



Danby Church News

“Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God”

December 2022

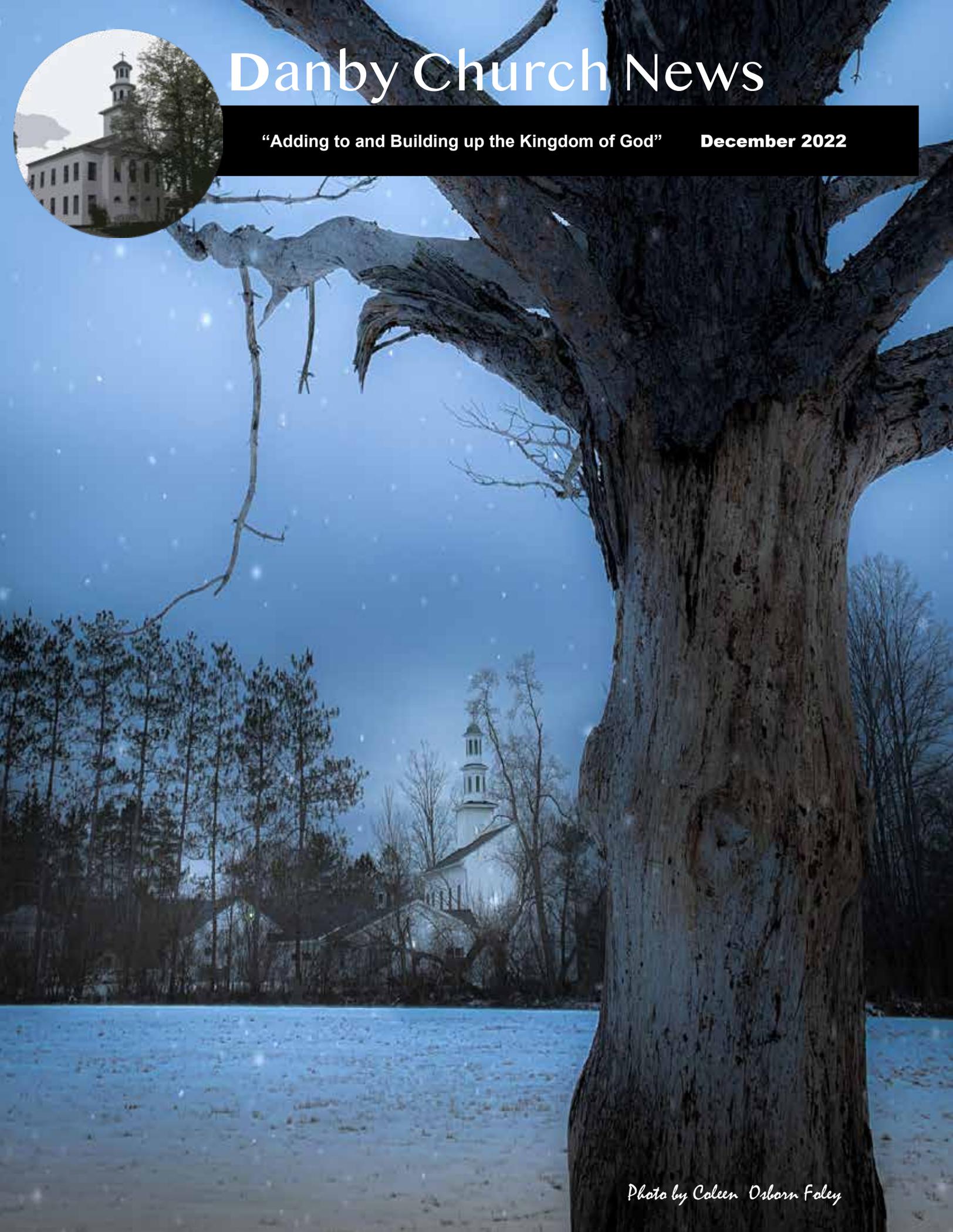


Photo by Caleen Osborn Foley



From Our Pastor!

It is Advent - the first season of the Church year! With this new year, we have new opportunities.

This coming December 21, Wednesday evening at 7 P.M., we'll host a Blue Christmas Service for anyone who has lost family or friends in the past and feels the need to acknowledge their loss. All are invited to share in this unique experience that we pray brings healing and meaning out of grief.

