



# Danby Church New

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

June 2021





# From Our Pastor!

As believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the goodness of God, we are often questioned about how to cope with life. Bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people. What's the deal? Where is God in this?

To understand our human condition, we need to dig into the theological question of how God works in the world. Throughout the history of Christianity, two general understandings have prevailed. There are a number of other theological speculations, but these two are the most common. One position hinges on predestination and the other on freewill.

We can't begin to scratch the surface of these theological understandings and the many offshoots in the last 2,000 years. This will be the briefest of introductions to competing ideas that have altered the Christian world, split churches, and even caused wars. I pray for a much more peaceful and thoughtful consideration. Humility dictates we acknowledge how little we really know. Seeking to please God requires us to seek better understanding of God and each other.

Arguments for predestination go like this: God is sovereign over all. God is totally in control and free-will either doesn't exist or counts for little. Circumstances are not random. What is supposed to happen will happen and there's nothing we can do to alter the course of events. In relation to salvation, those saved are predestined by election not merit, works or personal decisions. Those who are vessels of honor are honored and those who are not will still serve God's purposes. Free will and choice are an illusion. As with any school of thought there are varying degrees of severity to this doctrine. People who espouse this doctrinal bent are not uniform in their understanding or approach.

The second school of thought is a theology that incorporates freewill and allows for a random flow of circumstances and actions. This theology espouses that God is both in control and willing to share the precious gift of free will with the human race. Free will allows the possibility of error and sin, hence a fallen world. In this understanding, free will allows us the option of offering God obedience, praise, and worship. People can accept or reject God's gift of salvation in Jesus the Christ. We are imperfectly perfect while God remains God.

So how does either of these positions answer the question of why we experience what we do in life?

On the extreme side of predestination, the answer is, "Because it was supposed to happen this way." On the extreme side of free will the answer is, "Because we acted the way we acted and there are consequences."

As odd as this might sound, perhaps the way God works is a mix of both theologies. Maybe God does set events and circumstances into motion and awaits our individual responses. Perhaps some people and circumstances are preordained for the Glory of God. I see evidence of both understandings in Scripture. I also see both ideas working in the world right in front of our eyes.

We live in a web of intentions and actions that incorporate both faith and doubt, sin and grace. Humans are unpredictable animals capable of every extreme imaginable. At our lowest, we are cruel, self-centered beasts catering to our personal lusts.

*Pastor's Message continued on page 3*

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**Our Cover picture:  
Daryl Snyder and  
John Tottey**

At our best, we are in relationship with God through Jesus Christ, acting as agents of grace and peace, cultivating the "Fruit of the Spirit" as we serve mankind and God almighty.

We do all this while suffering the trials of a fallen world, praising God regardless of circumstances. We do life knowing that we will never really know the final answers to those big questions, but we are comforted by faith. We get on with life knowing that the Lord rejoices with us and grieves with us as He goes through the storms with us.

How does God work? At some point we have to stop arguing over the unknowable and follow our hearts' best intentions as guided by the directions Christ gave us, the wisdom Scripture imparts, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps the most accurate answer to the question of "Why?" is "I don't know."

## Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

### **Adult Small Groups:**

The Sunday morning Bible Study will begin a study of seven of the twelve Minor Prophets in June. Although these books are called "Minor" Prophets (due to their short length) they are no less important than the 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](mailto:ssenstine@gmail.com) or 229-4135 if you're interested in either meeting.

The women's mid-week study finished Margaret Feinberg's "The Sacred Echo" in May. We haven't decided on the next study. The women meet on Fridays 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. 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.

In June the Youth Church sessions are 13th and 27th. The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five.

**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](http://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](mailto: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:** Please continue to call and email your church family or make remote visits. A list of our home-bound members and friends is available from Janet Gray.

