

May newsletter

Confirmation 2022

Confirmation is a way by which believers walk into the fullness of God's grace that began at baptism. Through confirmation, our young people are strengthened in their faith as they take steps towards a fuller and more mature spiritual walk. We as a church support them on this journey as we welcome them into membership at Dewitt Community Church.

Just as Jesus' apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, so the confirmands receive God's Spirit so they might go from being just hearers of God's word to doers of God's will. They are now encouraged to step out in service as God's people. Likewise, they realign their lives to Christ. By turning away from the barriers that separate them from God, they turn towards a personal relationship with Him. Confirmation is a sign and seal of a public declaration of faith. It is a reaffirmation of belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and a beginning of a deeper personal faith.

This year's **Confirmation service will take place on Sunday, May 22, 2022 during the 11am service.** All facets of the service have been planned by the confirmands. The service will reflect their gifts and talents as they lead the service. We encourage all of you to join us for this special service.

Our Confirmands are:

Cooper Christman	Owen Dougherty	Lauren Hills
Kathryn Janack	Nathan Johnson	Rowan Rudnick
Matthew Seamans	Andrew Taylor	Camila Valladares



Worship Schedule

Seeing With Blind Eyes

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, May 1 9:00AM Miller Commons
11:00AM Sanctuary
and Livestream on
Facebook & YouTube

Restoration and Rest

Rev. Dr. Cindy Mapstone

Sunday, May 8 9:00AM Miller Commons
11:00AM Sanctuary
and Livestream on
Facebook & YouTube

We Don't Talk About...Revelation

Rev. Alan Rudnick

Sunday, May 15
9:00AM Miller Commons
11:00AM Sanctuary
and Livestream on
Facebook & YouTube

Using Our Spiritual Gifts

Confirmation

Sunday, May 22
9:00AM Miller Commons
11:00AM Sanctuary
and Livestream on
Facebook & YouTube

Rev. Bill Carlsen

Sunday, May 29
9:00AM Miller Commons
11:00AM Sanctuary
and Livestream 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) 303-2286**. Please leave a message and your contact information and the pastor on-call will return your call as soon as possible.



Continuing the Spirit of Easter

Many Christians do not realize that Easter is not just a single celebratory Sunday, but a season for millions of Christ followers. The resurrection scriptures are read in churches for the 50 days following Easter. The scriptures of the resurrected Jesus point towards how resurrection always results in transformation. Not only is Jesus transformed, but everyone who meets Jesus is changed: the disciples, Mary, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and even Saint Paul.

A colleague and Lecturer in Church Leadership at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C., Dr. Ann A. Michaels tell us:

There is much we do not understand about the profound miracle of resurrection. But one thing we know for sure is that resurrection involves transformation. Scripture reveals that things look different on the other side of the resurrection. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples on the road to Emmaus also do not recognize Jesus. They believe him to be a stranger. Things appear to be different after the resurrection because they are different... Resurrection affords us new ways of seeing and new ways of being.¹

The continuing spirit of Easter is to believe that God is constantly transforming us from disaster to celebration, mourning to joy, and disappointment to surprise. These transformations occur throughout our life, but there is a point when these transformations become more self-evident.

Christian author Richard Rohr teaches that the first half of our lives is busy with building our identity, security, making money, achievements, making a place for ourselves in this world, and forming our identity. Then, something happens at a midpoint in our lives when something shakes us: a death, job loss, divorce, grief, or changing careers. This is where Rohr says we enter the second half of life: the half where all the things that got us through the first half don't work anymore: the identity making, making a place for ourselves, and success.

The second half of the spiritual life is being able to see that the first half of the spiritual life was about trying to put God into our box of life – then the second half of life is understanding and learning that God is resizing and reordering your box. In the second half, God uses the challenges we face to begin a new way of living. This is living into the Easter reality: God is continuing transforming us.

I was brought up in a Christian tradition that when you make a commitment to Jesus you experience transformation. One time. As I grow older, I realize the more we accept the spirit of Easter, resurrection, and transformation, as a continual process that plays out in our lives, the more peace we can accept from God.

As a congregation, it is my prayer that when we face adversity, whether personally or corporately, we can have the grace for ourselves and one another to see how God brings about change in transformation through the high and low moments of life. The spirit of Easter is about accepting that not everything endures but even in death of one thing there can be new life.

