

# JUNE newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEWITT COMMUNITY CHURCH | JUNE 2020



As part of the online worship service for Father's Day (Sunday 6/21) we would love to put together a video of families from the congregation. We are asking you to gather the kids around Dad and shoot a short 1-3 minute video clip that we can edit together to show during the worship service.

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, 6/12. 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](mailto:cmapstone@dewittchurch.org).

## Father's Day Video Submission

### Instructions:

Gather the kids around Dad and shot a video on your phone, computer or tablet

In one sentence have each child answer the question: "What is the best thing your Dad ever taught you?"

Next, have Dad answer the question: "What advice would you give to a new Dad?"

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

**THANK YOU!**

## June Worship

### Avenues to Authentic Hope: Hallowed Healing

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Sunday, June 7      9:00 AM YouTube  
11:00 AM Facebook

### Avenues to Authentic Hope: Flamboyant Forgiveness

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Sunday, June 14      9:00 AM YouTube  
11:00 AM Facebook

### Avenues to Authentic Hope: Reorienting Redemption

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Sunday, June 21      9:00 AM YouTube  
11:00 AM Facebook

Celebrating Father's Day

### Purposeful Living

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

Sunday, June 28      9:00 AM YouTube  
11:00 AM Facebook

Baccalaureate/Graduation Service

\*\*\*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.





## To find hope in these times do these three things

-Rev. Alan Rudnick

We are looking for hope in these times. We see Coronavirus disruptions, economic upheaval, and racial inequality coming to a head in our cities. We may feel like we are like a boat without a rudder, and we are looking for that Guiding Force to help us.

As a pastor, I have learned there are three things to do in uncertain and disruptive times. The first two are this: look and listen.

These last weeks of ministry, we have seen very encouraging online engagement with our worship, prayer, devotionals, Bible study, and music. We reach thousands of individuals and families each week. I look online to how God is working in new ways. I look at how we are reaching new people because of our online social media ministry. I listen to how God is doing a new thing through disruption and change. I look and listen to how God is still working in ways seen and unseen, waiting for how God will work out God's purpose.

In uncertain times, to find hope, we look and listen.

John Claypool, a one-time Baptist turned Episcopalian author, professor, and pastor and, in his book, *The Hopeful Heart*, shares that in the 1960s while working towards healing of race relations in the South, a moment of hopelessness overcame him. While trying to bring together white and black pastors at a local synagogue, the meeting ended in failure with blame and anger. He turned to his rabbi friend and said,

"I think it is hopeless. This problem is so old, so deep, so many-faceted, there is simply no way out of it."

The rabbi, whose family had been through the holocaust knew the dark side of humanity, told Claypool:

"To the Jew, there is only one unforgivable sin, that is the sin of despair... humanly speaking, despair is presumptuous. It is saying something about the future that we have no right to say because we have not been there yet and do not know enough... We do not know enough to embrace the absolutism of despair... If God can

create the things that are from the things that are not, and even make dead things come back to life, who are we to set limits on what that kind of potency may yet do?"

The rabbi pointed John Claypool the truth of what the apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians 4:16-18:

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly, we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Hope, as defined, by Saint Paul is this: the belief that God is not done working out God's purpose. God, who is unseen, is working in ways unknown to redeem failures, mistakes, and trauma. Hope is faith in that God is still at work. Where optimism is blind with regards to the future, hope sees God working in new and exciting ways. Hope is putting faith into that Holy Mystery that is God. Hope is to say, "God, this is awful. I need your help to redeem this mess. I do not know how or when, but I give myself and this mess to you."

In these times, we must look and listen AND act so that we may find the hope that God offers. Yes, the last thing to do in these uncertain times is to act. We must commit ourselves to action in how we will be the presence of Christ in our neighborhood and community. We cannot wait for someone else to be a healing presence. We must be the very hope to another that we are looking for in our world. We act compassionately, gracefully, and lovingly towards our friends, neighbors, and even enemies.

When we look, listen, and act, we can begin to find hope in uncertain times.





