

# Becoming Students of Jesus

Matthew 4:12-23



January 25, 2026 at 11:00 AM



## Welcome to DeWitt Community Church!

### ***Have a Question?***

Our ushers/greeters wear name tags and are happy to assist you in finding a room, childcare, or bathrooms. Ask them for bulletins, newsletters, connection cards, or more information.

### ***Parlor Livestream***

Need to step out for a few moments? No problem. There is a livestream of the service in the Parlor. This is a great space to take children or step out for a personal need.

### ***Hearing Assistance***

Hearing assistance devices are available from an usher in the Narthex. They are wireless and permit users to sit anywhere in the Sanctuary.

### ***Children's Sunday School***

Children and families are always welcome at DCC! Sunday School classes will take place in the following rooms:

Nursery: Room 45

Middle (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>): Room 46

PreK/K: Room 47

High School: Room 7

Elementary (1st-4th): Room 44

### ***Sensory Room***

You're welcome to bring your child to our unstaffed Sensory Room (Room 10) during either service for a calming break with tools like fidgets, a trampoline, special seating, and more. Please stay with your child at all times and return to the service whenever you're both ready.

### ***This is DCC***

"This is DCC" is a 15-20 minute time with one of our pastors who shares more about our church, ministries, service opportunities, and more. There is also a tour of the church and time to ask the pastor questions. "This is DCC" happens monthly. See page 11.

### ***Connect with us!***

Thanks for visiting! Please scan the QR code or fill out a connection card in the pew so we can keep in touch and help you find your place in our church community.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 25, 2026 - 11:00 AM

#### Thought for the Day

"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence."

- Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*

#### Prelude

Wie schön leuchet der Morgenstern

- by J.L. Krebs

#### Invitation to Worship

\*Opening Hymn

**O Love, How Deep, How Broad (#244)**

\*Call to Worship

(adapted from Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom do we fear?

**All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?**

Leader: When we cry aloud, may God be gracious to us and answer!

**All: "Come," our hearts say, "Seek his face."**

Leader: The Lord seeks not anger, but desires we draw closer to Him.

**All: For God does not cast us aside, but God's way is our salvation and joy!**

#### \*Prayer of the Day

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**All: Loving Father, we confess we are a busy people full of schedules, urgency, anxiety, and stress. We pray that you will free us to follow Jesus' teaching. Let us not be people who merely believe, but become students of Jesus who practice his way each day. Send your Spirit to enliven us, uplift us, and challenge us. May we pray, act, move, and serve the way your Son taught us. We ask this in your powerful name, in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.**

## Greeting & Announcements

### Mission of the Month

### In My Father's Kitchen

### Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Give

*Donate via [give.dewittchurch.org](http://give.dewittchurch.org) or @dewittchurch on Venmo.*

### Offertory

\*Doxology and Prayer of Thanksgiving (#34)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: <sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— <sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

**Leader: The Word of The Lord**

**People: Thanks be to God**

Anthem

**Set Me as a Seal**

- René Clausen

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.*

Message

**Becoming Students of Jesus**

Rev. Dr. Alan Rudnick

\*Closing Hymn

**O Master Let Me Walk With Thee (#589)**

\*Benediction

Postlude

**Improvisation on "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

- by Paul O. Manz

**Worship Assistant:** Bruce Paulsen

**Livestream Tech:** Andrew Magee

*\*Please stand as you are able.*



# Listening & Feedback Lunch



You are invited by the Board of Trustees and pastors to a special event to share your thoughts! We will have lunch together and seek feedback on our leadership's vision process of Discover, Experience, and Transform.

**TODAY from 12:00-1:15 PM in the Gym**



# SPIRITUAL GIFTS RETREAT

**Friday, January 30 from 5:00-8:00 PM and  
Saturday, January 31 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM  
in Miller Commons, meals provided**

This retreat will be a meaningful and energizing time to discover how God has uniquely equipped you! Slow down, listen, explore your spiritual gifts, and learn how you can more fully live them out.

