



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

April 2022

HE HAS  
RISEN

MATTHEW 28: 6



## From Our Pastor!

March 2022 marked the second anniversary of our initial shutdown from COVID and two years of being an independent congregation. As with so many anniversaries that mark our lives, we need to take some time and reflect on what the challenges of the recent past have meant to us individually and as a faith community.

No one anticipated a pandemic and we certainly never expected the damage COVID would do to faith communities around the world. The loss of human life and the inability to meet or freely conduct worship were difficult adjustments. The Church established by Jesus Christ continues, but the last two years have clearly altered ways of ministry and congregational life. I suspect that unintended consequences will continue to be felt far into the future. Regardless, our faith remains rooted in prayer, scripture, and the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Now it is time to put the pandemic mentality behind us, get back on our feet, and start marching into the future that God desires for us. We can guarantee it will be different from anything that has gone before.

A few people may hear this as a careless disregard for achievements and traditions of the past. It is not. There is a natural desire to return to the last most comfortable and pleasant norms. Unfortunately, the past is never repeatable. We remember and honor our history and we build on the foundation of those who have gone before us. They have established a legacy, but not an anchor. It is our job to find new ways to continue building our ministry so that we can flourish and grow. Future generations deserve our best efforts.

New Bible and topical studies are in the works for this spring. Involvement in small groups that share interests and life together should be opened to interested persons. Ideas for interacting with and relating to our local community should be examined. We also need to re-examine ourselves as a fellowship with a new Natural Church Development Study.

All of these areas welcome people in either participation or leadership. Bring your ideas to the table. It's easy as talking to the Pastor (he's really easy to talk to) or any of our ministry area coordinators.

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## Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2022

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## On the Cover!

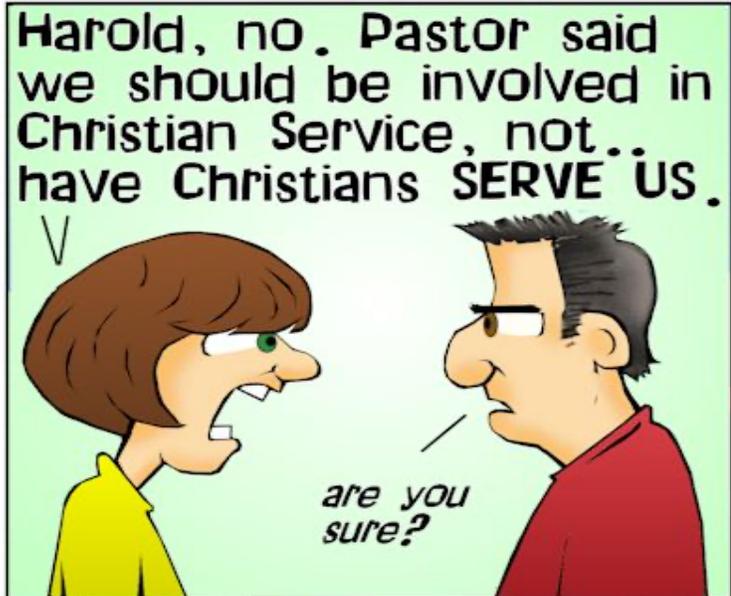
**HE IS RISEN!!!**

The Danby Community Church is a center of worship where God's presence is found in full measure, a place of blessing and peace, and a beacon of hope shining into a fearful world. This is a welcoming home where Jesus Christ waits to embrace His children. This is who we are!

Equipped with the wisdom of scriptures, the power of Jesus Christ's salvation, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are able to achieve amazing things to the glory of God almighty.

Be involved. Be faithful. Be Christian. Take the Gospel into the world by your actions and words and invite people to come and see what the Lord is doing in—of all places—the big old church in Danby.

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord. **1 Cor 12:4,5** NICE TRY HAROLD!

