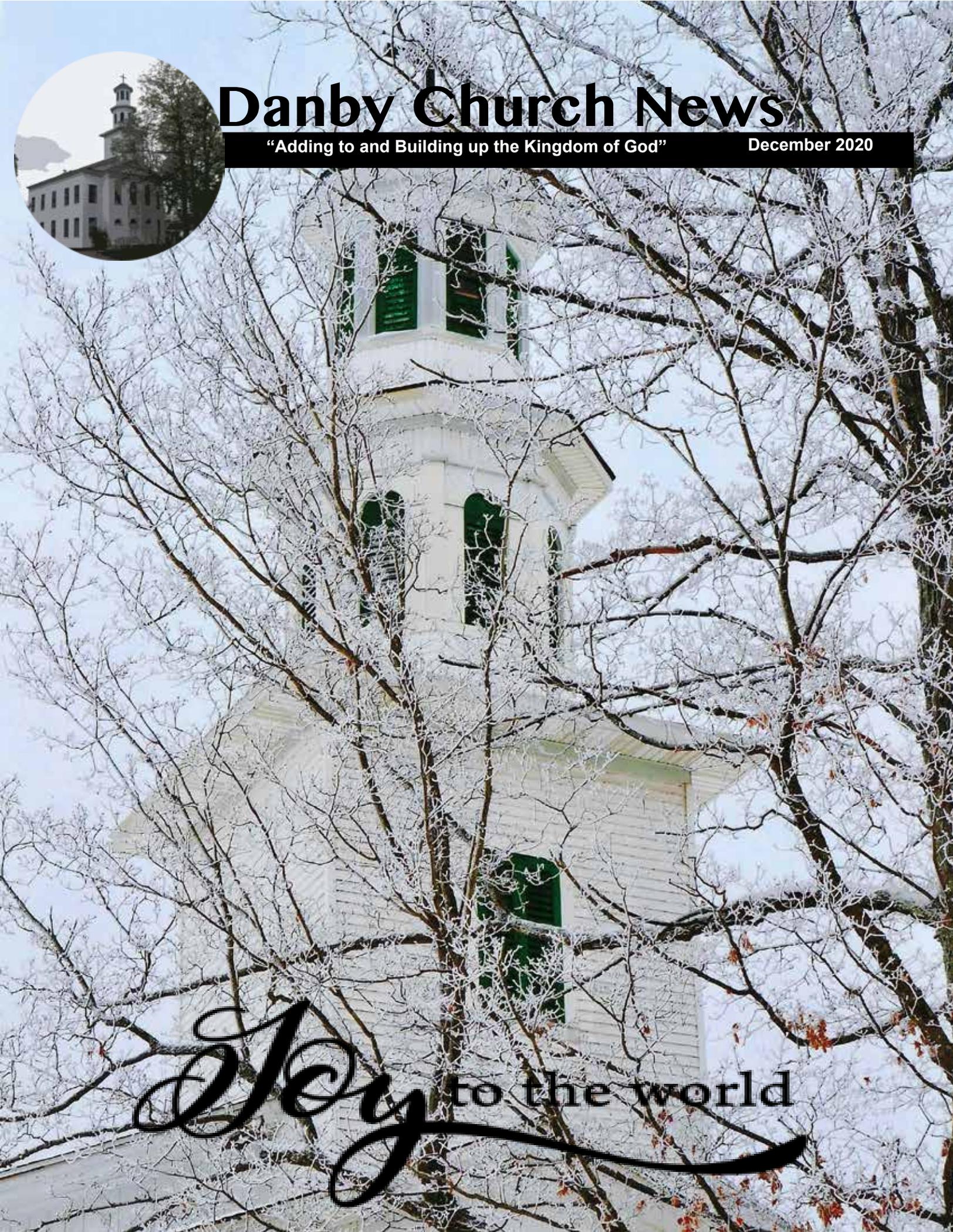




Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

December 2020



Joy to the world



From Our Pastor!

Every now and again everyone, even pastors, must step back and take a break. I am not a poster child for self-care—never have been. I find it hard to be still and relax. I realize this is a shortcoming in my personality. I also realize that no vessel can pour out forever without being refilled. It is time for me to take a break.

