as a group for a better price, and possibly arrange carpools.

We have decided to cancel the Arts & Crafts Show scheduled for April 25. In view of the uncertain future, we will not be re-scheduling at this time. We'll miss seeing the beautiful crafts and the goodies at the bake sale, but it is for the best.

Linda Bliss will be handling our Mother's Day Plants Sale, and she tells me she will also be doing it on line this year, to conform with social distancing. Use the order form on the back of the newsletter. Online orders can be made at dewittchurch.org/plant-sale.

And to finish our year out we're planning our ever-popular bring your-favorite-salad-to-share in June, but this time as a picnic. As we get details we will let everyone know so you can join us.

Thank you all for supporting the Women's Assn and stay safe through these difficult times.

-Angela Todisco

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE ONLINE SURVEY

WE WANT YOUR HELP IN CHOOSING OUR NEXT SENIOR MINISTER
PLEASE VISIT DEWITTCHURCH.ORG/SURVEY



Women's Association 2020 Plant Sale



PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please indicate the number of plants you wish to purchase
in the blank space following the color you want.
Please note: Color names may not match between
different plant types.

10" Hanging Baskets

Million Bells: yellow _____ magenta _____

Fuschia: red & white _____ purple with red jacket _____

Ivy Geraniums: red _____ pink _____

New Guinea Impatiens: pink _____ red _____ white _____

Total 10" Hanging Baskets: _____ \$21.00 each = _____

4 1/2" Geraniums

red _____ white _____ pink _____

Total 4 1/2" Geraniums: _____ \$4.25 each = _____

GRAND TOTAL = _____

Order & Pick-up Instructions

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, MAY 1st

Payment (cash/check) is requested when you place your order.
Please make your check payable to "DCC Women's
Association."

Please mail your order and payment to:

Linda Bliss, 250 Hoffman Rd., Tully, NY 13159

Plants will be available for pick-up in the Gym on
Saturday, May 9th from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.