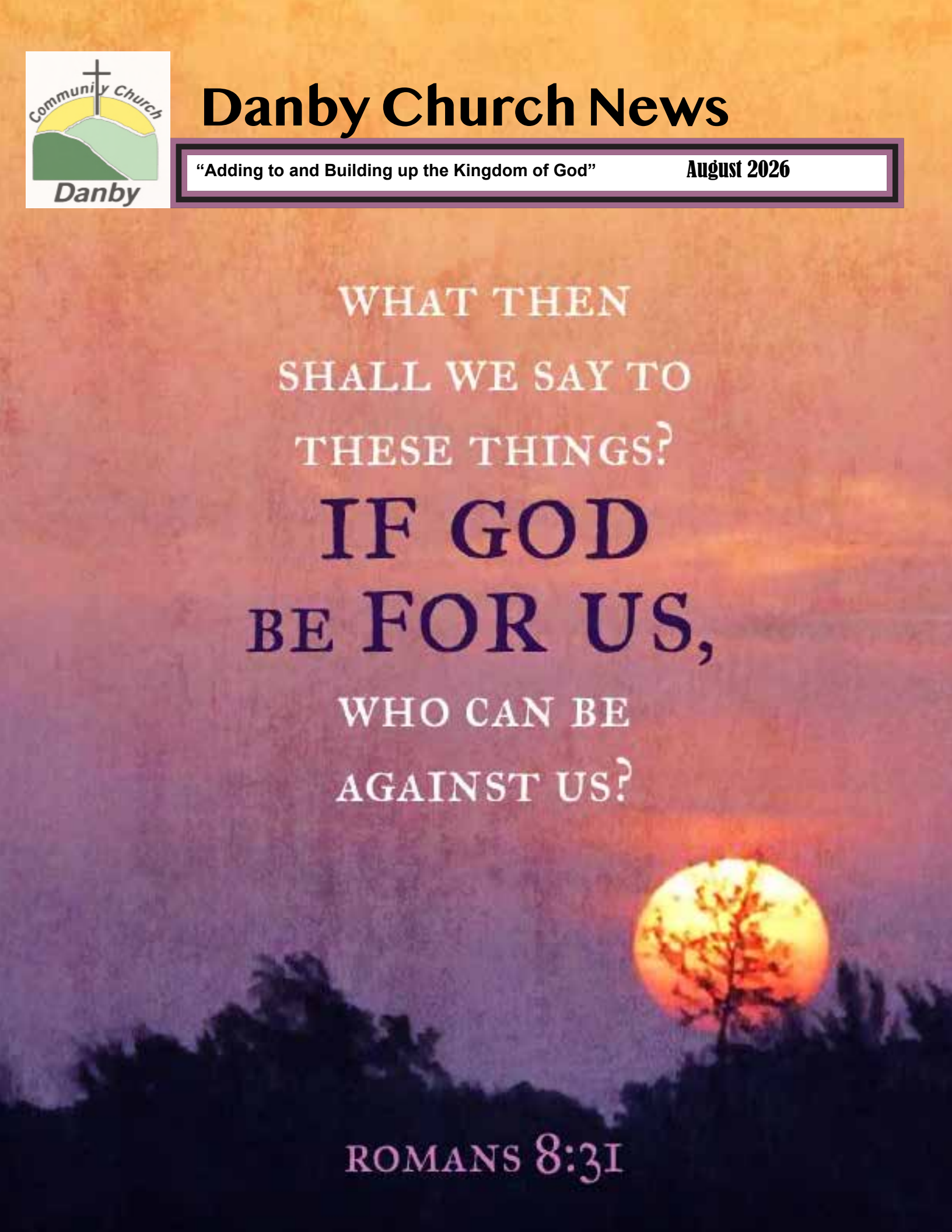
Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God" August 2026



From Our Pastor!

Clocks and calendars can secure our lives as tightly as padlocks and chains.

Somehow, August has arrived! How can this be? It feels like we've somehow skipped a couple of months.

I know time is uniform and precise, but what happened to spring? My memory of March is rather thin—I know it happened, but….

Perhaps it is age and activity bundled together that makes time fly at an accelerated rate. This summer has been one thing after another, both in the church and life in general.

The calendar has been filled with events and travel, and there's still more ahead of me. Not to mention that Sunday at 10:00 a.m. happens at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, every week, like clockwork. Add on the temporary loss of hearing in my left ear, and July was a great month to be alive.

Ah, the life of a country preacher. The bad news is that this tyranny of time can become overwhelming as things pile up and schedules wear you down.

The good news is that when the Lord grabs hold of your life, even in the midst of chaos, one is never bored. God actually gives us tumult and challenges to keep us on our toes.

