



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

July 2021





From Our Pastor!

A couple of months ago during a phone conversation, I was asked if our church was theologically and politically liberal or conservative. My answer was, “As a Christian fellowship, we don’t have or need a political designation. Our theology is orthodox; our governance is congregational; and our congregants span the political spectrum.”

That answer inspired a pause and further questions, some of which I still ponder. The more I’ve thought about this conversation and considered the condition of our culture, the more it strikes me that we have become a “post-it-note” society. It is as if we need labels stuck to our forehead to identify who is safe and sane.

Talking with someone with different views might spread the disease of a different perspective. God forbid we become friends with someone who is from the opposing political ranks! We have become a civilization where right and wrong are adjudicated solely by affiliation with a political designation. What nonsense!

It is true that churches and clergy are often defined by liberal or conservative views on theology and social action, but if we are to be fruitful disciples a political descriptor can never come before our identity in Jesus Christ. To follow Christ is to be free from worldly and culture-centric bondage. We are at liberty to implement the most respectful, loving, godly actions possible for all people and to be a Spirit-inspired voice to people and culture wherever we live.

Make no mistake, this is not universally welcomed. Christian ministry does not imply blanket approval of sinful attitudes or actions. The path of righteousness is at odds with human nature and defies secular labels.

However, “judgment must begin at the house of God” (I Peter 4:17a). A recent article in a Christian publication bemoaned the fact that evangelicals were splintering over political activism and all manner of issues that have little to do with honoring Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. All too often within the church, Jesus is pulled into our apologetics to prove that our particular approach is based in truth and that other positions are unholy.

We’ve allowed Christianity to be broken into denominations, which have fragmented into subgroups that divided into more subgroups, all wearing identifying labels to stake a claim to legitimacy. As we have fostered division over triviality instead of progress and reform, we have fallen into a trap that leads us further from God’s will. When churches isolate themselves in their own unique truth, they doom themselves to failure and also weaken the Church’s collective witness.

This prideful foolishness separates us and forfeits the wisdom of God that unites the Church. There are countless ways to worship, study, and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but there is truly, “...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all”(Eph. 4:4-6).

The Church of Jesus Christ has stood for 2,000 years despite all that human nature

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2021

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Chair:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com
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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:
 Dave and Pat Swartout
 Happy 40th Anniversary**

could plot against it. Once again, it is time for the people of God to strengthen our unity in Christ. As the Kingdom of God on earth, churches must learn to cooperate not compete. Now is the time to identify ourselves as disciples of Jesus the Christ and resist manipulation into cultural norms and political labels.

The Kingdom of God is neither liberal nor conservative. It is the collective effort of people around the globe to live out and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As citizens of God's Kingdom, we are instructed to live holy lives, following the guidelines of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit to the best of our ability. We are called to honest and righteous conduct, respect for all people, and honor fellow Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are not called to endorse current, favored behaviors or choices that are contrary to Scripture. We are called to offer aid and comfort to friend and foe alike.

We are not conformed to the world. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds.

So, who are we? We are a peculiar people, disciples of Jesus the Christ, children of God.

Missions Report *from Judy and Dale Horton*

June 27th, several of us will be attending the opening of the new church building at Reservation at Salamanca, N.Y., The Healing Reigns Fellowship. We will be taking pictures so you can see the families and children that Danby Community Church provided Christmas gifts for.

Judy's Joke Corner



**Welcome Back to Church Cake
June 13, 2021**

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
Admin Council Meeting
June 14, 2021

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

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

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

TREASURER REPORT: Paula states that we are still in good shape financially. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Gloria, second by Dale, to approve, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Reviewed last month's.

NEW BUSINESS: Margie reported on her phone conversation with the Food Bank about the Mobile Food Pantry. Very few sites have resumed the mobile pantries and they are figuring out how to help existing pantries. Discussion on whether we need to continue. We will wait until the Food Bank finishes their assessment and recommendation.

Sheila said there will be a meeting tomorrow, June 15th, to begin brain storming ideas for our 200th anniversary celebration (delayed from 2020).

Hospitality: Charlene said repasts were held for the Hansen and Norman funerals. A Father's Day Brunch will happen Sunday June 20th and we are inviting the Ukrainian church folks as well. A Re-Use Sale is planned for July 9 and 10. Sundaes on Wednesday will not happen this year as planning usually begins early. We may incorporate this idea into our anniversary celebration. Dale suggested a church picnic would be nice as another idea to do at the celebration.

Spiritual Development: Sheila said the Sunday AM adults are doing a 13 week study of the Minor Prophets. The Women's group will take a break for July and August. Youth meet every other Sunday. Nursery is always available. She has ordered new Care Notes and replenished popular topics. Judy Cuyle continues to send out the prayer chain emails. Lynn brought in some prayer shawls she found at a sale. Someone is needed to coordinate this ministry.