To learn more, contact [btitus@dewittchurch.org](mailto:btitus@dewittchurch.org).

RSVP by January 19 with the QR Code  
or at [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org)

 DeWitt  
Community Church





## LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

# FAITH + & SPORT

**February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25  
in Miller Commons**

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Join us this Lent for our Lenten Speaker Series: Faith and Sport, where athletes, coaches, and faith leaders share how spiritual commitment shapes life on and off the field. Come be encouraged as we reflect on how faith can guide our pursuit of excellence and strengthen our communal journey toward Easter.

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Our community dinner begins at 5:30 PM,  
and the speaker is at 6:15 PM  
RSVP to [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org) or use the QR code



# DISCOVER

## ***This is DCC – February 22***

Join Pastor Alan on Sunday, February 22 at NOON in the Library for a chance to learn more about DeWitt Community Church and our ministries. It is a great, no-commitment way to learn more about our congregation. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office at 315-445-0331 or [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org).

## ***Office Hours***

The Church Office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM - NOON. If you have questions or need assistance, call 315-445-0331 or [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org).

## ***Weather Cancellation Policy***

DCC follows Jamesville-DeWitt School District closings and cancellation policy. If J-D schools are closed, DCC is closed. If there is a two-hour delay, the building will open at 11:00 AM and all activities scheduled to begin before 11:00 AM will be cancelled. If J-D cancels after school activities, the building will close at 3:00 PM and any evening activities will be cancelled. On Sundays, please check email, news stations, Facebook, and [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com).

## ***Announcements/Newsletter***

Send your announcements to [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org). The deadline for the weekly bulletin, announcements, and Friday email is every Tuesday at NOON. The newsletter deadline is the 15th for the following month's issue.

## ***Are you stressed? Discouraged? Feeling down?***

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, and all conversations are entirely confidential. Please call or email the Church Office at 315-445-0331 or [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org) for help today!

## ***Viewing From Home?***

If you normally watch our Sunday services via livestream, a paper copy of the weekly bulletin can be mailed to you at home. Call the Church Office at 315-445-0331 to be added to our weekly mailing list.

# EXPERIENCE

## ***Listening and Feedback Lunch – January 25***

Our Board of Trustees and pastors invite you to a special listening and feedback lunch on January 25th from 12:00-1:15 PM in the Gym. We will have lunch together and seek feedback on our leadership's vision process of Discover, Experience, and Transform. You will hear how we desire to make this vision unfold in our congregation, and we want your input. We hope you will join us!

## ***Spiritual Gifts Retreat – January 30-31***

This retreat will be a meaningful and energizing time to slow down, listen, explore your spiritual gifts, and learn how you can more fully live them out. The retreat will be on Friday, January 30 from 5:00–8:00 PM and Saturday, January 31 from 8:00 AM–1:00 PM in Miller Commons. Meals will be provided. RSVP by January 19 with the QR Code on page 5 or at [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org). To learn more, contact [btitus@dewittchurch.org](mailto:btitus@dewittchurch.org).

## ***Lenten Speaker Series***

Join us this Lent for our Lenten Speaker Series: Faith and Sport, where athletes, coaches, and faith leaders share how spiritual commitment shapes life on and off the field. It will take place on February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25 in Miller Commons. Join us for dinner at 5:30 PM and the speaker at 6:15 PM. RSVP to [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org) or use the QR code on page 6.

## ***First Communion Class***

Is your child ready to take Communion? Join us for a parent/child class to prepare their hearts to receive this sacrament. Class will take place at 10:00 AM in room 46 on 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1 for parents and kids age 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and older. Pastor Alan, Pastor Ben, Anne, and Logan will rotate teaching this class over three weeks, followed by a First Communion opportunity during the 11:00 AM service on February 1. Donut holes and warm beverages will be served during class. Contact Pastor Ben at [btitus@dewittchurch.org](mailto:btitus@dewittchurch.org) for more info.