Blessings,

Rev. Alan Rudnick
Senior Minister

1 <https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/resurrection-as-a-call-to-action/>

A Message from the Board President

“Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ‘Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’” - Proverbs 31:25-30

I would like to devote my penultimate message to the wives and mothers of DCC. So much has fallen to you as society has attempted to weather the past two years of hardship. In addition to the typical challenges of life, many of you were immediately turned into homeschool teachers for your children or grandchildren for months at a time. You spent endless hours trying to source food and other products that suddenly became terribly scarce. For the several generations of us who have known nothing but a life of abundance, that was quite a shock. You were also expected to stay balanced during an unprecedented situation in the midst of layoffs, lockdowns, and vaccine debates all while remaining level-headed in a society that appears to be getting angrier and angrier by the day. I think I can speak for all of DCC when I tell you: “Thank you!” You have truly been our partners through these times. You have helped take care of us and our children (and grandchildren). My mind is immediately drawn to Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 -

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Personally, I am very blessed to have so many strong women of faith in my family. My daughters do not yet understand how fortunate they are to have not only their mother, but both grandmothers less than 15 minutes away. They may not understand how special that is now, but they will reap the benefits of this for the rest of their lives. In conclusion, I would like to thank the mothers in my family for all they have done for my family over the past two years. I pray you are all able to give the mothers in your families some extra hugs this year.

Happy Mother’s Day!

**Yours in Christ,
Greg Stock**

5 Week Small Group Bible Study by Max Lucado, “Anxious for Nothing” In-Home and at Church

Lead by: Elizabeth Chapman and John Heslop (in home)

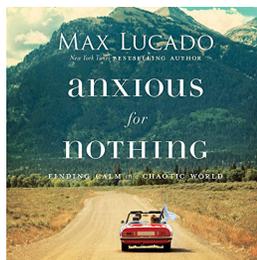
250 Oarlock Circle, East Syracuse, NY 13057
Each Monday Night at 7pm on May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Lead by: Pastor Cindy Mapstone (at church) In person and on Zoom at DCC in the Parlor. Each Thursday morning at 10am on May 5, 12, 26, June 2 & 9

Lead by: Candee and David Schneckburger (in home)
207 Mandarin Circle, Manlius, NY 13104.
Every other Tuesday evening on April 19, May 3, 17, 31 & June 7

Lead by: Kim Stabb
2152 Whisper Ridge Dr., Chittenango, NY 13037.
This will be held Monday May 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 10:00 AM.

Please RSVP to the church office at **315-445-0331** or by email at **office@dewittchurtch.org** to register for a specific session. Information about additional sessions will be communicated as they become available.



Church Committee Nominations

The nominating committee is looking for recommendations or interested church members serving on the ministry committees: Stewardship, Finance, Fellowship/Hospitality, Children, and Youth. If you are interested or want to know more, please contact Ellen Butler at **esbutler1970@gmail.com** concerning the nominating process.

Christian Caring Committee: Expanding Our Scope

As we wind down on our last two months of the 2021-2022 program year, your Christian Caring committee is setting our sights on creating an even better 2022-2023 year. This includes:

- Significantly increasing the number of Thanksgiving boxes that we provide to those in need. (Dreaming of DOUBLE??) We are designating this effort as our “Mission of the Month” for November in order to put our full attention to this worthy cause. Thankfully Betsy McNany has agreed to continue to coordinate this again for this year. Based on this huge stretch goal, *we are looking for a co-coordinator so please let us know if you’re interested in helping.* We will need a LOT of extra hands this fall to make this happen and I am certain you will hear much more as we get closer.
- Expanding (not replacing) our current scope of Christmas giving and potentially partnering with other organizations to support a broader range of our neighbors. I will be coordinating this project and we have designated it as our December “Mission of the Month” to bring full focus on our efforts. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for any specific Christmas outreach programs that you think would be a good fit.
- Many of our volunteering efforts also require financial support. DCC provides the cost of the meals that we serve at Samaritan Center. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has a cost associated with sponsoring a build session. Fellowship of Christian Athletes received a meal for 40 students. And others. Based on this we have designated September’s “Mission” to be DCC Christian Caring. We plan to tie this into our annual Homecoming and provide detailed information about our efforts and volunteer opportunities. Funds donated during September will be used to offset costs and support organizations as needed.
- Once again, we will support Samaritan Center meals with Jim Fayle and Amy Dupell continuing to spearhead this cause. As meals return to being served inside the center post-Covid, more volunteers will be required for each meal. Please consider volunteering to serve as dates are announced. We are designating Samaritan Center as the February “Mission” this coming program year.
- DCC will continue to support an additional nine organizations through our historical “Mission of the Month” process.
- We will support other organizations as we are able. Please let us know if you have suggestions on potential opportunities.

There is so much to be done. We have an *incredible* team that is active, enthusiastic and caring. We are excited for what the next year holds for us at DCC. But we will need help. Sometimes a little and, honestly, sometimes a lot. Please prayerfully consider joining us. Or at least be polite when I come recruiting!! Remember- it is in giving that we receive.

