

January *newsletter*

Christmas at DeWitt Community Church

With extreme optimism, the Altar Guild decorated the Sanctuary, Narthex and the exterior of the church. However, the Orange Zone happened which mandated that church attendance would be further limited--No Christmas Eve Services. However, the church was decorated and waiting for people to fill it! So our Altar Guild decided that showing you the pictures that were taken might bring some sunshine and hope for 2021.

A special thank you to those who contributed to the Christmas Memorial Flower fund. Your generosity made these pictures happen.

THANK YOU and HAPPY NEW YEAR!
The Altar Guild

January Worship

Having a Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

Rev. Dr. Cindy Mapstone

Saturday, January 2

5:30 PM YouTube

Sunday, January 3

9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook

*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Life Changing Epiphanies

"Being Renewed"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Saturday, January 9

5:30 PM YouTube

Sunday, January 10

9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook

*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Life Changing Epiphanies

"Being Reclaimed"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Saturday, January 16

5:30 PM YouTube

Sunday, January 17

9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook

*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Life Changing Epiphanies

"Being Relinquished"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Saturday, January 23

5:30 PM YouTube

Sunday, January 24

9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook

*11:00 AM Sanctuary

Life Changing Epiphanies

"Being Released"

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Saturday, January 30

5:30 PM YouTube

Sunday, January 31

9:00 AM YouTube & Facebook

*11:00 AM Sanctuary

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



Dear DeWitt Community Church,

As the President of the Board of Trustees, I want to share with you an important change that has occurred within our church. Mark Sommers requested to be released from his Senior Minister agreement to retire early, effective December 31, 2020. The Board of Trustees has approved his request for early retirement. Please take time to read Mark Sommer's letter below. As the Board of Trustees, we thank Mark for his 12 years of service to our church, wish him the best in retirement and, if Covid restrictions allow, have Mark back at church for in-person Homecoming to celebrate his tenure at DCC.

Since the Senior Minister Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the congregation voted and approved Pastor Alan Rudnick's candidacy last year as our next Senior Minister, I share with you today that Pastor Alan is now our Senior Minister. As a Board of Trustees, we are confident that the church is in good hands during this transition and look forward to a bright future in the days ahead.



Greg Stock
President, Board of Trustees



Dear Members and Friends of DeWitt Community Church,

As we are all painfully aware, 2020 has been an extraordinarily challenging year. As the year began, I was looking forward to my sabbatical leave studying the Confessing Church Movement in pre-World War II Germany and its stand against the evils of Nazi Germany. I was due to depart following Easter and spend 6 weeks in Europe as part of my study. And then, of course, came the pandemic. While we were unable to travel, and the sabbatical was delayed, I was able to spend much of the summer reading on this topic and preparing to share my insights.

I was so looking forward to returning in the fall and finishing up my final year as your pastor. I was looking forward to spending time with people, helping to assure a smooth transition, and hopefully raise funds for a new organ before riding off into the sunset. What is it they say? "We make plans and God laughs" Never in a million years did I anticipate that we would still be in the throws of the pandemic when I returned, and it now looks like we will be in pandemic mode for at least another 4 to 6 months.

Considering all of this, I have asked the Board of Trustees to release me from our original agreement requiring me to stay through mid-September, and allowing me to retire effective December 31, 2020. The Board of Trustees has approved this request and have honored me with the title Pastor Emeritus. My successor is now in place and even while we are in the middle of a pandemic, we as a church are in good place.

WE have accomplished a great deal during these past 12 plus years. WE have celebrated our 200th birthday as a congregation. WE have welcomed many new people into our church family. WE have started many new programs that make a difference in the lives of people both inside and outside the wall of our building. WE have put DeWitt Community Church on a path to a promising future. I do not know of any other mainline congregation in our region that has accomplished more during this period of time. So while I leave eight months ahead of schedule, I do so with a great sense of accomplishment.