We will hold a more traditional Christmas Eve service on Saturday the 24th. Low and behold Christmas is on Sunday this year and we will have Sunday service at 10 A.M., the same as every week.

The secular New Year's Day is the following Sunday and what better way is there to begin 2023 than in church.

I am looking forward to 2023! I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired. I understand that sometimes we need to be patient and wait, and we've done that. It is time to move along into better days.

It is time to accomplish ministry and celebrate life with the grace God has given us. Now is the time to praise God for the bounty and opportunity we enjoy in this world. It is especially time to grow as a fellowship, following the Great Commission to go and make disciples.

Some things need to be restarted; some things need to be replaced. Nothing stays the same forever except God's love for His children.

Perhaps the biggest change we're recommending is affiliating with a denomination. As I mentioned in the service on November 20, 2022, there was a vote of approval from the SPOC to recommend joining the 4C Denomination. 4C is short for the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. Please understand that "conservative" in this context means "traditional"; it is not a political term.

Other denominations were considered, but the 4C is a good fit for us.

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2022

| | |
|--|--|
| 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!

A winter picture of our church taken from Dobson Park by Coleen Osborn Foley

In full disclosure, I am a 4C licensed minister and a member of the denominational Church Development Team.

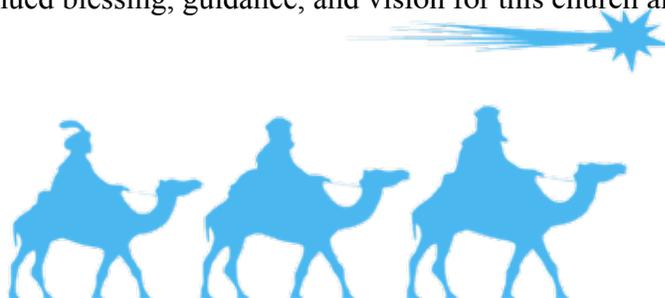
Originally the Danby Community Church was part of the Congregational movement and in many ways an affiliation with the 4C will be returning to our historic roots. However, the 4C is not an ossified gathering of “the churched”, but rather a movement of churches that are striving to honor God together, while maintaining independence but not isolation.

What is expected of a 4C member church? 4C churches uphold the following:

- **The Irreducible Core:** We obey Jesus’ commandments to love God, love others, and as we go, make disciples.
- **Seven Guiding Values:**
 1. A Culture of Believing Prayer and Intercession
 2. Healthy Pastors
 3. Healthy Disciple-Making Churches
 4. Healthy Church Multiplication
 5. A Community that Lives Out Shared Life & Shared Mission
 6. A Culture of Peacemaking & Reconciliation
 7. A Membership Reflective of the Harvest Field’s Diversity
- **Three Priorities** - An abbreviated summary follows
 - Church Development**, strengthening current churches to do effective ministry.
 - Church Multiplication**, starting new and healthy disciple-making congregations.
 - Conference Care**, caring for pastors through development training, coaching and resources; caring for churches in times of change and challenge.

We’ve taken time to consider who we are. We’ve weathered the storm of disaffiliation and pandemic. The time we’ve taken has left us strong and independent, but now is the time to reconnect with a larger part of God’s Kingdom. We need this connection and accountability with others in God’s Kingdom. They need our shared spiritual strength, fellowship, and support.

We will be voting to begin the process of affiliation at our Annual Meeting in January. I welcome comments, pro or con, and definitely am willing to share any and all information I have about the 4C. In the meantime, please pray for God’s continued blessing, guidance, and vision for this church and for one another.



**Danby Community Church
Administrative Council Meeting
November 14, 2022.**

Present. Pastor Ed Enstine, Gloria Miller, Judy & Dale Horton, Paula Nelson, Charlene Testut, and Dave McDermitt. Pastor Ed opened with prayer at 7:02 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES. September meeting minutes (October meeting was cancelled). Motion to approve (Gloria), second (Dale). Carried.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y REPORT: Dave gave report. Motion to approve (Gloria), second (Charlene). Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula gave report. Missions were paid (Second Wind, Renovation House).
- Motion to approve (Dale), second (Gloria). Carried.

