

February *newsletter*



LENT: Ashes To Go & Daily Devotional

Lent is the season we celebrate for forty days before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan before he began his earthly ministry. For many Christians today, Lent represents a time of repentance and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time to focus on our relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves often choosing to give up something or volunteer to give of ourselves to others.

Please participate in our Lenten opportunities:

- **Ashes To Go:** On February 17th, Ash Wednesday, because of Covid concerns, we will offer a Drive-Through Ash Wednesday commemoration with self-administered ashes from 7AM-8AM, 12PM-1PM and 5PM-6PM in front of the church, in the half-circle.
- **An Online Ash Wednesday Service** will premiere on Facebook and YouTube at 7:00 PM.
- **Receive Daily Email Lenten Devotionals:** Receive a daily devotional written by DCC pastors, staff, Trustees, Stephen Ministers and other lay leaders sent to your email. Please contact the office at office@dewittchurch.org or call (315) 445-0331 to be added to the email list for our daily Lenten Devotionals.
- **New Group Studies:** Please look on page 4 and 6 for new Bible and group studies.

February Worship

Life Changing Epiphanies

"Being Restored"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, February 7 9:00 AM YouTube
11:00AM Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Life Changing Epiphanies

"Being Reconfigured"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, February 14 9:00AM YouTube
11:00AM Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday 7:00PM YouTube& Facebook
Wednesday, February 17

Flourishing

"Rhythms of Prayer and Worship"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, February 21 9:00AM YouTube
11:00AM Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Flourishing:

"Deepening Your Inner Disciple"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, February 28 9:00AM YouTube
11:00AM Facebook
*11:00 AM Sanctuary

***Register for In-Person Services at**

<https://www.dewittchurch.org/rsvp/>



Flourishing

From the Senior Minister

It's winter in Syracuse, and it is cold! A huge February snowstorm dropped anywhere between 10-20 inches of snow in Central New York. We are in the middle of a global pandemic that keeps us distant socially from friends and families. Our routines have been

upended, people have lost employment and our kids are learning remotely. How do we flourish in such conditions which make it difficult to be at our best?

In 2017, I joined the Fuller Seminary Pastor and Ministry Leader Spiritual Formation Cohort funded by the Lilly Endowment. A study conducted by Fuller Seminary found that while pastors lead others in spiritual practices and formation, many pastors themselves do not receive spiritual direction. Each quarter for a year, I joined other pastors and church leaders in Southern California for spiritual formation retreats, monthly video calls and engaged in the process of spiritual direction. It was truly a life-changing experience. So much so that my small group decided to continue under Austin Seminary's College of Pastoral Leaders grant for continued spiritual formation practices.

In my spiritual formation journey, I learned an important new phrase and framework to view myself, faith, spirituality, and life: human flourishing. When I started with my spiritual formation group and cohort, I was dealing with several major life challenges with changing churches, moving, selling a home, buying a home, relinquishing my role on several national denominational

boards, joining a Th.D. program and the birth of our third child. I didn't feel like I was flourishing.

Through my spiritual formation group, I learned that human flourishing is a key paradigm whereby we join in the original invitation given to human beings by God: "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it" (Gen 1:28). No matter if we work in schools, businesses, homes, warehouses, studios, shops, fields, hospitals or governments, we contribute to our community's fruitfulness and fullness. This fruitfulness, or flourishing, is for ourselves and others. In flourishing, we can thrive by taking up specific Christian spiritual practices in times of ease and strain.

During Lent, I invite you to join me in my new message series, "Flourishing." Each week, we look at scripture, practices, behaviors, and frameworks required to achieve human flourishing. This sermon series starts on February 21st, and I hope you will join me on this journey of flourishing. Also, during Lent, we have several studies, daily devotionals via email, worship services and service opportunities in which you can engage in this work of human flourishing. Please take time to read about these opportunities in the newsletter.

Love and Grace,

Rev. Alan Rudnick

SAMARITAN CENTER

DCC at The Samaritan Center

March 7, 2021

10 volunteers needed

The Samaritan Center is allowing groups like ours to provide volunteers again. Significant safety protocols are in place by Samaritan Center staff for volunteer safety. Meals are provided to clients to go and clients no longer eat their meals at The Samaritan Center. DCC's next serve date is March 7, 2021. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, 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 Board President

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."

1 Peter 5:6

It seems like we just said goodbye to 2020 and now we are shifting our focus to the Lenten season in preparation for Easter. I do not think it could be coming at a better time. With so many things going on in the world right now, it is understandable that one could be distracted from the spiritual preparation for Easter. Whether or not you choose to fast or exercise self-denial by giving something up, we can all benefit by using this time to reflect and spiritually prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

The first organized recognition of Lent stems from the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. By utilizing these 40 days to spiritually prepare, we are continuing a tradition developed by some of the earliest followers of Jesus. I find that humbling since in America something 250 years old is considered "very old".

