



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

April 2023



HE IS

RISEN

• *celebrate the resurrection* •



From Our Pastor!

“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:20-22 ESV).

This description of the church as found in Ephesians shows us how a church is supposed to be built – a firm foundation, anchored on Christ with a body that functions in unity, respect, honor, and appreciation of all the members. A church is more than a building. To follow scripture, a church must be an active community, radiating the love of God as expressed in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit. So, how does Danby Community Church measure up?

Obviously, we are a church. There’s a big old cross on the steeple and we’re open for business every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. The sign out front says so. ‘Gotta be a church, right?’

Just because you can advertise a message, doesn’t make your claims true. There’s more to being a church than regular services and regular attendance. Counting nickels and noses is a very shallow measuring device.

The church building is an earthly center of our communal worship, but our work in the world must spread outward. In simple terms, a church must inhale and exhale life.

As the Holy Spirit draws people to Christ, a church inhales when it cooperates with the Spirit and leads people to grow as disciples. A church inhales when it equips its fellowship to minister to the needs of God’s children. A church also must exhale into the world the works of righteousness that proclaim the Glory of God. We are to produce fruit worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus. This is a high calling worth our best efforts.

Is Danby Community Church such a place? Are we a blessing to our community and ourselves? Do we live in harmony with that wonderfully delicate balance of tradition and growth? If not, why not? These are the questions and goals of a fully alive fellowship.

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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!

HE IS RISEN!!!

To help find answers to such questions and keep the process of improvement moving, we're doing an Natural Church Development (NCD) survey that will measure eight quality characteristics of a healthy church. This will be our second survey and our first after the disruption of the COVID years. The results will give our leadership insight into how to move forward and what areas of church health to improve. A church health team will be assembled to examine the results and give recommendations for future consideration.

NCD's approach is to discover weaknesses that limit church growth and provides ideas for improving those specific area. The process takes time and planning, but has worked in thousands of churches around the world. Our results will be available in April.

In the meantime, we will celebrate Holy Week and the triumph of Easter! Christ is risen! May He live in your life every moment of every day. We are Easter people, informed by faith that never runs short of hope, no matter the circumstance.

God bless you all,
Pastor Ed

P.S. Thank you for all your prayer support, flowers, and cards, after my little adventure on the ice in the parking lot. Good news, I still bounce! Bad news, but not back to my feet! I found out the hard way.



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

***** There was no Administrative Council Meeting in March due to the weather.**

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.



Three, Twenty-Three, Twenty-Three

By Katy Prince

I am writing this on 3/23/2023. This morning at 3:23 AM a very good friend of mine died. He was a former parishioner of mine when I was the pastor at the McGraw United Methodist Church. His name was Burt and I adored him. He reintroduced me to my love of elderberries the first time that he gave me a jar of his elderberry jelly! Oh oh, so good! Ever since that day, it seemed that every time I stopped at his house he would give me a three pound bag of frozen elderberries (at least), sometimes a few bags. He was a great man of God!

This year, I adopted the 23rd Psalm as my scripture for the year. I've never done this before, but it was suggested that since it is 2023, the 23rd Psalm would be a great scripture to meditate on throughout the year. So, early in January, I started memorizing it. It wasn't easy at first because we have all heard it in so many different translations that I think when we read it out of one translation, we have to pause because the words aren't exactly what we were expecting. The way it truly is in my head, I believe, is a compilation of all of the translations I've read and I've chosen the words that sound the best to me, in my heart. So, here is the 23rd Psalm in my own translation - I encourage you to read it from several different translations, if you can and ponder on what it means in your heart.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside still waters,
He restores my soul.
He leads me along right paths for His name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for You are with me.
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*



*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil.
My cup overflows.
Surely Your goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

For my entire life God has been leading me. Sometimes I haven't listened right away, but eventually He has reminded me of who He is and who I am and that I need to listen to Him. I want to follow Him. I want to do what He wants me to do, for when I do He restores my soul.

As I meditate on this today, I'm reminded of the times that I have been walking through the darkest valleys and now I know that I didn't walk out of them on my own accord, God grabbed me by the back of my shirt and dragged me kicking and screaming out of them! Thanks be to God!



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And now, as Easter is upon us, let us remember that if it weren't for Easter, we would all still be stuck in the darkest valleys of our lives crippled by fear. But! We have Jesus, the risen King who came, lived, and died so that we may be saved by the blood of the lamb. Praise be to God.