**May 23rd, six of us completed the spring cleanup of E. King Rd. Teams were Pat Swartout & Sharon Boda, Dave Swartout and me, and Kathie DeWolfe & Sheila Enstine. We filled five bags and found a small plastic pool!**

**God bless!  
Dave McDermitt**



*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](mailto:jsg4@cornell.edu) and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News*

**Danby Community Church**  
**Admin Council Meeting**  
**May 10, 2021**

**Present:** Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Dale & Judy Horton, Margie VanDeMark, Charlene Testut, and Gloria Miller. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 6:50 pm.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** Motion by Gloria, second by Dale, to accept the minutes from April. Carried.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** In Dave's absence, Paula presented his report and fielded questions. Margie made the motion, second by Sheila, 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:** The new Bibles continue to be given out.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Charlene said the extra Wednesday food pantry distribution will be discontinued due to low attendance. A few emergency boxes will be prepared in case of need

Charlene made the motion, seconded by Gloria, that \$600 be given to Loaves and Fishes rather than the Food Pantry as there was a sizable end of year balance in the pantry account. Loaves & Fishes feeds people every week and there is great need. Pastor Ed said the "Four C's" clergy group has asked us to consider contributing to a new church being established in Franklin CT. Charlene suggested giving the \$150/quarter we had designated to support the Mobile Food Pantry to this cause as we have not had the mobile pantry here in over a year now. This was made into a motion by Sheila, seconded by Gloria, and carried. Pastor Ed read a letter from the UCC recognizing that we have withdrawn from the NY Conference Susquehanna Association (a year after we notified them).

**Hospitality:** Charlene said there was a reception here after Peter Hansen's burial last week. Ed said that June 13 there will possibly be a funeral here for Bev Dawson (per a letter from Scott Dawson).

**Spiritual Development:** Sheila said the adults are completing a study of 2nd Peter and will then begin a minor prophets study. The Women's group finishes their current study this week. Youth meet every other Sunday with two age groups. Nursery is always available. There is a Safe Sanctuary training on May 27. Prayer meetings happen every Saturday at 8 am and Pastor Ed is always available Tuesday & Thursday at 5 pm. Judy Cuyle continues to send out the prayer chain emails.

**Trustees:** Charlene continues to look for bids on roof repair, fellowship hall doors, and hallway window repair. Gloria suggested Gibson Construction and gave contact information.

**Missions:** Judy had gotten a call from Gigi Johnston about a Mexico mission and will try to get more information. Judy has given her clown collection to the South Dakota Indian School on behalf of our Church and Pastor Ed assisted with the shipment.

**SPOC:** No meeting. Bangs Funeral Home has asked Pastor Ed to do "walk ins" there and he agreed.

**SAP:** Pastor Ed said they plan to meet this month. Paula said folks like that Pastor Ed is reading the scriptures as he incorporates the sermon into them.

Pastor Ed wondered about a Father's Day Breakfast this year. It was agreed this could happen with spacing folks out and being served. Ed suggested inviting the Ukrainian Church men. Charlene said she'll work on planning this.

Charlene mentioned that the Trustees will again be locking the dumpster as someone dumped a large TV in there.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria, seconded by Sheila at 7:50 PM.