What does scripture say about rest?

“All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My load is light” (Matthew 11: 27-30).

That’s the ticket, a vacation in Christ! Since travel is not advised at this time, I’m going on a “staycation” at home. This is the right time to for me to step away—just before Advent. This will be a time to meditate, pray, and drill down into scripture; a brief time away to turn my full attention to my Lord’s presence and power.

Be assured, God does not rest or sleep or need a vacation. He can do quite well without me for at least a couple of weeks. The Danby Community Church will do just fine. Ministry between people will flow with or without me. Help and aid will be provided in my absence. Worship and prayer continues.

Equally important is being ready for the new year, with vaccines and the promise that our Church will have the opportunity for active outreach to our community once again.

Similar to an individual taking time off to refresh the soul, our congregation paused for a nine-month time out. I pray we will use this hiatus to clarify our ministry. We must proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in new ways. Our legacy events and programs have stopped, so what new ministries are can we create? The hard questions of, “Why are we doing this and for what?” need to be asked and answered. Things that we do because we always did them need to be reassessed for their God-given purpose. Busy work for the sake of earning money is neither desired nor needed.

Make no mistake, we do appreciate long years of service and hard work throughout our history. Now we face new opportunities provided by this current pandemic and shut down of our society. New ideas and new people helping to implement those ideas should be encouraged. We have the governing structure in place to do what God calls us to do.

We have a timeless message of wholeness that needs to be proclaimed to a fragmented and frantic world. Let’s take this opportunity to improve our service to the Glory of God!

Danby Community Church is small but we do impact the world! I rest easy in that wonderful reality.

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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	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:
Danby Community Church Steeple**

**Danby Community Church
Admin Council Meeting
November 9, 2020**

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

CLERK'S MINUTES:

Motion by Gloria, second by Dale to accept the minutes from October. Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Dave presented his report. Margie made the motion, second by Katy, to approve the report, carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula stated that there is not money in the parsonage account to cover the sump pump cost. Gloria made a motion that we pay for the pump from General Funds, Sheila seconded, approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Paula thanks Dave McDermitt for taking over the job of Financial Secretary, and also thank you to Judy Cuyle for holding this position for 7+ years! Sheila asked about the status of the St. Pauly shed. Margie said she and Sharon have been discussing options at this point to deter vandalism.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Hospitality: Charlene reported that we now hold coffee hour after church inside the Fellowship Hall. There was no Election Night dinner nor will there be a Thanksgiving Dinner, due to the pandemic.

Spiritual Development: Sheila said the Women's study is now "Pursuing God". She said there will be no Safe Sanctuary training this fall, perhaps in April. She will have participants renew their covenant agreements now. Sheila reported that the Sunday AM adult study continues with Romans. She said the Operation Christmas Child project is underway and the last Sunday to get the boxes to church is Nov. 22nd so she can get them to the local pickup point.

Trustees: Charlene said the senior exercise group has resumed with social distancing but the Tai Chi group has not due to their national regulations.

Missions: Judy reported on the Heifer Project donation they are now sending in, in the amount of \$470. The Renovation House and Second Wind Cottages are supported regularly. The Salamanca reservation children's gift box project is complete and ready to deliver with additional totes of winter clothing.

SPOC: Katy reported that Pastor Ed would like some time off, timing is to be worked out. Pastor Ed suggested that since we cannot have a Christmas Eve service this year (unable to social distance a large group) we could launch a community appeal for missions. Postcards could be sent suggesting that in lieu of the Christmas Eve collection that we always give to a mission, donations may be sent in to go to three specific missions: Renovation House, Hospicare, and Second Wind Cottages (with descriptions/links so folks know what these are). Katy made the motion to do this, seconded by Gloria and it was carried. A virtual zoom was discussed for a Christmas Eve event, also suggested was one of Ed's Facebook videos.... these details need to be worked out.