--

Katy Prince



Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

Important Dates for April 2023:

Palm Sunday is April 2nd this year. We will hold a Good Friday service on Friday, April 7th at 7:00 PM. The Resurrection (Easter) Sunday service is April 9th at 10:00 AM.

The liturgical color for the Easter season is white, symbolizing joy. Lilies are traditional symbols of resurrection because a green, flowering plant grows from a bulb that seems lifeless.

Adult Small Groups:

- The Sunday morning group** is beginning a new quarter focusing on the Old Testament history books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ester. We meet on Sundays at 8:45 am. Study guides are available for this group. 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. We enjoyed Susan Robb's *The Seven Words Listening to Christ from the Cross* so much that we've decided to use another of her books, Called: *Hearing and Responding to God's Voice*. See Suzanne Walker if you are 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 (about 5th grade) are welcome to attend Children's Church. There is always someone prepared with a lesson.

Prayer Opportunities:

- Zoom Prayer Gathering:** You are invited to Zoom prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Let Sheila Enstine know if you're interested and she will send an email to you with the meeting link.
- 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.

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.

Without the Resurrection, Christmas is Meaningless

By Sheila Enstine

During Advent, the Christian Church looks forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth at Christmas. Our preparations are extensive, with decorating our homes and “greening” the church. We observe the four Sundays preceding Christmas with Advent candles and Advent calendars. There’s shopping and card writing and baking and lots of festivity. We pack gift bags and boxes for disabled and disadvantaged people and anticipate the beauty of the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Lent and Easter seem rather ho-hum compared to the frenzy of Advent and Christmas. That’s peculiar because without Jesus’ ministry, sacrifice on the cross, and bodily resurrection, his birth would be absolutely meaningless.

Babies are born every day and as they grow up, their families and friends celebrate the anniversary of their birth in much the same way that we celebrate Jesus’ birth. However, unless babies grow up to achieve national or world-wide recognition during their lives, few people will remember their birth after their lives are over.

What Jesus accomplished on the cross at Calvary surpasses the greatest, most astounding deeds accomplished by mankind. That is why Easter is the reason for the Christmas season.

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross paid the ransom for all of our sins, including our idolatries, our greed and injustices, our pride and arrogance, our hatreds and anger, our adulteries and fornications, our selfishness, self-centeredness, thefts, lies, jealousies, and envy. He died not only for our ugly behavior, but also the shameful thoughts, emotions and motivations that preceded the behavior. No mere human being could bear the punishment for all of that, so flawed are we, regardless of our life successes.

Romans 4:5 says, “But people cannot do any work that will make them right with God. So they must trust in him, who makes even evil people right in his sight. Then God accepts their faith, and that makes them right with him” (NCV).

The glory of what God accomplished in the tomb outshines the sun that rose over that garden three days after Jesus’ crucifixion. As Christ destroyed sin on the cross, so God the Father overcame mankind’s greatest threat, death, when He raised Jesus from the dead. Because Jesus is alive, all who believe in him have inherited eternal life.

I Peter 1:3-5 says, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God’s great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you. God’s power protects you through your faith until salvation is shown to you at the end of time” (NCV).

Hear Jesus’ own words in John 5:25, “I tell you the truth; the time is coming and is already here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will have life” (NCV).

This is the reason for the season – the season of Easter – also known as the Season of Life. Therefore celebrate, brothers and sisters, for we have been given life and life abundantly!

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



Spring Awakening

By Lyn Aiosa

What is so grand as a morning in Spring?
Smell the fresh lilacs and hear the birds sing!
The world comes alive, all growing and green
Blossoms spring forth and robins are seen.

Crocuses and golden daffodils sprout,
Buds burst open; leaves come out.
All the little creatures begin to mate
Seeds long dormant, start to germinate.

Caterpillar sheds his fuzzy cocoon,
Butterflies will flutter around us soon.
Gentle rain falls, filling the streams
How refreshing each tiny raindrop seems!

Soft gray pussy willows, in the marsh, are seen
The trees are restored, all lush and green.
Spring is the seasons for rebirth
When God refurbishes our earth.

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



Danby Community Church
 1859 Danby Road
 Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

What's Happening?!? in April?

Christ
 THE LORD
 is Risen

**Good Friday Service
 April 7 @7pm**

**Easter Sunday Service
 April 9 @ 10am**



**CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER
 Friday, April 14
 5pm - 7pm**

Chicken and Biscuits and all the fixings,
 beverage and dessert
 By donation

FREE COFFEE AND DONUT



**Mondays, 1/23, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17
 8:00 am - 10:00 am
 Take out or Dine In**

Join Us for *Community Coffee Chat*