



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

April 2023





From Our Pastor!

“But seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:33-34).

I take great comfort in these two verses and I also praise God that He does equip us to handle the trials of life. The hard-won experience of age can be an advantage, especially when it is combined with trust in God. Over the course of this week, I’ve been reminded that even in our modern times some “old school” skills are still important.

On Monday, very early in the morning, I drove to the airport in Syracuse and flew out to Minneapolis. The only problem was I left my phone in my car instead of taking it with me in my jacket. My excuse was it was 3:30 a.m. and I hadn’t had enough sleep and no coffee. It was lucky I was alive, let alone boarding a flight for the Midwest.

Put yourself in my place, flying along at 36,000 feet at 550 mph and you don’t know your final destination. You have your tickets to fly, but no idea where you are supposed to go after you land. All your contact information, phone numbers and ability to communicate are left behind. This is not a happy place! Time to pray! Sing a chorus of “He Is with Us” and relax. You will get where you are going, somehow.

Smart phones are wonderful. Old fashioned know-how and how to treat people with respect and honesty is also wonderful. Put these together and you have something special – no anxiety—well, maybe a little.

New technology makes it easy to organize your information and definitely adds a layer of security to life. The old way was to write things down or better yet memorize the important stuff. The experience acquired over a long life mixes the old and new to produce the best results in case of need. My immediate problem was I hadn’t written anything down. But all was not lost.

The moment I realized I didn’t have a clue as to where I needed to be or how to contact anyone was actually kind of exciting. I knew three things with certainty, my wife’s phone number, but I didn’t have a phone. The URL for our denomination’s website, very important information, but I

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2023

Pastor:	Ed Enstine eenstine@aol.com 607.592.8276
Administrative Aide	Lynn Kingston-Harris office@danbychurch.org 607.272.1687
Administrative Council	
Chair:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com
Secretary:	Dave McDermitt davidmcdermitt@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com
Financial Secretary:	Dave McDermitt davidmcdermitt@gmail.com
Trustees Chair:	Charlene Testut ctestut55@yahoo.com
Area Coordinators	
Hospitality:	Charlene Testut
Spiritual Development:	Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
Missions:	Judy & Dale Horton therose8641@yahoo.com
Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:	
Chair:	Katy Prince
Praise Team Leader:	Pup Martinez martinez789@yahoo.com
Webmaster:	Janet Gray jsg4@cornell.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Janet Gray
Facebook:	Janet Gray

On the Cover!

Judy and Dale Horton

didn't have internet access without my phone. And finally, I knew, with the Lord's help we would find a way to sort all this out and I didn't need a smart phone to make contact. I just knew that God was not going to leave me lost in the upper Midwest abandoned in terminal G at a huge airport. It was time to trust for a way forward. Good news! I did get where I needed to go. Even better it was not difficult at all. That is where the "old school" comes in to play with a slight assist from modern technology.

Every major airport has information stations and actual humans to help travelers, in this case, me. A couple hundred feet past my arrival gate there was an "Information Booth." My plea to the lady working the booth was, "Help me; I forgot my phone, honestly. I do not know where I am going and I think you know everything" (flattery and humor never hurts).

Within minutes this pleasant young woman was on the 4C website (remember I knew the URL) and found the event location and hotel address. I found out the woman who helped me was a member of a local church and loved helping people (old school polite conversation and appreciation). God bless her! Problem solved and a taxi ride later I was settled in for the next few days.

My father used to say that half of what we worry about never happens and the other half isn't that bad. I take that as wisdom directly from God through my dad.

To review: when in troubled times, pray for a way forward; collect your thoughts about where you are headed; be willing to ask for help; be thankful and gracious with those who assist you; be cheerful, polite and patient no matter how desperate you may feel; use all the tools that are available to you; realize you are not alone no matter what it feels like; God will get you where you are supposed to be going if you trust in Him.

And next time remember to take your phone. It truly may be smarter than you are.

Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am
Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30am
Sunday Adult Education Class @ 8:45am
Tuesdays via ZOOM - Prayer with Sheila @ 7pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Communion, Conversation and Prayer 5-6pm
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm
Thursdays - Bible Study @ 7pm
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am
Women's Bible Study, Fridays @ 1pm

Did you know we are now on Facebook? You can access us from your Facebook page (just search for Danby Community Church) or press the Facebook link on our church website: WWW.DANBYCHURCH.ORG. You don't need to have a Facebook account to see our Facebook page, but you will need a Facebook account if you would want to "like" our page or post a comment.