One of the things I plan to spiritually reflect on during this Lenten season is how important it is for me to recognize the humanity present in everyone, even those that do not agree with me – be it spiritually, politically, or morally. We are all made in God's image: Christians, Jews, and Muslims, Democrats and Republicans. There are those that would seek to divide us for their own personal gain. We as a society must not let that happen.

I do not know if we will be able to be physically together for Easter services. However, I do know that we will be together spiritually in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Stock



American Red Cross

We are in need of people to help with our Blood Drives. Blood Drives are a primary means for the Red Cross to collect blood for those in need. DCC sponsors 4 Blood Drives each year, and collected over 1000 units last year, but we need people to check in the donors and monitor the hospitality (cookies & juice) tables.

For those of you who would like to volunteer, but have apprehensions, please be aware that we do follow COVID guidelines, that we use gloves to take temperatures before we allow anyone to enter the donation area.

We do have our temperature, check-in and hospitality stations spaced at least 6 feet apart and the donation tables are at least 6' apart. We allow only 1 person to enter the donation area at a time.

We ask for volunteers in 2-hr shifts so we're not asking for you to commit your whole day, and to be a little flexible with your times.

Please contact Angela Todisco at 315-430-0220 or Atee1@twcny.rr.com if you would like to help.

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.

Numbers: Learning Contentment in a Culture of More

A 6 Week Women's Bible Study by Melissa Spoelstra

Something in us aches for more, and our culture offers us many suggestions that don't fill the gnawing inside. In this six-week Bible Study we will see ourselves in the story of the Israelites as they wander in the wilderness. As we dig into their story, beginning in Exodus and quickly moving into Numbers, we will learn how to be content while still being authentic about the difficulties of life, accepting short-term hardship in the light of the greater good of God's ultimate deliverance, and change our perspective from a posture of fear to a posture of faith.

Participation in this study requires:

The purchase of a participant guide.

(Available at Amazon, Christian Book Distributors, Barnes and Noble)

Five days of self-study to be completed before each week's zoom meeting.

Participation in weekly zoom meeting on Tuesday Evenings, beginning 2/16, from 7:30-9:00 pm

A short promotional video describing this study can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-F4nEYJhdk>

Please contact Pastor Cindy Mapstone at cmapstone@dewittchurch.org if you are interested in joining this Women's Bible Study.

As we gratefully say goodbye to 2020, please allow me to personally thank you for your partnership and service throughout this trying past year. The twelve blood drives held in Fellowship Hall and Miller Commons throughout 2020 collected 420 units, and that means more life, more love, and more memories for the most vulnerable patients in our community—those suffering unexpected trauma and chronic illness every day.

With the additional support of the DeWitt Rotary and Laurence Segal's Cans for Cancer, the DCC Blood Drive Program has seen tremendous growth since March, and each and every drive continues to come in at or over the collection goal for that day. We would never have been able to fulfill our mission this year without you and are hopeful that we may continue our partnership as we persevere in our life saving mission in 2021.

With sincere gratitude,

Katie Stepanian

American Red Cross Blood Services

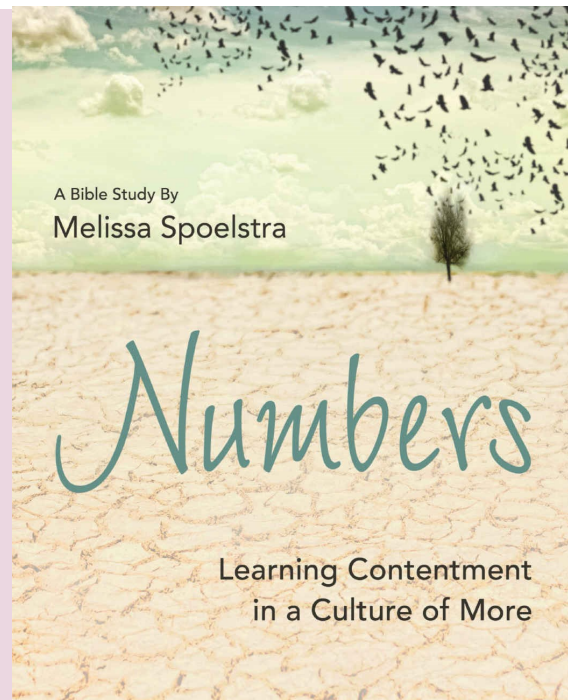
NEW STUDY: Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

Sundays @ 10 AM, via Zoom & In-Person,
starting February 21

We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy: simply type a question with Google, and the answer pops up. But sometimes, our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? For thousands of years, Christians have sought powerful answers in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs.

In this six-week video Lenten study, we'll consider important questions of life, reality, and truth. We'll also explore what Christians believe and why they believe it and why it matters. Based on Adam Hamilton's book, "Creed," we'll explore not only what Christians believe but also why they believe and why it matters, which in turn leads participants to confront and examine their own core beliefs and go beyond reciting the Creed's familiar words. This study is for anyone new to the faith, the life-long Christian who wants to understand the Apostle's Creed or anyone who wants to explore their belief in God more fully.

Call 315-445-0331 or email office@dewittchurch.org for more information.



