


DEWITT REFORMED CHURCH



Reformed Church in America
MARCH 2021



THERE IS BUT ONE LORD
Jesus Christ
1 CORINTHIANS 8:6, NIV

Monthly Church Newsletter
Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards,
Senior Pastor



Our Lord's Surprise Visits

"You also be ready ..." (Luke 12:40).

A Christian worker's greatest need is a readiness to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. This is not easy, no matter what our experience has been. This battle is not against sin, difficulties, or circumstances, but against being so absorbed in our service to Jesus Christ that we are not ready to face Jesus Himself at every turn. The greatest need is not facing our beliefs or doctrines, or even facing the question of whether or not we are of any use to Him, but the need is to face *Him*.

Jesus rarely comes where we expect Him; He appears where we least expect Him, and always in the most illogical situations. The only way a servant can remain true to God is to be ready for the Lord's surprise visits. This readiness will not be brought about by service, but through intense spiritual reality, expecting Jesus Christ at every turn. This sense of expectation will give our life the attitude of childlike wonder He wants it to have. If we are going to be ready for Jesus Christ, we have to stop being religious. In other words, we must stop using religion as if it were some kind of a lofty lifestyle—we must be spiritually real.

If you are avoiding the call of the religious thinking of today's world, and instead are "looking unto Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), setting your heart on what He wants, and thinking His thoughts, you will be considered

impractical and a daydreamer. But when He suddenly appears in the work of the heat of the day, you will be the only one who is ready. You should trust no one, and even ignore the finest saint on earth if he blocks your sight of Jesus Christ.

Special dates

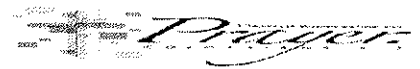
- World Day of Prayer, *March 5, 2021*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 14, 2021*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2021*
- Holy Week, *March 28 – April 4, 2021*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 28, 2021*

Preaching for the Month of March:

- (7) Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards
- (14) Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards
- (21) Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards
- (28) Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards

Choir Rehearsals:

Choir Rehearsals: Choir members please rehearse at home so when the church opens fully you will have several selections to present to the whole church.



Birthday of the Month: March



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3rd Elder Roslyn Priestler, 8th Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards, 9th Shirley Williams, 22nd Deacon Connie Wilkerson

Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 14, 2021



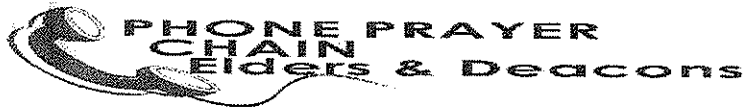
- March 7, 2021: Communion Service/Prayer
- March 7, 2021: Pastor's Anniversary Service
- March 29, 2021: Consistory Meeting 6pm

Women Ministry Opportunities:

Please listen every Sunday for a Reflection on Women History month

Emergencies:

Please contact the Elders or Deacons



During the month of March Elders and Deacons will be calling you only to pray with you...

This is the month of Prayer for our church ministries, our church organization and church membership.



- March 7, 2021: Communion Visitation

ATTENTION: PAYMENTS FOR YOUR "2021" ASSESSMENT (\$111.00) PLEASE SEE: ANY DEACON

In Gratitude:

Thanks to those members who volunteer their time to our Community, Earlylearn Program and Ministries in the church.

Thanks to those members who attended and participated in the Black History Pray fellowship on February 28, 2021.

Thanks to the Volunteers who assist with the Food Pantry.



Preparation for worship:

For the Week of March 7

God of Sinai, help me receive your law as grace: gift, not burden. When we walk in your ways, life is better both for us and, more importantly, for our neighbors.

For the Week of March 14

God of healing and salvation, turn my eyes away from my troubles and set my focus on you — first, for this time of worship, and even in the days ahead.

For the Week of March 21

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ... Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me" (Psalm 51:10, 12, NKJV).

For the Week of March 28

God, you speak to my heart: "Fear not ... your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt" (John 12:15, ESV). Thank you for Jesus, our strong yet gentle, humble yet powerful King.



Words of welcome:

Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Welcome to DeWitt Reformed Church, where our purpose is to share the good news of God's love made known in Jesus Christ.

God is rich in mercy, loves you greatly, makes you alive through Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5)

and welcomes you to this time of worship and fellowship.