**Danby Community Church
Administrative Council Meeting
April 10, 2023.**

Present. Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Paula Nelson, Gloria Miller, and David McDermitt. Pastor Ed opened with prayer at 7:00 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES. No March meeting, so February meeting minutes considered - motion to accept (Gloria), second (Sheila). Carried.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y REPORT: March report: motion to accept (Sheila), second (Gloria). Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Regarding NYSEG, we will read our own meter to compare to bill. Motion to approve (Charlene), second (Gloria). Carried.

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Continuing the church's affiliation process with the 4C's, Paula, as Administrative Council Chair, signed the application contract for affiliation.
2. Finishing up the renaming of our ExxonMobil stock certificates from Danby Federated Church to Danby Community Church, Sheila and Ed will mail in the certificates to have name updated.

NEW BUSINESS

- Genealogy request received from Mary Ann Barr, the Danby town historian. This will be sent to Lynn to check membership/baptism rolls
- Adopt-a-highway. Form received from highway department to renew 2-year contract for 2023-2025. Decision was made to accept 2-year commitment. Dave will send in form.
- Noise ordinance. There is concern about how a new Town law regarding noise might affect the church. The Council agreed that the law as currently written is not concrete enough – that problematic noise isn't defined well and, in general, the law was neither conceived nor written properly. Sheila will draft a letter to send to the Town explaining this.
- Chicken & biscuit dinner planned for this Friday, April 14th.
- Frank Payton's memorial service this Sunday, 4/16, at 3:30 in the Sanctuary. Pastor Ed is not officiating but will check sound.
- Suggestion to put calendar announcements back onto the sanctuary overhead screen after service so that people can see them as a reminder when leaving – and to use dark backgrounds so writing can be seen more easily via the projector.

REPORTS.

Hospitality.

- A new Danby Food Pantry Agreement with the Town assures that money/funds go directly to the food bank and not the church. Charlene will sign this. Motion to approve agreement (Paula), Second (Sheila), Passed.

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- Chicken and biscuit dinner as mentioned above, Friday, April 14th.
- There is an upcoming Women's Tea planned at the church. The Council agreed to provide \$200 to support this ministry event.

Spiritual Development. The church is in the season of Eastertide which lasts 50 days until Pentecost and includes Ascension Thursday.

Current Small Groups:

Sunday morning group 8:45-9:45am. This group has started a new series studying the Old Testament books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Thursday night Bible study. Pastor Ed is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew.

Friday Women's Bible Study: This group is studying Susan Robb's book, "Called: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice"

Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship informal gathering at 7pm for praise, sharing, fellowship, and prayer requests.

Nursery and Youth Church:

The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five, as needed.

Youth Church is available for ages 6-10 (1st – 5th grades) if there are students. Copies of the volunteer schedule including greeters & ushers are on wall above the water cooler and emailed to participants.

Prayer Opportunities:

- Prayer Chain: Contact the coordinator, Katy Prince, at "katyprince96@gmail.com".
- Saturday mornings at 8:00 am in the sanctuary.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm with Pastor Ed.
- Tuesday Zoom prayer has ended for the time being.

Trustees. A railing for the pulpit stairs will be installed as the steps are quite steep.

Missions. No report this month apart from the Adopt-a-highway agreement form submission.

SPOC.

- No report this month although the group will continue to work on language to use to designate congregants as 'partners' instead of members in our church Constitution.
- They have suggested our church add some kind of 'vulnerable adult' component to the current 'Safe Sanctuary' training we currently use.

SAP: SAP will meet. The NCD survey is nearly complete.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria), second (Dave). Meeting ended at 8:20.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Administrative Council clerk

## Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

### Important Dates for May 2023:

Eastertide, also known as the Great 50 Days, began with Resurrection Sunday on April 9<sup>th</sup> and includes Ascension Day, celebrating Christ's ascension into heaven. Ascension Day is 40 days from Christ's resurrection, so it is always on a Thursday, this year May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate Christ's ascension on the following Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ten days after Christ's Ascension we celebrate Pentecost, the anniversary of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Christ's disciples. Pentecost is on May 28<sup>th</sup> this year.

Forty days from the Resurrection to the Ascension plus 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost gives us 50 days – the Great 50 Days in the Christian calendar. The liturgical color for the 50 days is white, changing to red for Pentecost Sunday.

