



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

August 2021





From Our Pastor!

Two important questions are:

1. Where have we been?
2. Where are we now?

For 201 years Danby's "big white church" has been a center of discipleship and worship of Jesus Christ. Generations have come and gone, leaving their mark of stewardship on the Church. I am amazed by the number of people who tell me about how their parents or grandparents were married in the church by Reverend Tobey or Reverend Moody. Praise God for this wonderful center of worship that is currently ours to care for and grow. We have a long and worthwhile history in service to the Kingdom of God. Through drought and flood, births and deaths, war and pestilence, this church has survived.

So where are we now? First, we should measure the most important aspect of where we are, our spiritual health. An effective tool for this is the Natural Church Development Survey, which reveals both spiritual health and indicates whether a church is likely to survive or close. It is time to conduct another survey. The last time we used NCD our score was amazing. Post pandemic, we need to find out how we are doing in 2021.

What we learned from the last NCD Survey.

The following are qualities NCD measures and what we learned several years ago.

Holistic Small Groups: A small group is a place to share life's challenges and joys. How you define a small group has always been a moving target. Some churches place the number of participants between 6 and 30. Other experts have noted that any church with Sunday attendance of 60-75 is in fact a small group unto itself. Using this definition, we are a small group!

Do we have smaller groups? People attending Danby Community Church gather in various settings to share life. Our small groups meet for many purposes, from music to exercise, Bible study to prayer, administration to task groups. Not all small groups feel comfortable, but they are all useful, as they serve various needs for both the larger church and individuals. On the down side, people do not always recognize that they are part of small groups. That may be why Holistic Small Groups was our weakest area in the last NCD survey.

Empowered Leadership: We found that we were healthy in this area. Our governance system is unique, in that power resides with leadership in specific ministry areas. Cooperation and communication are important elements in this system. Power and position are less critical. Ministry is elevated above ego. Some people resisted or don't understand the changes that have been made, but we scored better than average in this area.

Gift-based Ministry: The path is open to use people's gifting. Because we have leadership that facilitates rather than dictates. People are free to explore where they are most suited to serve the church. We need to continually assess our gifts to form a better picture of our gifting. We did very well in this area.

Passionate Spirituality: You better believe we are passionate! Although there

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2021

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|--|--|
| 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: | 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 |

Our Cover picture:

Doug Nash

**Thank you Doug for providing the
beautiful altar flowers every Sunday**

will always be room for improvement and growth, we were doing excellently at keeping Christ central to our lives individually and corporately. In the survey, this scored about the same as gift-based ministry.

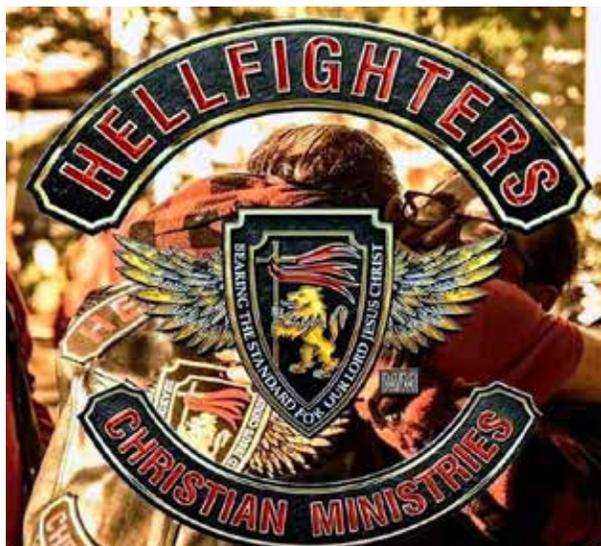
Effective Structure: Our score reflected the fact that we were a very active church that effectively conducted a wide array of ministry. We always need to be looking to improve and involve new people. We scored high in this area.

Inspired Worship Service: Most people stayed awake during the service.... just saying. We scored well in this area.

Needs-Oriented Evangelism: This measured how we connect needs with Christ and Christ with needs. What does Christ want us to provide both physically and spiritually? We listen, relate, and respond. We scored high in this category, equal to Effective Structures.

