



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

August 2020



Church is Open!!



From Our Pastor!

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority....”

Colossians 2:6-11

We live in interesting times. The struggle to destroy and tear down rages through our cities and across the globe. Our media pushes disaster and destruction 24/7 in graphic detail, broadcast with commentary. Anger and outrage appear to be the norm. Any sense of safety and security can crumble into stress and uncertainty as civilization descends into chaos before our eyes.

What does it all mean? Who is responsible? How do we make it stop?

Imagine our culture and society as a boat on the ocean. When the boat is sailing along in fair weather, with someone at the helm, you can enjoy the cruise. Take away the power and the captain, add some bad weather, fall overboard and cling to the side of the boat, and you have another story altogether. You may be able to stay above water. You might even be able to climb back onboard, but you are not safe and secure. Right now the seas are rising and the wind is beginning to howl. In Colossians Paul is warning the faithful that they have the best, most secure harbor possible in Christ Jesus their Lord and Savior, regardless of the surrounding storms. Stop looking for a different boat or a more competent captain to make things better. You won't find a more competent one anywhere in this world or its systems.

Our current state of affairs is not historically unique. In fact, the ancient world had worse plagues, but the people of bygone times didn't have exposure to world-wide news 24/7. Things were really rotten in those, “good old days.” Take for example the city of Rome. From historic records we know that at the height of imperial power when Paul was writing to the churches, 95% of the people lived in poverty. Unemployment was worse in Rome than anything we have today. Infant/child mortality was 50%. One in three people were slaves. It would get worse as the civilization crumbled.

In these social conditions, Christianity grew and eventually rebuilt a society that would survive against all odds. The powerful and elite of various empires and the Kingdom of God would take separate paths. All these centuries later, the Kingdom of God is still thriving. All that is left of past empires is little more than museum pieces and ruins preserved as tourist attractions.

Pastor's Message continued on page 5

What's in this Issue?

From Our Pastor.....	2
Admin Council Minutes.....	4
Spiritual Development Update.....	6
Using 200 Day Prayer Sheet.....	7

Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2020

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:	Margie VanDeMark margievan@live.com
Treasurer:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com
Financial Secretary	Judy Cuyle gnatcat87@yahoo.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

**Our Cover picture:
Pastor Ed and Sheila Enstine**

**Administrative Council Meeting
June 8, 2020**

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Judy Cuyle, Gloria Miller, Charlene Tes-tut, Katy Prince, and Janet Gray.

Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:01 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Motion by Judy C. , second by Gloria, to accept the minutes from May. Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Janet made the motion, second by Margie, to approve, carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula stated that we are in very good shape financially. Motion by Katy, second by Gloria, to approve the report, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Charlene reported that the communion cups have arrived and that hand sanitizer and soap dispensers are on order.

NEW BUSINESS: Sheila went over the points involved in reopening church on June 28 (detailed in June/July newslet-ter). Service will be shorter, about 45 minutes. People should not attend if they are feeling sick and should bring their own Bibles, masks and sanitizer (will be provided if needed). Singing is in question at this point. We will comply with the best practices recommended by the CDC. Wear a mask until you are seated/ if you are seated 6' from others it can be removed. An outside usher will assist anyone needing the lift. There will be no hand to hand contact, and no nursery or Children's Church until at least August. Pastor Ed is planning a "drive through" communion offering a week prior to the June 28 opening. Pastor Ed felt the "our stance on racism" in the newsletter (p. 6) was necessary and he made it a positive statement.

Hospitality: Charlene said that we will do one more month of Food Pantry outdoors with prepacked boxes (that takes more volunteer hours).

Spiritual Development: Sheila said a study of Jeremiah and Lamentations is starting this Sunday. She has been doing Bible Study via zoom but will now also offer in person meeting on Sundays and do the zoom on Tuesday evening, of the same study.

Trustees: Charlene she will check with Heritage Builders on the door replacement (Fellowship Hall). The roof over the office area also needs replacing this year. Daniel V. is doing a great job on lawn care.

