

December newsletter

December Worship

SATURDAY 5:30 PM
SUNDAY 9 AM
YouTube
online WORSHIP
facebook 11AM

ON-LINE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAY AT 10 AM ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

MORNING
DEVOTIONS
MONDAY-FRIDAY AT 8 AM
SATURDAY AT 9 AM

12 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY
Abel Seavor
AT THE PIANO

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

MONDAY-THURSDAY
AT 10 AM
Bible
STORIES
with Pastor Cindy

Social Media Schedule
FACEBOOK.COM/THEDEWITTCHURCH

NIGHTLY AT 8 PM
EVENING PRAYER
WITH PASTOR ALAN

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

New
SONGS
WITH NIC MACLANE
9 pm Daily

9AM YouTube
sunday: WORSHIP
facebook 11AM

Christmas...No Matter What! "The A-Team"

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Saturday, December 5 5:30 PM YouTube
Sunday, December 6 9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Christmas...No Matter What! "Being Christmas People"

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Saturday, December 12 5:30 PM YouTube
Sunday, December 13 9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Christmas...No Matter What! "The Christmas Promise"

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Saturday, December 19 5:30 PM YouTube
Sunday, December 20 9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Christmas...No Matter What! 'O Holy Night'

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Thursday, December 24 TIMES TBD

Finding New Strength

Rev. William Carlsen
Saturday, December 26 5:30 PM YouTube
Sunday, December 27 9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

When DCC is not in a COVID-19 Orange or Red Zone

From the Senior Pastor

As we all know, most of 2020 has been very different due to the Covid-19 pandemic and that just about everything has changed. At first it was the NCAA basketball tournament that was canceled, and then just about everything else. We started working from home and stopped going to restaurants. We started watching church services in our pajamas online instead of gathering in person. Parents learned first hand just how hard it is to teach. And we've all developed a new appreciation for what we once considered normal.

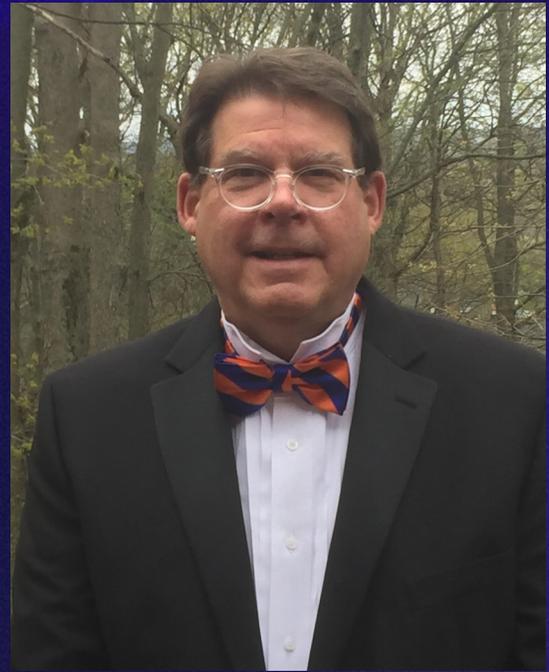
About a month ago, while meeting with a few people online, someone said "it looks like we're not going to have Christmas this year, to which I replied, we will be celebrating Christmas... NO MATTER WHAT! So that has become our theme for this Advent Season.

When you think about it, its been over 2,000 years since Christ came to us as a babe in the manger. And during those two thousand years there have been wars, floods, earthquakes and famines, yet that has never changed the reality and the power of the incarnation. No matter what, we will find a way to celebrate the Good News of the birth of the new born king.

We will continue to offer one in-person worship service at 11AM each week as long as the infection rates for Covid remain low in our region. Normally, on Christmas Eve we offer a Family service in the early afternoon followed by three traditional candlelight services. This year we are committed to providing a virtual Family and Traditional service online and we are exploring different possibilities for in person services.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have already received an online survey that gages your interest in possible times for Christmas eve services. We are exploring the possibility of expanding the number of services, due to the need to limit attendance for each service and assure social distancing . We ask that you complete this survey, no later than Sunday, December 6.