Loving Relationships: This is real life, not a romance novel. Love in the American vernacular is one of the worst defined terms we have. Love pretty much means whatever you think it means. I personally believe we would be better served by replacing the term "loving" with "respectful." But NCD uses the term Loving Relationships. We did well in this area too! In the coming weeks we will take another NCD survey to uncover our present spiritual health and where we need to focus our attention to insure a future serving the Lord with joy and passion.

I pray the best is yet to come.



We had a very special service on July 18, when the Hellfighters Christian Ministries came and shared their ministry. We heard a great message from "Big Ugly" Mike Donnelly, president. After the service we had a lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs. A special thanks to Chrissy and Dan Vorassi for arranging this God-filled day.



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

**Danby Community Church
Administration Council Meeting
July 12, 2021**

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Charlene Testut, Dave McDermitt, Katy Prince, and Gloria Miller. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

CLERK’S MINUTES: Motion by Sheila, second by Gloria, to accept the minutes from June. Carried.

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

TREASURER REPORT: Paula states that we are still doing OK financially. Motion to approve Treasurer’s report made by Dave, second by Katy, to approve, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Charlene said that a few folks have mentioned missing having bulletins. Pastor Ed said he will have half sheets printed with the order of service that people could use to follow along or make notes.

Sheila reported that the Anniversary planning team has set September 18-19 for the event, with a concert and ice cream social on Saturday and a dedication of the sanctuary and all church picnic on Sunday when a time capsule would also be buried.

Hospitality: Charlene reported on a successful Father’s Day Brunch including the Ukrainian Church. Also, a lunch was served yesterday with the Hellfighters group. Pastor Ed said there will be one wedding and one funeral here in August.

Spiritual Development: Sheila said the Sunday AM adults still are doing the study of the Later Minor Prophets. The Youth Group will take a break for the summer. Sheila plans to go back to a rotation model of teaching in the fall.

Trustees: Charlene said the Seniors Monday and Thursday exercise group has resumed.

Missions: no report.

SPOC: No meeting. Katy asked Pastor Ed about time he’ll need away in the fall. In October and November he will be away for conferences.

SAP: Pastor Ed said they will meet this month to plan reopening activity. Another NCD survey will be taken in the future. Pastor Ed is a coach for churches completing these surveys.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria, seconded by Dave at 8:22 PM.

Katy 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.



Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group will complete the study of the Later Minor Prophets the first week of September. The next quarter's study is the Gospel of John. The class meets 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.

Pastor Ed is leading a Wednesday evening, in-person study of the Book of Ruth, which begins at 7:00 pm. The women's mid-week study is on break during August.

Nursery and Youth Church: The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five. Youth Church is on break during August. We are re-evaluating the structure and resources for youth ministry and we'll announce changes in a future newsletter.

Print Resources: Check out the CareNotes brochures on display in the Fellowship Hall and the monthly periodicals, Today's Christian Living and the Upper Room, on display outside of the secretary's office. These are free. As CareNotes says, "Take one—and take heart. Give one—and give hope."

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 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.

Congregational Care: Thank you everyone for sending cards, calling, and visiting one another. You are putting into practice what it says in I Corinthians 12:25-26, "But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