Kathlyne and I look forward to moving back to our home in Farmington Hills and spending summers at our place on Lake Michigan in Harbor Springs. After a year of sailing, cycling and golf, I look forward to reengaging in public life and living out my faith through community service.

We have made a significant number of personal friends at DeWitt and in Central New York through the years, and our hope is to remain connected. At the same time, I will also continue to honor the Ministers Council Code of Ethics which requires me, upon retirement, not to interfere or comment on matters of church policy or practice. In other words, I am no longer your pastor, but hopefully, will always be your friend.

My best to you as a congregation and to each member and friend as you continue to follow the ways of Christ.

Rejoicing Always!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark E. Sommers', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Sommers

From the Board President

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

January is a natural time to think about new beginnings especially in light of all of our current circumstances. With COVID-19 vaccines no longer a theory or a dream we can hope for a new beginning for our society and economy, both of which have suffered during this pandemic. We have a new political landscape to navigate. And of course, it's new year's resolution time!

Studies have shown that while about 50% of adults make new year's resolutions, less than 10% of people manage to keep them for more than a few months. But why the obsession with resolutions tied to a specific date? It must be hard wired into our DNA – the earliest recorded celebrations of the new year occurred in Babylon 4,000 years ago and continue to this day (COVID restrictions notwithstanding).

Fortunately, the words of Paul clearly show us we do not need to be slaves to old habits. Thanks to the restorative power of Jesus Christ, we can have a new beginning whenever we need. It seems simple, because it is, but it is powerful. We do not need to wait until January 1 for a new beginning. We do not need to feel ashamed that we have failed before. God does not care about any of these things; he just wants us to trust in him and he will help us remake ourselves.

I wish you all a happy new beginning in 2021 and hope to see you at church soon.

Yours in Christ,

Greg Stock

NEW STUDY: Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets

Sundays @ 10 AM, starting January 10 via Zoom

Join in this study with Pastor Alan to discover five game-changing questions to ask every time you make a decision--questions that will help you in your finances, relationships, career, and more. Develop a decision-making filter that reveals which choices will likely lead to positive results in your life. Find truth and clarity in any tricky decision. Improve relationships and heal division through better decisions. Your decisions determine the direction and quality of your life. Your decisions create the story of your life. And while nobody plans to complicate their life with bad decisions, far too many people have no plan to make good decisions. Based on Andy Stanley's book, we'll look at five key areas: honesty, storytelling, tension, wisdom, and love. Don't miss this new study to change the New Year!

Contact Pastor Alan: alan@dewittchurch.org for the Zoom link.

Good questions
lead to
**BETTER
DECISIONS.**

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.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.



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.

Give blood.



DeWitt Community Church January Blood Drives

Fellowship Hall
3600 Erie Blvd. East – Syracuse

Thursday, January 7th - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 22nd - 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 29th - 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Ask about Power Reds if type O-, A-, B-, O+.