Missions: Paula said she made our first donation to Second Wind Cottages as we decided last month.

Gloria made the motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm, seconded by Janet. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk

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

**Admin Council Meeting
July 13, 2020**

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Judy Cuyle, Gloria Miller, Charlene Testut.

Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:01 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Motion by Judy C. , second by Gloria, to accept the minutes from June. Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Gloria made the motion, second by Margie, to approve, carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula stated that we are still in good shape financially. Judy C. and Paula need access to the VANCO information for easier record keeping. Motion by Judy, second by Gloria, to approve the report, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Paula shared concerns that parishioners have brought to her. Some folks want to sing. For safety and to avoid spread singing is not possible unless people wear masks. Also, folks want to say their prayers and concerns. It was decided this could be accomplished by the usher holding the mike and disinfecting after each speaker.

NEW BUSINESS: Charlene reported that this week's food pantry will take place inside the building but only five people will be allowed in at a time and masks must be worn.

Hospitality: Charlene said that a yard sale will take place July 31-Aug. 1st but will be canceled if cases of Covid increase dramatically by then.

Spiritual Development: Sheila has been doing Bible Study on Sunday mornings and also via zoom on Tuesday evenings. She may do a zoom study for the older children. The Saturday AM prayer time is socially distanced and all are welcomed. Sheila again thanks Judy Cuyle for keeping the email prayer chain going.

Trustees: Charlene said soap dispensers are in and hand sanitizer is coming by month's end. Cleaners after Sunday service are doing a good job.

SPOC: Ed said a meeting has been called to do the employee performance evaluation for the Admin Aide..

SAP: Pastor Ed shares problems with other pastors via zoom regarding the pandemic. It's been a frustrating, difficult, and busy four months. His weekly videos have been viewed many times.

Gloria made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm, seconded by Judy. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk

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.



The bottom line is simple. The world is not going to remain the same. Change used to take ages but is now accelerating at a frantic pace. Meaningless destruction, perpetual distrust, and protest are a new bloodsport. Life without purpose or promise is worthless.

But rejoice—the harvest is ripe!

Say what? Didn't I just say life is hopeless and horrible?

It does appear that way in the world but not in the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ brought a message of hope for us to share with everyone. We have a gospel of dignity. We have a proclamation of peace. We offer a message of love and respect. We have salvation through Jesus Christ and a command to live out His Gospel in the face of a hostile world. We desire everyone to be part of this Kingdom. We want everyone to prosper.

Even in the face of a world gone crazy, we pray ceaselessly, act tirelessly, and continue preaching the Gospel in action and words. Never be afraid! Be at peace. Practice righteousness. Act in ways that honor and care for people. Look for opportunities to proclaim Christ in actions or words. Listen and watch carefully for your opportunity to be a blessing and in return be blessed.

Christ is counting on you!



**Pat & Dave Swartout and Dave McDermitt
clean up East King Road**



Drive-Thru Communion Sunday

Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

Adult Small Groups: The Sunday morning adult study group is studying the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. We meet at 8:45 am in the adult class room. For those who are not able to attend the Sunday morning in-person session, we also offer a Zoom session on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Although we use a study guide and weekly reading assignments, it's never too late to join our group sessions. Feel free to join us on Sunday morning and we'll get you up to speed on where we are in the study. If you would like to join the Zoom session, contact me (Sheila Enstine) at ssenstine@gmail.com or 229-4135.

Youth Church & Nursery: Flexibility is the name of the game with Youth Church and nursery. We are proceeding with our plan to resume Youth Church in August, with recommended distancing and masks. Youth church will include young people from ages 6 through 13ish. In fact, we're going to operate with a lot of "ishes." Some of our young people turned 14 recently, but they're still welcome to join the Middle School group. The age boundaries for the younger group (6-10) are also flexible, recognizing that siblings and friends may want to stay together for group sessions. Plans are developing for occasional music sessions that will include all ages. We plan on reopening the nursery for babies and children through age 5 in September. Until then, families are welcome to bring soft toys for younger children and sit together during worship.

