

# January newsletter

## Our Church at Work

Despite the pandemic challenges, DeWitt Community Church has adapted to serve and minister to our congregation and community. This past year our church has made an impact in a variety of ways:

- Over 20,000 interactions online with YouTube, Facebook, and virtual worship
- 60 Thanksgiving meals assembled at our church and given to area families in need
- Over 500 meals served by our church at the Samaritan Center in Syracuse
- 13 online and in-person small groups and Bible studies
- 20 beds built and funded by our congregation for children in Central New York
- 24 trained Stephen Ministers walking with people going through challenging times
- 1 new streaming video system to connect people to the worship life of our church in order to enrich their spiritual lives

Thank you for your time, talents, and resources in order to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

## Worship Schedule

### Everything Beautiful In Its Time

Rev. Dr. Cindy Mapstone

Sunday, January 2

11:00 AM Sanctuary and  
Live Stream on  
Facebook and YouTube

### Epiphany!

#### Being The Beloved

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, January 9

11:00 AM Sanctuary and  
Live Stream on  
Facebook and YouTube

### Epiphany!

#### 180 Gallons of Grace

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, January 16

11:00 AM Sanctuary and  
Live Stream on  
Facebook and YouTube

### Epiphany!

#### It's Time to Find Your Groove

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, January 23

11:00 AM Sanctuary and  
Live Stream on  
Facebook and YouTube

### Epiphany!

#### You are Not 'Only'

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, January 30

11:00 AM Sanctuary and  
Live Stream on  
Facebook and YouTube

## 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.





### Epiphany - Aha!

Albert Einstein, one of the world's great minds and the man responsible for some of history's most significant scientific breakthroughs, once said, "I never made one of my discoveries through the process of rational thinking." To Einstein, our observable world held secrets and mysteries into breakthroughs in science, medicine, and technology, perhaps required more observation and less mental strain.

In January, Christians all over the globe celebrate the season of Epiphany. We commonly use the word "epiphany" to describe a revelation or an "aha" moment. The word "epiphany" has Greek origins, and originally meant "appearance" or "manifestation." The coming of Jesus born into the world was first revealed to the shepherds who heard the angelic announcement and ran to the stable to see for themselves.

In the story of the Epiphany, Jesus was revealed to the Gentile world through the magi or wise men who observed a star and followed it to Bethlehem, where Jesus was found. The Epiphany is the revelation of God's salvation to these magi, Gentiles, who were not historically considered to be included with Israel.

Einstein may have been on to something about discoveries because the magi discovered the star, or cosmic event, was set into motion by God. God inaugurated the event, and the magi participated. They did not cause or make the epiphany happen. The magi discovered the Divine crumb trail. Christian author Richard Rohr describes the spiritual reality of God's epiphanies:

An epiphany is a parting of the veil, a life-changing manifestation of meaning, the eureka of awareness of self and the Other. It is the radical grace... There are no formulas which ensure its appearance. It is always a gift, unearned, unexpected, and larger than our present life. We cannot manufacture epiphanies. We can only ask for them, wait for them, expect them.

The magi stumbled on this "aha" moment where God pulled back the veil of heaven and let the wise men into a divine secret: Christ has come, and Christ has come for you!

During January and February, I invite you to join me in worship each week for my sermon series, "Epiphany!" where we will explore the ways that God surprises us when we open ourselves to new experiences, adventures, and opportunities God places before us. When we, like the magi, decide to follow God into unknown territory, we discover grace, forgiveness, love, compassion, spiritual insight, and even learn new things about ourselves and God.

Love and Grace,

Rev. Alan Rudnick  
Senior Minister

## Volunteer opportunities



We are excited to announce that the Live-Streaming equipment in the Sanctuary is complete. We are starting to recruit volunteers to learn how to use the streaming equipment and assist with the live-streaming of the 11:00AM service on Sundays. We are fortunate to have a company who will be giving a thorough training of how to use the equipment and will be able to answer any questions that may arise.

If you are interested in attending a training of how to use the equipment and volunteering on Sundays, please email Alyssa at [aeighmey@dewittchurch.org](mailto:aeighmey@dewittchurch.org) or call the office at (315) 445-0331.



## A Message from the Board President

"They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness." -Psalm 145:7

I usually use my time here to look towards the future. Please indulge me while I use my time to reminisce about the past. 2021 sure threw civilization quite a number of curveballs, only eclipsed by the uncertainty during 2020. I am certain this was a trying year for all of us, but think of how far we came as a church this year! At the beginning of 2021, DCC was still performing 100% remote services. Now, fast forward to Christmas! I can only speak of the 4:30 service, but I am sure each service was performed as well as the service I had the pleasure of witnessing. All of the DCC staff has worked incredibly hard this year to provide us with a quality worship experience, and Christmas services were the culmination of that. This is definitely cause for celebration. Seeing the children reveal the nativity scene at the 4:30 service was very sweet, and congregational morale felt high.