If you did not receive the survey, You can find it at <https://www.dewittchurch.org/christmas-eve-survey/>



Based on the feedback from the survey, we will be posting service times and instructions on attendance and registration on our website and in all of our communications. Should there be a need to suspend in-person services, we will move to all virtual services that will be available on line.

Yes, Christmas this year will be different, for sure, but WE WILL be celebrating Christmas ... NO MATTER WHAT!

Rejoicing Always!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Sommers".

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers
Senior Minister

**Christmas Eve Survey can be found
on our website
www.dewittchurch.org. Find 'survey'
at the top of the page.**

**Or type in the link
[https://www.dewittchurch.org/
christmas-eve-survey/](https://www.dewittchurch.org/christmas-eve-survey/)**

From the Board President

"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:26-38

Now that Thanksgiving is in the rear-view mirror, we are entering the holy season of Advent. I always enjoy seeing DCC decorated in anticipation of Christmas – the wreaths, the poinsettias, etc. Our Altar Guild really does a fabulous job! I also understand that because of everything going on not as many people will get to enjoy these trappings of the Christmas season as they usually do.

Fortunately, nothing can change the reason we celebrate Advent – hopeful anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Since our church has to try new things for Advent, I think we should consider doing the same. What could

we do for a neighbor? What could we do for a stranger? What could we do for the Church? The Nativity of Christ was something that never happened before that changed the entire world. What could we do that we have never done before that could change us?

Yours in Christ,
Greg Stock

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



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



Friends and neighbors! Meals on Wheels of Eastern Onondaga County will be holding its scheduled Bottle and Can Drive on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 am - 1:00 PM. The drop-off sites will again be the DeWitt Community Church parking lot on Erie Blvd., and at Sno-Top in Manlius. We will continue to adhere to all required COVID safety protocols and there will be no need for you to leave your vehicle - our volunteers will be there to assist you!

During this time of increased need for our meal service, your support of Meals on Wheels EOC is even more appreciated by us and those we serve. We hope to see you on Dec. 5th.

You're also encouraged to drop off your bagged-up returnables (which include bottled water) in the bin 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.

Our scheduled bottle drives for 2021 are:

Sat., April 10th,
Sat., Sept. 11th,
Sat., Dec. 11th, 2021

Drive-Up Communion

Sunday, December 6, 12:00PM-1:00 PM,
DeWitt Community Church, Front Circle

We invite you to our drive-thru communion with safe pre-packed communion elements and prayer from our pastors. Please wear a mask when you arrive at the half-circle driveway in front of the church.

For those attending in-person worship, please proceed to your vehicle immediately following worship and then drive around to the half-circle in front of the church to receive communion.

COMMUNION
DRIVE THRU

Sunday, December 6th,
12:00 - 1:00 PM



Christmas Giving Christian Caring Committee

Christmas is approaching, and it is more important than ever we help protect those less fortunate. DCC is planning on providing Christmas gifts for those in need. DCC will be partnering with the JD Ecumenical Food Pantry and The Samaritan Center to distribute Christmas gifts. We believe this year, more than ever, people will be in need given the hard ships many are facing. The biggest change this year, due to COVID, is we are changing our request to the congregation.

Traditionally our Christian Caring Committee has a Christmas Giving Pole at weekend services starting after Thanksgiving, where we ask congregation members to purchase Christmas gifts for those in need. This year we will not have a Christmas Giving Pole.

THIS YEAR WE ARE ASKING THE CONGREGATION FOR MONETARY DONATIONS ONLY WHICH WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE CHRISTMAS GIFTS. Our committee will purchase all gifts and deliver them to the JD Ecumenical Food Pantry and The Samaritan Center. If you have any questions, contact Craig Mabbett by phone at 315-436-0429, or by email at cmabbett88@gmail.com

Any donation amount you can make will be greatly appreciated to help make Christmas more memorable for someone in need. Donations can be made to the church by PayPal or by check. Please make a note on your donation what your intention is for your donation to be used for "Christmas Giving – Christian Caring Committee".