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(See John 20:1-18) 03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

# 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
- Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 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

**Danby Community Church**  
**Administrative Council Meeting**

**March 14, 2022**

**Present:** Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Paula Nelson, Gloria Miller, Dave McDermitt, Dale & Judy Horton, and Gigi Johnston (guest). Gigi opened the meeting with prayer at 7:04 pm.

**CLERK’S MINUTES:** Paula would like to thank Margie for her many years of dedicated service as church clerk. Meeting minutes from January - motion to approve (Dale), second (Gloria), Carried. (No meeting in February since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday was Valentine’s Day.)

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Dave reported income was good year-to-date. Motion to approve report (Dale), second (Gloria), Carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Computer was purchased for food pantry by money from an anonymous donor; Motion to approve Treasurer’s report (Sheila), second (Charlene), Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Charlene reported that the roof replacement over pastor’s study (and more) was completed by Lakeside Roofing (Kanga Roof) and only took a day and a half – Wednesday morning to Thursday midday – including complete cleanup. East side of roof had 3 layers of shingles which were removed down to the boards (which were fine), while west side of roof had 2 layers of shingles which were kept in place and covered by new roof.
- We will continue to wait until spring before new stone is laid in driveway.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Linda Wilson is no longer going to clean at the church since Bob has passed; going forward, this will be done by Dan and Chrissy.
- Food pantry was started 33 years ago as a mission of the church in partnership with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier; this partnership is renewed annually. Charlene, Dan, and Chrissy are already taking online classes to learn how to order food online from them.

**REPORTS.**

**Hospitality:** We won’t be having chicken & biscuits this year to avoid Covid-19 transmission. The church recently held a luncheon/repast for Bob Wilson.

**Spiritual Development:**

- Key upcoming spiritual dates: Palm Sunday 4/10, Ascension Sunday May 26, Pentecost June 5.
- Youth Church and Nursery are always available if needed on Sundays.
- Paula volunteered to serve Communion each month with Diana.
- Sunday morning Bible Study (8:45 – 9:45) is studying the epistle of James and John’s 3 epistles following

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the David Cooke series commentary; additional Bible study is also available by Zoom.

- The Women's Bible Study is on Friday afternoons at 1pm and is studying "The Vision of His Glory" by Anne Graham Lotz.
- Prayer & Praise continues to be held on Wednesday nights which includes a word to share or testimony along with the Praise group's practice session.
- Sheila said Pastor Ed is considering a new NCD survey.
- There are many prayer opportunities at the church: informal Saturday mornings 8-9am, with Pastor Ed T/R at 5pm, and Sheila is considering a mid-week Zoom prayer time.
- Judy Cuyle deserves a big 'Thank You' for faithfully and quickly posting church requests!
- Sheila commends Katy for thoughtfully distributing prayer cards 2/27 for municipalities in our tri-County region along with a suggestion list.

**Trustees:**

- Someone came and did a walk-through with Dan to assess the project to replace the Fellowship doors and the round window by the church phone; they are awaiting the estimate.
- The Trustees talk often and are planning to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month as warranted.

**Missions:**

- Dale & Judy oversaw the purchase of 4 items for Heifer: a cow, goat, chicks, and seeds!
- They also reported that Janet Gray has graciously offered to embroider name tags to church prayer shawls. Judy mentioned the particular blessing of a Newfield woman who was given a shawl and church Bible.
- Gigi Johnston representing Tapestries of Life reported on her trip to the orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico. She reported that groups come from all over the world to work with Pastor Steve. On her recent trip there, she prepared the children's rooms and prayed over each bed, as well as walked around the grounds and released praise over everything. Psalm 46:7, 11 were 2 passages that were brought to her mind by the Spirit. There are currently no children there yet as they are waiting for the government to open things up.
- Movie Night was held in the Sanctuary on Friday evening, 3/11, with the showing of "Sabina", a film featuring the conversion experience and role in WWII of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, a husband-and-wife team from Romania that started the "Voice of the Martyrs" among other things. Thanks go to Katy and Janet for spearheading event.
- Judy thanked Doug & Holly for the altar arrangements and the flowers they've been delivering.

