

MAY newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEWITT COMMUNITY CHURCH | MAY 2020

Help Us Celebrate MOTHER'S DAY

Hello Families of Dewitt Community Church. We could use your help.

As part of the online worship service for Mother's Day (Sunday 5/10) we would love to put together a video of families from the congregation. We are asking you to gather the kids around Mom and shoot a short 1-3 minute video clip that we can edit together to show during the worship service.

The instructions are below. Please remember that we are not asking for professional quality work. We have the capability to edit the final product to make it work. If you are willing to participate, please record the video over the next few days and have it back to the church office by Thursday, 3/7. This will ensure that there is enough time to edit the final product.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me by cell phone at 315-447-0613 or email me at cmapstone@dewittchurch.org. Thank you in advance for your willing participation.

Pastor Cindy

Instructions:

Gather the family, Mom in a group surrounded by her children (outdoors, around the table, on the sofa, etc) Remember pets may be included, too.

Using your cell phone or tablet record the following. This can also be with grandparents via zoom or FaceTime.

In one sentence, have each child share one or two things they like about their Mom.

Next, have Mom speak about what the family has been doing during the quarantine.

At the end have everyone wave and say, "Happy Mother's Day"

Send the video to Peter Hawley for editing at phawley@dewittchurh.org

May Worship

Excellent Thinking

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, May 3 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

You Are God's Masterpiece

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

Sunday, May 10 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

Celebrating Mother's Day

Being Content

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, May 17 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

When God Writes Your Name

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

Sunday, May 24 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

Celebrating Memorial Day

Come Holy Spirit

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

Sunday, May 31 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00 AM Facebook

Celebrating Pentecost

*** 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

3 P M

INSTAGRAM

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

[DCC_YOUTHMIN]

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 You Tube

sunday: **WORSHIP**

facebook 11AM

From the Senior Minister

My article for May will keep people informed and make sure that you are up to date on what is going on at DeWitt Community Church during the Covid-19 Crisis.

Public Worship

Resuming public worship is a decision that will be made by our Board of Trustees. Our first priority will be safety, and upon reopening we will let you know of the safety precautions that we will be putting into place. When we resume public worship, we will start with one service and that will be the 11 AM Service on Sunday in the Sanctuary (9:30 in the Summer). Meeting in the Sanctuary will allow us more room for social distancing. We will continue to provide a worship experience on-line.

We will be providing a two week notice prior to resuming public worship and we will monitor weekly the possibility of resuming public worship at 5:30 & 9:00.

Annual Meeting: We will be deciding by May 27, whether to hold our Annual Meeting on its scheduled date, June 17, or delay it, possibly to the fall.

Finances / Budget / Staff

We have been monitoring expenses very closely during this time. Giving has declined during this time where we are unable to offer public worship. We have also suspended the use of the building to outside groups which reduces our income as well. Fortunately, as a result of the generosity of many of you, we have not had to make any significant reductions in our staff, with the exception of part time janitorial staff.

Our Church Staff has been exceptional in adjusting to the new realities by providing excellent online worship experiences, groups and meetings. The staff has also been busy checking in and touching base with members and friends of the congregation. The staff has been truly amazing! Everyone is working hard to continue the ministries of the church; they are just working differently than normal.

We have applied to the Paycheck Protection Program and are awaiting word back. This grant would go a long way to make up for our downturn in income and allow us to keep our staff paid. We do have an excellent staff and our goal is to keep this staff together. We are aware that to accomplish this, that there may need to be some sacrifices, which we will share in a manner that is both fair and compassionate. The Finance Committee is working on different budget scenarios during this time of uncertainty.



Pastoral Sabbatical

As many of you are aware, I was extended the opportunity for a Sabbatical and was originally scheduled to leave immediately after Easter. Due to the current circumstances, the schedule for the sabbatical was delayed. It will now begin on May 19 and conclude September 7. I will be

combining the sabbatical time along with vacation and continuing education leave.

During my absence, Pastors Alan and Cindy will be providing leadership to the staff and Eric Witichi and Greg Stock will be providing leadership to the Board of Trustees. I will be maintaining contact with them during the sabbatical as we navigate through these uncertain times. I will not, however, be able to respond to e-mail or phone calls during my absence.

My time will be spent in studying the "Confessing Church Movement," in pre-World War II Germany. Due to the pandemic, I will not be able to complete the travel portion of the sabbatical, but hopefully will be able to do that next spring with the use of vacation and continuing education leave. I look forward to sharing with you what I have learned during this experience in the fall.

