



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

February 2021





From Our Pastor!

I don't really know if I have seasonal light affective disorder, but I do know that I dread the darkness and gloom of late fall and winter. This time of year seems to make me sad, steals my sense of humor, and saps my zest for

life and service.

Then along came Christmas 2020 and I received not one, but two high intensity "happy lamps," 10,000 lumens each of blazing bright joy! I call these fantastic devises my "grow lights".

As I bask in glorious light each day, life becomes easier to handle. Who cares about endless grey skies when you have 10,000 lumens shining brightly on your desk! Well, maybe they aren't the biggest miracle cure for what ails me, but I like 'em none the less. I might even put the kids back in my will.

Light, both physical and spiritual, really does make a difference. The Apostle John has a lot to say about light, especially the Light of the World, Jesus the Christ: "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind" (John 1:3-4).

Just as physically gloomy conditions take a toll on our wellbeing, we're also challenged by the oppressive nature of our culture. In the spiritual darkness of this world, we seek to bring the light of Christ, but we are so often rejected. We seek to share the goodness of our faith and are told to keep it to ourselves lest we offend anyone. We are supposed to be a beacon of light and life, but are pressured to hide our light under a bowl.

The Lord had to deal with the very same human nature that we deal with today, but he did so with a profound understanding of what was required by God the Father. Although he experienced sorrow, joy, hunger and thirst as well as the frustration of guiding quarrelsome disciples vying for position, Jesus lived a perfect life. The light of his life illuminates the path we are supposed to walk in ours. How are we doing? You may not think this is a fair challenge. After all, you're being measured against God incarnate. True, but Jesus is also our help and guide. Our savior is with us leading, encouraging, and providing inspiration and motivation. We seek after a God who wants to be found! And if we seek, we will not only find the Lord, but also shine in the Spirit, for indeed we are children of Light.

We have scripture to teach us the wisdom of God and the Holy Spirit to guide us. Read the Bible, listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, pray ceaselessly, and remember that these few years we spend in this world are an opportunity to shine Christ's light and love into a hurting world filled with desperate lost souls. No depth of darkness can overcome the light of our risen Savior.

Be bold in your witness. Live a grace filled life in relation to others. Be at peace and experience the joy of our Lord's presence. Shine the light of Christ wherever you go.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



02-14-2000

What's in this Issue?

| | |
|--|----------|
| From Our Pastor..... | 2 |
| Admin Council Report..... | 3 |
| Spiritual Development Update..... | 4 |
| Mission Report..... | 5 |
| Seven Virtues and Sins..... | 6 |
| Lenten Prayer Vigil..... | 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: | 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:
Our Valentine
Ms Eloise Phinney**

**Danby Community Church
Admin Council Meeting
January 11, 2021**

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Dave McDermitt, Charlene Testut, Dale & Judy Horton, Gloria Miller. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 6:57 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Sheila pointed out that the correct term is "Operation Christmas Child" rather than "Christmas Child", under Spiritual Development. Motion by Gloria, second by Dale, to accept the minutes from December. Carried.

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

TREASURER REPORT: Paula says we are still in good shape financially. She said Heifer Project had not been paid monthly so she sent \$600 in December for the whole year. She presented the spending plan for 2021. Increases occurred in church insurance and County waste fee. Since mobile food pantry did not operate here all of 2020 it was decided to decrease support by \$150. and review again in March for the next quarter. Charlene made the motion to approve the spending plan, time certain to the annual meeting. Gloria seconded the motion, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Sheila asked about the clothing shed. Margie said no vandalism has occurred in winter and the plan is still on to build an inner wall. Sheila said she's having trouble locating Microban (for sanitization), and Charlene will help to search sources.

NEW BUSINESS: Lynn is assembling reports for the Annual Report and the Annual Meeting is postponed due to the pandemic. February 7 will be the due date for completion. Pastor Ed stated that there will be a small funeral here on January 16 for Vince Aiosa, only family and a few friends. A memorial will be held later in the spring at the Newfield School Aiosa Auditorium.

Hospitality: Charlene reported that coffee hours after church inside the Fellowship Hall are continuing to work well with social distancing being followed.

Spiritual Development: Sheila reported that Lent is beginning and Ash Wednesday is February 17. The Women's Study starts on February 19th. Youth Church will meet Feb. 14 and Feb. 28. She is thinking of conducting remote prayer vigils during Lent. Printed brochures are still available. Cards and calls ministry continues. Paula said three flowers arrangements will be sent this month.

Trustees: Charlene said the emergency food pantry will now be offered on the first Wednesday of each month. The idea is to provide staples two weeks after the regular food pantry. Charlene said there has been a roof leak and it will be addressed in spring. She said the exercise group is now meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Ukrainian Church also uses the church and is very appreciative.

Missions: Judy said she would like to see Lyn Aiosa's bible study group take her to lunch in a month or two when it's safe, including any others who would like to go to Rochester as well. The Healing Reigns Fellowship in Salamanca sent a thank you letter for the Christmas food and children's gift boxes. She said David Mastroberti has graciously offered items to them and will deliver them himself.

SPOC: Pastor Ed said they have had no meeting but plan to soon. Judy asked about church services being open when there is a spike in Covid cases. Pastor Ed said we are operating at the correct capacity and folks are following guidelines for safety.

SAP: No report.