I would like to specifically thank Alan, Cindy, Bill, Abel, Nic, Barb, Alyssa, Ryan, Jane, Mick and Liam for all their blood, sweat (and I'm sure some tears) that they gave this year to keep DCC going. I'm excited to see what 2022 holds for us all.

Yours in Christ,  
Greg Stock



A happy and healthy 2022 wish to you all! The New Year always seems to bring reflection- of the year just finished and the year ahead. Looking back at 2021, it is my firm belief that DCC has experienced a very good year overall and especially from the perspective of our charity, community and volunteer efforts. Our Christian Caring Committee has grown in size, commitment and enthusiasm. Your generosity allowed for very successful campaigns for both the Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas giving. Thirteen missions were supported through our efforts. We continued our solid support of the Samaritan Center as we have done for many years in the past. We participated

in a 'Build a Bed' workday building 20 beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. And several more efforts assisting our community. Simply stated: **THANK YOU!**

And what do we see for 2022? There is an excitement building within the C.C. Committee and you can feel it within the staff and congregation as well. Excitement to support our neighbors in need, both with our resources and our helping hands. Excitement to actively participate in opportunities and tangibly demonstrate our caring and love for others. Excitement for expanding the perception of hope and service that DCC is building within the community. Excitement of opening our hearts & facility to others as we embrace these efforts.

I am incredibly excited for all that **WE WILL** accomplish in the coming year. Together. Time to roll up our sleeves and refocus our efforts on all that needs to be done. And when we look back upon 2022 one year from now, I am convinced that we will be able to say with pride- ***What a great time it is to be a part of DCC!!***

God bless you all,  
Rick Hall, Christian Caring Chair

## Christmas Giving Update

The Christmas giving efforts were a huge success this year. DCC supported:

- Two dozen hand sewn stuffed animals to Samaritan Center (Thank you Faith Hall)
- Fifteen children's gifts to Samaritan Center (Thank you Dot Hall / Sports Physical Therapy & Jim Fayle)
- Thirty presents to Refugee families through Inter-Faith works (Thank you Elizabeth Chapman for organizing)
- Over \$400 in gift cards to JD Food Pantry for distribution to children
- Six overstuffed large plastic bags filled with coats, hats, gloves, etc. for all ages
- Socks and warm clothing for In My Fathers Kitchen
- Multiple deliveries of donated food to the JD Pantry

Such an incredible outpouring of generosity and love!! *Merry Christmas* and **THANK YOU ALL**  
Christian Caring Committee





The Central New York Diaper Bank is a nonprofit that was created to assist social service organizations in the Syracuse area distribute diapers to families in need. Our mission is to ensure all Central New York families have access to an adequate supply of diapers, and to build awareness of diaper need in our community. The organization was started by Michela Hugo after realizing that families who received assistance getting other essential items had nowhere to turn to get diapers. They aren't stocked by food pantries and they aren't covered by WIC or food stamps.

The CNY Diaper Bank is holding its fourth annual "Make a Mother's Day" Diaper Drive this month. We believe all babies deserve the best possible start in life and diapers are a basic need they simply cannot go without.

The goal is to collect 100,000 diapers. The diaper bank collects disposable diapers and distributes them to food pantries and other organizations that help struggling families.

The CNY Diaper Bank is 100% volunteer-run and we would love for you to join us. We need your energy and your ideas as we continue to expand our reach and build our capacity to assist more families. Would you like to be more involved with the CNY Diaper Bank? We need people with lots of different skills including accounting, inventory management, volunteer coordination, and grant writing. If you'd like to be a bigger part of this effort, contact us at [volunteer@cnydiaperbank.org](mailto:volunteer@cnydiaperbank.org).

**Donating dollars makes the biggest impact. With your dollars, we can purchase two to three times the number of diapers you can in a store.**

**\$7 PROVIDES A ONE-MONTH DIAPER SUPPLEMENT FOR A BABY**

**\$35 PROVIDES MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTS FOR 5 BABIES**

**\$50 PROVIDES MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTS FOR 8 BABIES**

**\$200 PROVIDES DIAPERS FOR 32 BABIES**

**\$500 PROVIDES DIAPERS FOR 77 BABIES**

To make a financial gift to the CNY Diaper Bank, please use the contribution envelopes available in the pews and check "Mission of the Month."



**SAMARITAN CENTER**  
**DCC at The Samaritan Center**  
**January 30, 2022**  
**15 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 January 30, 2022. If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, please contact Jim Fayle by email at [jfayle@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jfayle@twcny.rr.com) or by phone at 315-777-5957. Feel free to call Jim 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 are not on any quarantine or self-isolation directive.