Women's 5-week Zoom Advent Bible Study

Each Tuesday 12/1-12/29 FROM 8-9 PM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: An Advent Study (Lifeway Women)

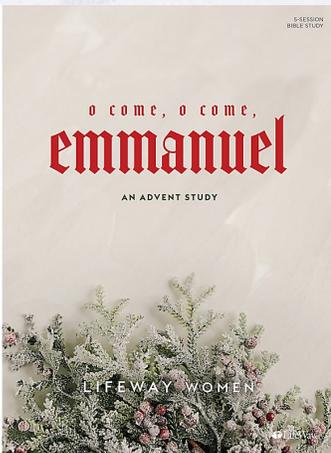
Components Each Week Include

At home: 5 days of personal study

Activities to do individually

Together: Group Discussion via zoom on Tuesday evening from 8-9 pm.

Tue 12/1	Week 1: Emmanuel	Tue 12/22	Week 4: Desire of Nations
Tue 12/ 8	Week 2: Dayspring	Tue 12/29	Week 5: Wrap-Up
Tue 12/15	Week 3: Wisdom		



New Study: The Journey - Walking the Road the Bethlehem

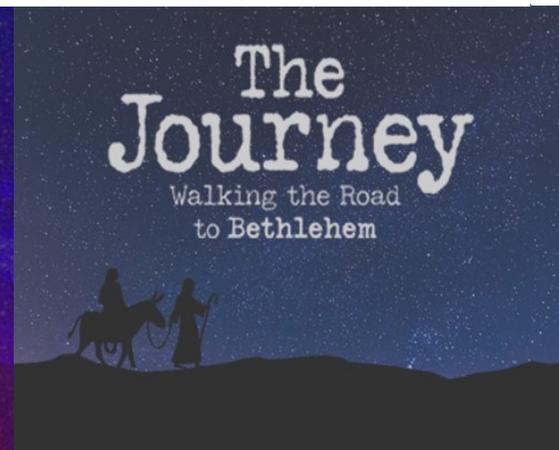
Sundays @ 10 AM, Starting November 15 w/ Rev. Alan Rudnick

It's a story you know by heart, but *The Journey* combines historical information and archaeology, discussion, and video to give you a new perspective on the birth story of Jesus and Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

This five-session video study was filmed on location in the Holy Land and provides an intriguing background to the story of Jesus' birth. The most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

Participants will journey through this study as a way to engage and explore our faith for the Advent and Christmas season. This study will meet online via zoom and in-person, as capacity allows.

Please contact the church office or Pastor Alan for more information alan@dewittchurch.org.



Family Ministry Team



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



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



Barb Turner
Nursery Director
bturner@dewittchurch.org

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

Children's Bible Lessons

Virtual Sunday School

Due to the state of the current pandemic, we at Dewitt Community Church have decided to begin our Sunday School Sessions virtually. Each Sunday morning there will be two opportunities for the children and youth at DCC to participate in a virtual time of Biblical learning.

Lessons Topics Include:

Dec 6	David, the King Makes Bad Choice	Psalm 32:10-11, 51:1-12; 1 Chronicles 29:1-20
Dec 13	Solomon, a Wise Leader	1 Kings 3:1-15; 4:29-34; 2 Chronicles 9:1-9
Dec 20	Israel Divides in Two	1 Kings 11:4-6; 12:1-22, 26-28; 15:11-14, 16-24
Dec 27	Elijah is God's Messenger	1 Kings 17:1-6, 18:1-2, 17-18

At 10 am on the DCC Facebook page, a video will air that includes a short skit, a Bible Story, and a time of Children's music for **pre-school and elementary age children**. This video will also be available after its initial airing on the church's Facebook page, The DCC YouTube Channel and on the church's website at www.dewittchurch.org.

An email sent out each week prior to the airing of the video will include an activity page and parent sheet that can be used to discuss each week's lesson further. If you would like to be included in this email distribution or have any questions, please contact family ministries at childrensministry@dewittchurch.org or call the church office at 315-445-0331.