**All presenting donors (Dec 21, 2020-Jan 9, 2021)
will receive a \$5 Dunkin' Donuts gift card.**

2020-APL-01438

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

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*Thank
you*

A Thank You from the Jamesville DeWitt Ecumenical Food Pantry

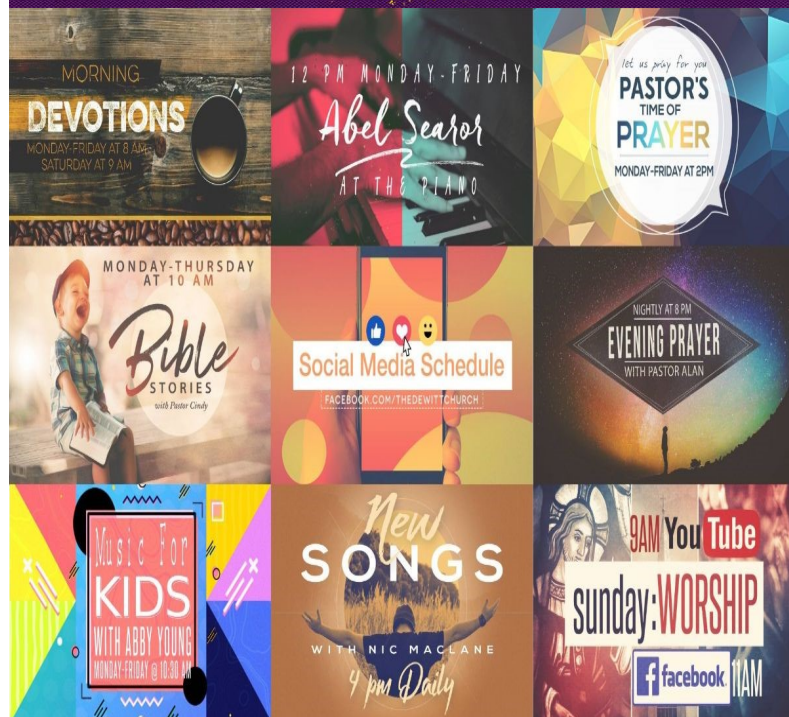
I just wanted to let you know that through your support of the Jamesville pantry- 71 children will receive a generous gift card to get a gift, 105 families will receive cleaning and household items for family use, and 105 families will receive a generous amount of food for Christmas. A more formal thank you will come in the New Year. I just wanted to let you know how much you have all helped support those in need in the community.

Thank you!
Gretchen Brown

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



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:

Jan 6	The Beginning of the End	Isaiah 3:1-13
Jan 11	The Kingdom Falls	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Jan 20	God Watches Over Daniel	Daniel 6:1-23
Jan 27	The Return Home	Ezra 1:1-7

God doesn't give up on his people.
God's people suffer for their sin, But God still loves them.
Daniel is loyal to God and God protects him.
God's people promise to follow his ways.

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.

Upcoming Youth Events

Wind down from the stress of school and celebrate the weekend with a Friday Zoom game night 1/8 @ 7:00-9:00 PM.

We will be playing a variety of fun classics with of course a virtual twist! So grab your snacks and cozy blankets and play some games with friends!





McMahon/Ryan
Child Advocacy Center

Mission Of The Month



McMahon/Ryan
Child Advocacy Center

Abuse. The word alone is hard to hear. And when a child has been abused, it is even harder to know where to turn for help, guidance, and understanding.

Before the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center existed, the system was doing more to harm, not help, child abuse victims. A child would have to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again: to doctors, cops, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others.

What We Do

McMahon Ryan's streamlined approach partners law enforcement, children and family services, social workers, medical professionals, victim advocates, prosecutors, therapists and volunteers under one roof – and preserves the best evidence for investigators in cases of [child abuse](#) or [human trafficking](#).

Whenever possible, children tell their story only once to a highly-trained forensic interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not re-traumatize the child. The child connects to a victim advocate, gets one medical exam, and meets with a therapist. Team members work together to provide the child and family the support services they need – all the way through trial and beyond.

The statistics are astounding and frightening: about **1 in 10** children is sexually abused; **every eight minutes** a child is sexually abused; and nearly **five children die every day** from neglect and abuse.

Unfortunately, abuse and neglect occur every day in our community as well. But fortunately McMahon Ryan is here to help, currently seeing more than **1,000 victims** each year. We're also here to educate the public to prevent abuse.

To learn more, please check out their website at <https://www.mcmahonryan.org/>

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



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2
3 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	4	5 1:30PM Staff Meeting	6	7 11:30AM Red Cross Blood Drive	8 7:00PM Youth Zoom Event	9
10 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service** 12:00PM Samaritan Center	11	12 1:30PM Staff Meeting	13 7:00PM Board of Trustees Meeting	14	15 12:00PM Newsletter Deadline	16
17 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	18 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	19 1:30PM Staff Meeting	20	21	22 11:30AM Red Cross Blood Drive	23
24 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	25	26 1:30PM Staff Meeting	27	28	29 11:30AM Red Cross Blood Drive	30
31 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	1	2	3	4	5	6

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