



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

January 2021

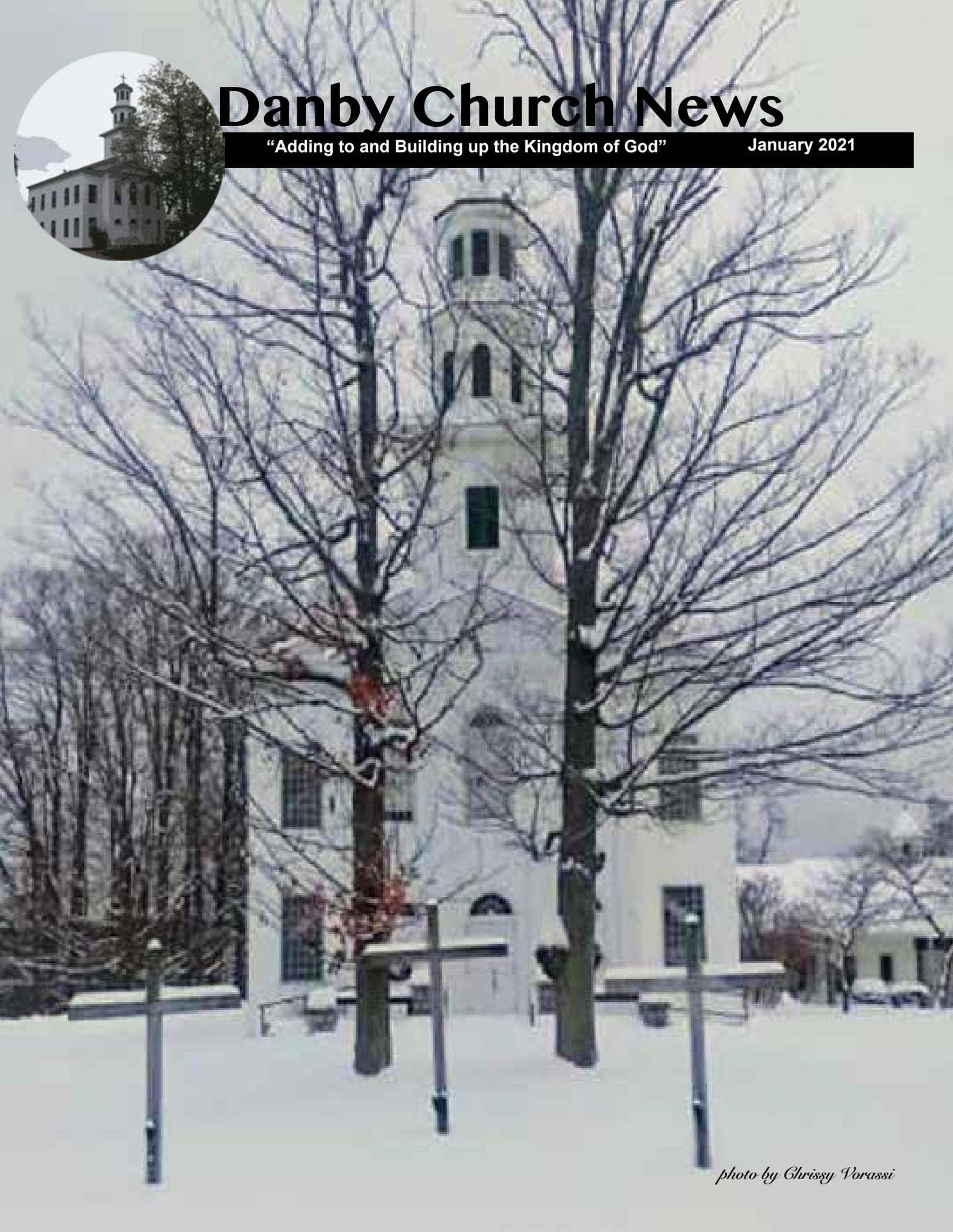


photo by Chrissy Vorassi



From Our Pastor!

We will always remember 2020 as a unique year in history.

Pick any other year and try to recall what you were doing in any specific month. Most of our past is a blur with the exceptions of momentous events. This entire year was traumatic and extremely memorable for most of us, but we must not get stuck in the past.

The important question is what will we learn from this experience.

As I transition from 2020 to 2021, I am struck by the sense that most of our cultural traditions are an illusion, a grand mythology that we have constructed as a civilization to imply stability and assuage the discomfort of uncertainty. The chaos of 2020 is actually a dose of reality. Plagues and earthquakes happen all the time, everyday, somewhere in this world. Misfortune and hardship are part of our common human experience.

Despite our superstitions, most of the natural cycles will always be beyond our influence. Seasons, weather, and fortune are never predictable. We can pretend that the turn of a calendar page will cure what ails us, but that is not how things work.

The future is always a mystery or a puzzle to be solved as it unfolds. We should remember that time continues forward and our lives are indeed a small number of years.