Christmas Eve Virtual Family Service

Based on the Christmas Story found in John 1:1-18 & Luke 1:26-2:20.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Messiah, the Lord." The service will include a skit, music, Bible story and Children's sermon. This service will help DCC families learn that God sent a Savior for the world. We can believe Jesus is our Savior.



CALLING ALL YOUTH IN GRADES 5 THROUGH 12!



Join us for some classic fun and games!

Friday, December 4th via Zoom from 7:30-9:00PM

Saturday, December, 19th for some group Christmas cookie baking from 2:00-4:00PM via Zoom.

Hope to see you there!

A Middle and High School Youth Sunday School class taught by Abby Young takes place on Sunday Mornings at 10am on Zoom.

If you would like to participate in this class, please email Abby at ayoung@dewittchurch.org or call the church office at 315-445-0331.



Mission Of The Month



What is Operation Northern Comfort all about?

In 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Operation Southern Comfort (OSC) was formed. 50 trips were taken to the ravaged parts of Louisiana and Mississippi to rehabilitate, rebuild and repair homes – and lives. 2200 volunteers, including 1200 students, participated in the 9-day events – traveling the 1400 miles on the weekend, working for 5 days, and returning (1400 miles again!) the following weekend. OSC built 4 homes and worked on over 200 more; planted 13000 trees, donated 3 trailers full of school supplies, books, clothing and musical instruments and brought hope to thousands of Gulf Coast residents.



In 2012 it became apparent that there were people in CNY that could use help. That is how Operation Northern Comfort was born. We fix bathrooms, enlarge doors, build ramps – whatever we can physically do, we do. In 2014 we built a home after a fire destroyed one – our first house build in CNY. As we grow, we are partnering with Tiny Homes for Good to build homes in Syracuse for people, including veterans facing homelessness.



Contributions to our organization come in all shapes and sizes. Some of our support comes from our volunteers who give their time and sweat to help us reach our goals. Others show their support with monetary contributions.

Both are very much needed and extraordinarily appreciated.

Check out their website here: www.operationnc.org



Welcome Alex Klein to the Staff at DCC!



Alex Klein is local to the Syracuse area, growing up in Liverpool, NY. Alex attended Ithaca College, and just recently graduated from the Park School of Communications at Ithaca in the Spring of 2020. There, he ran Division III cross country and track & field, majored in Documentary Studies & Production, and studied Spanish as a minor. Throughout college, Alex produced and edited three separate short documentaries in Connecticut, Philadelphia, and traveled to India in the summer of 2019 for another documentary. All of his films have screened across North America, including the Nashville Film Festival, Planet In Focus Festival in Toronto & many more. As a recent graduate, Alex is working as a freelance video editor in the Syracuse, NY area, and is very excited to be joining the DeWitt Community Church as their Multimedia & Communication Coordinator. Alex's main goal as a creator is to offer his skills in storytelling, as a creative and innovative storyteller, in order to share impactful and meaningful work.

Welcome, Alex!

We're hoping that everyone had a good, albeit a different Thanksgiving, whether quietly with yourselves or with small groups of friends and family, and that everyone is and continues to be safe and healthy.

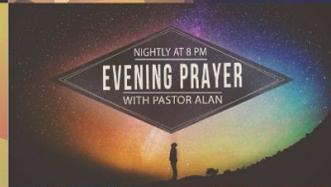
Thank you, thank you, thank you to EVERYONE for your support of our pie sale. We sold over 55 pies and again this year will donate the proceeds of \$600+ to the organ fund. (One of these days, we'll hear the fruits of our labor!)

Again, a HUGE thank you to Judi Wilson who organized the WHOLE thing. And to Nick Lozoponi (I think after 2 pie sales he's an honorary member of the WA!), Nataline Mabbett, Sibyl Smith, Nancy Dowling, Cindy Mueller, Kate Wilson, and Amy Zilberman who helped make the pies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

We had hoped to offer some Poinsettias for sale this holiday season, but in light of the most recent COVID developments and the iffiness of in-person worship services, we have decided that it would be prudent to cancel this fundraiser. We look forward to developing it for next year.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. And looking forward to when we can have in-person worship and get-togethers.

