



OCTOBER 4 AT 11AM

**WE'RE
CLOSED
BACK!
BACK!
BACK!**

**CHURCH IS
REOPENING.**

Details on page 2

September Worship

Order, Disorder & Reorder

Rev. Alan R. Rudnick

Sunday, September 6

9:00 AM YouTube

11:00 AM Facebook

Finding Your Center in the Land of Confusion

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM YouTube

11:00 AM Facebook

Expressions of Faith

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, September 20

9:00 AM YouTube

11:00 AM Facebook

It's Not Fair

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Sunday, September 27

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.

Reopening Task Force Update

The current state of Coronavirus in Central New York has changed and many businesses and some churches have reopened, but many churches remained closed. The statewide positive testing rate for the virus was 0.78% on August 19 and was the 12th straight day, the positive test rate was less than 1%. Central New York's positive test rate was 0.7% on August 19, compared with 0.6% on August 18. The positive rate in the region has been 1% or less much of the last month. As conversations have progressed with the DCC Reopening Task Force would like to observe and study school plans for in-person learning since the dynamics of public education activities and church activities share similar risks (small spaces, food service, large gatherings, etc...). This would allow our church to observe and collect more information about best practice reopening. The state currently limits our capacity of occupancy at 50% for in-person worship.

If Coronavirus rates remain low and there are no outbreaks in schools and businesses, the Reopening Task Force and the Board of Trustee approve of the following:

1. Observe in-school practices and rates of inflection in area school districts.
2. If current levels of infection remain low in the general public and schools, the first return to in-person worship would be October 4, 2020. Observing school systems and rates of infection will provide the needed data to confirm reopening. If there is an outbreak that

requires us to hold on reopening, the congregation would receive updated information that in-person worship would not occur. The balcony could be used for larger family groups for increased capacity.

3. In-person worship would require everyone masked, temperature checks upon entering the building, reservations via website or telephone to the church office, no social congregating inside the building, no hymnals, no Bibles, no bulletin, no congregational singing, separated seating to maintain a distance of at least six feet, ushers to seat individuals and families, and orderly entrance and exit of the sanctuary. There would be instrumental and solo singing for worship music. There will be no child care.

4. Online worship services will continue to be recorded and shown on YouTube and Facebook at 5:30 PM on Saturday and 9:00 AM on Sunday when in-person worship resumes.

5. Children, youth, and adult discipleship groups would meet via Zoom or other virtual meeting platforms.

The reopening plan could be subject to change based on health safety conditions. Please check dewittchurch.org/ reopen for the latest information.

Reopening Task Force: Greg Stock, Pastor Alan Rudnick, Pastor Cindy Mapstone, Shirley Myrus, Chuck Doolittle, Mick Thorpe, and Abel Searor

Please contact Craig Mabbett by email at cmabbett88@gmail.com, or by phone at 315-436-0429. Feel free to call Craig with any questions you have. Please see the details below regarding volunteering.



- Two shifts are needed, and volunteers must commit to a 3 hour shift. The shifts are 9AM to Noon, and Noon to 3PM. 5 volunteers are needed for each shift. The 9AM to Noon shift is for meal preparation, and the Noon to 3PM shift is during meal serving time.
- Volunteers must be 18 years old or older
- Volunteers need to be able to stand for an entire 3 hour shift
- Volunteers need to be willing to wear a face mask at all times
- Volunteers do not have any COVID-19 symptoms or temperature, or have close contact with suspected or positive COVID-19 situation/individual in the previous 14 days
- Volunteers have not recently, within 14 days, traveled to any state which requires a 14 day quarantine on arrival to New York State
- Volunteers are not on any quarantine or self-isolation directive

From the Senior Minister

I want to start by saying THANK YOU!