Blessings,

Rick Hall

Christian Caring

Goodbye, Farewell and Amen...



Thank You Alyssa!

We would like to thank Alyssa Eighmey for her four and half years of service as office manager and church administrator here at DCC. In that time, Alyssa has helped streamline much of what is done behind the scenes here at the church. She has accepted a job at Aldi's and we send her off with the very best wishes for continued success in her new role. Alyssa will continue as a wedding coordinator and church usher serving our congregation. Thank you, Alyssa, for your hard work and faithful service to our church in such an important position!

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.



Topics for the month of May:

- May 1: God's People Worship a Golden Calf
- May 8: Caleb Trusts God Will Help
- May 15: God Tells His People How to Build the Tabernacle
- May 22: Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies
- May 29: The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Vacation Bible School "Monumental" - In-Person - August 8-12, 2022 - 9:00AM to 12:00PM



**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.



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.

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.

nancybond3@gmail.com
(315) 350-9844

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.

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

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**.

A Note from the Women's Association

The Women's Association is having a busy and exciting month for May and we hope that you will join us.

But first, Happy Mother's Day to all.

We'd like to thank everyone who came out on May 1 to eat pancakes with us. Thank you to Joe Todisco and Nick Lozipone for preparing our breakfast. A good time was had by all, socializing and renewing old friendships over pancakes. Proceeds will go to start a fund for the redecorating of the parlor.

We are working on updating the Women's Association Booklet to be available at the time of the yearly meeting. This can serve as a guide to anyone who wishes to know more about the Women's Assn, what they support and what they do, as well as contacts for the various groups involved.

Don't forget to sign up for the Ladies luncheon on May 22 with Yvonne Conte from Day of Joy Ministries as a speaker. Those who have heard her are aware of what a memorable and inspiring speaker she is and would urge you not to miss this exciting event. You're sure to leave with a new outlook on life. Please sign up at the office or on line so that we can prepare our salad or box lunch for the right number of people.

And to end the month, our annual plant sale will be on Sat May 21, to be ready for your Memorial Day planting. The plants are coming from Barone's this year. Plants should be ordered and paid ahead of time so we can order properly. See the order form at the office or on Facebook or on line to see the selection available.

As in the past, thank you to everyone who has supported the Women's Assn in the past. We invite all to submit their ideas or attend one of our meetings. Our next steering committee meeting will be on Tues May 3 in the parlor. Please feel free to join us. Angela Todisco, chair, [315-430-0220](tel:315-430-0220) or Atee1@twcny.rr.com.

Angela Todisco, Steering Committee Chair



Mission of the Month: Interfaith Works Refugee Resettlement

The Center for New Americans provides resettlement and post-resettlement services to help refugee families in Syracuse reestablish their lives and overcome the barriers to successful integration in their new communities. Services provided include finding suitable housing, providing furniture and household items, defining social services support opportunities, matching refugee's existing skill sets with local employment opportunities, guiding families through the challenging integration process of a new home, and providing counseling as needed. Just to mention a few! *(Note: InterFaith Works is monitoring developments carefully and stands ready to welcome refugees from Ukraine and other places where people have suffered from war, terrorism, ethnic cleansing, and environmental devastation as we have done for the last 40 years.)*

Senior Services Program

Senior Services Programs promote activity, socialization and lifelong learning, helping older adults live well and age with dignity. The One-to-One Program matches nursing home residents with volunteers to spark joy and social connection. From weekly friendly visits to youth programs, our volunteers reach older adults who don't have regular visitors and building relationships that enliven and enrich everyone's lives. The Senior Companion program focuses on providing assistance and friendship to older adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as shopping or paying bills. Through this program, volunteers keep seniors independent longer and provide respite to family caregivers. Serve as a friend and companion to older neighbors making sure they can live in their own homes for as long as possible. Digital Literacy for Older Adults teaches computer skills such as email, online banking, shopping, internet safety, etc.

EL-HINDI CENTER FOR DIALOGUE & ACTION

One of InterFaith Works' cornerstone programs is the Ahmad and Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue & Actions (CDA) which has been engaged in a serious organizing effort about racism, race relations and healing for the last 25 years. The Community-Wide Dialogue to End Racism is the longest running dialogue of its kind in the nation. CDA serves as a regional hub for constructive community engagement using a racial equity lens in conjunction with a dialogue to action model. We bring together disparate groups of people to foster mutual understanding and trust. Dialogue programs address community concerns and encourage understanding across racial, ethnic, religious and community differences.

