

# March *newsletter*

## HOLY WEEK AT DCC

PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY



### Palm Sunday Worship Service

March 28 at 11:00 AM, Sanctuary & Online

### Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 1 at 7:00 PM, Sanctuary & Online

### Good Friday Services

April 2 at Noon Hour Silent Reflection w/ Music, Sanctuary, 12:00 to 1:00 PM

April 2 at 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship Service, Sanctuary & Online

### Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 4 at 9:00AM and 11:00AM, Sanctuary & Online

Please register at [dewittchurch.org/RSVP](https://dewittchurch.org/RSVP) or call (315) 445-0331.

Online Services stream at our Youtube Channel: [youtube.com/c/DeWittCommunityChurch](https://youtube.com/c/DeWittCommunityChurch) and our  
Facebook Page: [facebook.com/thedewittchurch](https://facebook.com/thedewittchurch)

## From the Senior Minister



### Checking Our Spiritual Canisters

In his bestselling book, *Into Thin Air*, Jon Krakauer relates the hazards that plagued some climbers as they attempted to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Andy, one of the expedition leaders, stayed at the peak too long, and on his descent, he was in dire need of oxygen.

Andy radioed the base camp and told them about his predicament. He mentioned that he had come across a cache of oxygen canisters left by the other climbers, but Andy said the canisters were empty. The climbers at the base camp who already passed the canisters on their own descent knew they were not empty but full. The base camp pleaded with him on the radio to make use of the oxygen canisters. Andy was starved for oxygen, but he continued to argue on the radio that the canisters were empty. The problem was that the lack of what he needed (oxygen) had so disoriented his mind that Andy would not listen to life-saving advice. Though he was surrounded by something that would give him life, he continued to complain of its absence after pleas from his team.

I've found that we sometimes tell ourselves that what we really need is not found at our grasp in life's most terrible and desperate moments. We fill ourselves with self-talk which rationalizes our blind spots or justifies our self-defeating behavior. When we are so deprived of goodness, faith, hope, love, joy, grace, and spiritual nourishment, we tend to tell ourselves we need something else - and we can't find it. Sometimes, we don't listen to others because we are so deprived of that which we are seeking.

Lent is a time when we take a hard look at our "life canister" and check to see if there is life-giving spiritual oxygen left. If there isn't enough, we need to listen to those trusted individuals, spiritual guides, and helpers. If there isn't enough in our canisters, it is time to prepare, plan, refill, and receive. We ought to look to our spiritual community for guidance, strength, and support.

During our Lenten sermon series, "Flourishing", we are examining what it takes to keep life's "oxygen" containers full so that we can face the challenges, trials, and struggles of life. When we observe the patterns and behaviors of Jesus, we see a fuller picture of what it means to thrive and flourish in life. During Lent, we have daily emails and video devotions to help you on your journey. We have new small groups and Bible studies to deepen your discipleship of Jesus. We have opportunities online and in-person to feed and nourish your soul. When we commit to the work of spiritual flourishing through prayer, service, community, and worship, we are better equipped for the journey of life.

What is the gauge on your spiritual life canister reading? Is it time to listen and engage in spiritual practices of flourishing?

*Alan Rudnick*

Rev. Alan Rudnick  
Senior Minister

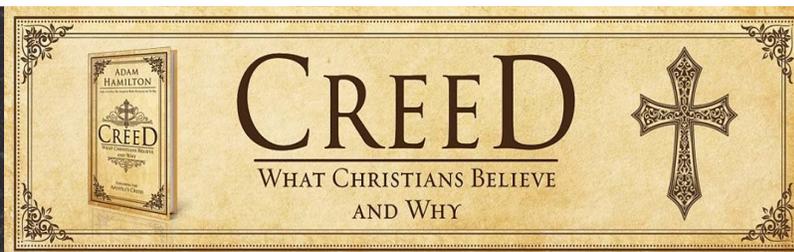
### NEW STUDY - Creed: What Christians Believe and Why Sundays @ 10 AM, via Zoom & In-Person

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 [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org) for more information.



## From the Board of Trustees President

"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption."  
1 Corinthians 1:30

It feels good to write this message during a time of optimistic hope, both religiously and as a society. We as Christians are progressing through the Lenten season – soon we will be celebrating the resurrection of Christ. I remember being a child and celebrating Palm Sunday at my church. I didn't really understand what was going on liturgically but I enjoyed waving the palm leaves and the joyous music being played. Personally, I find Palm Sunday services are topped only by Easter itself!

While we as a society are not on the other side of the pandemic yet, there are so many positive signs that there is good reason to be optimistic. Cases are way down from their holiday spike. Essential and vulnerable populations are getting vaccinated. We were able to restart in-person worship and the attendance has been strong. This year we can look forward to in-person Easter services barring a significant turn of events.

I would like to thank Alan, Cindy and all of the DCC staff for their many efforts to provide a consistent and fulfilling worship experience throughout the pandemic. They all have really made lemonade out of an unprecedented situation and their efforts have been crucial in keeping us connected in a very disconnected time. Let us pray that things continue to improve because I am excited to see what DCC can accomplish when we reach a period of normalcy.

Yours in Christ,  
Greg Stock

### Volunteers Needed!

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](mailto:Atee1@twcny.rr.com) if you would like to help.**



### NEW STUDY: God's Story Your Story: When His Becomes Yours

Sundays @ 10 AM, via Zoom & In-Person in Room 6, starting April 11.