### Adult Small Groups:

- The Sunday morning group** is studying the Old Testament history books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ester. We meet on Sundays at 8:45 am. Let Sheila Enstine know if you're interested.
- The Wednesday night Praise and Fellowship** gathers at 7 pm with the praise team. After worship, we have a time of koinonia (sharing our faith) and prayer.
- The Thursday evening Bible Study** begins at 7 pm. Pastor Ed is leading a study on the Gospel of Matthew.
- The Friday afternoon Women's Bible Study** meets at 1:00 PM in the All Saints Room. This group is reading and discussing a book by Susan Robb, "Called Hearing and Responding to God's Voice". See Suzanne Walker for more information.

**Nursery:** The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five.

**Children's Church:** After the Morning Prayer on Sundays, children ages 6 through 10 (about 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to attend Children's Church. There is always someone prepared with a lesson.

### Prayer Opportunities:

- In-person Prayer:** We also offer an in-person prayer time in the Sanctuary on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. This is an opportunity to petition the Lord for others and for ourselves without the distractions often encountered at home or on the road.
- Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at [katyprince96@gmail.com](mailto:katyprince96@gmail.com).

**Congregational Care:** Thank you to everyone who has seen a need and responded in love. Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for faithfully arranging for flower deliveries.

*Do you have a question you would like to ask Pastor Ed? It can be about God, Jesus, the Bible, faith, the church, religion. Send your questions to Janet Gray at [jsg4@cornell.edu](mailto:jsg4@cornell.edu) and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News*

## Missions Report Judy and Dale Horton

Since serving in the Missions Ministry Area for the Danby Community Church, I have come to believe that the word “missions” has a very broad meaning. Of course, the well known meaning is reaching out to any and all parts of the world, ministering to people in an effort to lead them to Jesus Christ. Danby Church has and continues to do this.

We support local havens for troubled and recovering people. We send many gifts through the Samaritan’s Purse and Heifer projects. We have sent many needed gifts to Native American children in South Dakota.

In our local church the people are reaching out to each other in such a beautiful way, giving to our own in need, loving each other and helping to fill each others’ needs. I’m seeing it happen all the time.

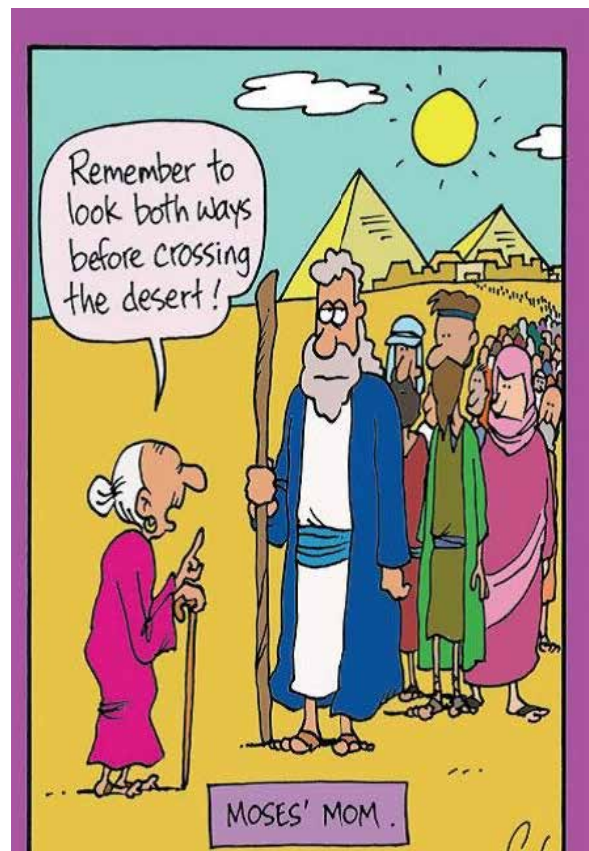
Recently I was heading back to my seat from singing with our praise team and someone in the congregation noticed the sorrow on my face and reached out to me, asking if she could help. I told her my last sibling had passed away recently and it was her birthday. She hugged me and promised to pray for me, which touched my heart so much. That’s missions in a big “homelike” way.

Pastor Ed instructs us to always try to be the hands and feet of Christ. There’s a huge missions field out there for us to our jobs!

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**DANDELIONS..** The bouquet that screams  
"I wuv wu mommy!"



## Happy Mother's Day!!!!

This month's issue of the Danby Church News is on the web at <https://www.danbychurch.org/news.html>!

# A VISIT WITH ELOISE PHINNEY

*By Sheila Enstine*

“Get up and get dressed, the house is on fire!”