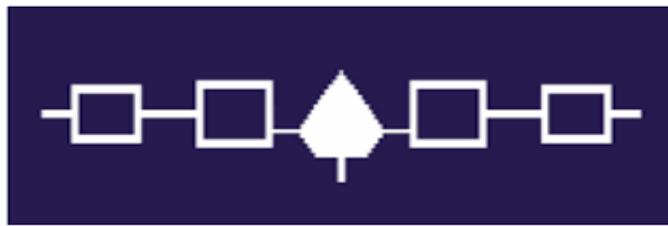
SAP: No meeting.

Charlene asked about doing the December gift program at food pantry due to pandemic restrictions. The group decided it should be tabled for this year.

Adjournment: Gloria made the motion, seconded by Margie, to adjourn. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer at 7:46 pm.

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



Missions Report by Judy Horton

The children's Christmas boxes and the food boxes are packed except for the perishables to go to Salamanca Reservation on Dec. 12th!!

Thank you all so very much for all the help you've given, and I promise a full report after we return from delivering them.

Judy's Joke Corner



Why aren't turkeys allowed in church? Because they have fowl mouths!

My family asked me not to tell any Thanksgiving jokes this year. Do they expect me to quit cold turkey?

A man once sent Christmas cards with nothing but 25 letters of the alphabet on them. When friends told him they didn't understand he just said, "Look! No 'L'!!"

Welcome **HOME**
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am
Sunday Adult Education Class on Romans @ 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, "Pursing God"

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.



East King Road Clean-Up

We completed the East King Road highway cleanup. Good walking weather - dry and cool. Dave Swartout and I teamed up and headed east from their house then looped back at Coddington, while Pat Swartout and Kathie DeWolfe headed west to Danby road, then looped back. About 2 hours. Not quite as much as in the spring, but still a decent 'haul'.

It's amazing that Kathie hung in there even though she has a hurting knee; it's like Daryl Synder's story about his friend the tree limb cutter who stepped out in faith and got the job done. Pretty cool!

Dave McDermitt

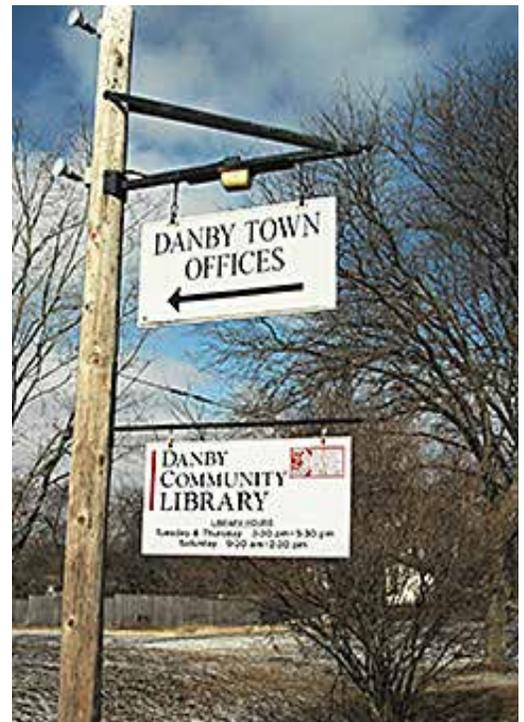


Danby Community Library

The Danby Community Library is not open to the public; however, we are offering outdoor pickup each Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm. You may view our available materials and request items by going to the Town of Danby webpage. Once on the webpage click on the Community Library link; this will open the library page.

The Library page provides all the instructions for viewing our items and requesting them along with the appropriate links to make it easier to access. The address for viewing our items is <https://cloud.collectorz.com/201255/books>

If any questions feel free to email us at dclbookstogo@gmail.com or if you don't have access to a computer call and leave a message at 277-4200.



Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

COVID-19 and New York's Cluster Action Initiative:

The Danby Church is monitoring New York State's "Cluster Action Initiative," which divides areas into three zones: red, orange, and yellow. Currently, we are in a yellow zone, which allows religious services and gatherings at 50% of maximum capacity. Anyone over the age of 3 is required to wear a mask when passing from one area to another and when closer than six feet apart.

Adult Small Groups:

After we complete the Sunday morning adult study on the Book of Romans, we will begin a study on First and Second Samuel in the Old Testament. The Sunday morning session meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am. 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. Please contact Sheila Enstine at ssenstine@gmail.com or 229-4135 if you're interested in either meeting.