OLD BUSINESS/Wrap-up:

- Donuts & Coffee in September drew about 20 people, so will be tried again. It was skipped in October but will be held in November.
- Dish-to-pass with table discussions worked well. It will be repeated and probably using the same topics so people could attend topics that might've been their second choice for the first event.

NEW BUSINESS/Looking Ahead. See ministry areas below and:

- November 18th (3rd Friday of the month). Donuts & Coffee will be served for the community.
- December 3rd. Saturday. Women's Christmas Retreat, "Peace on Earth", at the church.

REPORTS.

Hospitality.

- The election night dinner was a success with 75-80 people served. Donations covered the costs with a small amount extra. There was some difficulty with the stove gas lights needing to be lit, but David Brown saved the day and Charlene will show several people how to do it.
- Donuts and coffee for the community on Friday, November 18
- Charlene will check with Alison Buell regarding after-service 'coffee & refreshments' fellowship.

Spiritual Development.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th, and continues through December 24th.

Many activities are continuing in Sheila's absence.

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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 and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News

Current Small Groups:

Sunday morning group 8:45-9:45am. Current series studying Philippians & Colossians is on pause until a temporary leader is installed or Sheila returns.

Women's Bible Study: The group is continuing to meet for fellowship and Bible study.

Thursday night Bible study. Pastor Ed is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew. Open to all. Currently the group is in chapter 5, the Beatitudes.

Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship gathering at 7pm has about 15 people each week.

Nursery and Youth Church:

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

Youth Church is available for ages 6-10 (1st – 5th grades) if there are students. Nothing planned for older kids b/c too much to ask of volunteers, but as needed could hold a class for 11-13-year-olds. Copies of the volunteer schedule including greeters & ushers are on wall above the water cooler and emailed to participants.

Prayer Opportunities:

- Prayer Chain: New contact is Katy Prince at "katyprince96@gmail.com".

- In-person: Saturday mornings at 8:00 am and Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm

Operation Christmas Child: This year the church is not organizing a collection, but individuals who are interested in doing their own can drop them off at either the Newfield Baptist church on Main St., Newfield or Bethel Grove on Rt. 79 by Monday 11/20/22. (There is also a regional drop-off in the Syracuse area for those who miss the 11/20 cut-off.)

Holiday Retreat: see Missions (below).

Trustees: The doors for the fellowship hall have been ordered (Baker-Miller) and the work will be done when Dave & Dan have an appropriate spot in their schedule perhaps in the next few months.

Missions:

- Saturday, December 3rd is the date for the Women's Christmas Retreat. The theme is "Let There Be Peace on Earth." About 85 attendees are anticipated. (This is an inter-denominational, but not ecumenical, gathering.)
- The Food Pantry is receiving 60 frozen turkeys courtesy of Tioga Downs to giveaway as part of the regular November food pantry.
- Highway cleanup of East King rd for the fall was completed. Thank you to John, Devon, Kathie, Debbie, Joan, and Joan's 3 grandsons.
- Outreach. In previous years, Judy and Dale have spearheaded bringing Christmas boxes and gifts to the Native American children at NY's Salamanca reservation. This year, the focus will be local. Attempts to identify needy kids in Danby were unsuccessful, so they are bringing Christmas boxes to children in Ward's Trailer Park in Newfield via Daryl Snyder. 25 boxes are

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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.



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needed; our church has volunteered for ~11, so Judy & Dale will cover the rest with some financial help. These boxes (plastic bins) are due to Judy by the first Sunday in December (12/04). See Judy if you would still like to help. Some ideas for contents: age-appropriate DVD's, gloves, socks, hats, candy, hand towel, soap, washcloth, comb, brush, flashlight, Lego kits, slinky's, etc.

SPOC:

- The committee is working on a candidate list for open nominations in time for annual meeting early next year.

