

JULY newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEWITT COMMUNITY CHURCH
JULY 2020



stephen
MINISTRY®

commissioning

On July 19 we celebrate the growth of our congregation's Stephen Ministry. This ministry enables our congregation to minister to those who are most in need of the gentle support of Christ's unwavering love. Stephen Ministry strengthens our spiritual vitality and allows us to reach out to our friends, our family, and our community.

Commissioning is a chance for all of us as fellow congregants to celebrate the great ministry our church does through Stephen Ministries. In the gospel of Matthew Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out and make other disciples baptizing them and teaching them all that he had commanded them.

And just as Jesus gave the disciples a starting point for their ministry, today we give our newly trained Stephen Ministers a starting point for their ministry. We understand that their work holds eternal importance and is blessed both by God and this congregation. Today we set apart these individuals to enter into their God-given calling to use their gifts as God's hands and feet and blessings those in their care.

We do this commissioning before all of you, the congregation at DCC because your support is crucial to the success of this ministry. Please join us virtually on July 19 at 9 AM on YouTube or 11 AM on Facebook to celebrate this accomplishment.

July Worship

Independence or interdependence

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

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

The Sloppy Sower or The Savvy Sower?

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

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

Hand to Hand, Heart to Heart

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

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

Stephen Minister Commissioning

The Wall Is Down

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Mapstone

Sunday, July 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.

Message from the Board President:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11

It is frustrating sometimes when our expectations do not align with our reality. When I accepted the charge to serve as Vice President of the Board of Trustees of DCC in 2018, I had expectations of what it would look like when I assumed the Presidency of the Board on July 1, 2020. I can assure you that my expectations had absolutely nothing in common with the reality in which we are all currently living. Alas, we live in a world of reality, not expectations.

The last few months have been very hard, even for the most optimistic Christian. Humans are social creatures – we are not meant to live in isolation. I believe the sacrifices we have been making as a society are necessary, and the data appears to show this is correct. Where New York was once the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently one of only four states on track to contain the virus. No matter how much we want to get back to normal, the news is currently rife with stories of the risks involved with not taking appropriate precautions as we look to reopen our society.

The Board of Trustees has formed a committee to provide guidance on when and how DCC will reopen all facets of its operations. The Board voted last week to allow DCC employees to return to work at the church, to allow our rental groups to return to the church building, and to allow small group gatherings to return, using the social distance and safety guidelines set forth by the state.

What of worship services? The New York state government has provided vague and conflicting information as to what will and will not be allowed in Phase IV of reopening. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of this situation, the "reopening committee" has recommended we wait to see what will and will not be allowed regarding in-person worship (capacity, music, etc.) before formulating a plan for reopening. Once we have more guidance, DCC will send out a survey to the congregation to help church leadership determine our path to reopening.

Four months ago almost none of us knew what a "Zoom meeting" was. Now remote communication has become a way of life. I believe we are blessed with the high-quality virtual experience our worship team has provided us these last three months. I am thankful for this, but I look forward to again seeing you on Sundays. Stay safe.

Yours in Christ, Greg Stock

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.

Reopening Task Force Update

The safety of DeWitt Community Church is of the utmost importance and as a church, we are called by Christ to care for another. The Reopening Task Force gathered to give wise counsel to the Trustees. We have reviewed as much scientific, medical, and social data as possible. We must promote community engagement in a safe environment. We are a multigenerational congregation, and because our church body includes people with various kinds of heightened risk factors, we need to advise for the good of the whole, not for the wishes of any subset of the congregation. We believe it will be important when we come back to come back together as much as possible.

According to experts, 90% of coronavirus deaths come from people 50 and older. Churches are in one of the highest risk zones for Coronavirus infection. Choir and congregational singing is shown to be one of the most infectious ways to potentially spread the Coronavirus, according to the Center for Disease Control. We take these statistics seriously about the high-risk in-person worship presents for our church.

Opening a church is challenging as we are different from businesses as we have a variety of group functions and large-scale gatherings, where the known risk of accidentally spreading infection is exponentially higher. We are relational in our ministry, not transactional, and this makes a fundamental difference in how and when we can reopen. With these realities guiding our thoughts, the task force is now working on a matrix of decision making that considers aspects of the church's ministry and how we might adapt in several possible environments that will emerge. We are envisioning a time when very small groups might be allowed, then medium-size groups being allowed, then larger groups allowed. We are evaluating each of these environments for things like worship, Sunday School, offices, committee and team meetings, food service, and volunteer mission gatherings.

Since the State of New York allows has allowed in-person worship to resume, but has not updated the capacity limited beyond 33%, DCC will not reopen automatically for in-person worship in phase 4 of the New York State plan. We purpose a phasing and evaluation mindset to make decisions. Therefore, we recommended the following to the Board of Trustees, which was approved:

Continue virtual worship and online engagement through July 31, 2020, and reevaluate if in-person worship can resume. Since an in-person worship service would consist of no congregation singing, social distance, reduced capacity, a potential conflict of reserving limited space for worship, no hymnals, no bulletins, and no child care, virtual service would produce a safe and quality worship experience. Right now, an in-person worship service would be a limited quality worship experience. Based on data and other recommendations, we could resume in August or September, but we will take a month to month approach to evaluation.

Continue to suspend in-church weddings, baptisms, and funerals through July 31, 2020. All the weddings or baptisms have been rescheduled or canceled. Graveside and funeral home services would be conducted by clergy, in addition to graveside services.

The church building would be open for limited use of rental groups and small social distance gatherings. Rental groups and smaller groups must follow social distance guidelines. Food and drink will not be served by the church.

In addition, the follow actions will be taken:

We encourage church groups and committees to continue to use Zoom and creative social distance outdoor gatherings. We encourage church groups to create outdoor meetups and safe activities.