The Women's mid-week study meets at 1:00 PM on Fridays. We are currently studying "Pursuing God Encountering His Love and Beauty in the Bible" by Margaret Feinberg.

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. In December, we will have sessions on Sunday the 13th and 27th.

The nursery is open for babies and children through age 5.

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.

Safe Sanctuary:

Our annual Safe Sanctuary workshop is postponed until April of 2021. Meanwhile, those of you who are active in ministry to children or youth should review the Covenant Statement that was recently sent to you. Please sign the statement and return it to Sheila Enstine. Hard copies and copies of the Safe Sanctuary Policy are available at the church.

Congregational Care: Thank you to all of you who are calling and emailing your church family, providing transportation or making "safe" visits. Well done, good and faithful servants!

The Church Elves Con't....

by Charlene Testut

This is a continuation of the Church Elves. There are things that are done magically that no one sees being done.

Gloria Benson "sneaks" in the back door and takes the dirty kitchen towels. The towels appear in the drawer all clean and folded.

When we were doing the dinners, Lorena Miller and Michelle Dunning always save the day by cooking, making coffee, and setting up the dining room. Without them, there wouldn't be beets and everyone would be sitting on the floor. Also, Lorena and Sharon Boda set up Communion on the first Sunday of each month.

With winter coming, Dick Hautala will be plowing the parking lot and Dan Vorassi will be shoveling the sidewalk.

It does take a whole village to run a church.



Born and Borne, Better Than the Average Dreams, or Astrologists Love Stars!

By Gail Mazourek

Born and Borne are not entirely dissimilar because these words relate well to the Christmas season's real message. On the one hand, we immediately associate born with the birth of The Christ placed in a manger in Bethlehem. (Isaiah 9:6, Unto us a child is born.) or (John 3:3, Except a man be born again, he does not enter the Kingdom of God.) On the other hand, borne means supported or conveyed. (Job 34:31, I have borne chastisement.) or (Isaiah 53: 4, Surely He hath borne our griefs.)



The Christmas season brings us a yearly and specific wake-up to celebrating that dear babe born, swaddled, and laid in a straw-filled crèche. The symbol of the lowly crib cradling baby Jesus in a stable for cattle holds much appeal for the very young. Let's imagine that the three wise astrologers on camels following a star are geared to elders' interest. The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were unwrapped by the wise men and placed as symbols of worship around a holy child now born. Our nativity scenes depict this event as we continue celebrating His birth a little over 2,000 years later.

So far, this story is two beautiful scenes of a baby born and messages borne. But wait! The true tale enlivens as all compelling narratives must further grip the reader's interest, imagination, and belief, especially this true Story of The Ages for all ages. That heinous hardihood, Herod the King, lied! He interviewed the astrologers, three, and acted so innocently, saying, "Please find the baby and bring the information of his whereabouts back to me." Herod had no genuine intention to worship the newborn king. He intended to lie and deceive. The king became maddened when he discovered the three had ignored, avoided, and outsmarted his instructions.

The astrologists are known as the three wise men because they heeded a dream, returned by a circuitous route of avoidance, and foiled wicked King Herod by withholding from him new details of the miraculous birth news.

Now, look back to where the babe was born. Suddenly, supreme celestial messengers appeared. Yes! Angels came from God's abode on high and spoke to Joseph in a dream. The glorious eruption of truth from angelic lips in Joseph's REM world instructed, "You must remove Mary and Jesus and take them safely to Egypt and stay until King Herod's death."

The furious and horrific acting king ordered his soldiers to kill all boy children age two and younger in and surrounding Bethlehem. He chose the age two because the astrologers had initially reported the brightest star in the sky as appearing two years before. We can not fail to feel the devastation and recognize the barbarity of the infant deaths ordered by Herod, which wrought anguish and pulling of hair by wailing mothers. No doubt, many parents whose babies died felt no sorrow when the diabolical Herod's death came two years later. A conniving coward of evil was dead, and Jesus yet lived.