Thank you for allowing me to take a sabbatical leave which I will be returning from on Tuesday, September 8 and in worship on September 12. While it has been far different than I had planned (with no ability to travel) I have deeply appreciated this time away of respite and study. I look forward to sharing with you what I have learned about the pre World War II Confessing Church Movement either on line or in person, starting in October.

I want to say THANK YOU to our entire staff for all of their work during the pandemic thus far. Our online presence has been nothing short of amazing. A number of years ago we made a very deliberate effort to recruit a younger staff to help us navigate generational change. Their knowledge and ability, especially in the area of technology has served us well and will continue to serve us in the years ahead.

I want to say THANK YOU to our congregational leaders who have made wise decisions to guide us. Thank you to our outgoing President, Eric Witchi, who guided us through tough some tough decisions; streamlining our Board of Trustees, addressing long term indebtedness and reinvigorating our nominating process. Eric was also very helpful to me as I planned my upcoming retirement (September, 2021) and my sabbatical leave.

I want to say THANK YOU to our incoming Board President, Greg Stock who is also heading up our reopening committee. As a orthodontist (and University of Michigan grad...had to get that in), Greg is very knowledge on safety protocols that are necessary to prevent the spread of the virus and keeping people safe.

In March, when the Board of Trustees made the difficult decision to discontinue public worship, we were all on the same page that the safety of our congregation and its members would guide



all of our decisions. We continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide a two week notice along with the safety precautions we will be following when we do reopen. We will restart with only an 11AM service but will continue to offer

worship online.

I want to say THANK YOU to our congregation for your continued financial generosity. Even in the midst of a pandemic we were able to meet our giving goals for the 2019-20 fiscal year, keeping our staff intact and ministry moving forward.

I must admit that when I began my sabbatical in mid-May, that I was looking forward to returning and getting back to normal in September. I was looking forward to Homecoming and sharing a BBQ meal from Holy Smoke under the big tent on the front lawn. I was looking forward to meeting face to face with congregational members. I was looking forward to worship and hearing our choir sing and the bell choir play. I have to tell you that preparing online content and talking into a camera is just not the same as the personal interactions that we have often taken for granted.

Gathering is so much a part of who we are, and our faith is best lived out in the midst of community; but for now, that community remains virtual instead of face to face. As we continue walking through this time of uncertainty and confusion, I am mindful of the words of the Apostle Paul who wrote "we live by faith, not by sight." May God continue to guide us daily by our faith as we walk through these times.

Stay Safe and May God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark E. Sommers".

Dr. Mark E. Sommers

Senior Minister

Message from the Board President:

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12

We are entering a new chapter in our pandemic journey as schools are looking to reopen imminently. I am joyful in my hope that since our testing numbers are low we will as a society be able to restart schools in a manner that is safe to both our children and our educators, support staff, and administrators. This will be a big test and I ask that you pray it goes well.

By now you should have received an email from the church office with an update from the reopening task force. DCC has a tentative plan to reopen to live worship on October 4, 2020 at 11am. You will hear more about the details of what the live worship entails elsewhere. This date was chosen to give DCC leadership time to monitor the situation in the schools. If schools are able to reopen safely, we hope that we can as well. I think we are all looking forward to this

small step towards normalcy, whether or not one is personally willing to attend a live service yet.

I feel a bit like a broken record, preaching patience as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe we have all been forced to be patient in affliction for the last several months. Many activities that we simply took for granted like grocery shopping, going to a restaurant, or getting on an airplane have been severely disrupted. I am steadfast in my belief that though our society will experience a return to normalcy, we are not there yet and that maintaining patience remains important.

Please continue to be faithful in prayer. Pray for peace for people that are suffering. Pray for wisdom for our elected leaders to navigate a situation that appears to grow more chaotic day-by-day. Pray that we as Christians can be the best we can be to help share Jesus' message of peace and love to a civilization that needs these now more than ever.