De Witt Community Church

Sponsor Group

2020

Year

12

Number of Drives

420

Units Collected

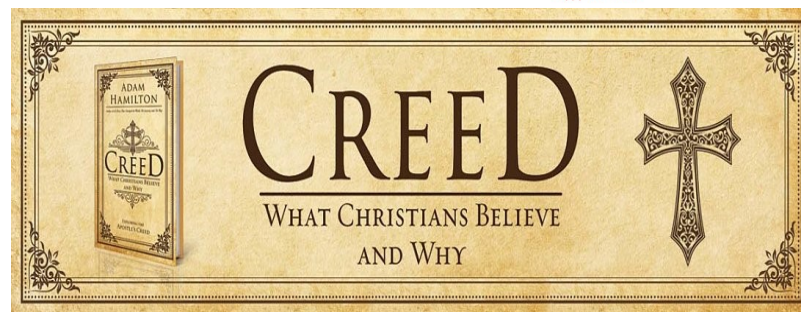
1260

Potential Number of Lives Saved

When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.

Thank you for your support in 2020. We appreciate you!

Happy New Year!



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

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:

Feb 7	Rebuilding the Wall	Ezra & Nehemiah
Feb 14	Love Is	1 Corinthians 14:4-8 a
Feb 21	Jesus' Ministry Begins	Matthew 3 & 4; Mark 1, 2 & 3; Luke 8:1-3.
Feb 28	No Ordinary Man	Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John

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.

A Middle School and High School youth zoom Sunday school class taught by Abby Young takes place on Sunday Mornings at 10am. 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.

Intergenerational Highland Forest Sleigh Ride and Sledding

Join us for a fun filled day at Highland Forest from 1:00-3:00 PM on February 20th. We will be enjoying the beauty of God's creation with horse drawn sleigh rides and sledding!

All ages are welcome! Sledding is free and requires no RSVP. Sleigh rides are only \$4 per person when you RSVP through the church! If you would like to reserve a sleigh ride spot, please RSVP to Abby Young (ayoung@dewittchurch.org) by February 10th.



A Lenten Time of Family Fun and Learning Via Zoom (sponsored by Family Ministries)

For five Sundays during Lent, families will come together virtually for a time of sharing, playing games, participating in interactive activities, and learning stories, via zoom. This time will be an opportunity to expand our understanding of Lent and Easter as well as serve as a way for families to connect with each other.

Week One:	Ashes	Sunday, February 21 st	2-3 pm
Week Two:	Preparing Our Hearts	Sunday, February 28 th	2-3 pm
Week Three	Jesus is Hailed as King	Sunday, March 7 th	2-3 pm
Week Four	Death on a Cross	Sunday, March 14	2-3 pm
Week Five	Resurrection Day	Sunday, March 21 st	2-3 pm

If your family would like to participate in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Abby Young at ayoung@dewittchurch.org.



Palm Sunday March 28th 10am Easter Egg Hunt (sponsored by Family Ministries)

An Easter Egg Hunt will take place here at Dewitt Community Church on the fenced-in side lawn adjacent to the back-parking lot. Children should come dressed in weather appropriate clothing and carry a basket for collecting eggs filled with candy and other prizes. Due to restriction in numbers, reservations are required. Please let the church office know ahead of time which time slot works best for your family. Time slots are at 10:00, 10:20, 10:40 & 11:00 am.

Contact the Church office at (315)445-0331 or office@dewittchurch.org to reserve your spot!



**American
Red Cross**

Mission Of The Month



**American
Red Cross**

Join the American Red Cross to Sound the Alarm. Save a Life.

Each year, the Red Cross responds to an average of more than 60,000 disasters, the vast majority of which are home fires. So we set a goal to reduce fire-related deaths and injuries in the US by 25%.

On average:

- **7 people** die every day from a home fire, most impacting children and the elderly
- **36 people** suffer injuries as a result of home fires every day
- Over **\$7 billion** in property damage occurs every year

Home fires claim seven lives every day, but you can help change that.

This spring, join our national movement and pledge to keep your family safe by taking 2 simple steps: Practice your 2-minute escape drill and test your smoke alarms monthly.

American Red Cross volunteers will also *Sound the Alarm* in at-risk communities by:

- **Educating 100,000 people** nationwide about home fire safety.
- **Helping families create an escape plan** to practice their 2-minute drill.
- **Partnering with fire departments to install smoke alarms** by appointment where it's safe to do so.

Find out more on their website at <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html>

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/ 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.com.

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.

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	3 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study	4 6:00 PM YoungLife Wyldlife Club	5	6
7 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service** 12:00PM Drive-Thru Communion	8	9 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	10 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study	11 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	12	13
14 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	15 Presidents' Day Office Closed	16 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	17 Ash Wednesday See details on front page 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study	18	19 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive	20 1:00 PM Highland Forest Event For All Ages
21 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	22	23 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	24 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study	25 1:00PM Red Cross Blood Drive	26	27
28 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	1	2	3	4	5	6

**When DeWitt Community Church is not in an Orange zone.