## Message from the Board President:

*"We'll meet again  
Don't know where, don't know when  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day"*  
-Ross Parker & Hughie Charles

Another month of confinement has come and gone, and now we can begin to see light at the end of the tunnel. As I write these words we're on the cusp of Phase 2 of the State's restart plan. Mass gatherings, such as large church services, will be permitted in Phase 4, which will not happen any earlier than the end of June as long as Covid-19 cases remain low. Regardless of that timetable, DeWitt Community Church will resume live services once we feel it's safe to do so. We'll have a plan in place to protect us, and the congregation will receive at least two weeks advance notice.

Our May Trustees meeting assigned responsibility for drafting our restart plan, and passed a budget for the fiscal year starting in July. We also decided that for safety's sake the Annual Meeting, traditionally held in June, would be postponed to September 23. At the end of June I will be stepping down as your President; however I will continue to serve on the Senior Minister Selection Committee. After 9 years of continuous service as a Trustee my term has expired. Your Vice President Greg Stock will assume the duties of President in July. Greg has been my closest collaborator these past two years and has my full confidence. I encourage you to confirm him in this position at the Annual Meeting.

Since this will be my last newsletter article I'd like to share some reflections, and give thanks. During the past two years the overarching theme of my work has been to prepare the way for the next Sr. Minister. To that end I had three goals. First to complete negotiations for Rev. Dr. Mark Sommers retirement with the priceless gift of time for an adequate search. Second, to bring the size of our Board of Trustees into alignment with State law. Finally, placing our debt from past improvements into stable long term financing. A few loose ends remain on the financing, but all these goals have been reached.

As I lay aside the burdens of office there are many people I need to thank. First to the congregation I thank you for trusting me with the responsibilities of leadership. To Mark Sommers who persuaded me to take this job, I give thanks for our many mealtime meetings that made some hard truths easier to swallow. Thank you to our hardworking staff for everything they do for the church and our missions, and particularly Mick Thorpe who put up with me for the longest. I give thanks to Greg Stock and all the members of the Board of Trustees for their collective wisdom and civil debate. Whenever I've had moments of doubt I could lay problem out before them and together we reached well-reasoned solutions. Finally, I give thanks to my wife Linda, whose love and forbearance has seen me through these many years of service. Because of her my life is truly blessed

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cmapstone@dewittchurch.org)



Abby Young  
Children's Music Director  
[ayounga@dewittchurch.org](mailto:ayounga@dewittchurch.org)



Mary Chirello  
Youth Director  
[mchirello@dewittchurch.org](mailto:mchirello@dewittchurch.org)

## A message to the Class of 2020

We will be celebrating your accomplishments on June 28. Please send Mary a picture of yourself and a short bio about your plans after graduation ASAP. We're so proud of all of you all. Mary's email: [mchirello@dewittchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto:mchirello@dewittchurch.org)

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

**July 19 - 23**

**PRAYER  
SERVICE  
JUSTICE  
WORSHIP  
KINSHIP  
& FUN!**



**summer  
servants**

Summer Servants is a mission opportunity for youth to participate in community outreach and volunteer their time and talents to help our neighbors. Rather than serving for a full week, this year DCC Youth will help serve for just one day. They will be volunteering at a local farm or community garden. Face masks will be worn and we will not be engaging with anyone outside of our small group. The cost to participate is \$50.00 per person and open to all high school students which includes both those entering high school and those who are graduating this year.

If you are interesting in participating, please contact Mary Chirello: [mchirello@dewittchurch.org](mailto:mchirello@dewittchurch.org)



**Mark your calendars, DCC will be hosting a virtual Vacation Bible on Facebook and Youtube over the course of Five Consecutive Wednesday Mornings,**

**July 22, July 29, Aug 5, Aug 12, Aug 19, 2020.**

**Online registration will open on June 8, visit [dewittchurch.org/vbs](http://dewittchurch.org/vbs)**



**Get kids started on the right track with ROCKY RAILWAY!**

### **Here's How:**

#### **Transforming Experiences**

Kids discover that they can trust Jesus. Life is rocky for kids—full of ups and downs and twists and turns. At Rocky Railway, kids explore Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. Kids will deepen their friendship with Jesus and leave knowing they can trust him to do big things in their lives.

#### **Easy-to-Learn Truths**

Kids discover important truths in fresh new ways—and dig right into the Bible. At Rocky Railway VBS, kids learn one important Bible Point each day, and it's reinforced often through Bible adventures, key Bible verses, songs, snacks, and hands-on explorations that help children know that they can truly trust Jesus' power!