Perhaps the angels' opening declaration to the shepherds of Bethlehem is the message we should focus on as we move into the future. "FEAR NOT!" We are God's people called to serve a risen Savior. Even as others struggle with self-reliance, we place our trust in Christ. As events threaten our sense of stability, we have the assurance of eternal life in Christ. Our determination to exhibit righteousness no matter what the circumstances is a vivid witness to God's power in our lives.

So as we change the calendar to another year, how should we live? Stay in the moment, remember the past, and pray for the future! Do what is required of you at all times. Be careful, be considerate, and use common sense. As much as possible be an example of holiness and wisdom. Pray ceaselessly and act according to the wisdom of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Do not do anything for vain glory or pride. Resist the pressures to conform to corrupt and evil systems of thought or behavior. Always look for opportunity to tell your story and give a reason for your hope and faith. Be a blessing and in return be blessed. Remain true to the words of Jesus Christ to love one another as He loved us.

As a benediction to 2020 and a foreword to 2021, I offer the closing prayer I've adapted from Corrie Ten Boom and prayed at Christmas Eve:

"Go in peace and the assurance that Christ came into this world to save all who call upon His name. He came into the world for you. May a risen Savior's power and an ascended Savior's prayers and a returning Savior's glory be your comfort, hope, joy and peace. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen."

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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 in Winter**

Danby Community Church
Admin Council Meeting
December 14, 2020

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Margie VanDeMark, Dave McDermitt and Charlene Testut. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:08 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Motion by Dave, second by Charlene, to accept the minutes from November. Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Dave presented his report. Pastor Ed said the KBA Church is not using our sanctuary now during the pandemic and also that they are holding "A 'Me' Revival" on December 28, 29, and 30 via zoom and Facebook Live. Sheila made the motion, second by Margie, to approve the financial report, carried.

TREASURER REPORT: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: Margie reported talking with St. Pauly about the clothing shed. We plan to construct a wooden wall across the inside to prevent vandalism via the chute. John V. and Ted Merritt will work on this after the holidays and cost will be shared with St. Pauly.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor Ed expressed concern over the rising number of Covid cases in our County. Sheila reported that will change sanitization to begin using Microban rather than the UV wands. The Annual Report can still be assembled even if the January annual meeting is postponed or virtual and Lynn can begin work on this. Charlene said a second computer monitor will be added to make this process easier.

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

Spiritual Development: Sheila said the Women's study is finishing up "Pursuing God" and will recess after that until Lent. She reported that the Sunday AM adult study will begin 1&2 Samuel on January 3rd are are now on recess for two weeks. She said covenant statements are being collected and the Safe Sanctuary training will be held in April. Youth will meet two times in January, the 10th and the 24th. Nursery is provided as needed. Many phone visits and emails are happening and working out well.

Trustees: No report: on hold.

Missions: Pastor Ed reported for Judy Horton that their delivery of the Christmas boxes to the Salamanca Reservation Church happened last Saturday and was very well received. Sheila reported that about 13 Christmas Child Boxes were delivered from our church and some folks built boxes on line or delivered boxes themselves.

SPOC: Pastor Ed said the postcards were sent out to 2455 homes about the virtual Christmas Eve service and our plan to donate the usual collection to three missions (Renovation House, Hospicare and Second Wind Cottages).

SAP: No report.

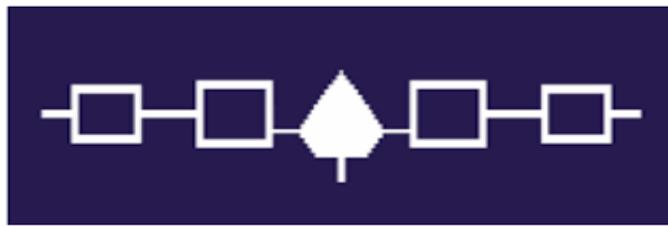
Charlene reported that a Wednesday evening emergency food distribution was held the past two weeks and the future plan will be to just hold one distribution 2 weeks after our usual food pantry day rather than weekly. This will be especially helpful since we have no Mobile Food Truck here during the pandemic.

Adjournment: Margie made the motion, seconded by Sheila, to adjourn. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer at 7:47 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 and Dale Horton*

On Saturday, December 12th, seven of us took three cars to the reservation at Salamanca to deliver Christmas to the sweetest Native American children ever! We spent Saturday afternoon setting up the church, took the pastor and his wife to dinner at a very nice restaurant on the reservation, and called it a day!

On Sunday we arrived at the church at 8:30 am and joined their Sunday school class. My son Charlie, his wife Rachel, and their son Preston sang an amazing concert for the church service, with scripture readings. Preston played his base guitar for one of the songs.

Then we passed out all the gifts and family food boxes. They all read the stickers on their boxes that pastor made saying from your friends at Danby Community Church!

After the service, they held a dish to pass lunch for us. Dale and I didn't stay for that because I was not feeling well. It was a precious day for all of us. God was truly honored!

Thank you all who helped make that day happen!



Pastor Wally Mapes baptizing Bev Rich!



Christmas at Salamanca

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 Bible Study will begin a 13-week study on I and II Samuel on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021. We meet 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 is on break. We 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 January, we will have sessions on Sunday the 10th and 24th. 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 (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. 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.