Angela Todisco, Chair, Women's Association Steering Committee



Christmas Memorial Flowers 2020

The Altar Guild this Christmas season will fill the Sanctuary, the Narthex, and Miller Commons with festive flowers, trees, wreaths and candles to set a wonderful, peaceful, and prayerful atmosphere in which we can celebrate the birth of Jesus . This year will be no different despite COVID-19. Your Christmas Memorial Gift will provide you an opportunity to honor someone special, to remember a loved one, or to celebrate a meaningful event in your life. The booklet will be available online, or requested from the office, beginning Wednesday, December 16th and throughout the Christmas season. This tradition is made possible by your generous support.

Payments may be made through check, cash, or credit card at the Church Office. You may also mail payment with your message to:

DeWitt Community Church
3600 Erie Boulevard East
DeWitt, NY 13214

Please choose how you wish to have your message in the Christmas Memorial

In Honor of

Memory of

In Celebration of

from _____

The deadline for donation is Monday, December 14th.

Thank You

The DeWitt Community Church Altar Guild



Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving Boxes and to the many helpers that assembled them. Because of you, 55 families in our community, that may have gone without, will have a Thanksgiving dinner this year.

THANK YOU!



Special Thank you to our Christian Caring Committee for all their hard work!

The members of the Christian Caring Committee are:

- Rev. Dr. Mark Sommers—Staff Liaison**
- Betsy McNany**
- Ann Brothers**
- Erica Johnson**
- Shari Buskey**
- Warren Machell**
- Craig Mabbett—Chair**
- Larry Gordon**
- Jim Fayle**



DeWitt Community Church Masks!!

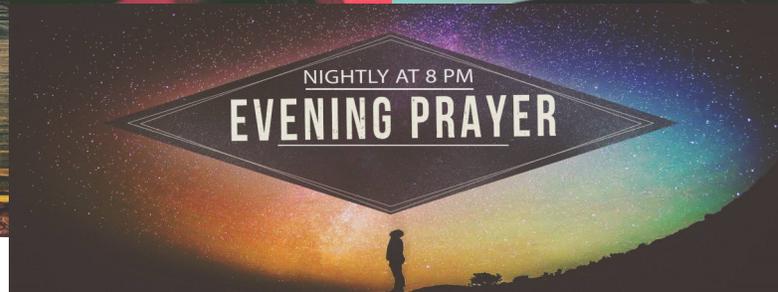
We are excited to announce that we have ordered special DeWitt Community Church Masks!

They are comfortable and stylish!

They are \$10.00 each or 2 for \$15.00.

Contact the Church office, office@dewittchurch.org or (315)445-0331 if you are interested in purchasing some!

They make a great stocking stuffer!



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/ 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 Ministers

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.

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.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 8:00 - 9:00 PM Women's Bible Study - Zoom	2	3 6:30 PM Bell Choir	4 7:30-9:00PM Youth Event on Zoom	5 9:00 AM to 1:00PM MOWEOC Bottle Drive
6 *11:00AM Traditional Worship Service	7	8 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 8:00 - 9:00 PM Women's Bible Study - Zoom	9	10 6:30 PM Bell Choir	11	12
13 *11:00AM Traditional Worship Service	14	15 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 8:00 - 9:00 PM Women's Bible Study - Zoom	16 12:00PM Newsletter Deadline	17 6:30 PM Bell Choir 11:00AM Red Cross Blood Drive- Gym	18	19 2:00-4:00PM Youth Cookie Baking on Zoom
20 *11:00AM Traditional Worship Service	21	22 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 8:00 - 9:00 PM Women's Bible Study - Zoom	23	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Services TBD	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26
27 *11:00AM Traditional Worship Service	28	29 8:00 - 9:00 PM Women's Bible Study - Zoom	30 11:00AM Red Cross Blood Drive - Gym	31	1 New Year's Day	2

*In-Person only when DCC is not in a COVID-19 Orange or Red Zone