For example, in July the church figured out how to overcome a water softener failure, a furnace malfunction, some needed electrical updates, etc. at minimum cost and maximum efficiency. Old buildings such as ours are always in need of attention and loving care. Woodwork ages and constant use wears things out. Praise God we're an active church and not a museum.

I personally want to thank the trustees as well as people in The Ukrainian Church for help handling our challenges. A doctor's visit fixed my ear issue too.

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2026

Pastor:	Ed Enstine *eenstine@aol.com* 607.592.8276
Admin Aide	Lynn Kingston-Harris *office@danbychurch.org* 607.272.1687

Administrative Council

Co-Chairperssons:	Paula Nelson *sfcnelson@aol.com* Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
Secretary:	Sheila Enstine
Treasurer:	Paula Nelson
Financial Secretary:	
Trustees Chair:	Charlene Testut *ctestut55@yahoo.com*

Area Coordinators

Hospitality:	Charlene Testut
Spiritual Development:	Sheila Enstine
Missions:	Suzanne Walker *suzrwalker@yahoo.com*

Community Outreach:

Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee:
SPOC: Chair: Deb Alve

Praise Team Leaders: Katy & Tommy Prince

Webmaster:	Janet Gray *jsg4@cornell.edu*
Newsletter Editor:	Janet Gray
Facebook:	Janet Gray

On the Cover

Romans 8:31

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As it says in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

We are also told in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The Lord is blessing us. We have the time, talent and treasure to remain a faithful center of worship, as we tend to the Lord's business in our community. We have the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of Scripture to guide us through the issues that time and calendar throw our way.

We can proclaim, Romans 8:31, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Sunday Adult Bible Study- back in September
Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10:00 am
Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30 am
Tuesday, Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7:00 pm
Thursdays, Pastor's Bible Study @ 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Study 3rd Fridays @ 12 pm - this mth., August 21
Paws to Remember, 1st Saturday, 9:30am, this mth., cancelled

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

Danby Community Church Administrative Council Meeting

July 13, 2026

Present: Debbie Alve**,** Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Gloria Miller, Paula Nelson**,** Charlene Testut. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk's Minutes: The minutes for the June 8th, 2026 meeting were previously sent to Council members for their review. Gloria Miller moved to accept the minutes and Charlene Testut seconded the motion. Carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Paula Nelson distributed the income report for June, as prepared by the Church's Administrative Aide. Gloria moved to accept the income report and Charlene seconded the motion. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paula submitted the Treasurer's reports for the General and Pass Thru accounts as of July 13th. The gas and electric bill for June was paid and the July bill is due at the end of the month. We continue to see a decrease in the NYSEG bill each month. We did well financially this last month and Paula was able to transfer funds back into the money market account and start to rebuild the savings account. The remaining funds for food from the Danby Cemetery meeting will be transferred from the Pass Thru to the general account.

Council reviewed the quarterly disbursement report. As expected, the utilities line item has only a little more than $1,100 left, due to the increased gas and electric charges. We will need to increase that line in next year's spend plan. Sheila Enstine moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Debbie Alve. Carried.

Old Business: SPOC Chair Debbie Alve will work with SPOC members to perfect the language for the proposed constitutional changes regarding employed, non-partners holding church offices and the minimum number of times Council will meet. Council will review the wording for the changes and then schedule a special congregational meeting to approve the changes.

New Business: Paula announced her resignation from the Treasurer position. SPOC will begin a search for a replacement, which needs to happen soon so that Paula can train her replacement. We discussed using Dropbox to store and share financial reports. The new Treasurer will need computer skills as well as a bookkeeping or accounting knowledge.

Charlene is looking into the whereabouts of the Hatfield CD. She also brought up the two grave plots at the Ithaca City Cemetery that were gifted to the Church several years ago. We don't have a way to determine a fair way to give the plots away, and we can sell them back to the cemetery. Gloria moved that the Church sell the plots back to the cemetery. Sheila seconded the motion. Carried.

Hospitality: The Sundays on Wednesday's dates and programs are set. The first one is Wednesday July 22nd with the Ithaca Concert Band.

Spiritual Development: Sheila reported that there are no changes in classes or schedules from last month. Details regarding seasons in the Christian year and Spiritual Development activities are published in the monthly newsletter.

Food Pantry: Charlene reported that the monthly Food Pantry is the coming week. The grant requests have been submitted. The Danby Resilience Group and private donations have been helpful. The signatories for the Food Pantry bank account need to be updated. Paula will take care of this. Attendance is down by about 10 families, which may be due to summer and changes in people's food choices. Wegmans and Sticks and Stones have been donating an abundant amount of produce and we often have a lot left over.