In addition, InterFaith Works enthusiastically responds to "new" needs as they arise and has established 26 food pantries within walking distance of their clients. They also maintain a garden to supply fresh produce to those in need. These are only some of the services that this wonderful organization provides. Please consider supporting them in their loving efforts.



Circle Garden- 2022!

April showers bring May flowers - and we want to bring some flowers to the DCC Circle Garden!

Last year we had a dedicated group of volunteers that helped plant and weed the garden throughout the summer. Each group/family took a 2 week period of time to go over to weed and deadhead the spent blossoms. The garden has an automatic sprinkling system, so no watering was necessary. If a conflict came up during their time slot, swapping times was easily done between the groups. No garden skills needed, just a good sense of humor!

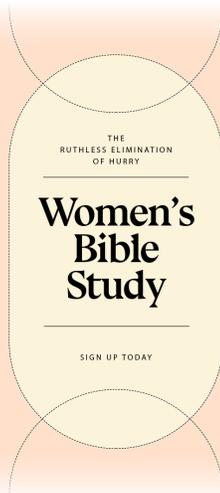
We will have a spring planting session in May, one morning for about 2 hours, then a fall clean-up in Oct, also about 2 hours. If you would like to help out this summer for a time slot, or just be included in either the spring or fall clean-ups - please let me know! If we have enough interest, maybe some people could take just a week slot!

If you no longer feel able to putter in the garden, you can always help in another way. Funds are tight for everything nowadays, but if you wanted to donate anything towards the purchase of the annuals that are put in - that would be greatly appreciated! Last year a donation allowed us to put down mulch, which made weeding so much easier!

But first and foremost - we want you to be able to enjoy the garden and all its flowers. The circle garden has been a beautiful landmark for many years!

Thank you! and please contact me with any questions you might have.

Terry Doolittle
315-382-5494
ctdoo@twcny.rr.com
4985 Lakeview Dr Fayetteville NY 13066



2022 Women's Association Flower Sale

We are pleased to announce that we are planning our yearly plant sale again. This year we'll be having it in May, for delivery on May 21, just in time to use for Memorial Day or in your favorite flower bed. Of course, we will be taking orders via email and mail. So start planning your flower gardens! Orders forms are coming shortly, please check with the office and check your emails for the forms.

The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry

Join us for this 5 Session Video-Based Women's Bible Study. We will be focusing on these 5 topics: The Case for an Unhurried Life, Silence and Solitude, Sabbath, Simplicity, and Slowing. Join us each Sunday morning from 10:00 -10:50 AM in Miller Commons. Childcare and refreshments provided. Sessions are stand alone. Come as you are able. Dates: May 1, 8,15, 22.

For any of these opportunities, please contact the office with any questions at **315-445-0331** or office@dewittchurch.org.

Betsy's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We are happy to tell you all that we have decided to FINALLY resume our Wednesday Morning Bible Studies in Room 42 on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. I have been praying where to begin as we restart. We ended our adventure of reading and studying the entire Bible in Nehemiah on 3/11/20. Because I'm sure none of us can remember all the lessons from that long ago, I plan to begin with Chapter 1. And several of you have asked about also studying again in the New Testament. So, I have decided we will start in Colossians. We'll try and divide our time between the Old and the New Testaments.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Interfaith Works Q+A 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Miller Commons 11:00AM Family Ministry 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 1		11:00 AM Staff Meeting 3	7:00 PM Younglife (Gym) 4	11:00 AM Anxious Bible Study - Parlor 6:00PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Choir 5		
Mother's Day 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Samaritan Center 8		11:00 AM Staff Meeting 10	7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting 11	11:00 AM Anxious Bible Study - Parlor 7:00 PM Choir 12		
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Miller Commons 11:00 AM Family Ministry 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 15		11:00 AM Staff Meeting 17	6:00 PM Younglife (Gym) 7:30 PM Christian Caring Committee Mtg. (Rm 42) 18	11:00 AM Anxious Bible Study - Parlor 12:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive - Gym 7:00 PM Choir 19		9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Women's Association Flower Pick Up in Gym 21
Confirmation Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Miller Commons 11:00 AM Family Ministry 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 22		11:00 AM Staff Meeting 24	7:00 Board of Trustee Meeting 25	10:30 AM Cut Ups 11:00 AM Anxious Bible Study - Parlor 7:00 PM Choir 26		
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Miller Commons 11:00 AM Family Ministry 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 29	Office Closed for Memorial Day	11:00 AM Staff Meeting 31			 <p>DCC has a Podcast! Now you can listen to the sermons right from your phones! www.dewittchurch.org/podcast Search now!</p>	
						 <p>DeWitt Community Church <i>A Christian Church for all People</i> 3600 Erie Blvd. E. DeWitt, NY 13214 (315) 445-0331</p>