Some people said to the disciple Philip, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). We are here because we too wish to see Jesus. Open your heart: Jesus is here. Welcome.

Reflective Thoughts:

- "Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart." —Mandy Hale
- "No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown." — William Penn
- "If we dwell upon the harms that have been wrought on us by humankind, we amputate from our mind the power of dwelling upon God." —Macarius of Egypt (4th century)

A breath of fresh prayer



Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God "knocks," he said, "not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer" but "in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most."

Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. "As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning

large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon," he said. "Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit."

Laud & honor on Palm Sunday

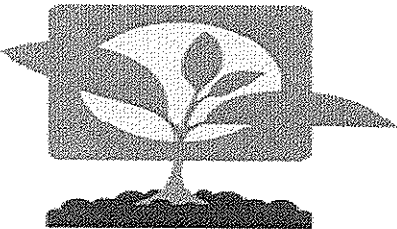
The Palm Sunday anthem "All Glory Laud and Honor" is one of Christendom's oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France. The lyrics recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer "because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor."

All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer,
King, to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring. You are the King of Israel and
David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name
coming, the King and Blessed One.

Welcome to worship as we join a worldwide and timeless procession of the faithful shouting to Jesus, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9, NIV).

A bountiful life



"Life is given to you like a flat piece of land," said actress Jeanne Moreau. "I hope that when

I'm finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden."

God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God's provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?

Setting captives free

Though St. Patrick's Day has become a secular "holiday," March 17 commemorates the life of a Christian missionary. St. Patrick grew up in a Christian home in Britain but wasn't very devout until he experienced crisis. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, escaping after six years. "The Lord opened my unbelieving eyes" in Ireland, Patrick later said. God led him back there, and he converted tribe after tribe to Christianity.

In *Confessio 61*, St. Patrick writes, "I testify in truth and in great joy of heart before God and his holy angels that I never had any other reason for returning to that nation ... except the Gospel and God's promises."

Feline-informed faith

I am the epitome of a "cat lady": Each of my five felines has taught me a bit about faith. As I settle into bed, Piccolo presses his body tightly against mine. As I type, Tina sits on my lap, often reaching to rest a paw on my hand (the one on the mouse, of course!). Pumpkin cries persistently, even raising his front legs like toddler arms when he wants to be picked up. Yet, as any cat lover knows, these animals can be stubbornly aloof — at least until mealtime. My cats' actions make me think about how intentional daily Bible reading is like pressing myself against God. When I see God's presence

in nature or someone's kindness, pausing to give thanks is like reaching out to touch God's hand. When I feel needy, I can stretch my spirit toward God's embrace with an honest prayer. And when I make myself aloof — as, alas, I sometimes do — I can rejoice that God's love always calls me back, to nourish me again.— Heidi Mann

That's the point!

If prayer stands as the place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer. Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge. --Philip Yancey

The comfort connection

Amid suffering, we might feel alone and wonder what good can come of it. But later we may discover ourselves equipped to serve precisely because of what we experienced.

Writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin stated: "You think your pain and heartbreak are unprecedented ... but then you read. [Books] taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive or who had ever been alive." Whether through books or direct human interaction, we often learn that our suffering connects us to other people and that our pain gains meaning by moving us to support someone else who's hurting.

Paul writes of such connection: "Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV). May you share the comfort you have received from God with others in pain. As a bonus, along the way you'll realize you're not — and never have been — alone.

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

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Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3
 2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3
 10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10
 3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5
 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10
 5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3
 3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer the kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you Ephesians 4:32, NIV

True freedom

Our body has not only been created by God and will one day be resurrected by him, but it has been bought by Christ's blood and is indwelled by his Spirit. Thus it belongs to God three times over, by creation, redemption and indwelling. How then, since it does not belong to us, can we misuse it?

Instead, we are to honor God with it, by obedience and self-control. Bought by Christ, we have no business to become the slaves of anybody or anything else. Once we were slaves of sin; now we are the slaves of Christ, and his

service is the true freedom. —John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

When God giggles

Before dinner, our family was preparing to pray, which we do by holding hands. Upon discovering that one child hadn't washed his hands, my husband struck a contorted pose to avoid physical contact. The mealtime blessing quickly dissolved into laughter as we each peeked at him.