Trustees: Charlene said they are working on projects. Dan Vorassi does a great job mowing the lawn. Paula asked if attendance is really needed at service. We used to do it for statistic reporting to the denominations but there is no longer a need for recording it.

Missions: Judy reported that Lyn Aiosa was in town for a ladies luncheon and is doing well living with her son. Lyn said she really misses the Bible Study here. Judy appreciates the sofa donation to the Newfield Garden Apts. A suggestion was made to have the Ithaca Voice do a piece on the apartments and lack of upkeep there. On June 26 and 27, Judy and Dale will travel to Salamanca for the opening of their new church.

SPOC: No meeting. Pastor Ed said that Penny Buell is interested in operating the sound system during services.

SAP: Pastor Ed said they have been discussing reopening and how to get more people out.

Charlene said we don't need bulletins any longer but someone said they miss knowing when birthdays and anniversaries are. It was suggested these dates could be listed on the screen during service or in a periodic (monthly?) bulletin.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria, seconded by Dale at 8:02 PM.
Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk

Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning Bible Study is studying the Later Minor Prophets (Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuck, Obadiah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi). These are referred to as “Minor” Prophets due to their short length as compared to the longer “Major” Prophets. 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.

The women’s mid-week study is on break during July and August.

Pastor Ed is organizing a mid-week study of the Book of Ruth, day and time to be announced.

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. Youth church does not meet on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of every month. This allows everyone to participate in the Lord’s Supper. Youth Church then meets every other Sunday after Communion Sunday. The July Youth Church sessions are the 11th and the 25th. The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five.

New Carenotes Available: We’ve added new titles to the CareNotes brochures. They are: Bearing the Special Grief of Suicide; Comforting Prayers for Times of Pain or Suffering; Coping with the Challenges of Kinship Foster Care; Finding Peace in the Present Moment; and Walking With God Through Grief and Loss. We’ve replenished two popular brochures – Dealing with Bullying (for teens) and Healing Your Body, Mind, and Spirit Together. The Carenotes are on display in the Fellowship Hall. As it says on each brochure, “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.

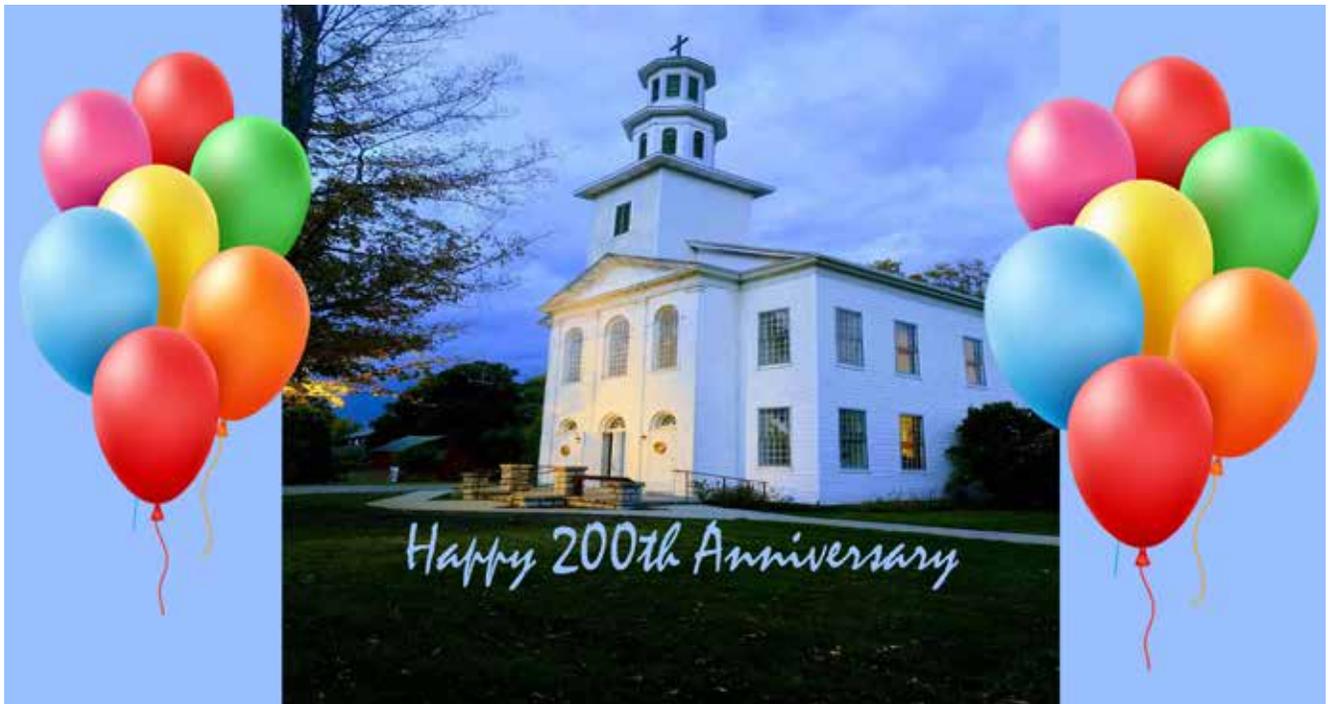
Prayer Opportunities: Contact Judy Cuyle at gncat87@yahoo.com or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate in the prayer chain or if you have a prayer request. In-person (socially distanced) prayer meetings are held Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 PM.