Eloise Phinney was seven years old when she heard these alarming words in the middle of a frozen January night. She looked out of the car window as the family pulled away and saw fire come out of the house around the chimney. The house burned down, but despite the crisis she went to school that morning. By the time she arrived, everyone knew what had happened.

“We had party lines in those days,” she explains.

Telephone companies saved wiring costs by looping several phone subscribers on the same line. Anyone on the line could pick up their phone and hear someone else’s conversation. This system worked fine in the 1930s and 40s, perhaps because technology isn’t the biggest change Eloise has seen.

“The biggest change is that people aren’t as nice as they should be,” she says.

Good manners, kindness, and family togetherness were significant influences in Eloise’s childhood. Because their home had burned down, the family had to split up for the two months it took to rebuild the house. Her mother and Eloise’s sister Frannie stayed with relatives on Titus Avenue in Ithaca and Eloise stayed with an uncle and his family in the Forest Home area.

“Dad and granddad stayed on the farm. Dad made a bed for himself in the barn and went to the neighbors for breakfast. I don’t know where granddad went.”

On one of the President’s Days in February, Eloise, her mother and sister went to see the rebuilt house. Eloise remembers looking at the new house and crying.

“What are you crying about?” her granddad asked.

“I don’t want to leave,” she said.

“Well you don’t have to,” her granddad told her. “This is home.”

She and her family were home at last! They didn’t have much furniture and slept in the dining room on two mattresses. “We didn’t care, as long as we were together.”

She also returned to her beloved one-room school house on Jersey Hill. The Forest Home School was nice, she re-





members, but just not the same as Jersey Hill, which she attended until 8<sup>th</sup> grade when she transferred to high school. “We had good teachers,” she says and her favorite subject was reading. History was interesting, but she liked stories best. The most memorable was *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

“It made me cry and I was so worried about Eliza crossing the river on all that ice. It opened my eyes to slavery.” Her love of reading attracted her to her husband Charles Phinney. She was visiting a high school friend in Ithaca who had a cousin living across the street. The friend took Eloise to visit the cousin.

“They had a big table covered with all kinds of magazines. Of course they weren’t McCalls or Women’s Day, more like Rod and Gun and sports magazines that were common in those days. But I liked it that he liked to read.”

Charles and Eloise were married in the church she grew up in, “the old Methodist Church on the corner.” Her uncle and aunt had taken her to the Aurora Street Methodist Church in downtown Ithaca while she stayed with them. “The pipe organ was fascinating!” she remembers, but just not the same as her small family church.

“I guess I’ve always been a believer,” she says, “and I think you could say that my mother was a true believer. She taught Sunday school and we said our prayers every night. It was very comforting.”

Prayer has been a sustaining force for Eloise and her family, especially during another time of separation when her husband Charles was in the Navy.

“He was assigned to the Midway when it was brand new. He became a torpedo man because he was a mechanic. “ Fortunately, the war ended before the Midway was commissioned. Charles then moved to the Sampson Naval Training Station in Seneca County. Her husband was able to get leave from Sampson when their first son was born.

Although Eloise has spent the majority of her life in the small town of Danby, raising her three sons and working as a farmer’s wife, she has also ventured out as a short-term missionary. She and her sister Frannie with several others from the Danby church traveled to the Redbird Mission in Kentucky.

“I didn’t know much about the South or mission work. The schools needed much help. I helped carrying boards. What I liked best was meeting lots of different people from different places, but we all had the same goals.” Then she chuckled and added, “It was really more like a vacation than work, but don’t tell anybody.”

As she approaches her centennial birthday, Eloise has a bit of advice for all of us—“We need to appreciate family and stay in touch.”

“We need to all get together someday and have a lemonade shower...I don’t know what a lemonade shower is. It just came to me.”

Perhaps a lemonade shower is a good metaphor for Eloise’s life. She’s an expert in making lemonade out of lemons, sweetened with family, friends, and faith.



# Happenings Around Danby Church



## Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

# Coffee and Donuts Community Coffee Chat





Danby Community Church  
 1859 Danby Road  
 Ithaca, NY 14850

*[www.danbychurch.org](http://www.danbychurch.org)*

# Welcome Home!!

## What's Happening?!? in May?



Light refreshments  
 Inspirational program

(What do Disney princesses  
 and Bible princesses have in common?)

Wear or bring fancy slippers,  
 socks, other footwear  
 to show off at  
 the Slipper Fashion show

We are the Princesses of  
 the  
 King of Kings!

FREE COFFEE AND DONUT



Mondays, 5/15, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21  
 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Take out or Dine In  
 Join Us for *Community Coffee Chat*

Lorem ipsum