SAP: No meeting.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria), second (Dave). Meeting ended at 7:58.

~~~~~  
Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, church clerk



Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

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

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

# Name That Christmas Song

A lyric from the song is given. In what song would you find the lyric?

1. "Round yon virgin mother and child"
  - a. Jingle Bells
  - b. Silent Night
  - c. I'll be Home for Christmas
  - d. We Three Kings
2. "And Heaven and nature sing"
  - a. Away in a Manger
  - b. Joy to the World
  - c. While Shepherds Watched
  - d. White Christmas
3. "'Tis the season to be jolly"
  - a. Jingle Bells
  - b. While Shepherds Watched
  - c. Deck the Halls
  - d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
4. "God and sinners reconciled"
  - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - b. O come All Ye Faithful
  - c. Hark the Herald Angels
  - d. The First Noel
5. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night"
  - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
  - b. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - c. Hark the Herald Angels
  - d. The First Noel
6. "Joyful and triumphant"
  - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
  - b. Joy to the World
  - c. Deck the Halls
  - d. Ave Maria
7. "Looked down where he lay"
  - a. The First Noel
  - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
  - c. Joy to the World
  - d. Away in a Manger
8. "O tidings of comfort and joy"
  - a. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
  - b. The First Noel
  - c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
  - d. Away in a Manger
9. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep"
  - a. Away in a Manger
  - b. The First Noel
  - c. Ave Maria
  - d. Deck the Halls
10. "Hang a shining star upon the highest bough"
  - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
  - b. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
  - c. Hark the Herald Angels
  - d. Frosty the Snowman
11. "City sidewalk, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style"
  - a. Joy to the World
  - b. Deck the Halls
  - c. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer
  - d. Silver Bells
12. "Please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree"
  - a. Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
  - b. Silent Night
  - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
  - d. Jingle Bells
13. "Somebody snitched on me"
  - a. Bill's Christmas Treat
  - b. The First Noel
  - c. Nuttin' for Christmas
  - d. Deck the Halls
14. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"
  - a. Jingle Bells
  - b. Silent Night
  - c. I'll Be Home for Christmas
  - d. We Three Kings
15. "Come on, it's lovely weather"
  - a. Deck the Halls
  - b. While Shepherds Watched
  - c. Jingle Bells
  - d. Sleigh Ride

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

### **Important Dates:**

November 27<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday in Advent. The next three Sundays in Advent are December 4, 11, and 18.

We will host a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. This service recognizes that amid the hope, faith, joy, and peace of the Advent and Christmas seasons, some people are also dealing with hardship, loss and grief. By hosting this service, we provide and an opportunity for our community to grieve with those who grieve (Romans 12:15).

Christmas Day is Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup> and we will gather to worship at 10:00 AM as usual.

**Women's Holiday Retreat:** "Let there be peace on Earth" is the title of our annual Women's Holiday Retreat, Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration starts at 8:30 am and the program is from 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM. Lunch will be served at noon. See Judy Horton for more information.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

- **The Sunday morning study group** will try to pick up where we left off in the Philippians and Colossians study, probably sometime in December.
- **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 requests.
- **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** is studying Margaret Feinberg's "Verbs of God". The group meets at 1:00 PM. See Suzanne Walker if you're interested in joining the study.

**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 are welcome to attend Children's Church. Thank You to Debbie Alve, Katy Prince, and Janet Gray for volunteering to lead Children's Church and to all the helpers for their loving care of babies, toddlers, and children.

### **Prayer Opportunities:**

Prayer Chain: Contact Katy Prince at [katyprince96@gmail.com](mailto:katyprince96@gmail.com).

Details for new in-person prayer times will be announced for the New Year.

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

### **Missions Report from Judy and Dale Horton**

Through the efforts of Daryl Snyder and other members of the Danby Church and friends, 25 shoe boxes were filled for some of the needy children of Newfield. These boxes will be delivered during Christmas week.

On Nov. 25th, we sent 190 Bibles to St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota. A member of the Danby Church donated these Bibles in the church's name.

The Danby Church will host the Women's Holiday Retreat on Saturday Dec. 3rd from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. It's a lovely time of fellowship and seed planting for the Kingdom. All are welcome!

Meanwhile, we are assembling gift packages to deliver to shut-ins for Christmas. All of this selfless activity represents a church that loves all people!

To God be the glory and Merry Christmas!!!



BLUE  
CHRISTMAS  
SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec. 21  
7PM.

A service of reflection and remembrance.  
A service of healing and hope.

DANBY COMMUNITY CHURCH  
1859 DANBY RD., ITHACA, NY  
607.272.1687



Christmas Eve  