## ***Sledding – February 1***

Please join us at 2:00 PM at the hill by the Manlius Library. Bring your own sled and we'll bring the cocoa!

## ***Senior Café – January 28***

New location! Drop in for Coffee & Connection! Catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and support our amazing community. Everyone is welcome! Senior Café takes place on the last Wednesday of the month from 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM in Miller Commons.

### ***Pickleball – Wednesdays at 6:30 PM***

DCC hosts open gym pickleball weekly from 6:30 - 7:45 PM. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to those who are seasoned veterans of the game. For more information, contact the church office.

### ***Stay & Play***

Join us every Wednesday morning at 10:30 until 12 NOON in the Gym for free play for kids and their caregivers. There is no set programming, just a gym and lots of toys. Come with friends or meet some new ones. All are welcome.

### ***Giving Envelopes***

If you would like giving envelopes for 2026, please contact the church office. Envelopes are available for weekly or monthly donations, as well as Missions of the Month.

### ***Lost and Found***

A number of lost items have accumulated in the office. If you are missing something, check on the table outside the office. All unclaimed items will be donated on 1/26/26.

### ***Altar Flowers***

Honor a loved one, remember a special individual in your life, or simply beautify our worship space by donating altar flowers. To sign up, scan the code or contact the church office at [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org).



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TRANSFORM

## ***Mission of the Month – Young Life***

Young Life is a Christ-centered ministry that helps young people know Jesus, grow in their faith, and serve Him. Staff and volunteers build bridges of authentic friendship and introduce students to Jesus Christ. Young Life in Syracuse East began over 30 years ago and now serves multiple middle and high schools across the East Side! Students gather for “Club” during the evening to play silly games and hear a short talk about Jesus. Small groups of students meet for “Campaigners” (Bible study) before school. There are also faith-forming camps and a mission trip to El Salvador. By supporting Young Life, you are supporting an organization that loves kids and encourages them at any stage in their faith journey. How can you help? Financial donations are always useful. Kids need scholarships to camp and funding for mission trips. DCC sends students, adults, and critical supplies to El Salvador with Young Life each February. Another way to help is by donating supplies for the El Salvador trip.

## ***Prayer Chain Ministry***

Members of the Prayer Chain receive emails of urgent prayer requests, as well as the weekly Prayer & Care bulletin electronically. Participants in this intercessory prayer team commit to confidentially pray for the request. Join the Prayer Chain by contacting Elizabeth Chapman, Congregational Care Coordinator at [echapman@dewittchurch.org](mailto:echapman@dewittchurch.org).

## ***How to make your prayer request known:***

Complete a yellow Prayer Request Card found around the Church and drop it in the offering plate or in an internal mailbox, call the Church Office at 315-445-0331 or email [office@dewittchurch.org](mailto:office@dewittchurch.org).

**PRAYER & CARE**

*Please take a moment to pray for these requests. Cards and notes from the Church family are especially appreciated. If you hear that a member of the church has passed away, is in the hospital, or could use prayers, please contact the office or our Congregational Care Coordinator **Elizabeth Chapman** at [echapman@dewittchurch.org](mailto:echapman@dewittchurch.org).*

**Craig Mabbett** – was diagnosed with early stage leukemia and is awaiting treatment options. Please pray for Craig's healing, comfort, and for his doctors. (1.21.26)

**Betsy Snyder** – had a fall down her stairs at home on 1.17.26. She was admitted to University Hospital with several fractured ribs and bruises. She will start OT and PT soon. Please pray for Betsy's comfort and healing as she recovers from these injuries .....just as she was doing better with her flu symptoms. (1.18.26)

**Lorraine Awar** - Mother of Cyrena Valladares, age 92, passed peacefully at her home on 1.7.26. Cards of condolence may be sent to Cyrena at 6961 Saint Andrews Circle, Fayetteville, NY 13066-9736. (1.15.26)

**David** - a friend of Tom Conway's has newly discovered new health concerns. Please pray for Davi'd strength and healing as he proceeds with his medical team. (1.18.26)