#### **Interconnected Lessons**

Everyone on your staff experiences the joy of seeing children discover God anew. Why? At Rocky Railway VBS, no activity stands alone. Instead of leading independent, isolated classes, each member of your team is on the same track, providing a unique and important part of kids' total VBS experience. It's life-changing!





# 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 YouTube

sunday:WORSHIP

facebook 11AM



# *An Update on Stewardship*

Dear Members and Friends of DeWitt Community Church

These last weeks of ministry have been unprecedented as we continue to stop the spread of the Coronavirus by meeting as a church community virtually. We have seen very encouraging online engagement with our worship, prayer, devotionals, Bible study, and music. We reach thousands of individuals and families each week. Regarding reopening, we have formed a Reopening Team looking at timeline, practices, and safety protocols. Our annual meeting will be moved to September 23, 2020.

Despite the disruption of the pandemic, this has been a great program year at DeWitt Community Church with much to celebrate. We have 14 youth being confirmed in their faith this September, we have welcomed 13 new members, have a care ministry of 17 Stephen Ministers walking alongside people in need, have vital small groups and Bible studies, and we sent our first Ambassador Team to Africa to support Hope for Ariang. God is indeed working through our church!

There is one area of concern and we are asking our members and friends to help. With about one month left in our fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2020, our goal to fully fund our ministry plan for the final portion of the year is \$80,000. We are making a special ask to our members and friends to meet our contribution goal to fully fund our ministry plan/budget for

the third year in a row, if they are able. All contributions that are sent into the church, dropped off, given through [give.dewittchurch.org](https://give.dewittchurch.org), given through stock or IRA, or dated through June 30, 2020, will go towards achieving our goal.

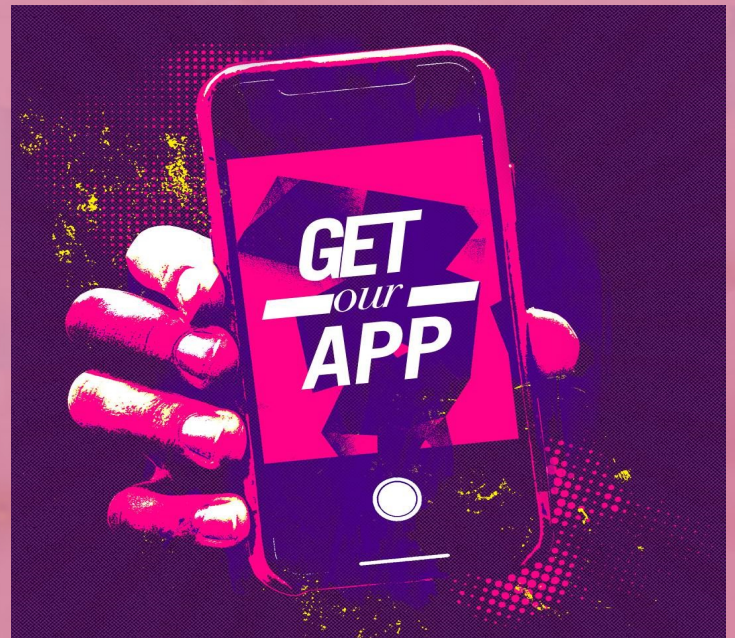
Thank you for giving generously so we can close the 2019-2020 fiscal year strong. Your gifts continue to make a difference in our church and community.

With Thanks and Appreciation,

*Eric Witschi President*

*Greg Stock Vice President*

*Jeff Comanici Stewardship Committee Chair*



***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!!!!





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](http://www.dewittchurch.org). Email [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto: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.



But this is only the first step! What is needed now are 3 Team leaders who would assemble their workers to commit to a 3 week period of weeding and maintaining the garden, The schedule would be determined by the leader. The Circle Garden only last for 3 months but during this short time it is a visual DCC statement to the community that we are a vibrant, energetic, welcoming congregation. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!! Contact Shirley Myrus email--[Ftgm4321@aol.com](mailto:Ftgm4321@aol.com) or 315-632-4856. May God's sunshine shine on you and our garden. Thank you for the commitment.

Also if any members of the church have perennials which they are dividing please donate them to The Circle Garden.