SERVICE

Danby Community Church \* December 24 @7pm

## Updates from Staff Pastor Oversight Committee (SPOC)

By Katy Prince, SPOC Chair

There are a couple of very important updates from the Staff Pastor Oversight Committee that we would like you to know about.

1. **Nominations** for 2023 have been discussed and we have two or three vacancies that are in need of being filled. If you are interested in any of the following, please contact someone from SPOC and plan on attending the church annual meeting in January 2023 (actual date to be determined, but usually a Sunday right after church).
  - a. Trustee
  - b. SPOC member
  - c. Administrative Council Chair
  - d. Church Clerk
  
2. **Membership** of the Danby Community Church has changed since we have become an independent church. The members of SPOC are recommending we no longer think of ourselves as “members” but as Partners in this Church. Membership has developed undertones of having dues, specific requirements of service, etc. But, partnership as defined by the SPOC is: *a formal relationship between the Danby Community Church and the Christian attending on a regular basis. This Partnership is really just a reflection of the relationships with the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), the Christian, the local Church, and community that already exist within the body of Christ Jesus.*
  - a. **1 Corinthians 1: 4-9** <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom *you were called into the partnership* of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Emphasis mine)
  - b. **1 Corinthians 12:12 - 14** <sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Each year SPOC is going to ask all partners of the Danby Community Church to renew their partnership. Please don't fret about this, it is just a way for us to all love Jesus, love one another, and keep our relationships current and relevant.

3. And lastly SPOC is **recommending** that as a Church we affiliate with the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) - which has been referred to recently as the 4C Conference. Our pastor is already a member of the CCCC Conference. In order for our church to become a member of the CCCC Conference, we must vote on this proposal at the annual conference in January 2023. I am including here some information and areas where you can do your own research on the CCCC conference and we ask that you prayerfully discern what God is calling us to do.
  - a. Reasoning:
    - i. Being part of something bigger than ourselves. Ecclesiastes 4:12, “And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”
      1. Between our church, a supporting conference, and God we would have a threefold cord and not be quickly broken!
    - ii. Support - the CCCC Conference offers support for member churches.

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1. Financial Health Resources
    - a. Assistance in a financial crisis (hopefully we will never need)
    - b. Free training resources (we could all take advantage of training in growth in the Kingdom of God).
  2. Resource sharing
  3. Support in finding a new pastor when the time comes
  4. Spiritual support and connection with other Christians who love Jesus, love one another, and desire to make disciples for God.
- b. Information about the CCCC.
- i. To affiliate ourselves officially with the CCCC, we must do the following process (direct from the CCCC website): “Churches seeking membership in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference must affirm without reservation our Statement of Faith and our Statement of Polity (see the CCCC Constitution, Articles III & IV) and must affirm our Code of Ethics for Churches. Any church in full agreement with these statements, having duly voted to associate with the CCCC, may submit an application for membership. After the application has been received, an interview with a CCCC Area Representative will be scheduled to begin the membership process.”
    1. The CCCC Statement of Faith:
      - a. We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written.
      - b. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
      - c. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
      - d. We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
      - e. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling power and fullness the Christian is enabled to live a godly life in this present evil world.
      - f. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
      - g. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ.
    2. Code of Ethics (high points, more information is available in the CCCC Constitution Addendum)
      - a. Believing that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church
      - b. Believing that the local church is an expression of the family of God
      - c. Believing that the Church is a universal body
      - d. Believing that the witness of the church in the community affects the ministry of that church to the community and reflects on Christ, the Head of the Church
      - e. Believing that our membership in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference is not only a privilege but also involves responsibility
      - f. Believing that the pastor and other spiritual leaders are shepherds of Christ’s flock
  - ii. The CCCC at the website: <https://www.cccusa.com/about-us/>

I know this is a lot to think about and I’ve been praying about this for a long time. I pray you will pray for discernment with me too and be prepared to come and vote what God places on your heart in January. If you have any questions please contact me ([katyprince96@gmail.com](mailto:katyprince96@gmail.com), 607-351-6410), or Pastor Ed.





Danby Community Church  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

**Welcome Home!!**

**What's Happening?!?**

**Women's Christmas Retreat**  
**Saturday, December 3**

**Blue Christmas Service**  
**Wednesday, December 21 @ 7pm**

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Saturday, December 24 @ 7pm**

**Christmas Day Service**  
**Sunday, December 25 @ 10am**