Afterward, as we passed around the food, I asked, "What do you imagine God thought about us laughing during prayer?" One child quickly replied, "I think he was laughing right along with us."

Yes! Although prayer is reverent, God invites us to converse with words, emotions — and even giggles! —Janna Firestone

Bible Quiz



As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

God in my hands

When I was ready to give up on the Church, it was the sacraments that pulled me back. When my faith had become little more than an abstraction, a set of propositions to be affirmed or denied, the tangible, tactile nature of the sacraments invited me to touch, smell, taste, hear, and see God in the stuff of everyday life again. They got God out of my head and into my hands. They reminded me that Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to

be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people. They reminded me that, try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own. —Rachel Held Evans

Paying it back — and forward

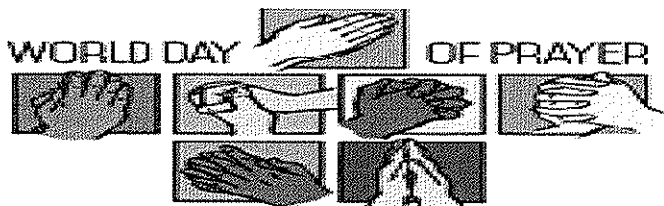
During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway. In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2021, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

Christian symbol



CROSS OF TRIUMPH—Also known as the Cross of Victory, this cross symbolizes Christ's final triumph and his reign throughout the earth. The Cross of Triumph is often depicted atop Jesus' scepter when he's shown in his kingly office.



"JESUS IS ON THE MAIN LINE" ~ Prayer Call in!

There will be a call in time to pray for the Ministry of God's Church and Prayer of Intercession: Other Days will be added.

Please check Sunday Announcement

Monday: 9pm

Thursday at – 9:00pm

Dial-in Number: 1-774-220-4000

DeWitt's Conference ID: 28028

Monday— Saturday

**DeWitt Reformed
Church
PRAY 2021**



Quiet Time with God: Turning off life's distraction

Monthly Prayer Activity:

Days of Prayer and Fasting

Objective: To turn off life's distraction for 5 days and to prayer-to-prayer and last for 5 days to seek God's will for 2021. Please see a list of suggestions.

Starts: Monday, March 15, 2021

Ends: Friday, March 19, 2021

Mini Prayer Soaking Fellowship:

Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 6:00am – 7:30am

The Power of Thanksgiving within the Prayer
From Home

Intercessory Prayer:

Sunday morning at 9am in the Sanctuary

Individual Prayers with the Elders

Immediately after the Benediction in the Sanctuary

Prayer with the Pastor: Available by phone
Wednesday at 5:30pm & Thursday at 11am

The NYPD Crime Prevention

- Your personal information. Do not give out information such as your social security number, and important passwords to your accounts.
- Never carry your social security card, memorize the number. If you must give the number for verification over the phone, the last 4 digits should suffice. Institutions should never ask you to provide your full social security number.
- Do not give personal information over the phone; the caller on the other side may not be who they purport to be.
- Use a secured mailbox.
- Check your credit history and score regularly. Subscribe to a reputable credit monitoring service. It may cost you a fee but peace of mind is priceless.
 - Shred all documents containing important information before disposing of them.

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DEWITT REFORMED CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO THE TOTAL LIFE OF MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN BY PREACHING, TEACHING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, AND BY ALL CHRISTIAN GOOD WORKS. THE MISSION SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH SERVICES OF WORSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER MEETINGS, CHURCH SCHOOL, GROUP WORK AND VARIOUS PROGRAMS

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM SCRIPTURAL FOR LENT:

LENT WEEK 1 MATTHEW 16:13-28

THE GREAT CONFESSION

LENT WEEK 2 MATTHEW 17

THE TRANSFIGURATION

LENT WEEK 3 MATTHEW 18:15-35

FORGIVENESS

LENT WEEK 4 MATTHEW 19:13-30

THE FIRST LAST AND THE LAST FIRST

LENT WEEK 5 MATTHEW 20: 17-28

NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE.

LENT WEEK 6 MATTHEW 21:1-17

HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID

Special Offering: Second Offering

- a. First Sunday: Building Fund
- b. Third Sunday: Sacrificial Offering

Ways you can
SERVE

Prayer Ministry: ZOOM Book Club

March 6, 2021: 10am – 12noon.

