



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

April 2021





From Our Pastor!

Rules are funny things. We need rules, laws, and order so that society can function and thrive, but are the rules and laws of our society the minimum or the maximum standard?

There is a stark difference between the rules of this world and the rules of the Kingdom of God. Both forbid and encourage various activities, but the world's rules keep changing.

In this world, endless rules govern the boundaries of appropriate behavior. Culture adds its own spin on everything from table manners to dress codes, with written and unwritten rules and spoken and unspoken norms.

Rules can comfort us when we know what is expected of us. They can also add a bit of excitement to life when we take the chance or risk that there might be a better or different path beyond what is acceptable. This can be observed in music, works of art, and design.

There are always people seeking to test the limits. I was told in the 1960s that once you understand a rule is was o.k. to break it—as long as you were willing to accept the consequences. Sometimes we witness the humor or horror of spectacular failures in defying the rules and occasionally the wonder of remarkable success in discovering a better way.

How many times have you driven by the State Trooper at the Fire Station, realizing with relief that you are actually going 39 MPH in a 40 MPH zone? How did it feel when you saw the guy who just had to pass you get pulled over? How annoying can it be when someone flashes past you and there was no Trooper at the Fire Department?

From the world's point of view, a rule is either the most we can get away with or the least that is expected of us. In the Kingdom of God, however, God's law is fixed. Jesus made this perfectly clear in Matthew 5:27-48. The rules that were known say one thing and he extends our understanding into grace-filled application.

Jesus was exploring how to outperform the norm. "You have heard that it was said..." was the minimum of acceptable behavior. The Kingdom of God, on the other hand, is made up of remarkable people doing extraordinary acts of charity, kindness and devotion, all in the name and nature of Jesus Christ.

Christians dispense Grace. Our actions witness to God's love in the practical aspects of life. The world says to seek first our own welfare and desires. God counters with, Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." We are to serve God by serving others just as Christ first sought to serve and save us.

As a church body we are to exceed the rules of this world. May we never be caught doing the least possible. The rules we follow demonstrate an abundance of love, respect, charity, mercy, justice, peace, kindness, patience and so much more.

May the rule of God's grace be forever growing among us.



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**Our Cover picture:
Rick and Dick Hautala**

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
March 8, 2021

PRESENT: Paula Nelson, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Ed Enstine, Dave McDermitt, Katy Prince, Gloria Miller

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by Ed.

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting by Katy and seconded by Sheila.

REPORTS:

Financial Secretary Report: Discussion with Paula and Dave regarding the Heifer Fund which goes into missions. A motion to accept the report was made by Gloria and seconded by Katy.

Treasurer Report: Motion to accept by Gloria, seconded by Dave.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ed will order 20 Bibles to give out which contain the old and new testament.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lorena and Doug will take care of decorating the Church for Easter Sunday. The Ukrainian Church was given permission to use the Fellowship Hall after their service on Easter.

REPORTS:

Hospitality/Fellowship: Charlene reports coffee continues after fellowship.

Spiritual Development: Sheila reports there are a few more lessons in 2nd Samuel. Then we will study 1st and 2nd Peter. There is no Sunday School Easter Sunday.

The Youth Church is staying flexible, letting the children go to the group they are comfortable in.

We are now using a liquid spray to sanitize the sanctuary rather than the ultra violet light.

The Safe Sanctuary Covenant Renewal meeting is on hold for the moment.

Trustees: Charlene reports there is still a leak in the window in the room off the Fellowship Hall. She may call another contractor since Heritage has not responded.

Missions: Judy has nothing new to report.

SPOC: Katy has nothing new to report.

SAP: Nothing new to report.

Since there was no further business, Gloria made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Katy.

The meeting was closed at 7:35 p.m. with prayer by Ed.

Respectfully Submitted

Gloria Miller

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 @ jsg4@cornell.edu and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News



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“Jesus said to [Mary Magdalene], ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?’” (John 20:15a)

Have you ever cried so hard you couldn’t see? I have. It’s pretty dangerous when you are driving a car or riding a motorcycle, by-the-way...