Ed Talks: Pastor Ed is still producing "Ed Talks," brief versions (eight to ten minutes) of his Sunday sermons. You can watch the short sermons on the Church's website, www.danbychurch.org. Click on Ed Talks on the green banner. You can also link to the videos from the Church's Facebook page.

Prayer Chain: 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.

200 Days of Prayer: To recognize the 200th anniversary of the completion of our sanctuary, you can participate in 200 days of prayer. Details and inspiration for prayer are available on the Church's Web site, <https://www.danbychurch.org/200th-anniversary.html>. Click on the picture and you'll find a list of important events for each of the 200 years since 1820!

Prayer Meetings: We offer several opportunities for group prayer. One is Saturday morning in the Sanctuary at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 PM.

Congregational Care: Lyn Aiosa, Pastor Ed and many other "unsung heroes" contact those who aren't able to attend in-person worship or other gatherings. Thank you to all of you who are reaching out to your brothers and sisters with phone calls, emails, and "safe" visits. If you know someone who could use a friendly conversation, contact Lyn, Pastor Ed, Sheila, or for that matter, anyone in the body of Christ.

Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am
Sunday Adult Education Class on Jeremiah & Lamentations via Zoom @ 10:00am
Youth Church will resume in August
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Communion, Conversation and Prayer 5-6pm
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am
Women's Bible Study, TBA



Using the 200-Days of Prayer Sheet for Your Prayer Time

On May 1st, 2020 our sanctuary turned 200-years-old! Although we've postponed our celebrations due to the pandemic shut down, we can still observe our anniversary with a "200-Days of Prayer Vigil." Inspiration for your participation in this vigil is available on the church's web site.

On the web site, click on "200th Anniversary" on the green banner. That will take you to the anniversary page. Then scroll down to the picture of the praying hands. Click on the picture, and you'll go to an introductory letter, followed by an Excel sheet that lists 200 days, beginning on May 1st, 2020 and ending on November 17th, 2020. Next to each day, we've assigned one of the years between 1820 through 2020 in chronological order. Actually, that's 201 years! Next to each year, you'll see an important event for that year.

For example, here are the entries for August 10 through August 12, 2020:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Year Observed</u>	<u>What Happened That Year</u>
August 10, 2020	1921	Outbreak of epidemic jaundice in New York State, winter of 1921-22
August 11, 2020	1922	Creation of the Soviet Union
August 12, 2020	1923	Rev. Legrand Chase Organized "Mizpah" Sunday school on South Hill

On August 10th, when thinking about the outbreak of jaundice in 1921, you might praise God for medical advances that help prevent this kind of disease. It may also remind you of the frailty of human life and that ultimately our destiny is in God's hands.

On August 11th, meditation on the rise of communism in the world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries might lead you to consider the fate of a nation when the State is elevated to god-like dominance and to pray against future heresies.

On August 12th, you might be inspired to thank God for pastors and teachers who dedicated themselves to bringing the Gospel to youth and pray for future teachers of the Gospel.

Reading over the entire list is a wild ride through history and gives us a deep appreciation for all that Christ has brought us through. We are reminded of God's promises to his covenant people in Deuteronomy 31:6 and repeated in Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

So let's celebrate! Join your brothers and sisters in observance of God's provision for the Danby Community Church for the last 200 years with our 200 Days of prayer.

~ Sheila Enstine

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!!

Here's What's Happening in August!



Friday, July 31
3pm - 7pm
Saturday, Aug 1
9am - 12 noon



Stay tuned to each week for *ed*Talks, short videos from Pastor Ed on topics like Community, Fear, Blessings and Easter. These videos can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.danbychurch.org/ed-talks.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/danbychurch/> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com>, search for Danby Community Church.