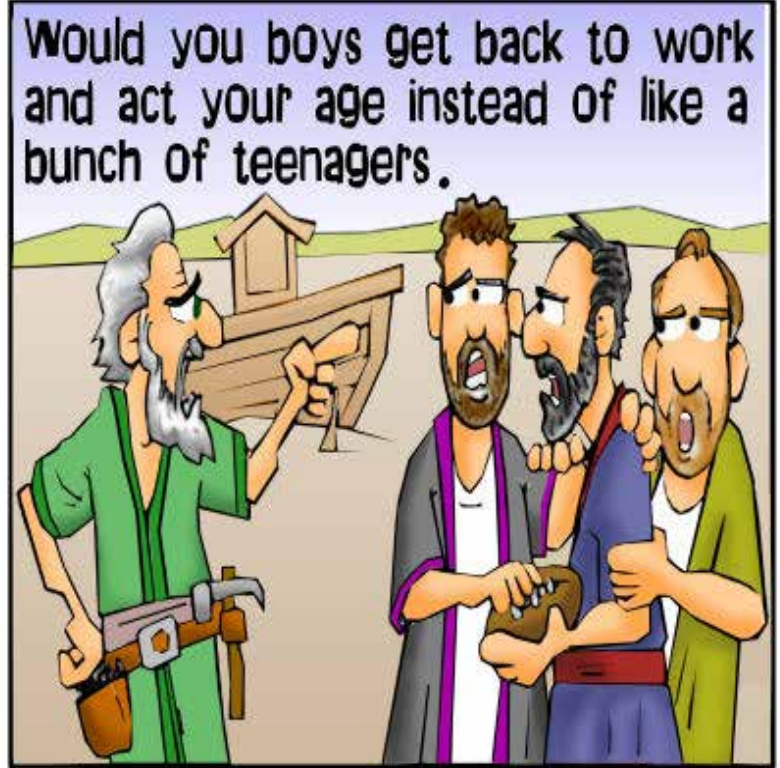
Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk



Dave McDermitt sent this great picture of his dog, Peanut in front of the church, enjoying the grass.

## The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Noah was 600 and his boys 100 years old at the time of the flood. **Genesis 6:9-7:4**

### Missions Report from Judy and Dale Horton

On May 10th, five boxes containing a large collection of clowns of every shape and description from Judy Horton's collection were sent to St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota. There were large, stuffed, and cuddly clowns and there were small and large collectibles. Children of all ages were delighted with this unusual gift, for once not clothing, food or special needs, just pleasure. These children are so thankful for everything we send to them !



We received a postcard from the St. Joseph's Indian School Class of 2021. Congratulations to all the graduates!

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](http://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.



## The Journey of Grief

In recent months and weeks, several people in of our fellowship have lost family members and close friends. We've lost a step-mother, a brother, a sister, husbands, a step-father, a son-in-law, a granddaughter, a daughter, former co-workers, and dear friends. In some cases, we could not be with the deceased in their last hours because of institutional restrictions or because their deaths were unexpected. Sometimes funerals were not possible because of the pandemic. Physical distancing, regardless of the cause, has made the journey of grief all the more arduous.

Grief is a journey and as the body of Christ we are in this journey together. Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Christian fellowship, therefore, is not only where we laugh together, it is also where we cry together. Koinonia (the sharing of our faith) includes lament. In our gathering together, we are encouraged to voice our pain, sadness, depression, and even anger.

Some of you are familiar with the work of renowned psychologist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross. In her book "On Death and Dying," Kübler-Ross identified five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

Talking about stages or steps in grieving does not mean that grief is a tidy, orderly formula. It's a messy, emotional cascade, as we all know. However, understanding these stages can help us through the grieving process and help those of us who would walk alongside our church family. More information is available at [ekrfoundation.org](http://ekrfoundation.org).

Of course, Christ Jesus has not left us orphans in our suffering. Our eternal God is strong to save and offers consolation in our loss.

Here are a few Bible passages that may help:

- Psalm 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- John 16:22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.
- Matthew 5:3-4 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Matthew 11:28-29 "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."

Christ's body, the Church, is the hospice for our grieving souls. If your spirit is heavy, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Ed or myself or any of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

~ Sheila Enstine



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



# FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

**Sunday, June 20th @ 11:30 am**

**Father's Day Brunch honoring all  
Christian Men. Everyone is invited!!!**

**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



Danby Community Church  
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[www.danbychurch.org](http://www.danbychurch.org)

## Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in JUNE!

WELCOME BACK HOME AGAIN

**WELCOME BACK HOME AGAIN**

Vaccinated?  
Masks and  
Social Distancing  
Optional

Sunday, June 6th  
10:00 am service

**FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 20 @ 11:30AM**  
**ALL WELCOME!!**