



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

July 2023





# From Our Pastor!

June 21, 2023—it is officially SUM-

MER! The sun has risen as far north as possible this year. Fifteen hours and 15 minutes, sunrise to sunset today. The longest day and the shortest night share this date. For the next six months, our daylight hours will decrease and our nights will extend by a few minutes every day. Such is the rhythm of our year.

Despite some uncertainty, seasonal cycles provide the comfort of predictably. In general, we know when to sow and when to harvest, when to bundle up against winter cold and when to dress for summer heat. As the Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3, “There is a time for all things under heaven.”

The strange thing about humankind is that we often rebel against routine. Being normal and ordinary can be so dull. We seek out a tan in winter and almost sub-artic air conditioning in summer. Humans seem to be in an endless quest for the next challenging, unique, and awesome experience, often just for a momentary thrill. While the extreme edge of experience may be entertaining, it is rarely safe and many times deadly.

Living a Christ-centered life is an alternative that provides both certainty and challenge. It’s an exciting adventure as well as abundant in grace.

Although we have boundaries established by Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are also called to expand our horizons. We are called to be creative as we proclaim the Gospel.

Every generation of Christians can learn from the experience of the saints who have gone before them. However, every generation faces a new harvest field with unique obstacles. The goal across time has been to offer Christ in such a way that no matter what people face in their era, accepting God’s salvation is the best decision possible.

Unlike the seasons that endlessly cycle, a life in Christ breaks the cycles of our selfish nature and continues to grow us as people who model holiness.

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## On the Cover!

# Margie Vandemark

As a church we are a center of worship and peace that the world cannot duplicate. We have a responsibility to love and disciple God's people. In the process of discipling one another, we will learn from one another and grow in grace together.

We have the challenge and privilege to change lives. We have the obligation to be united in prayer, Bible Study, and fellowship. We have access to eternal security in Christ.

By the time you read this it will be summer. Ironically the daylight hours will shorten as the temperatures rise. Six months of warmth and light will morph into six months of cold and darkness, dictated by the sun.

Praise God, the Son we honor and follow never changes and commands us to shine bright with the consistent warmth of God's love and peace.



# Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

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

*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*

## **Spiritual Development Update** *from Sheila Enstine*

### **Important Dates for July 2023:**

We are in the season of Ordinary Time, from the Latin word ordinal, which means counted. Reflecting the agricultural season of growth, Ordinary Time is a season of spiritual growth extending from Trinity Sunday through Christ the King Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> this year. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

- **The Sunday morning group** is completing a study of the Old Testament history books Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. During the summer we will study the prophetic books of Ezekiel and Daniel. The class meets 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. During the summer months, this group will move to a monthly schedule. We plan on reading Phillip Keller's *Lessons from a Sheep Dog: A True Story of Transforming Love*. 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 first set of worship music on Sundays, children ages 6 through 10 (about 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to attend Children's Church.

### **Prayer Opportunities:**

- **In-person Prayer:** We 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.

**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](http://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  
June 12, 2023.**



**Present:** Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Gloria Miller, and David McDermitt.

The Council meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Ed, 7:01pm

**CLERK’S MINUTES:** Meeting minutes from May - motion to approve (Charlene), second (Gloria), Carried.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Dave gave report. Payton family donation can go into general funds. Exxon-Mobil can’t send us paper stock certificates as they’re moved to digital. St. Pauly’s will provide their monthly income to us by direct deposit instead of a mailed check. Motion to approve report (Gloria), second (Charlene), Carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula left Treasurer’s report for us. Regarding NYSEG, we’re currently on a payment plan; we should look at NYSEG account online to compare our meter reading with what they have estimated online. Motion to approve Treasurer’s report (Gloria), second (Charlene), Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chicken & Biscuit dinners have concluded for the spring.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The church has officially been accepted into the 4C’s – the actual signing by them will happen at their July meeting in Minnesota.

**HOSPITALITY:** Rummage sale is planned for the end of July. Sundaes on Wednesday are coming up. Donut on Monday is June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** The church is currently in the season of ‘Ordinary Time’ which is the longest season in the church year running from Trinity Sunday (6/04) to Christ the King Sunday (11/26) . The liturgical color is green.

- Sunday Bible study is starting the book of Esther.
- Thursday night Bible study continues in the book of Matthew.
- Friday women’s group is currently meeting for lunch at noon at different host homes. They are reading ‘Lessons from a Sheep Dog’ by Phillip Keller.
- Wednesday night worship and praise team rehearsal continues.
- Prayer is available on Saturday mornings at 8:00, no longer Tues/Thursdays.
- Katy Prince continues to lead the email prayer chain.
- Nursery is available as needed and children’s church for ages 6-10 after the first set of praise music.
- Thank you to Doug Nash and Paula Nelson for church flowers.