Pastoral Transition

We have an excellent committee that is committed to determining the core competencies needed for the next senior minister and then seeking to fill that position. Their hope is to have the next senior minister in place by Homecoming 2021. They will continue to update the congregation as they make progress in fulfilling this charge. I encourage you to pray for them daily.

I want to close with this. Please feel free to call the church office at any time with any questions you may have, 315-445-0331. If you have a pastoral care need, please do not hesitate to call the Pastor on Call line 315-303-2308. We are here for you.

Stay Safe and May God Bless You,

Message from the Board President:

*"Train wheels runnin' through the back of my memory,
When I ran on a hilltop following a pack of wild geese,
Someday, everything is gonna sound like a rhapsody
When I paint my masterpiece"*

-Bob Dylan

Perhaps it's the nature of my profession as an Architect to look for order amid the chaos. Collecting the disparate and conflicting needs of my clients, it's my job to create functional form along with some artistry. Our current situation, with many of us confined to our homes, is certainly a time of disruption and uncertainty.

For the past month Dewitt Community Church staff and volunteers have worked hard to maintain our missions and services with a pallet of technological tools including YouTube, Facebook, Zoom Meetings and phone calls to church members. Participation numbers for our virtual programs has been amazing. During Easter week we had nearly 11,900 views of our videos! It's still unclear when we'll be able to gather together again in person, but we will continue to follow medical advice concerning when and how it's safe to do so.

Church leadership has started to work on budget preparation for the fiscal year that starts in July. In April we applied for a forgivable loan through the Paycheck Protection Program. Thanks go to Dave

Schneckenburger (Chair of Endowment), Rev. Alan Rudnick and our Financial Manager Jane Hahn for pulling the application together. After waiting for our political leaders to replenish the program, we're happy to learn that our loan has been approved. Nevertheless our financial picture beyond the next few months is very difficult to judge. So much depends on contributions when many are in financial straits. It's in times like these that leaders can't let uncertainty paralyze us, or abandon regular order. An Executive Committee meeting in April considered various scenarios to guide the budgeting process, and we expect action by the full Board of Trustees in May.

Finally, last September I provided an update on our plans for long term restructuring of our debt with the optimistic forecast that all would be set in place soon. As so often happens in life, we encountered some bureaucratic bumps in the road. I'm pleased to report that our closing on a low interest 30-year mortgage for three of our residential properties was completed on April 30. With the mortgage complete the remaining debt will be transferred to a new 10-year loan. Our strategy has been to lock down favorable interest rates for as long as we can, and make steady progress on payments. Finally this initiative, which began nearly two years ago, is coming to fruition.

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 a 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.



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.



In this present crisis with church closures, our food donations have dried up. And the Postal Service has canceled it's annual May food drive. Yet each week more new clients come to the food pantry seeking food help. Food donations would gladly be excepted during our open hours 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM on Tuesday and Friday. Our food pantry is located in the back of the old Jamesville firehouse on E. Seneca Turnpike. Checks may be made out to JDEFP and sent to JDEFP, P.O. Box 683, Jamesville, NY 13078. Our phone number is (315) 469-5093.

We are always in need of the following items: Canned fruits and vegetables, baked beans, cereals, coffee, macaroni and cheese, crackers and snacks, tuna and soup.'



Hi everyone, just a note to let everyone know what's going on with the Women's Assn. We may not be meeting formally but we would like to share a few things.

First, thank you for supporting our Mother's Day Plant Sale. Please remember to pick up your plants at Fellowship Hall on Sat, May 9

from 9:30-12. Again, if you have a problem, let us know so we can help you make arrangements.

We're still planning on a picnic in the garden, on June 11, our famous bring your favorite salad lunch, and this time Mick Thorpe has consented to make us some hamburgers to go with our salads. This is assuming we're allowed to meet by then (we're looking at the positive side of things). So look for some more on this in the June newsletter.

As usual, we're off for the summer, but plan to pick up again in Sept with our Homecoming Pie Sale, the BEST pumpkin, apple, and berry pies, in both large and small sizes. Judi Wilson will be planning this again. If anyone would like to help, we would certainly welcome it. We will need helpers to cut apples, make dough, roll dough, mix berries, do pumpkin mix, and of course shop for all the ingredients. Lots of fun and comradery when making pies.

As usual, we're always looking for others to join our steering committee to help plan events and fundraisers. if anyone is interested, please let us know. You can call me at 315-430-0220 or email me at Atee1@twcnr.com. Anyone is also welcome to sit in on a meeting (when we have them again!) to see what we do, or send us any suggestions for events or other things, we're happy to hear from anyone.

