

February *newsletter*

UNAFRAID

Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM, starting February 1 via Zoom only

Rev. Alan Rudnick, leader

We know Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? In this five-week study, we'll explore the worries and fears most of us experience, and learn to identify fears and discover practical steps for overcoming them...all in the light of Scripture and a faith that promises again and again that we can live with courage and hope. Based on Adam Hamilton's book, "Unafraid." The five-session topics include:

1. Understanding and Countering Your Fears
2. Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics
3. Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness
4. Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances
5. Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of God

This study will be held over Zoom. For more information or to join please contact the church office:

office@dewittchurch.org

Worship Schedule

Epiphany! Learning the Deep

Rev. Alan Rudnick
Sunday, February 6 11:00AM Sanctuary
and Live Stream on
Facebook & YouTube

Epiphany! Living on the Level

Rev. Alan Rudnick
Sunday, February 13 11:00AM Sanctuary
and Live Stream on
Facebook & YouTube

Be Merciful

Rev. Dr. Cindy Mapstone
Sunday, February 20 11:00AM Sanctuary
and Live Stream on
Facebook & YouTube

Always Another Climb Ahead

Rev. Alan Rudnick
Sunday, February 27 11:00AM Sanctuary
and Live Stream on
Facebook & 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.



You never know your reach

I recently shared during worship that we received an unusual message via Facebook Messenger. While most people send messages inquiring about weddings, baptisms, or worship times, one person sent this:

"I just really wanted to contact you and let you know I'm from Dubuque Iowa and I work in healthcare on weekends 16 hour shifts and don't get a chance to go worship but I came across your YouTube quite a while back and I've been faithful on watching your services. I really enjoy them and they are getting me through these hard times thank you for all you do I may not be able to drive down there but I do take the time to watch your YouTubes. I don't get a chance to go to the church the worship because of my work but I feel I'm a part of your congregation thank you again."

Our friend in Dubuque may never grace our doors, but they certainly were touched by our worship ministry at DeWitt Community Church. Online streaming of worship has made an important impact, not only on our own congregants, but also viewers around the country. I am thankful that we have fantastically talented and gifted staff who make our worship and online ministry possible. Our Zoom groups, Facebook video updates, online worship, and good old fashion phone calls, have helped many people during the pandemic.

This type of message we received goes to show you: you never know your you may reach.

No matter if you are a student, middle-aged, retired, or any station of life in between, your actions and words travel. As the author of Hebrews (probably Saint Paul) wrote, *"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* (Hebrews 13:1-2) Paul encouraged the readers and hearers of the book of Hebrews to see themselves as a part of a larger universe than themselves. We too are included in that original audience.

Since we may never know our reach of relationships and associations with other people, opting for grace in times of tension, struggle, and conflict can flip the script. Relationships can be mended, wrongs can be made right, and brokenness can turn into healing. As Christ followers, we never know how our words or actions can translate into changing someone's life. God has given us an enormous power in how our gifts, talents, and actions can have a positive ripple effect across our interconnected life with others.

Our online streaming ministry has had a broad reach across the country. It is a geographical and spiritual reach into lives that we did not expect at church. You may not be on video every week, but I am sure you have people around you who need to know the type of love and grace God offers. May you carry God in whatever you and wherever you go. And who knows what God will do with your loving 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 or call the office at (315) 445-0331.

A Message from the Board President

"Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen." - 1 John 4:20

As civilization enters year 3 of a global pandemic, it certainly appears that we have entered tribulation territory. When will it end? How will it end? I believe it is reasonable to say nobody knows for sure. Humans are not wired to deal well with uncertainty, and it can cause us to act aggressively. Just look around at the drivers on I-81 if you don't believe me. Paul provides us with sage advice in his letter to the Church at Phillippi:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7

Does this mean that we can just pray our problems away? As nice as that would be, no. But we can pray to God to give us the strength to persevere through our struggles. I think we can all agree that, in February 2020, none of us would have believed the world today would still be dealing with COVID. For our own sanity, we must realize that it isn't possible to change the world to fit what we want. Only God can do that. By giving our stresses over to God, He can create change in us that will allow us to function better in an imperfect world. Giving our burdens and sense of control to Him will give us His peace. By achieving this peace, we will be better able to love our brothers and sisters.

**Yours in Christ,
Greg Stock**

What / how can we do better? Christian Caring Committee

This is the question that the DCC Christian Caring Committee is working to answer over the next couple of months. We have a wonderful history of supporting monthly missions and other worthy causes such as Samaritan Center, Thanksgiving Baskets, etc. We are proud of this heritage and of the efforts that have occurred in the past.

NOW- How can we reach more people in need? How can we involve more of the congregation? How can we get YOU involved more? How do we demonstrate our love for our neighbors in new and tangible ways? How can we use our beautiful facility in these efforts? How to generate more funds to support the needs of the community without diluting the giving needed for DCC itself? There is a lot to consider and we welcome any ideas or suggestions that you may have, going forward. Please send me your thoughts either to rhrlhall7@gmail.com or through the church office. As always, we will succeed together!

Our February mission is Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This organization uses volunteers to build beds for needy children in the community who simply don't have them. DCC volunteers supported the building of 20 beds in 2021! Once again, we will have small beds in the lobby for bedding donations during the month. Specifically, 5 pieces 'bed in a bag' for 3-8 years old boy or girl are the best gifts! Other items that help are standard size pillow, twin sheet sets or twin comforters. In addition, we are attempting to become part of some bed deliveries to those children in need. More will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead and questions may be directed to Erica Johnson.