**TRUSTEES:** meeting scheduled for Monday, 6/19.

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**MISSIONS:**

- Food Pantry. This is open to the public – not just Danby residents. July starts new application. Will need more volunteers – training provided.
- Adopt-a-highway. The E. King Rd cleanup was finished for the spring. Thanks to: Sheila Enstine, Debbie Alve, Mary Wimsatt, and Kathie De Wolfe.

**SPOC:** Will continue to look at the differences between church ‘partners’ vs church ‘members’.

**SAP:** As part of the NCD follow-up, Pastor Ed will be asking people to join a spiritual health team focusing on 2 specific areas: spiritual gifts and loving relationships.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05.  
Pastor Ed finished with prayer.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Council clerk

**E. King Rd. Adopt-a-Highway Spring Cleanup**

The E. King Rd. adopt-a-highway spring cleanup was completed on Saturday morning, June 10th. Five bags of trash were collected, which along with 2 bags collected last month, makes 7 total for this spring’s effort.

One of the more interesting items was this piece of metal on the right. Anyone have an idea what it is?



Many thanks to Sheila, Debbie, Mary, and Kathie for their help.

We will be starting the Fall cleanup sometime in the September-October timeframe, weather depending. Dave McDermitt

Re-Use  
SALE  
And  
BOKE SALE  
Friday July 28/ 3-7 pm  
Saturday July 29/ 9am-1pm

**Furniture, kitchen, household, linens, books, toys, sporting, jewelry, nic nacs, accessories. A bit of everything except clothing. Indoors and outside. Tarp sale under the trees.**

## Pressure Washing

By Sheila Enstine



“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way” (James 1:2-4 The Message).

Sometimes our Lord uses object lessons to teach us the meaning of his Word. That is the case for me and the above passage from James. The object lesson is in the process of having our house painted.

After much perseverance, we found a house painter who charges a reasonable price (comparatively speaking), has good references, and is actually available. Before sealing the deal, we took a second walk around the house.

The painter explained that we’d need a pressure wash before scraping and painting (no surprise—it’s been three decades since the last paint job). That could expose the need for additional work. We gave the okay. Then the pressure hit.

We knew that the stucco covering the brick exterior was flaking in several places, but once the high-pressure water hit them, chunks of plaster came off those areas. That means we’ll need time-consuming stucco repair before any painting can begin.

Metaphors break down eventually, some sooner than others, but I believe there’s a faith lesson in this pressure-washing event.

Before anyone begins something new – from a new job or career path to a new relationship to a new calling or ministry – that person will need preparation. This might include training, education, wise advice from others, and radical “house cleaning.” By this I mean self-examination of habits, character, and conscience. Psalm 51 speaks to this:

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Ps. 51:2,7NIV).

How God performs his power washing varies from person to person. But we shouldn’t be surprised when we’re about to step out in obedience to God and we experience unanticipated challenges or the realization that we don’t have all the resources needed. Too often we view these setbacks as opposition from the enemy or even signs that we should give up.

Instead, we need to see these challenges as gifts, situations that increase pressure in our lives, which in turn reveal flaws in need of our attention. This is the prep work needed before moving forward.

I like the way The Message puts it, “...your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely.”

Where are you experiencing pressure in your life? Where are the challenges or setbacks? Perhaps these troubling areas are places where “the stucco fell off” – personal flaws that need repair before going forward in life.

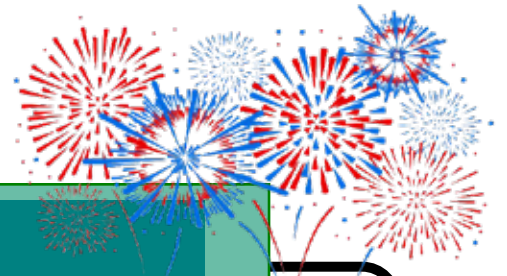
Let’s use this summer as a time of preparation for that new thing that our Lord is planning or for recommitment to a life calling.

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



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 1859 Danby Road  
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# Welcome Home!!

**What's Happening?!? This Summer??**

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*



Sundaes on Wednesdays  
**July 26, August 2 and August 9**  
 6:30 pm - 8pm



Friday July 28/ 3-7 pm  
 Saturday July 29/ 9am-1pm