I was asked recently what I thought I would have been like if I had lived 2000 years ago when Jesus walked the earth. I imagine myself in love with Jesus like Mary Magdalene was. She was a sinner and Jesus saw right through into her heart and knew that she could love and be nurturing. She along with many other women took care of Jesus’ and the disciple’s needs while Jesus was teaching and preaching and healing. And, she loved him. She loved him so much that she is mentioned in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John at the Resurrection of Jesus.

In John, she was crying so hard at the tomb of Jesus that when He came to her in His Resurrection, she didn’t even recognize him. Like I said above, I’ve cried so hard before that I couldn’t even see. When my mom was diagnosed with incurable cancer, I think I cried the hardest in my entire life! She was still recovering from surgery that wasn’t successful and I needed to just get away. I went to the nearest church that I knew and sat at the altar and cried and cried.

I imagine, though, that Mary went from sad, sad tears to happy, happy tears when Jesus said, “Mary!” (John 20:16) and she recognized Him. I also imagine she wanted to fly into his arms and hug him forever. How hard it must have been for her to restrain when he told her that she couldn’t hold onto him because he had not yet ascended to his Father in heaven (John 20:17). But she did and she ran and told the disciples of this encounter with Jesus.

When was the last time you told anyone about your encounter with Jesus? Sometimes it is hard, so very hard. We are afraid of being rejected by those we consider our friends. We are afraid of being called a hypocrite because maybe someone has caught us in a sin. We are afraid because we don’t really know how to introduce someone to our Lord who lives within our heart. Sometimes we’re just afraid on a human level.

Jesus knows our fears. He knows our hearts better, even, than we know. Jesus knew Mary Magdalene and He knows YOU. He loves YOU. He loves you more than you can ever even know. No matter what!

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus (and we may well be celebrating it away from our church families because of the state of the world right now with the coronavirus going around), may you get up every morning, put on your Armor of God and know that Jesus loves you and he came, he lived, he died, AND he rose from the dead for YOU!

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quince all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.” (from Ephesians 6:10-18)

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Katy Prince

The Story behind the Hymn
from Reasonable THEOLOGY

Christ The Lord is Risen Today

Originally titled ‘Hymn for Easter Day,’ Charles Wesley published the well-loved anthem ‘Christ the Lord is Risen Today’ in 1739 – which was within the first year of his conversion. The song had its debut during the first worship service at the Wesleyan Chapel in London, England known as the Foundry Meeting House.

However, the original lines find their origin long before 1739. The inspiration for this hymn can be traced back to one written in Latin in the 14th century. In the early 1700s that song was translated into English and published as “Jesus Christ is Risen Today.” It was this short hymn that served as the building blocks for what would be adapted and expanded by Charles Wesley.

There have been some changes over the years, and the song you are most familiar with is likely different than Wesley’s original composition. Originally the song consisted of eleven stanzas, without the “Alleluias!” that echoes throughout the unfolding celebration of Christ’s Resurrection.

The original tune that Wesley used for it is also different than what you’re used to hearing (here’s how it originally sounded). An unknown editor later changed the tune to accommodate the alleluias at the end of each line.

Although many hymnals feature a much shorter version of this hymn – often just four stanzas – versions of this hymn have been enthusiastically sung in Easter services for over 280 years.

Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Foll’wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, Soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, Thy pow’r to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

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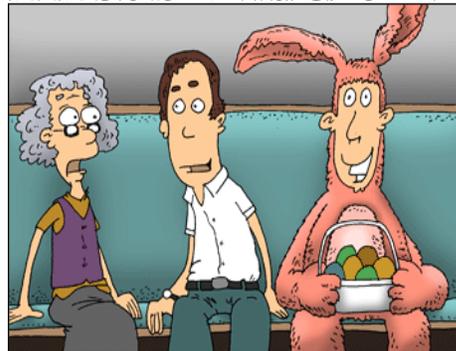


(See John 20:1-18)

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"

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04-22-2011

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM ... HE'S
NEW TO THE FAITH AND THIS IS HIS
FIRST EASTER

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*

Lenten Prayer Vigils:

Our third and last virtual Lenten prayer vigil for 2021 will be Good Friday, April 2nd. Everyone whose email is on file with the Church will receive a notice with a link to information on the Church's website. Those without email will receive a phone invitation. The focus for this vigil is the welfare and wellbeing (shalom) of people everywhere. We will pray for Christ's intervention, through the ministry of His Church, for the healing of creation and the nations.