Thank you all again for your continued support of our efforts.

**Rick Hall
Christian Caring**





The Women's Assn wishes everyone a very Happy albeit cold Valentine's Day, while we're taking a winter break. But don't forget about us! We're busy planning some exciting spring events, first and foremost, and new, a pre-Mother's Day pancake breakfast, then an exciting lunch with our favorite speaker, Yvonne Conte, and finally our annual plant sale for Memorial Day. As always, we invite anyone who would like, to join our planning sessions, next one on April 5 at 6:30, to please feel free to join us. We're always happy to see a new face and get some new ideas. Please contact me at Atee1@twcny.rr.com or call me at (315) 430-0220. In the meantime, keep warm!

Angela Todisco, Steering Committee Chair



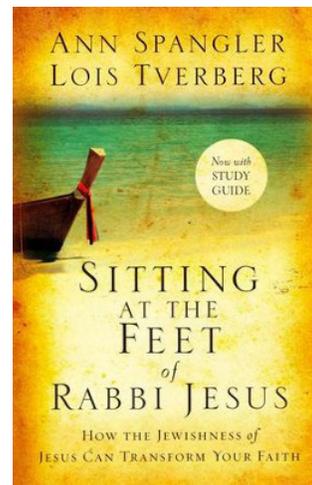
Blood Drive

DeWitt Community Church
Fellowship Hall
3600 Erie Blvd. East - Syracuse

Thursday, February 24, 2022
1:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

Sponsored By Laurence Segal's Cans for Cancer.

Please call **1-800-RED CROSS**, visit redcrossblood.org or use the **Blood Donor App** (sponsor code **DEWITTCC**) to schedule an appointment.



Women's Book Club

Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith

This book explores what it would be like to journey back to the first century and sit at the feet of Rabbi Jesus as one of his Jewish disciples. It aids our Christian faith as we come to a better understanding of the gospel as it has been shaped by the customs, beliefs, and traditions of the Jewish culture. *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* will take us on a fascinating tour of the Jewish world of Jesus, offering inspirational insights that can transform our faith.

We will meet **virtually** each Monday Evenings for 7 weeks:

February 7th - March 21st from 7-8 pm

If you are interested in joining please email Anne Stock at anne@jhu.edu.

APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED
WALK-INS WELCOME



Scan to schedule an appointment.

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 virtually at 10am on YouTube **or** at 11am 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.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

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.

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 and she would be glad to answer questions or fill your needs. Thank you.

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.org

nancybond3@gmail.com
(315) 350-9844

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**.



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!



HELPING CHILDREN IN NEED SLEEP BETTER

We fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative.

We're a national organization answering the call to a national problem.

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Idaho and across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed - or even a pillow - to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.

That's where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Our organization has grown steadily over time, and we're working on opening more chapters in different states to serve more people. **No kid sleeps on the floor in our town®.**

In the main lobby of DeWitt Community Church, We have baskets where you can put new sheets and blankets to donate to this wonderful cause. You can drop them off during the week and on Sunday Morning!

SAMARITAN CENTER DCC at The Samaritan Center March 27, 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 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: March 27, 2022, May 8, 2022, June 12, 2022, October 30, 2022, December 11, 2022.

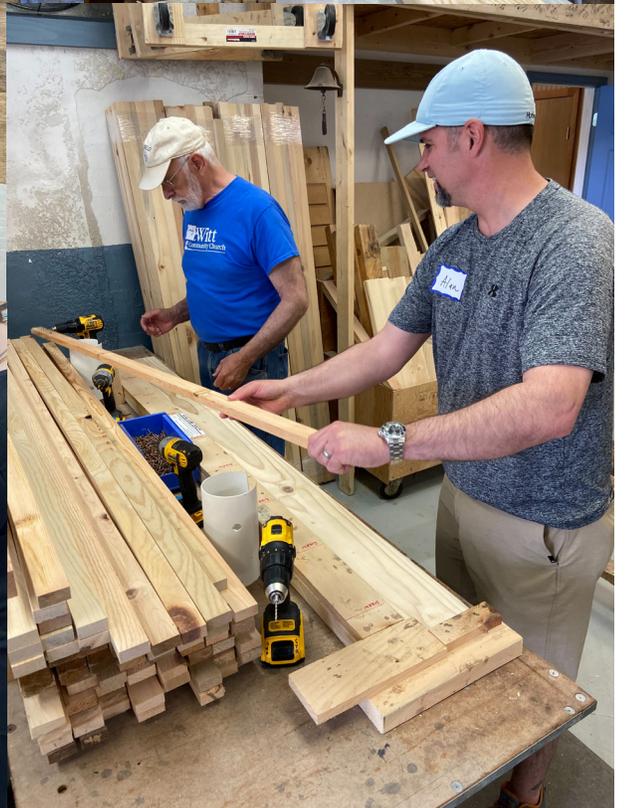


SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE®

Our first Bed Build with Sleep in Heavenly Peace



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE®



February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:30PM 'Unafraid' Bible Study- Zoom	2	3 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4	5
6 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	7	8 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:30PM 'Unafraid' Bible Study- Zoom	9 7:30 PM Christian Caring Committee Mtg.	10 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	11	12
13 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	14 Valentine's Day	15 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Cemetary Association Mtg. 7:30PM 'Unafraid' Bible Study- Zoom	16 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	17 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	18	19
20 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	21 Office Closed	22 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:30PM 'Unafraid' Bible Study- Zoom	23	24 11:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	25	26
27 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	28	1	2	3	4	5