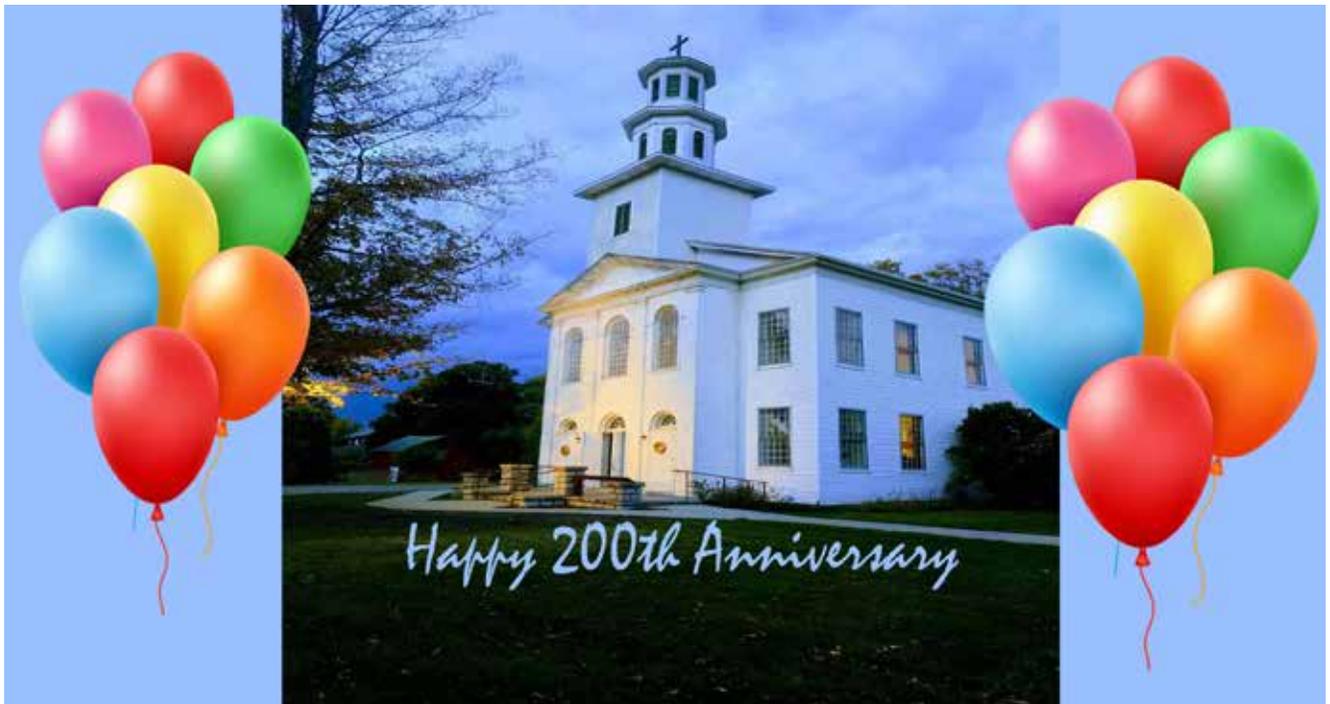
We need a coordinator for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The coordinator would identify people who are experiencing life changes and then ask volunteers to deliver a shawl as a physical symbol of our prayers. The coordinator is not responsible for making or acquiring shawls, only for coordinating distribution of the shawls. Let Sheila know if you're interested.



**From Mark Geuther:
4 generations of Geuthers**



Father's Day Brunch with the Ukrainian Church



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

200th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate, celebrate, dance to the music!!

Saturday, September 18th and Sunday, September 19th, 2021.

Saturday, September 19: a concert and an ice-cream social,

Sunday, September 20: dedication of the sanctuary and all church picnic and bury our time capsule

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>!

Missions Report

By Judy and Dale Horton

Healing Reigns Fellowship:

On June 27th, a group of believers traveled to the Salamanca Reservation to share in the joy of the opening of their new church building, The Healing Reigns Fellowship. Pastor Wally Mapes welcomed us as well as Charlie and Rachel Hunsinger. Charlie and Rachel performed a music and scripture concert and I gave a testimony about our granddaughter Kailey.

It was a truly spirit-filled service. One amazing testimony was given by a Seneca man named James, who left his longhouse beginnings to take on Christ! He was disowned by his family, but rewarded by great love from Christians as well as God.

After the service, the Church held a dish-to-pass lunch, where we experienced amazing fellowship. The Fellowship gave many thanks to the Danby Church for the gifts to the children and food for the needy families.

A wonderful time was had by all. God is Good!



Heifer International:

One of the Danby Community Church's missions is to provide funding to Heifer International. This organization provides tools and training in farming, animal care, and organizing small business cooperatives for poor families and communities throughout the world. Before receiving a farm animal, Heifer teaches the recipients how to care for the animals, which are always indigenous to the locality where they are placed. Heifer's goals include enhanced nutrition, increased income, and sustainability. You can support Heifer International by placing your donation in one of the Heifer bank boxes, located in the hallway to the sanctuary and on the table outside of the secretary's office.





Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org
Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in SEPTEMBER!

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