**The 2022 dates are: January 30, 2022, March 27, 2022, May 8, 2022, June 12, 2022, October 30, 2022, December 11, 2022.**



I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I want to repeat our thanks for all who helped out at the pie sale, peeling apples, mixing, baking, folding boxes, as well as those who donated supplies and money for more supplies, and did shopping for us. It was a pleasure to work together on a special project after being away from each other for a while. We owe a special thanks to O'Neill Orchards in Lafayette who donated the apples. We made 75 pies which included a few extra (in case someone forgot to order), and 12 extra pies which were delivered to shut-ins. We made \$813 profit which will be used to replenish our funds so that we can continue giving to the Mission of the Month and our yearly contribution to the church, as well as any other requests we may get.

I hope everyone has a healthy and happy New Year. Again, I want to say that every woman in the church is considered a member of the Women's Association and is invited to attend any event we may have or help out at any fund-raiser. If anyone has questions or suggestions about anything we do or have done, please contact me at [Atee1@twcny.rr.com](mailto:Atee1@twcny.rr.com) or call me at 315-430-0220. We welcome anyone who would like to participate or give us some fresh ideas.

Happy New Year to everyone!!

Angela Todisco, Steering Committee Chair



*deliver a difference*

### **Friends and Neighbors!**

Meals on Wheels of Eastern Onondaga County will be holding its scheduled Bottle and Can Drive in 2022. Please mark your calendars, the dates are below! The drop-off sites will again be the DCC parking lot on Erie Blvd., and at Sno-Top in Manlius.

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. 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.

**Mark your calendar for the 2022 dates:**

**April 23, 2022    July 16, 2022**

**September 10, 2022    December 3, 2022**

## *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](mailto:nancybond3@gmail.com)/315-350-9844) 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 are also available after services to pray

### **Prayer Chain / Prayer & Care**

Members of the Prayer Chain receive emails of urgent prayer requests, as well as the weekly Prayer & Care bulletin electronically. Participants of this intercessory prayer team commit to confidentially pray for the request when they receive it. Join the Prayer Chain by contacting Rev. Dr. Cindy Mapstone: [cmapstone@dewittchurch](mailto:cmapstone@dewittchurch)

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.



# Family Ministries

*Please note that all activities will require that participants (children and adults) wear masks unless activities take place outside.*

## Elementary Sunday School



Join us each Sunday morning in room 10 for Sunday School, where kids will experience God's greatest gift, (His Love). Our time together will run much like Vacation Bible School.

- Children in Pre-K through 4th grade will gather for a large group gathering time that features an opening activity, a time of singing, and an introduction of the week's Bible lesson.
- Children will break off into age appropriate groups to experience a Bible story and learn options that apply the story to their lives as they build relationships with God and one another.
- Children will reunite in the larger group to sing songs and learn about ways they can reinforce their learnings throughout the week.
- Children will be rewarded with a Bible Buddy Sticker and take home flyer which helps families to participate in the weekly learning.



Family ministries is currently looking to fill two staff positions. They are a full-time Director of Youth Ministries and a part-time Family Ministries Director. Descriptions of both positions may be found on the DCC website at <https://www.dewittchurch.org/employment/>. Please feel free to share this information with those in your circle of influence that may be interested. If you have any questions or wish to apply, please contact Pastor Cindy Mapstone at [cmapstone@dewittchurch.org](mailto:cmapstone@dewittchurch.org).

Estimates of Giving to be turned in or you can fill one out online at [www.dewittchurch.org](http://www.dewittchurch.org) then click "estimate of giving" at the top of the webpage.

 <i>A Christian Church for all People</i>	<b>2022</b> <b>ESTIMATE OF GIVING</b>	 <i>A Christian Church for all People</i>
<b>My Estimate of Giving for 2022 is \$ _____ for the year</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like Offering Envelopes for 2023		
<input type="checkbox"/> This contribution is for our family	<input type="checkbox"/> This contribution is for me as an individual	
<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot make a financial commitment at this time, but will give as I am able		
Name: _____		Phone: _____(OVER)



## Christmas Eve Photos



### **Blood Drive** **Dewitt Community Church**

Fellowship Hall  
3600 Erie Blvd. East - Syracuse

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by Laurence Segal's Cans for Cancer

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or use app (sponsor code DEWITTC) to schedule appointment.

Appointments encouraged, walk-ins welcome.

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

Come give Jan. 1-31 to automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LVI getaway in LA for you and a guest! Plus, a chance to win a home theater package and \$200 e-gift card in January. Terms apply; see [RedCrossBlood.org/superBowl](http://RedCrossBlood.org/superBowl).

Download the Blood Donor App | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

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# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	3 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	4	5	6	7	8
9 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	10 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	11	12 7:00 PM Christian Caring Committee Meeting	13 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14	15
16 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	17 Office Closed	18	19 7:00 PM Board of Trustee Meeting	20 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21	22
23 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	24 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	25	26	27 11:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28	29
30 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Samaritan Center	31 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	1	2	3	4	5