**SPOC:** No meeting.

**SAP:** No meeting, but there is a need to find new ways to invite the community to the church.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria), second (Dale) - meeting ended at 8:05.

Prayed out by Sheila.

## Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

### Lenten Prayer Vigil:

During Lent this year, our congregation is praying for the surrounding municipalities in Tompkins, Tioga, and Cortland Counties. Thank you to Katy Prince who compiled a list of prayer suggestions and index cards with the names of the municipalities. The cards were distributed on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, but we have a few left. If you didn't receive a municipality to pray for and would like to take part, see Katy for a town name and the prayer suggestions.

### Important Dates in the 2022 Lent-Easter-Pentecost Season:

Palm Sunday is April 10<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday is April 15<sup>th</sup>, Holy Saturday is April 16<sup>th</sup> and Easter Sunday is April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ascension Day is Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, celebrating Christ's ascension into heaven, which ushered in the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, June 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

### Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group is studying the Book of James and the three Epistles of John. Study guides are available for anyone interested in the class. The group meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am and we also host a Zoom session on Tuesdays for those who can't attend the in-person class.

Everyone is welcome to the 7:00 PM Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship gathering. The evening begins with rehearsal with the praise team. After the music session, we invite anyone with a witness, a Word from the Lord, or a prayer request to share with us.

The Women's Bible Study is using "The Vision of His Glory" by Anne Graham Lotz. This is a seven-session study based on the Book of Revelation. The Women's Study Group meets at 1PM on Friday afternoons in the All Saints Room.

Nursery and Youth Church: The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five. Normally, Youth Church is comprised of two groups – Group One for children ages 6 – 10 and Group Two for ages 11 – 14. Youth Church will meet if there are enough young people to make up a group. Youth begin worship with their families in the Sanctuary and are invited to the nursery/Youth Church after the Lord's Prayer.

### Prayer Opportunities:

Contact Judy Cuyle at [gncatcat87@yahoo.com](mailto:gncatcat87@yahoo.com) or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate in the prayer chain or if you have a prayer request. In-person prayer meetings are held Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Watch for a new prayer meeting – possibly a monthly gathering that would focus on national and world issues.

Congregational Care: Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for organizing and delivering flowers. We'd like to revive some pre-pandemic ministries, including in-person visits, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Phone Visitation. Let Sheila know if you're interested in any of these or if you have an idea for something new.

**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.**



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

# Going the Extra Mile

By Katy Prince

Matthew 5:41, “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.”

Spring has sprung here in Central New York! Praise God! I have decided that just when I get to the point where darkness seems to be closing in on me during the winter months and I am feeling like depression is overtaking me, I hear red-winged blackbirds and see robins. Again, I praise God.

It probably didn't help this year when, in the beginning of March, I tested positive for COVID and spent five days with a different symptom each day. Then, for a couple of days I just felt exhausted. I still praised God, even when I felt terrible, that my symptoms were mild and I recovered quickly. Then the sun started shining, and the birds were singing, and my spirits lifted. I am blessed. I don't know what I have done to deserve such a wonderful life, but I thank God every day for the blessings He has bestowed upon me.

I am blessed to have a wonderful husband, great children, and awesome grandchildren (eleven grandchildren and one on the way). Oh the joy of being a grandparent! As one of my aunts once said to me, “If you had told me how much fun grandchildren were, I would have skipped having children and went straight to grandchildren.” Too bad that isn't how it works.

I am blessed to have a job that I love and I am especially blessed to be a member of the Danby Community Church and able to come here on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings and play music to the joy of the Lord. My cup overflows.