Send out a survey via email to collection information regarding what the congregation is comfortable with if in-person church worship resumes. The survey would supply data for decision making.

Church staff can operate on a blended model of at home work and in office, in accordance with State requirements.

Reopening Task Force:

Rev. Alan Rudnick, Rev. Dr. Cindy

Mapstone, Greg Stock, Mick Thorpe,
Shirley Myrus, Abel Searor, and Chuck
Doolittle



THE TIME TO GIVE BLOOD IS NOW

Blood Drive Dewitt Community Church

Miller Commons |
3600 Erie Blvd. East - Syracuse

Saturday, July 18, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the DeWitt Rotary

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit redcrossblood.org or use app (sponsor code DEWITTCC) to schedule appointment.

Healthy donors needed.
Appointments encouraged to help with social distancing.
Masks required, will provide if needed.

Come in July for a chance to win an epic WONDER
WOMAN 1984 movie prop replica set: rcblood.org/win



Now testing blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies



What is convalescent plasma?



Donated by people fully recovered from COVID-19, this plasma contains antibodies that attack the virus.

It's currently being used as a treatment for those seriously ill with COVID-19.



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE

The work of the American Red Cross never stops, thank you for continuing to stand with us during this coronavirus crisis. Your upcoming blood drive is very important to ensure we can continue to meet all blood needs. There's currently an urgent need for blood donors of all blood types to give now. Our commitment to operate blood drives in the safest way possible for our donors, volunteers and staff remains a top priority.

SAFETY FIRST

At each blood drive, Red Cross staff already follow the highest standards of safety and infection control. In addition to our standard procedures, we have implemented additional precautions that you'll notice at your local blood drive:

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors before entering a drive to make sure they are healthy.
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.
- Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.
- Ensuring face masks or coverings are worn by both staff and donors.
- Routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas.
- Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often.
- Using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Blood Donor Eligibility Changes:** On June 8, the Red Cross implemented donor eligibility changes announced by the FDA. If your donors have questions about their eligibility status, please refer them to our Red Cross Donor and Client Support Center at 1-866-236-3276. Donors can also view the [blood donor eligibility page](#)
- **COVID-19 Antibody Testing:** Starting June 15, for a limited time, the Red Cross began testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service to our donors. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting for complete details and more information.
- **Convalescent Plasma:** Red Cross has joined the FDA's efforts to collect and distribute convalescent plasma to treat patients who are seriously ill or have life-threatening COVID-19 infections. Should you be asked by a donor how to participate, please ask them to visit RedCrossblood.org/plasma4covid to learn more.
- **Refreshment Items at Blood Drives:** All food and drinks at blood drives must be single service, individually wrapped packages.

Eligibility Criteria	New Deferral	Prior Deferral
Men having sex with men (MSM)	3 mos	12 mos
Tattoos/piercings nonregulated states	3 mos	12 mos
Malaria-endemic area travel	3 mos	12 mos
Europe travel Creutzfeld-Jakob	Varies	Indefinite

**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.**

**Register Online!!
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!

Congratulations **GRADUATES**

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

Scholarship Recipients

Phyllis P. Perkins was a school teacher, and she greatly valued learning and educational involvement. The person chosen for this award should be someone who values their education and the advancement of their career and the betterment of their community.

Cheryl Munson was a woman who had to fight through the physical limitations of polio. This award is granted to a person(s) who has overcome some type of physical or mental health concern to achieve their goals and help advocate for the betterment of the future.



Raymond Anderson - Perkins Scholarship Recipient

Raymond is a graduate of Onondaga Central School and was accepted into the selective 2+4 Pre-Pharmacy program at Wilkes University. This program will lead to a seat in the Doctor of Pharmacy program. He will also compete on the Cross Country team.



Anneke Van Slyke - Munson Scholarship Recipient

Is a graduate of Fayetteville Manlius High School and will be attending Baldwin Wallace University to pursue vocal performance



Claire Kaufmann - Munson Scholarship Recipient

A graduate of Fayetteville Manlius High School and plans to attend the University of Delaware's Lerner College of Business and Economics.



Eli Seamans

A graduate of Fayetteville Manlius, Eli will be continuing his education at the University of Rochester to pursue a degree in Math.



Claire Kaufmann

A graduate of Fayetteville Manlius High School and plans to attend the University of Delaware's Lerner College of Business and Economics.



Logan Roadarmel

Logan, a soon to be Jamesville Dewitt alum, plans on attending Fairfield University this fall. He is still undecided in his future major.



Anna Ferrick

A graduate of Jamesville Dewitt High School, Anna plans to attend Onondaga Community College for a program in Physical Education and Exercise Science. She would like to become a personal trainer.



Lilly Dougherty

Lilly is a graduate of Jamesville Dewitt High School and will be attending Clemson University in the fall. She is still undecided in her major.

Family Ministry Team



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Mapstone

Family Minister

cmapstone@dewittchurch.org



Abby Young

Children's Music Director

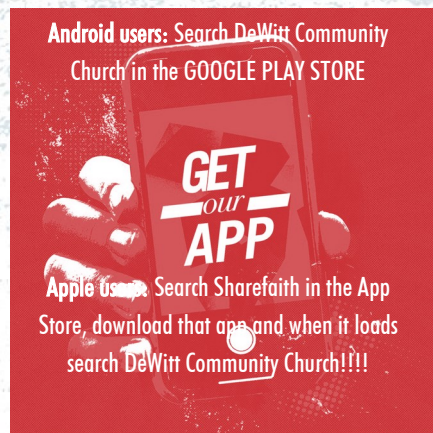
ayoung@dewittchurch.org



Mary Chirello

Youth Director

mchirello@dewittchurch.org





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 P M 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