Congregational Care: Thank you to our secretary Lynn Kingston-Harris who picked up several beautiful prayer shawls for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Now that things are opening up again, we could use a coordinator for this ministry. The coordinator would identify people experiencing life changes and ask volunteers to deliver shawls to those people as physical symbols of our prayers. Let Sheila know if you’re interested.



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.





200th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrate, celebrate, dance to the music!! Really!

We're finally organizing festivities in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the completion of our sanctuary. Although the building was completed on May 1st, 1820, we couldn't do much partying last May (or June or July or January) due to the historic pandemic that shut down just about everything. You could call this year's event "The 200th Plus One" celebration.

The Anniversary Planning Team has set dates for a two-day event – Saturday, September 18th and Sunday, September 19th, 2021. During the two days, we'll host a concert, an ice-cream social, assemble a time capsule, conduct a service of thanksgiving and rededication of the building, and enjoy an all-church picnic. The 200th Anniversary Planning Team will be reporting on details as they develop.

Sheila Enstine
For the 200th Anniversary Planning Team

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>!

The Great Anniversary Festival

By Gail Mazourek

Here we are again in July, the seventh month of the year. The weather is wonderfully warm and practically pleads for a picnic on July 4, along with celebrating our red, white, and blue flag flapping in the breeze. Our idealized thoughts seem to immortalize our grand old flag and what it stands for. But the stars and stripes are only cloth whipping in the wind and will sooner or later produce the beginning of frayed edges. It's only cloth not solid and invincible like stone, yet it means much more to us as a symbol of our freedom celebrated as Independence Day on July 4.



We fly it as the tremendous and constant reminder of July 1776 when the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence. The actual date of signing was July 2. At that time, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as The Great Anniversary Festival.” And the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade... Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from the End of this Continent to the other.” (www.history.com)

Prayer has always been attendant to the decisions of our founders and forebears. You don't need prayer to find rocks, pebbles, or gravel under every shovel of dirt, but you do need prayer to sustain this nation that it will last longer than granite. That coarse-grained, hard igneous rock consists chiefly of quartz, orthoclase, or microcline and mica, used for monuments and buildings, which speaks to unyielding endurance. Only a belief in our almighty God leads to faith equally as strong. The path leads to stepping stones paved with prayer unwavering, unflinching in all that befalls us.

Simply put, praising God is easy on all of our regular run-of-the-mill days. We take our good times and privileges for granted along the way. But the test is in praising God on the worst of days as we turn to Him in prayer and ask for strength, healing, prosperity, and the many needs we have.

Our flag of cloth has endured for more than 200 years. Betsey Ross sewed the first flag in George Washington's time. He died on December 14, 1799. Betsey's flag rendition had 13 alternating red-and-white stripes, with complementing stars on a field of blue in the upper left corner canton. Its distinguishing feature showed five-pointed stars arranged circularly, representing colonies that fought for their independence during the American Revolutionary War. The Union flag's symbolism of 13 stars for colonies graduated over many years and now holds 50 stars representing our states. We can easily imagine all the prayers along the way. The symbolism sewn in every stitch is as lasting as stone if we dress it up with prayer while celebrating with fireworks.

Our Christian lives may tatter like a neglected old flag if we don't tend them with prayer. The founding fathers of our nation prayed for guidance, wisdom, and perseverance. We can sustain our lives of freedom with prayers of thankfulness to our creator.

Let me direct you to a YouTube video about “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Treat yourself to www.youtube.com/The Star Spangled Banner as You've Never Heard It. The awesome national anthem of the United States was written by a 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key on September 14, 1814.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...” Psalm 33:12
“Those who forget God have no hope...” Job 8:11



Senior Strength Training Returns Starting July 1

**Mondays and Thursdays 9-10 am at the church
for all who would like to join us.**



Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
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www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in JULY!