Yours in Christ, Greg Stock

Blood Drive **DeWitt Community Church**

Fellowship Hall
3600 Erie Blvd. East - Syracuse

Saturday, September 12th
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 16th
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the DeWitt Rotary

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

Appointments encouraged.

Come to give Sept. 1-30 for a free haircut coupon by email to participating Sport Clips Haircuts locations. Offer valid at participating locations. Items are non-transferable & not redeemable for cash. Email required. Visit rcblood.org/sport-clips for details.



Presenting Donors will receive a \$3 Dunkin' Card valid at participating Dunkin' locations in Central New York prior to September 30, 2020.
Thank you for donating and Running on Dunkin'.
(promotions are non-transferable and not redeemable for cash)

We are looking for a few more volunteers for signing donors in to give blood, or checking temperatures, or monitoring the hospitality table for those who have given blood. Please call Angela Todisco 315-430-0220 or email Atee1@twcny.rr.com. Thank you !

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.

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,

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.

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

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.

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.

A SHORT NOTE FROM THE

Women's Association



Hello everyone,

So it's time to say goodbye to summer and welcome the cooler nights of fall. I can't say I'm sorry to say goodbye to 90* days (and nights), but with the sun setting earlier I have less time after dinner to play outdoors in the flowers.

And with fall coming quickly we're so excited to announce that we're planning our 7th Annual Pie Sale! But this year we'll be doing it for Thanksgiving time.

Judy Wilson has done a wonderful job of arranged the pie sales in the past and she has agreed to do it again this year. We thank her so much for that.

We'll be taking orders in late Oct and early Nov so the pies will be ready for pick up for Thanksgiving. We'll be using several spaces so we can social distance and follow other protocol while we're peeling apples and making crusts. At this time, we're still planning on Apple, Pumpkin and Mixed Berry, in both the small and large size. Watch for more information in the Oct newsletter, but in the meantime, if you'd like to help out with shopping, or making crusts or other prep, or donating the ingredients please contact myself or Judy at 315-345-6442 or Judilee53@hotmail.com.

That's my wonderful news for Sept. I hope this finds everyone well. *-Angela Todisco*

Angela Todisco, Chair, WA Steering Committee

Christians at Our Best: A Guide to Living in the Age of Outrage

Starting September 20 @ 10 AM, led by Rev. Alan Rudnick

Today there are too many examples of those claiming to follow Christ being caustic, divisive, and irrational, contributing to dismissals of the Christian faith as hypocritical and self-interested. What has happened? It seems one short outrageous video or pithy post can trigger an avalanche of comments on social media. Welcome to the new age of outrage. Spend six weeks in this video study discussing what it means to represent the love of Jesus Christ in this new polarized age that pushes people to the extremes. Pastor Alan will lead us through a deep conversation of what it would look like if Christians were at their best? How might our world and our communities be different? Interested? Please contact the church office 315-445-0331 or alan@dewittchurch.org.

Christians at Our Best



A 6-WEEK GUIDE
TO LIVING IN
THE AGE OF OUTRAGE



Friends and neighbors! Meals on Wheels of Eastern Onondaga County will be holding its scheduled Bottle and Can Drive on **Saturday, September 12th** from 9:00 am to 1:00 PM. The drop-off sites will again be at the DeWitt Community Church parking lot on Erie Blvd., and at Sno-Top in Manlius.

We will adhere to all required safety protocols and there will be no need for you to leave your vehicle – our volunteers will be there to assist you.

You are also encouraged to drop off your bagged-up returnables (which include bottled water) at our facility at the rear of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Woodchuck Hill Road any weekday between 7:00 am and 1:00 PM.

September Missions of the Month



The Manlius Senior Activity Centre consists of over 600 members and is a recreational senior center conveniently located in the village of Manlius, New York, adjacent to the Manlius Swan Pond. Our facility is in the same building as the Manlius Library, Police Department, and Village offices.