**Bernard Gerthoffer** - husband of DCC member Judy Gerthoffer, passed on 1.1.26. Cards of condolence may be sent to Judy at Brookdale Manlius # 255, 100 Flume Road, Manlius NY 13104. (1.11.26)

**Nancy Bond** - was hospitalized but is now receiving good care for rehabilitation at The Cottages. Please pray that Nancy will make continued recovery. Cards of support may be sent to The Cottages at Garden Grove 5430 Meltzer Court, Cicero, NY 13039. (1.18.26)

**Ed** - friend of Kym and Joel Staab, arrived in Japan to ski, and fell in a parking lot, sustaining two serious leg fractures. Ed has had surgery and is receiving therapy that can prepare him for the journey home. Please pray for Ed's healing, comfort, and safe travels and for his wife, Lisa, who is in the USA and so concerned. (1.9.26)

**Tonya Corujo**- has had some health concerns requiring further testing and treatment plans. Please pray for Tonya's healing and effective care from her medical team. (1.11.26)

**Mary Thompson**- is recovering from a hip fracture and surgery. She has been receiving care at the Crouse Rehabilitation Center in Morrisville and hopes to return home soon. (1.9.26)

**Harry Miller** – had a knee replacement on 12.11.25. He is making progress with PT and is looking forward to full recovery. Please pray for continued healing for Harry. (1.11.26)

**Aaron** - Grandson of David and Sue Hanselman, is undergoing testing as a possible kidney donor for his friend Valarie, who has severe kidney disease. Valarie is at Hershey Medical Center for pre-transplant care. Please pray that a donor is found for Valarie. (1.5.26)

**Trish Butler (friend of Michelle Stevenson)** - has a recent diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension causing cardiac damage, and increased difficulties with depression. Please pray for comfort, healing, and strength for Trish. (12.12.25)

**Richard and Diana Corrigan (former members of DCC who brought their friend, Bill Boyd to DCC)** - are struggling: Diana has leukemia and is undergoing treatment, and Richard's Stage 4 tumor has shrunk with chemo treatment. Please pray for the Corrigans as they face this challenging time. Cards of love and support may be sent to 6151 44th Court East, Bradenton FL 34203. (1.12.26)

**Tracy Banach (a friend of Judi Wilson)** - continues her cancer treatments with some hospitalizations in addition to time at home. She is thankful for the loving cards of support sent to her at 7103 Manlius Center Rd., E. Syracuse, NY 13057. (1.11.26)

**Brandon Reeves (friend of Richard Neiner)** - is now in remission following his cancer treatment. Richard asks to keep Brandon in our prayers. (8.3.25)

**Larry C. (friend of Sean Rudd)** - Continues to fight his cancer with chemotherapy. Surgery is not an option for him at this time. Prayers for Larry are appreciated. (1.11.26)

**Barbara Bova** - has restarted a round of immunotherapy treatments. She is making the most of every day. It's wonderful to see Barb attending DCC events and services! Prayers for Barb and her family. Cards of love and support may be sent to 2640 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13224 (1.12.25)

**Kathy Verrett** - continues to give her health concern of bilateral breast cancer to our Lord. She is looking to God for his Grace and comfort. Please pray for Kathy. Cards may be sent to 6134 Cordero Drive, Cicero, NY 13039-7812. (1.22.25)

**David M. Thomas (brother of June Rybak)** - is looking forward to some special family events. His physical status is about the same, but he has had some brighter spirits of late. Please pray for David's comfort. (1.11.26)

**Bob Livingston** - is having some cardiac issues. Please pray for Bob's improvement. Bob also requests prayers for **Steve Bullock**, a former neighbor and friend, who has Stage 4 lung cancer. Please pray for comfort and God's Grace for Bob and Steve. (1.3.26)

**Robin Frenzel (longtime friend of Joe and Angela Todisco)** - is experiencing a decline with dementia and other health concerns. Please pray for Robin's comfort. (1.11.26)