Throughout Lent I have been praying for all of the people in Tompkins, Cortland, and Tioga Counties - and my 3X5 card was for the Village of Dryden. It has been a blessing to be able to have specific scriptures and prayers written out for me to pray over all of these people. To expand on that, I not only included the people here in these surrounding areas, but also the people of Ukraine and Russia.

Over the past few weeks, though, I have been telling God the things I don't want to do. I'd like to say I haven't been complaining to Him, but really I have. Then Pastor Ed reminded the congregation of “going the extra mile.” In Biblical times (I hope I get this right—Pastor Ed can correct me later if I don't), Roman soldiers could pick anyone anywhere and that person, if able, would have to carry the Roman soldier's stuff for one mile. After that the citizen could say that they have completed their duty, put the stuff down, and walk away. But Jesus told the people in the Sermon on the Mount, “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.” It wasn't the first time I had heard this, but on this particular day I was convicted!

I had been telling God that I had done my time with what I was doing—especially for the Church—and I'm sure God would have let me back down and walk away from it all. However, I am first a child of God and if God wants me to work for Him, I will for as long as I am able. Not just for one day, one month, or one year, but forever.

Today and every day I thank God for the blessings in my life. My mom and I used to say “TYGFEIMLT” (we pronounced that tie-g-fye-melt). It stands for Thank You God For Everything In My Life Today.

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So, my dear siblings in Christ Jesus, you can expect that I will be here doing God's work for as long as I am able. Thanks be to God for the conviction and forgiveness of my sins and the encouragement of my family in Christ Jesus to go with you all the extra mile. Won't you join me?



## Pester the Pastor

**This month's question: Should we be afraid of the future?**

The answer for those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is, "NO!"

The Lord gave us clear directions in the Matthew 7:24-27 parable. The foundation that will last and not fall to the world or be subject to fear is a life built on the rock of Jesus Christ.

Fear and the future is a two-headed beast that will always prowl the landscape of uncertain times. We can tame the beast by faith in the power and goodness of the Lord.

Some types of fear can actually protect us from harm. Fear keeps us from playing with things that bite and sting. That's useful. Fear can motivate. When our earliest ancestors discovered that lions hunt on the ground, they quickly learned to climb trees and so forth. But fear of the unknown is a fear that can't be anticipated or prepared for ahead of time.

We can conquer unanticipated fear with trust. Read Matthew 6:25-34. The word anxious is used in many translations, but the word fear is a reasonable substitutional translation. Christians are not a people of unreasoned fear or anxiety for that matter. We trust in our God to work His will for the greater good, all the while protecting beyond what the world sees or knows.

We are God's people experiencing life in a fallen world. On one hand we are subject to the infirmities that befall our humanness—illness, age and the like, but on the other hand always confident that every situation can be turned to honor God and achieve His purpose.

Today we are challenged to exhibit common sense, be careful and use all the tools at our disposal to remain healthy, safe and mitigate the spread of this current plague. We are blessed by the safety nets our society has provided and the care of our medical community. Research will bring new treatments and vaccines. These are tools we should employ and thank God for providing.

We should always live a grace-filled life but rest assured at some point we will go to be with our Lord. In the meantime, be about our Father's business, proclaim the gospel, study the scriptures and be about service and prayer. Hold fast to Jesus' words in John 16: 33b, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage: I have overcome the world."

*reprinted from May 2020 Danby Church News*

## What Happens When God's People Gather for Prayer?

*By Sheila Enstine*

The Wednesday evening worship group recently discussed the need for more focused, intentional prayer in our fellowship. During our conversation, Pastor Ed told us about a struggling church in Pennsylvania he had visited a few days earlier.

When asked, the members of that church admitted that although they all prayed, there was little focus on praying for the church itself. They'd never even considered intentionally coming together at the church to pray for the church, for its vision or its future mission. When queried further, Pastor Ed found that they didn't really have a vision, except that they might survive. They admitted that if the church closed, their local community probably would not notice.