Sanctuary Sanitation during COVID-19:

We are switching from using the ultra-violet wands to using 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.

Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am

Sunday Adult Education Class on Romans @ 8:45am

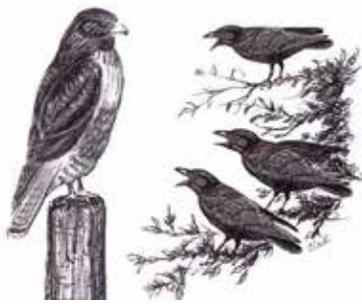
Youth Church @ 10:30am

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



Pester the Pastor



What is the significance of the Wise Men's gifts?

Matthew 2:11 lists the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that the magi, or wise men as we've come to call them, presented to the baby Jesus. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are gifts of both great value and use. They also convey symbolic meaning.

Gold has been a precious commodity from prehistory until today. Gold was mentioned in the Bible in relation to the Exodus and the construction of the Ark of the Covenant. Of course, we can't skip of the golden calf at Mt. Sinai.

There were mining operations from Egypt to India and we shouldn't forget the riches of King Solomon's mines, which were somewhere in the Arabian desert. Aside from a period around Solomon's reign, the yellow metal was not common. Gold in the form of jewelry or coinage (gold coins began to be minted around 600 B.C. in modern-day Turkey) was reserved for royalty and the wealthy. If common folk had currency or jewelry, it would have been fashioned from copper, bronze or silver.

Gold has the interesting property of not tarnishing. It is beautiful, rare and remains undefiled, a gift fit for a King. This gift would have provided Joseph with enough money to finance his journey out of Bethlehem to Egypt and eventually back to Nazareth.

Frankincense was a hardened resin harvested from cuts made in the trunk of the *Boswellia sacra* tree. As a medicine, it can be used to reduce swelling and pain. Burned as incense, it has a wonderful aroma, and in Temple worship it was symbolic of prayers lifting towards heaven in purity and holiness. Like gold, frankincense was and is rare, and as such it is a fitting gift for a King.

Myrrh has a host of medicinal uses and is also famous for its use as an embalming agent, starting in Egypt and spreading across the near east. When mixed with wine it was known as gall, a numbing agent. Prisoners were given gall before crucifixions to induce a slight stupor, making them more compliant as they faced the horrors of execution. This bittersweet gift symbolizes the mortality of man and the certainty of suffering and sorrow.

Although three gifts are recorded, we do not know how many Magi actually visited Bethlehem. The timing is also suspect, since they are not recorded as arriving Christmas night but at an uncertain time later. What is certain is that they brought gifts that symbolized the rarity and purity of the Christ who would have to endure pain and suffering unto death before rising untarnished as the Savior of the world.



Putting Our Hope in the Right Place *By Sheila Enstine*

As the New Year 2021 begins, the entire world is looking forward to the rollout of several COVID-19 vaccines. Development of these vaccines in less than a year is awe inspiring. If the vaccines can be efficiently distributed world-wide, that also will be grounds for admiration.

That's a big if. As it is with other basic necessities, we have a world-wide distribution problem, made worse by the complexity of keeping a vaccine at sub-zero temperatures in poor, sub-tropical areas.

Meanwhile, to understand COVID-19's origins and prevent another pandemic, experts are debating the source of the virus. Did SARS-CoV-2 jump from animals to humans due to unsanitary conditions in a meat market, or did it escape from an experimental lab, or is it from unhealthy human/animal crowding, worsened by international trade and travel? Notice that in all of these scenarios, viral infections arise from unnatural human interactions with the created order.

In other words, humanity has made a mess of things. Shall we hope in humanity to put things right?

Asking this question doesn't mean that we should not develop and distribute vaccines. After all, many of us have been praying for a vaccine. Remember those remote vigils last March and April?

Remember also that the man who developed the first vaccine, Edward Jenner, was a devout Christian. Jenner developed the small pox vaccine and is known as "the father of immunology." He wrote before his death: "I am not surprised that men are not grateful to me; but I wonder that they are not grateful to God for the good which He has made me the instrument of conveying to my fellow creatures."

Let's follow Jenner's line of thought and reflect on the true source of goodness and hope.

Isaiah 25:6-8 says, "On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken."

The prophetic vision here is that the physical mountain of the Lord—the holy city Jerusalem—would become the spiritual mountain "for all peoples", the place where God defeats sin and death through the atoning sacrifice of his Son, Christ Jesus.

Despite humanity's sins against nature and one another, God is putting things right in the ongoing ministry of our risen Lord. Our hope is based on the firm foundation of Christ's redemptive love, his healing of mind and spirit as well as body—and healing of nations as well as individuals, and his justice and mercy through the presence of his Holy Spirit.

Christ does this through and with his Church. Let's follow Jesus' lead and Edward Jenner's example as we work for the good of all mankind. This is our hope and calling for 2021 and beyond.



Edward Jenner

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
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Here's What's Happening in January!

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