In one of the most insightful, provocative, and witty

Beauty by God: Inside Out Secrets for Every Woman – available to be pick up at church. Donation \$4.00



STAYING CONNECTED

**DEWITT ACTIVITIES BELOW: ZOOM
DEWITT REFORMED CHURCH
ZOOM SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT
March 2021**



Topic: Sunday School
Time: Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday School
Time: 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84190554537>

Meeting ID: 841 9055 4537
Passcode: 838083
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,84190554537# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84190554537>

Meeting ID: 841 9055 4537
Passcode: 838083
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,84190554537# US (New York)
Meeting ID: 841 9055 4537

Topic: Sunday Worship. 11:00 AM
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85781467092>

Meeting ID: 857 8146 7092
Passcode: 024918
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,85781467092# US (New York)

Topic: Tuesday Bible Study
Time: 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

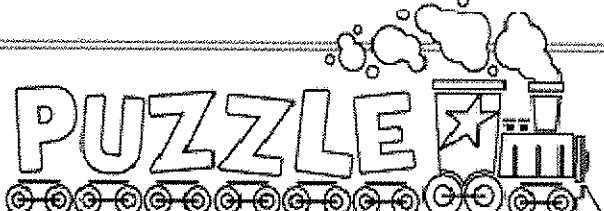
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88000316351>
Meeting ID: 880 0031 6351
Passcode: 565289
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,88000316351# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 880 0031 6351

Topic: Wednesday Bible Study January & February
Time: 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81549270014>






Meeting ID: 815 4927 0014
Passcode: 969273
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,81549270014# US (New York)
Meeting ID: 815 4927 0014
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcDOFvWR28>



BIRDS IN THE WORD

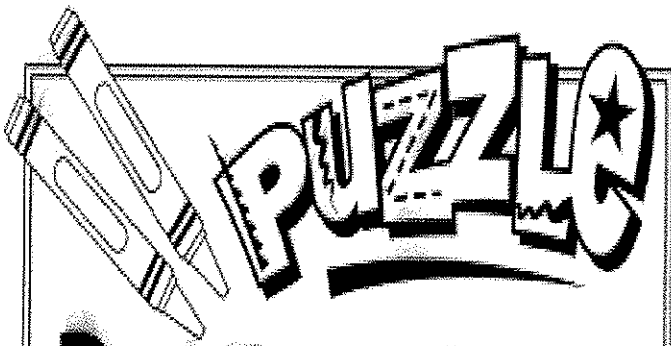
The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

	VDEO		(Genesis 8:8)
	LWO		(Psalm 102:6)
	GEELA		(Isaiah 40:31)
	TOKRS		(Jeremiah 8:7)
	APROSWRS		

"Are not five _____ sold for
 two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten
 by God. ... Don't be afraid; you are worth
 more than many _____"
LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, sparrow, sparrow



POWER OF PRAYER

When life gets crazy, worry creeps in. But God tells us exactly what to do – any time and anywhere.

Directions: Circle the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write those words on the numbered lines below.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1
apple
anxious
artichoke | 2
every
eagle
emu | 3
purple
pink
prayer | 4
Paul
petition
Peter | 5
baste
bunch
thanksgiving |
| 6
nest
requests
relax | 7
God
George
Greg | 8
poodle
peace
pond | 9
transcends
train
truck | 10
unusual
unique
understanding |
| 11
guard
gazelle
gorilla | 12
hearts
hold
hole | 13
many
minds
more | 14
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania
Philippines | |

"Do not be _____¹ about anything, but in
 _____² situation, by _____³ and
 _____⁴, with _____⁵,
 present your _____⁶ to _____⁷. And
 the _____⁸ of God, which _____⁹
 all _____¹⁰, will _____¹¹
 your _____¹² and your _____¹³
 in Christ Jesus." _____¹⁴ 4:6-7, NIV

Answers: 1. anxious, 2. every, 3. prayer, 4. petition, 5. thanksgiving,
 6. requests, 7. God, 8. peace, 9. transcends, 10. understanding, 11. guard,
 12. hearts, 13. minds, 14. Philippines