Adjournment: Gloria made the motion, seconded by Dale, to adjourn. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer at 7:57 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

Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

Lenten Prayer Vigils:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. To observe this forty day season of introspection and repentance, the Danby Church will host a series of virtual, 24-hour prayer vigils. The first will be on Friday, February 19th, the second is Friday, March 12th, and the third vigil will be on Good Friday, April 2nd. Details on how to participate are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning Bible Study is studying I and II Samuel. 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 the second section of Margaret Feinberg's "Pursuing God Encountering His Love and Beauty in the Bible", on Friday, February 19th 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. In February, we will have sessions on Sunday the 14th and 28th. 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 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:

Our annual Safe Sanctuary workshop is postponed until April of 2021.

Sanctuary Sanitation during COVID-19:

We are now using a spray disinfectant to clean surfaces between the two Sunday services. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this and for all of your patience and flexibility in these uncertain times.

Congregational Care: Please continue to call and email your church family or make "safe" visits. Especially remember our elderly or disabled members who need that one-on-one contact. At list of "shut-ins" is available from Janet Gray.



February 17th

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.





Missions Report *by Judy and Dale Horton*

A special mission that Danby Community Church supports is the Second Wind Cottages in Newfield.

These are small cottages established for homeless people through the efforts and hard work of Carmen Guidi of Newfield, his family, and many friends. The cottages are not permanent homes for the residents, but are safe places for them to live while getting their lives in order. Many people have been helped with love and respect.

Carmen also holds a church service on Sundays for all to attend. Many thanks to Carmen for this precious gift to those in need.

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, 45, NIV).



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, resumes Friday, February 19th

Seven Life-Giving Virtues Conquer the Seven Deadly Sins

We all know that something has gone horribly wrong with our society. From lack of civility to outright mob violence, from institutional racism to homicide broadcast on the internet, from high rates of drug addiction to high rates of suicide, from international divisions and rivalries to outright civil war to an ongoing tsunami of refugees throughout the world, from environmental degradation to endemic diseases, to pandemics, the evidence that our culture and world is destroying itself is unavoidable.

Now I'm going to say something that will likely offend many people. So sit down and take a deep breath before reading further.

These indicators of destruction are not the cause of our troubles but rather the result of sin, and no one is innocent (see Romans 3:23.). Rather than deny our complicity, it's time for each of us to confess, repent, and commit to bringing virtue back into our lives and the world we live in.

Maybe you agree that we're all guilty of sin, but how does personal sin contribute to the world-wide disasters that are swirling around us? How can one person's or one group's repentance make a difference and where do we begin?

The answer to these questions can be found in learning from the spiritual giants upon whose shoulders we stand—Jesus of course, but also men and women like the desert abbas and abbesses of the 1st through 4th centuries. One of these was Evagrius the Solitary, a Christian monk who is credited with compiling what became known as the Seven Deadly Sins. The acronym PEWSLAG can help us remember the Deadly Seven:

Pride
Envy
Wrath
Sloth
Lust
Avarice
Gluttony

PEWSLAG sounds as nasty as it is, but the Seven Deadly Sins can be combated and conquered by using the Seven Virtues:

Humility
Creativity
Forgiveness
Diligence
Purity
Generosity
Temperance

Because the seven sins and the seven virtues are too complex for just one article, we will examine them in a series of discussions in future newsletters. For now, ask yourself how these sins have revealed themselves in your life, meditate on how they influence the moral decline of civilization, and pray about how the virtues can help lead you into a more joyful relationship with Christ as well as contribute to the healing of our nation and world.

~ Sheila Enstine



LENTEN PRAYER VIGIL



Lenten Prayer Vigils 2021

The 2021 Lenten prayer vigils are scheduled for Fridays – February 19th, March 12th, and Good Friday, April 2nd. These will be remote vigils rather than physical pilgrimages to the church.

The Church will send invitations to everyone for whom we have email addresses or phone numbers as well as create an event on the Church's Facebook page and on our website. You will be able to use these connections to sign up for a block of time in which to pray. Each vigil will begin at midnight Friday morning and end on midnight the following Saturday morning. We hope to stay vigilant in prayer during each watch of the day and night.

If you believe that the Church doesn't have your contact information, please forward it to Janet Gray. If you know of people outside of the Danby Church who would like to join us in these vigils, please forward their contact information to Sheila Enstine.



Blood Drive



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

**Friday
March 26, 2021
1pm - 6pm**

Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Rd, Ithaca, New York

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

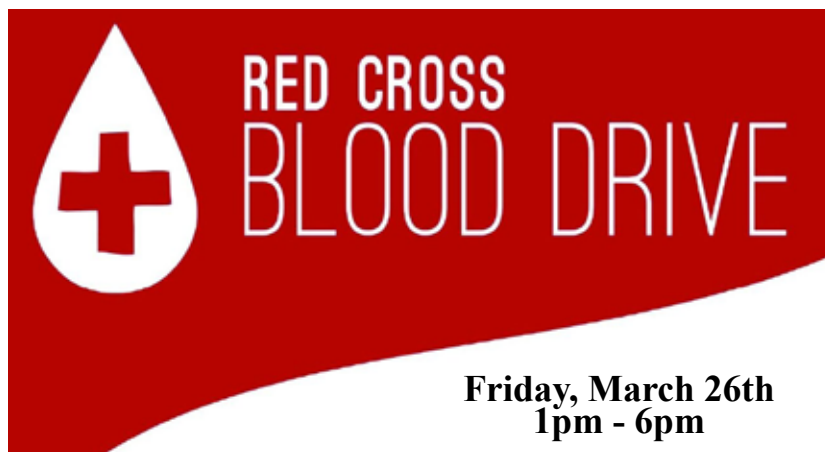
Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in February and March!

Lenten Prayer Vigils

Fridays

February 19th, March 12th, and Good Friday, April 2nd.



**Friday, March 26th
1pm - 6pm**