#### ***Members Living Away or Shut-in***

##### **Ann Dupree**

103 Thompson Street  
Fayetteville NY 13066-1909

##### **Barbara Wanamaker**

3500 West Chester Pike, M260  
Newton Square, PA 19073

##### **Donna Lacy**

The Heritage #101  
750 East Brighton Ave.  
Syracuse, NY 13205

#### ***Members in Assisted Living/Nursing Homes***

The Nottingham  
1301 Nottingham Road  
Jamesville, NY 13078  
**Louise Taylor, A-107**

Brookdale Fayetteville  
5125 Highbridge St  
Fayetteville, NY 13066  
**Nancy Bond, Apt C6**  
**Ginger Prill, Apt B1**

The Bishop  
send cards to 211 Standish Dr  
Syracuse NY 13224  
**Sally Fegley**

Brookdale Manlius  
100 Flume Road #255  
Manlius, NY 13104  
**Judy Gerthoffer**

## **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, January 25**

9:00 AM Worship Service (Miller Commons)

10:00 AM Communion Class (room 46)

10:00 AM Confirmation Class (room 7)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:00 PM Listening and Feedback Lunch (Gym)

### **Monday, January 26**

No Scheduled Events

### **Tuesday, January 27**

9:30 AM Staff Meeting (Library)

3:30 PM Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision (Parlor)

### **Wednesday, January 28**

10:00 AM Senior Café (Miller Commons)

10:30 AM Stay and Play (Gym)

6:30 PM Pickleball (Gym)

7:00 PM Alpha Course (Parlor)

### **Thursday, January 29**

5:45 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, January 30**

5:00 PM Spiritual Gifts Retreat (Miller Commons)

### **Saturday, January 31**

8:00 AM Spiritual Gifts Retreat (Miller Commons)

### **Sunday, February 1**

9:00 AM Worship Service (Miller Commons)

10:00 AM Communion Class (room 46)

10:00 AM Confirmation Class (room 7)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service (Sanctuary)

2:00 PM Family Sledding (off site)

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### ***Officers***

President                   Nate Andrews

Vice President           Traci Avellino

Treasurer  
Clerk of the Church

Donnie Mabbett  
Sue Hanselman



### ***Committees***

Finance	Sandy Gunn
Property	Jeff Roney
Investment	Dave Schneckenburger
Personnel	Jim Opgenorth
Stewardship	Dot Hall
Nominating	Ellen Butler

### ***At Large Members***

Lauren Suarez Rivera  
Lisa Anderson  
Cathy Berry Lozoponi  
Elizabeth Chapman  
Rich Taylor

Fiscal Year to Date Giving by  
Members and Friends as of 1/18/26

Anticipated	\$386,495.94
Actual Received	\$420,588.54
Net	\$34,092.60

### ***Pastoral Staff***

Rev. Dr. Alan R. Rudnick, Senior Minister  
Rev. Ben Titus, Associate Minister  
Rev. William A. Carlsen, Adjunct Minister

## Staff

Abel Searor, Director of Worship Arts/Principal Organist  
Mick Thorpe, Director of Building Services  
Sue Koussa, Church Administrator  
Kim Maring, Financial Manager & Office Coordinator  
Kathleen Sokolovic, Office Assistant  
Jessie Chin, Communications Coordinator  
Anne Stock, Children's Ministry Director  
Logan Roadarmel, Youth Ministry Director  
Barb Turner, Children's Ministry Staff  
Liam McDonough, Building Staff  
Jahrell Williams, Building Staff

## Congregational Care

Elizabeth Chapman, Volunteer Congregational Care Coordinator  
Stephen Ministers

**Ministers:** The Entire Congregation

## Connect with us!

### Every gift matters!

Support DCC with a gift via credit, debit, or PayPal on our secure e-giving site:  
[give.dewittchurch.org](http://give.dewittchurch.org) or Venmo [@dewittchurch](https://www.venmo.com/@dewittchurch)

Than u!



315-445-0331



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