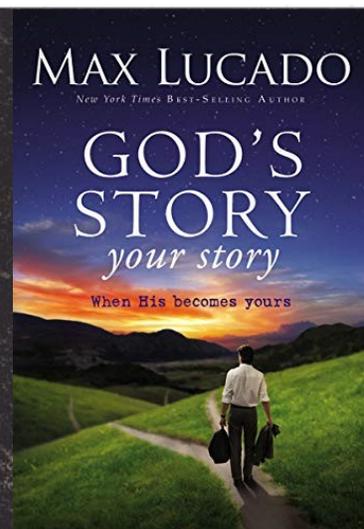
Have you ever contemplated your purpose in the world? Have you ever thought of yourself as part of God's greater narrative? Are you longing to see how your daily life relates to God's grand, epic story?

In this six-week video Bible study led by Pastor Cindy Mapstone, we will distill the essential teachings of Scripture as they inform our lives to see our challenges in the scope of God's economy. The journey of faith will come alive as we discover together how the ancient stories found in Scripture reveal God's plan for us today. We will learn to stand on the promises of eternity.

Based on Max Lucado's, "God's Story Your Story: When His Becomes Yours," we'll explore Scripture as a grand narrative of Love that spans all of human history. We will understand God's past faithfulness and as we begin to recognize His voice as the one we can trust. We will recognize that each of us is an essential part of God's plan.

This study is for anyone who is hoping to find their purpose in God's grand plan.

Call 315-445-0331 or email [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org) for more information.



# Family Ministry Team



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Mapstone  
Family Minister  
[cmapstone@dewittchurch.org](mailto:cmapstone@dewittchurch.org)



Abby Young  
Youth Director &  
Children's Music Director  
[ayoung@dewittchurch.org](mailto:ayoung@dewittchurch.org)



Barb Turner  
Nursery Director  
[bturner@dewittchurch.org](mailto: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](mailto: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:

Mar 7	The Parable of the Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
Mar 14	The Parable of the Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
Mar 21	The Parable of the Lost Coin	Luke 15:8-10
Mar 28	The Hour of Darkness No Ordinary Man	Matthew, Mark, Luke and 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ayoung@dewittchurch.org) or call the church office at 315-445-0331.

## Youth Event

Youth Winter Picnic – Calling all youth (grades 5-12) to join us for a winter picnic on March 29th from 12:30-2:00PM at Green Lakes. We will be enjoying a picnic lunch complete with active games and hot chocolate to keep us warm.

For more info and to RSVP contact Abby Young at [ayoung@dewittchurch.org](mailto:ayoung@dewittchurch.org).



## Palm Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup> 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 9:00, 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30am.

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



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

If your family would like to participate in this wonderful opportunity, please contact Abby Young at [ayoung@dewittchurch.org](mailto:ayoung@dewittchurch.org).



*deliver a difference*

Friends and Neighbors!

Meals on Wheels of Eastern Onondaga County will be holding its scheduled Bottle and Can Drive on **Saturday, April 10th from 9:00 am - 1:00 PM**. The drop-off sites will again be the DCC 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 April 10th. 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.



# RSVP FOR WORSHIP

*Sunday at 11 AM in the Sanctuary*

*Reserve your seat at [dewittchurch.org/RSVP](https://dewittchurch.org/RSVP)*



CENTRAL NEW YORK

# Mission Of The Month



CENTRAL NEW YORK

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is touching millions of lives... one heart at a time. Since 1954, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been challenging coaches and athletes on the professional, college, high school, junior high and youth levels to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA is the largest interdenominational, school-based, Christian sports organization in America. FCA focuses on serving local communities by equipping, empowering and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ.

### Vision

To present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.



### Values

Our relationships will demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence.

### Mission

To see the world impacted by Jesus Christ through the influence of athletes and coaches.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# March 2021

# March Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>2</b> 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	<b>3</b> 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study- YL 7:00PM Christian Caring Committee Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM YoungLife Wyldlife Club	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service** 12:00PM Samaritan Center 2:00PM Family Lenten Study	<b>8</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study- YL	<b>11</b> 5:30 PM Bell Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive
<b>14</b> 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service** 2:00PM Family Lenten Study	<b>15</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>16</b> 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	<b>17</b> 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study -YL	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM YoungLife Wyldlife Club	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service** 2:00PM Family Lenten Study	<b>22</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>23</b> 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	<b>24</b> 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study -YL	<b>25</b> 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM YoungLife Wyldlife Club	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 10:00AM Adult Bible Study 11:00AM Traditional Worship Service**	<b>29</b> 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 12:30 Youth Event @Green Lakes	<b>30</b> 7:00PM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	<b>31</b> 6:45 PM Campaigners Bible Study-YL	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	<b>2</b> Good Friday 12:00PM Silent Reflection with music 7:00PM Good Friday Service	<b>3</b>

**Flourishing:**  
"Begetting Belonging"  
Rev. Alan Rudnick  
Sunday, March 7  
9:00 AM YouTube  
11:00AM Facebook  
\*11:00 AM Sanctuary

**Flourishing:**  
"Freedom in Forgiveness"  
Rev. Alan Rudnick  
Sunday, March 14  
9:00AM YouTube  
11:00AM Facebook  
\*11:00 AM Sanctuary

**Flourishing**  
"Stunning Sharing & Service"  
Rev. Alan Rudnick  
Sunday, March 21  
9:00AM YouTube  
11:00AM Facebook  
\*11:00 AM Sanctuary

**Flourishing:**  
"United for Hope & Change"  
Rev. Alan Rudnick  
Sunday, March 28  
9:00AM YouTube  
11:00AM Facebook  
\*11:00 AM Sanctuary

CD's with each month's sermons are available for people wishing to listen to them at home.  
Please let the church office know that you wish to receive a CD each month and one will be sent to your home.

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