We may easily believe Herod's horrendous deeds, and forced calamity on society had far-reaching effects into the future. Believers in the new Savior would run in fear from allegiance to Herod if they dared. Those misused, wounded hearts of people may have converted to faith in Christ at once, for who, soaked with offspring blood, could be dragged screaming to bow before such a king? The young Christ was the fitter of the two to revive the hearts and minds of men. It didn't follow the usual order of Providence but was the work of God. On Herod's death, Jesus was two years old.

The soft flutter of wings and musical whispers announced to Joseph in another dream, "It is time to return to Israel." They hastily departed. Another dream en route, from angels, turned Joseph and Mary with their toddler toward Galilee. They avoided the new king, Herod's son, who was likely of the same ugly mindset as dear old Dad. (I believe the angels! I'm with them!) We know Galilee is where Jesus grew, matured, and became The Nazarene. He was born a savior to those who embrace him. And to think: angels and wise men bore the news of the unfolding miracle.

Did you keep track of the number of dreams borne by angels? Those heavenly messengers proclaimed God's protection of his son, Jesus. Those lofty ideals surpass sugar plums, figgy pudding, and Santa Claus. Receiving and giving gifts is not taboo, especially since Magi brought gifts in honor of Jesus's birth. You might say we emulate this in our celebrations.

We are in charge collectively as a church worshipping Christ to designate our gifts in His honor, elevating our Christmas and our lives.

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



Restoring Civility Lessons from the Master

By Kent R Hunter with Tracee J. Swank

Reviewed by Sheila Enstine

Kent Hunter has pastored several churches and is the founder of Church Doctor Ministries. He and his associate Tracee Swank consult and support spiritual development in churches throughout the world.

In *Restoring Civility Lessons from the Master*, Hunter explains how our culture arrived at our current state of incivility and disrespect. He then explains how the “Jesus culture” can help restore hope, civility, and respect.

Civilization requires civility to survive, Hunter points out. Civility is defined as being polite, which comes from the same root word as politics. Politics is supposed to be a tool of the polis—the body politic—in solving issues. “How far have we come?” Hunter asks, when our culture now equates politics with incivility. Hunter explains that culture is comprised of five elements: values—what you consider to be important; beliefs – what you demonstrate is truth; attitudes – your posture toward life and the world; priorities – what you almost always will do first; and worldviews – the way you see the world and the way the world works.

The author relies on Jesus as our teacher in restoring a civil culture. Jesus used story (parables) and his own behavior, which focused on love, forgiveness and restoration. His teaching and actions define a culture — the Kingdom of God — a culture of healthy, productive living, no matter the circumstances. Those of us who follow Jesus’ teachings can influence the world for civility like an infection.

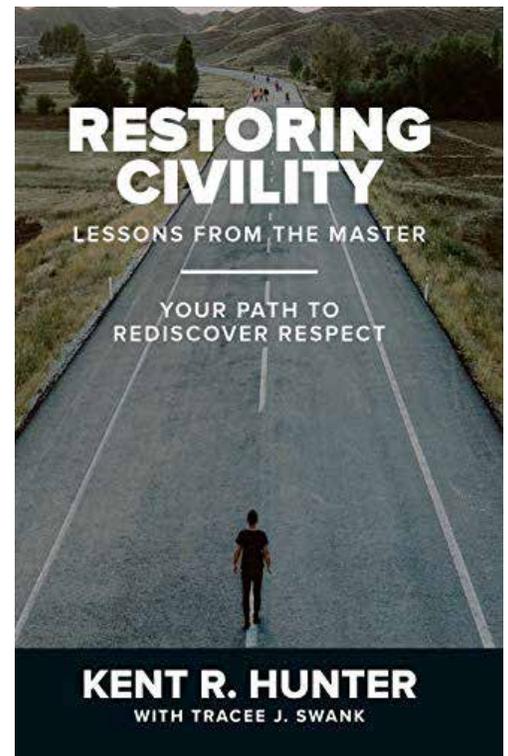
Hunter points out that an infection, like the flu, starts with getting up close and personal so that the infection will spread to the other person. This means that we have to spend time with people and actually communicate Christ’s cultural values through demonstration and conversation. *Restoring Civility* presents four culture builders. Hunter calls them the Four Vs:

- Vision—your best hope and dream for a preferable future
- Values—those issues that are most important. For example, valuing significance rather than success or empowering others rather than controlling them. Your values should add value to others.
- Vocabulary—developing your own internal vocabulary of kindness, respect, appreciation, and decency. This may require removing yourself from “citizen journalism” on social media. Hunter says, “Social media may be technology the human race has the knowledge to create, but lacks the moral maturity to use.”
- Vehicles. These are not automobiles, but rather the methods or modes of communication.