How sad! At the same time, how telling! Here we see the importance of gathering together for prayer and praying for the church in particular.

In the discussion that followed, we talked about introducing new opportunities for corporate prayer. Corporate comes from the Latin "corpus" or body, so that corporate prayer is about believers coming together in person to pray as a body, with one focus and one voice. Ideas included using a unison prayer during Sunday worship each week. Another idea is to use Wednesday evenings to focus on special issues, such as praying for the nation's leaders or the world or the Danby Community Church itself.

These are not really new ideas. Remember that when the Holy Spirit descended on the embryonic Church in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, the believers had gathered together as a body of about 120 persons (Acts 1:15; 2:1). They were there as a body—the Body of Christ—in prayer and worship. The Holy Spirit fell upon the Body of Christ, not on individuals comfortably praying at home.

Remember also that after consecrating Aaron and his sons for their priestly duties, the entire Israelite camp was summoned to bring offerings to the Lord "for today the LORD will appear to you (Lev. 9:4c)." When they did what was commanded, "...the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the Lord,...and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces" (Lev. 9:23-24).

Fire, brothers and sisters! Fire is the result! The powerful, mission-propelling, Shekinah of God's Glory, the Holy Spirit Himself, settling on the congregation of believers is the result of corporate prayer and worship!

To avoid the same condition experienced by the church Pastor Ed visited in Pennsylvania, the Danby Community Church needs to come together in prayer, in-person, expecting our Lord to hear our requests and act through us for the building up of His Kingdom.

Remote prayer by Zoom or other "virtual" technologies does not fill that need. As we all know after two years of remote meetings via Zoom, facetime, and other modern tools, these are poor substitutes for the up-close and personal real deal.

Therefore, during the season after Easter Sunday to Pentecost, also known as the 50 Days of Pentecost, the Danby Community Church will host a series of focused prayer meetings. Wednesday evenings are included in this, with a renewed emphasis on prayer as well as conversation and witness.

Watch for dates and times in next month's newsletter.

## **A Prayer for Easter** *by Peter Marshall*

Peter Marshall was the Chaplain of the US Senate from January 4, 1947 until his sudden death on January 26, 1949. He is remembered for the humility and heart-felt substance of his prayers both in the churches he shepherded and in his time in the Senate. The following Prayer for Easter is an excerpt from “The Prayers of Peter Marshall”, compiled by his widow, Catherine Marshall and published by McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1954

### **Easter**

*“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.” Matthew 28:6*

We thank Thee for the beauty of this day, for the glorious message that all nature proclaims: the Easter lilies with their waxen throats eloquently singing the good news; the birds, so early this morning, impatient to begin their song; every flowering tree, shrub, and flaming bush, a living proclamation from Thee. O open our hearts that we may hear it too! Lead us we pray Thee, to the grave that is empty, into the garden of the Resurrection where we may meet our risen Lord. May we never again live as if Thou were dead!

In Thy presence restore our faith, our hope, our joy.

Grant to our spirits refreshment, rest, and peace.

Maintain within our hearts an unruffled calm, an unbroken serenity that no storms of life shall ever be able to take from us.

From this moment, O living Christ, we ask Thee to go with us wherever we go; be our Companion in all that we do. And for this greatest of all gifts, we offer Thee our sacrifices of thanksgiving. Amen



# Happy Birthday



**Frannie Synder**



**Helen Street**



**Eloise Phinney**

**Our own Golden Girls celebrated their birthdays in March.  
ELOISE PHINNEY, HELEN STREET and FRANNIE SNYDER.  
We had a birthday cake and celebration for the ladies after the service on March 20th.**



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

**Welcome Home!!**



**What's Happening in April?!?**

**Palm Sunday Service**

Sunday, April 10 @ 10am

**Good Friday Service**

Friday, April 15 @ 7pm

**Easter Sunday Service**

Sunday, April 17 @ 10am