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Trustees: Charlene reported that the trustees are working on several items.

- The bathroom fan was repaired.
- The switch for the motion detector needs to be repaired.
- Change the dish washer fuse box to a circuit breaker and determine if the washer's hot water booster is working. Charlene emphasized that users should not add regular dish washing detergent to the dish washer, because that will foam and is difficult to rinse. The detergent designed for the dish washer is not supposed to foam.
- Pricing for the furnace replacements depends on whether we can replace them both with one furnace or if we need two. We should prepare for a large payment.
- Install a new water softener for the parsonage. We are currently requesting estimates from local providers.

Missions: No report. Paula noted that we continue to send our monthly contributions to Second Wind and Renovation House. Debbie reminded Council that residents from Renovation House worship at different churches every other week. They have worshipped with us in the past and we should invite them to return.

SPOC: Debbie will work with SPOC regarding the changes in the constitution as discussed above.

SAP: Pastor Ed is planning a meeting in two weeks.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. with an ending prayer by

Pastor Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Enstine, Church Clerk

The next Administrative Council meeting is Monday, August 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Spiritual Development Update

from Sheila Enstine

Ordinary Time, a Season of Growth:

We are in Ordinary Time—from a Latin word that means counted—the longest season in the Christian year. This is a time to get to know Jesus more intimately by reading the Gospels and following his example in our daily lives. An easy way to meet with Jesus each day is to join the YouVersion Bible App. Click or copy the following link, which will take you to a QR code for the Danby Community Church's page. Scan the QR Code with your mobile device to download the app. https://www.bible.com/organizations/9b314169-3bd9-48fe-a3c5-adbeb0ac8c52

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group is on recess through July and August.

The Wednesday night Praise and Fellowship group gathers at 7:00 p.m. with the praise team in the sanctuary. After worship, the group moves to the All Saints Room for fellowship and prayer.

The Thursday evening Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m. and is studying the Gospel of John.

This summer the Women's Bible Study is meeting on the third Friday of the month at people's homes. The group gathers at noon for a dish-to-pass, followed by a book discussion – this summer it's Our Father's World by Edward R. Brown. All women are welcome to attend. Please contact Suzanne Walker if you're interested.

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

Youth Church: After the praise and prayer requests on Sunday mornings, children ages 6 through 12 (about 6th or 7th grade) are welcome to attend Youth Church.

Prayer Opportunities:

- **Zoom Prayer**: A Zoom prayer meeting is available on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Contact Sheila if you'd like to join in.
- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at katyprince96@gmail.com.
- **Church Prayer Calendar:** After signup during the prior month's worship service, digital copies will be sent to those with email. Hard copies will be available at the church.

Congregational Care: Please inform church leadership about anyone you know who needs contact—flowers, notes or cards, a phone call, a visit, prayer, Holy Communion or anointing.

Paws to Remember: At 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, the Paws to Remember group gathers to support those who are grieving the loss of their pets.

Creation Care: The Au Sable Institute is a Christ-centered, professional and vocational institution of higher education. According to their website, their vision is to form a "global community equipped with environmental knowledge, skills, and ethics to faithfully and fearlessly pursue the Christian vision of a flourishing earth, including all things that God has created, cares for, and one day will restore." Visit their website at https://www.ausable.org/.

Read any good books lately?

Read any good books lately, besides the THE GOOD BOOK? Have you watched a film recently that you think your friends would like to see? We are looking for a book or film reviews for our next Danby Church News. If you have any recommendations, please send us a book or film review of a couple paragraphs including a synopsis of the book or film and why you recommend it to Janet Gray: jsg4@cornell.edu

Goodness from the Garden!!

Have you seen the beautiful vegetable garden behind the parsonage that the *Danby Reslience Community* has planted and maintained for our Danby neighbors? Fresh vegetables from the garden are available on the Harvest Share stand across from the church. You can also share your garden's bounty on the stand for others.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

As we get back from activities and vacations from the summer, it is good to be planning some great events for the fall and winter. Won't you help?

Why is volunteering at church important?

The number one reason that most people volunteer in a church setting is to strengthen their relationship with God. Spending increased amounts of time in the church enhances your ability to do your duty — God's work.

We'll need folks to set up, clean up, make coffee, scoop ice cream, talk with our guests. We also need help with marketing, technology, leadership, music, and prayer. Invite a friend to help! We all have something to offer and there are so many opportunities!

Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Check out what is going on at Danby Church at:
danbychurch.org

Coming in August

Sundaes on Wednesday

Wednesday, August 5 @ 6:30pm
Dee Specker and John Simon