Until next time, stay safe -Angela Todisco

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

A message to the Class of 2020

We want to recognize you! Please send Mary a picture of yourself and a short bio about your plans after graduation by May 25th. We're so proud of all of you and want to celebrate all of your accomplishments. Mary's email: mchirello@dewittchurch.org

All high school seniors are eligible to apply for the Munson and Perkin's scholarships! These scholarships are a church tradition to celebrate all of the volunteerism and hard work of our high school students. Please email Mary for an application: mchirello@dewittchurch.org

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

July 19 - 23


**summer
servants**

PRAYER
SERVICE
JUSTICE
WORSHIP
& FUN!



Summer Servants has officially been changed to a day camp instead of an overnight. The cost per student is now \$200 instead of \$250.00. The camp will be running from July 19-23 at DCC. All students in high school, either entering 9th grade, or graduating, are eligible to attend. For more information or to sign up with Mary: mchirello@dewittchurch.org or 315-247-0060



Disruption, Coronavirus, God, and You

-Rev. Alan Rudnick

Transitional times, like we are experiencing during the Coronavirus pandemic and crisis, are never marked with clear delineations. Transitions and crises are often bumpy, fraught with mistakes, and require high amounts of energy. You may be wondering why you are feeling so exhausted at the end of the day even though you didn't physically exert yourself. It is because transitions and life's disruptions, by their very nature, require us to learn new things, do new things, and require different parts of our mind and soul. St. Paul is someone who experienced a tumultuous change in his life. He was firmly living life as a leader of the Jewish people in his faith and education of Judaism. Then, Jesus showed up in his life (literally) and changed his journey into living into Christ. The book of Acts recounts his journey into disruption and reorientation of life. Like St. Paul, we often go through disruptions in our everyday life and spiritual life.

Several years ago I discovered a wonderful insight into life and transitions. Christian author and theologian Walter Brueggemann frames this in the most helpful way. Brueggemann writes that our life and our spirituality often goes through a three-movement pattern:

1. We are being securely oriented
2. We are being painfully disoriented
3. We are being surprisingly reoriented

I call this O.D.R.: Oriented, disoriented and reoriented. All of us go through this three phase cycle, in small ways and large ways in our lives. And, we encounter this pattern with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world.

We often experience painful disorientation because we are trying to make sense of what is happening to us based on past experiences. Perhaps this is why Jesus

told us that we cannot try to put new wine into old wineskins. The process of making wine in antiquity required that you could not use an old container in the wine making process. I've always like that imagery of Jesus. See, you cannot try to take the reality of our present and think it will work with the old past. It's not that the old-past is bad, but it is just that – it is in the past. It's no longer here. We are painfully disoriented because our past fixes and solutions don't work.

When facing disorientation, I have found myself going towards new prayers, new places for reflection, new relationships, trying new patterns, new directions, and a new way of relating to God. I have found surprisingly reorientation through the pain and difficulty with life's disruptions with the help of friends. It is in the moments of pain that God does God's best work. It's not that God desires we go through pain but God uses the moment to do something new. In our lives, our spiritual lives are not about staying the same – but are dynamic, fluid, and taking new shapes in growth, grace, love, forgiveness, and relationship with God. My prayer for you is to take this time of painful disorientation and find new ways of connecting to God, family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers (safely).



Download Our FREE Church App

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!!!!

BIBLE STUDY



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!

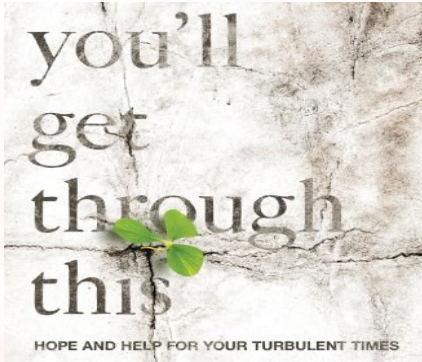
May 14 & 28, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

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!

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.



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall
5299 Jamesville Rd - Syracuse

**Saturday, May 9, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: PebbleHill to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Congregation,

We wanted to thank those that took the time to fill out the congregational survey and provide us with information needed to provide the you the best candidates.

Although many things are changing rapidly and we aren't able to attend church as we have known it, we have the luxury or technology to attend services and keep this process moving forward. We feel very strongly that this very important mission needs to continue during this challenging time. We are currently working on a process to allow us to conduct interviews while practicing

recommended Social Distancing.

We also want to thank Mark, Alan, Cindy and the entire DCC Staff for providing great leadership and guidance as we navigate this process and COVID-19 together. We look forward to all being together again and in the meantime, please continue to keep our entire congregation and community in your prayers. Many times, miracles can arise from the most challenging of circumstances.

Blessings,
Senior Minister Search Committee