One chapter is devoted to “The Art of Respectful Communication,” which involves six dimensions: What to say; how to say it; when to say it; the choice of medium – “Break the misuse of the medium for the purpose of quality communication”; length of communication—“respect people’s ability to listen and comprehend”; and story—good communicators animate with the power of story, as Jesus did.

Sprinkled throughout the text are quotes from past builders of civil culture, like Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston Churchill.

For inspiration and guidance in restoring civility to our world, our nation, and in your sphere of influence, journey with Kent R. Hunter and his teacher Jesus. The paperback sells for \$14.99 or \$11.99 Kindle.





Happy 90th Birthday Mel!

Pastor Ed, Dave Swartout and Julia Mastroberti wished Mel VanGorder a Happy 90th birthday! Julia brought the birthday cards from the congregation.



Additional Food Pantry Hours

Every Wednesday, the **Food Pantry** will be open from 6 -8 pm for anyone that needs food. If you are in need of food call, Joan Barber 607-280-4776 for an appointment. The appointment is not necessary but it may save time not having to wait for people because of the limited number that can be in the room at one time.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



For I have come down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of Him who sent me.
John 6:38

Name That Christmas Song

A lyric from the song is given. In what song would you find the lyric?

1. "Round yon virgin mother and child"
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll be Home for Christmas
 - d. We Three Kings
2. "And Heaven and nature sing"
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. While Shepherds Watched
 - d. White Christmas
3. "'Tis the season to be jolly"
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. While Shepherds Watched
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
4. "God and sinners reconciled"
 - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - b. O come All Ye Faithful
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
5. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night"
 - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
6. "Joyful and triumphant"
 - a. O Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. Ave Maria
7. "Looked down where he lay"
 - a. The First Noel
 - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
 - c. Joy to the World
 - d. Away in a Manger
8. "O tidings of comfort and joy"
 - a. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
 - d. Away in a Manger
9. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep"
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ave Maria
 - d. Deck the Halls
10. "Hang a shining star upon the highest bough"
 - a. O Come O Come Emmanuel
 - b. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. Frosty the Snowman
11. "City sidewalk, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style"
 - a. Joy to the World
 - b. Deck the Halls
 - c. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer
 - d. Silver Bells
12. "Please have snow and mistletoe and presents under the tree"
 - a. Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
 - d. Jingle Bells
13. "Somebody snitched on me"
 - a. Bill's Christmas Treat
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Nuttin' for Christmas
 - d. Deck the Halls
14. "Bearing gifts we traverse afar"
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll Be Home for Christmas
 - d. We Three Kings
15. "Come on, it's lovely weather"
 - a. Deck the Halls
 - b. While Shepherds Watched
 - c. Jingle Bells
 - d. Sleigh Ride

Christmas Eve

VIRTUAL SERVICE

Though we can't meet in person for Christmas Eve, we are planning a virtual Christmas Eve Service. Watch the website and Facebook for more information in the coming weeks.

We have always taken a collection on Christmas Eve to support local organizations and missions. This year, the collection will be virtual and will be divided between Renovation House, Hospicare, and Second Wind Cottages.

You may send your donation to the church at :Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Rd., Ithaca, New York 14850, specify "Christmas Eve" or use GivePLUS+, our on-line giving app found on our website at www.danbychurch.org. and select "Christmas Eve" from the drop down.





Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in December!

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, Dec.11, 10am - 3pm

**In Person Christmas Eve Service
is CANCELLED**

Watch the website for information on the
Virtual Christmas Eve Service