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning Bible Study will begin 1st and 2nd Peter on Sunday, April 11th. This is a 13-week study, using curriculum published by David C Cook. We meet from 8:45 – 9:45 am. Those who are not able to attend the Sunday morning in-person session are welcome to attend a Zoom session on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Please contact Sheila Enstine at ssenstine@gmail.com or 229-4135 if you're interested in either meeting. The Women's mid-week study will begin a new topic after Easter. The women meet on Fridays at 1:00 PM.

Youth Church & Nursery: Youth Church meets every other week and is comprised of two groups. The Middle School group is for young people ages 11-14 and the Elementary Group is for ages 6-10. Youth church does not meet on Communion Sundays, which are always on the first Sunday of the month. This allows everyone to participate in the Lord's Supper. Youth Church then meets every other Sunday after Communion Sunday. In April, we will have sessions on Sunday the 11th and 25th. The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five.

Ed Talks: Pastor Ed produces "Ed Talks," brief versions (eight to ten minutes) of his Sunday sermons. They are available on the Church's website, www.danbychurch.org (click on Ed Talks on the green banner) and on the Church's Facebook page.

Prayer Opportunities:

Contact Judy Cuyle at gncat87@yahoo.com or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate in the prayer chain or if have a prayer request. In-person (socially distanced) 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.

Safe Sanctuary:

The annual Safe Sanctuary meeting is normally in the fall, but due to the pandemic, we've put it on hold until it seems safe to meet.

Congregational Care: Please continue to call and email your church family or make remote visits. At list of our homebound members and friends is available from Janet Gray.

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

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

LENTEN PRAYER VIGIL



Lenten Prayer Vigils 2021

Good Friday Prayer Vigil – Prayer for the World Friday, April 2, 2021

God loves all creation, all of his creatures, and especially all people, whom he made in his own image (Genesis 1). For this reason, God sent his only Son into the world (John 3:16). God's love for us is revealed in Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, his burial, and his resurrection.

God's love is the inspiration for our Good Friday prayer vigil, which will focus on praying for the world.

But where to start? The problems and crises in today's world are innumerable and seem insurmountable.

We find some guidance from the 19th century evangelist Charles Spurgeon. Spurgeon taught students at his Preachers College to prepare sermons with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

Now as then, current events reveal what is common to mankind. Based on recent issues of national news publications, here are some human conditions to pray about:

- the ongoing battle against Covid-19, worsened in Europe by a more virulent strain
- the call for New York State's Governor to resign amid charges of sexual harassment
- the failure of a multi-billion dollar "supply-chain" finance company and its effect on borrowers and lenders world-wide
- a power struggle between "big-tech" companies, their encroachment into governmental authorities as well as their participation in censorship
- the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan
- the ongoing civil war in Syria
- famine as a result of locust swarms in eastern Africa in 2020
- people suffering from the effects of hurricanes, floods, and earth quakes
- mass abductions and human trafficking in Nigeria
- continued jihadist terrorism throughout Africa and the Middle East
- the mounting refugee and immigration crisis on the US southern border

These world-wide miseries are not limited to the physical, material world. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

Let's saturate the world in prayer, from midnight to midnight on April 2nd. Like the first two vigils, this is remote. Rather than go to the church, participants can pray from home, work or while traveling. Contact Sheila Enstine at ssenstine@gmail.com or 607.229.4135 to sign up. Participants will receive an email reminder and a list of prayer suggestions.



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Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in APRIL!



Lenten Prayer Vigils
Good Friday, April 2

Easter

Sunday, April 4 @10am
Communion