Open Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM, we offer a variety of services and activities for senior adults. We invite you to explore our website to learn more about our program, which includes exercise classes, memory-enhancement activities, social gatherings, trips, a fitness room, games, entertainment, speakers, lunches served four days per week, and more.

Our Centre is funded through donations, fundraising activities, program fees, subscriptions, and a generous annual grant from the Village of Manlius. This grant covers approximately 25 percent of our annual budget. The Centre receives no additional government funds from any federal, state, county, or local entity. The support of our members and local community is the foundation of our success.

The Manlius Senior Activity Centre is a membership-supported organization. The annual cost is \$15.00 per household for Manlius Village residents, and \$25.00 per household for non-residents. Membership runs from January through December of each year.

We are serving take-out lunches weekly Monday-Friday. Our cook Laura prepares the meals in our Health Department Inspected kitchen. Food is homemade with healthy ingredients and prepared according to the CDC guidelines. Pick up is at NOON and the cost for members is \$5.00 and nonmembers pay \$5.50. You can pull up out front, but please stay in your car! We bring the lunch to your car window. Lunch is payable by check or exact cash amount. Please call the day before by 1:00pm to order for the next day or days to follow. No same day orders. Gift yourself a healthy homemade meal or gift one to a friend who needs it (or just wants it!). You can call 315-682-7889.



Francis House provides a home and an extended family to people with terminal illnesses so they can die with dignity and experience the unconditional love of God. Our mission is carried out in two houses located on Michaels Avenue on the north side of Syracuse, New York. We are able to care for eight residents at a time at 108 Michaels Avenue and seven residents at a time at 114 Michaels Avenue.

The original house, an old Bostonian built in 1918, holds our administrative offices, a living room and dining room. A building expansion project was completed on 108 Michaels Avenue in 1998 to create eight resident bedrooms, kitchen, great room and chapel. In 2003, 114 Michaels Avenue was built next to 108 Michaels Avenue to include seven resident bedrooms, great room, kitchen and chapel.

Each resident has a private bedroom. Residents and family members are welcome to spend time in all common areas of our homes. Caregivers are present to care for residents 24-hours a day. Volunteers are present to volunteers from 8:00 a.m. through the day until 10:00 p.m.

It is our mission to provide our residents with a warm, loving, home-like atmosphere of support and encouragement during their final months of life. We believe in the hospice philosophy of care that all persons have the right to die with dignity, to have an enhanced quality of life for the remainder of their days, and to be as comfortable and as pain free as possible. Francis House employs 15 full and part-time caregivers, and each caregiver is, at minimum, trained as a home health aide. The Francis House caregivers serve as the extended family for each resident, providing care 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

The heart of our home is the group of over 550 volunteers who give their time in four-hour shifts from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day. Volunteers prepare and serve meals, clean, answer the telephone, maintain our grounds and provide maintenance service. Vigil volunteers provide a presence to residents who are actively dying but have no family to be present for them.

Although we have a development staff, we find the real key to our fundraising success is our resident families' and volunteers' own experience of Francis House and the role of our two auxiliary groups in introducing Francis House to friends and peers as part of our commitment to community education on end-of-life care. These individuals believe in and actively support our ministry. Through word of mouth, they share the joy and the satisfaction they feel as members of the Francis House family. They are ambassadors of goodwill, spreading the work of our home to all they meet.

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

Upcoming events!

Middle School

Water Wars!

Nerf Gun Wars!

**High School beach and
bonfire day!**

Virtual Sunday School

Starts Sunday, September 20

10-10:40 am VBS Style Children's Bible Story and
Children's Music for Preschool-4th grade

10 am Youth Sunday School on Zoom for 5th-12th grade

Teaching the same lesson each week at each age appropriate level and
making available discussion questions for families to use at home.

Each week we will send out coloring pages and worksheets available
for families to print at home.

Each week teens will receive a devotion based on that week's lesson to
do some additional reflection at home.

CONTACT

CMAPSTONE@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 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