



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

June/July 2020



**Welcome Home!**



# From Our Pastor!

How shall we act going forward?

Galatians 5:22-23 says: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” With such things controlling our attitude, we are empowered to exhibit grace in all circumstances.

Our society is experiencing grief and fear as it faces an uncertain future and the last thing the world should find among Christians is a foolhardy or callus attitude. Instead of declaring out of context scriptures invoking a pride-ridden, supernatural protection, we praise God for masks, proper hygiene, and common sense. Our actions are a respectful witness of trust, obedience, and wisdom.

As followers of Christ we are to handle the extremes of human experience with grace and we are to act as Matthew 10:16 instructs, “...be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves.” This pandemic is our time to shine!

Most people have an opinion about the pandemic’s cause. Some Christians think the present virus is a curse sent from God to punish our wicked ways. Some folks think it is a test of their faith and spirituality. No one really knows the definite answer to “why” and anyone who says they do is probably delusional.

The history of pandemics tells us that COVID-19, like countless viruses before it, will eventually become no more than a nuisance. In the meantime, instead of looking to ascribe blame, let’s help people in need, especially those who don’t know the Lord. Seek out opportunity for ministry.

The mounting toll of lives lost is horrific. The damage done to our culture, economy, and security is devastating. The false worship of temporary things has failed people. We share a sense of grief as normal routine stops. We mourn the loss of normal, recognizing that former ways will never return. Change is hard in the best of times, it is agony in the scope of this present crisis. Even with a foundation on the Rock of Jesus Christ, these are difficult times. However, now is our opportunity to demonstrate the strength and endurance provided by a sure and confident hope in God almighty.

Life certainly has changed in the last couple months. The following are some of the unexpected phenomena that I’ve seen and lessons learned.

- Masks are a great equalizer when it comes to facial expressions. A smile, snarl or frown is equally hidden. Big surprise, people recognize you even with a mask in place – a cautionary tale for future robbers.
- Bad hair days are now ubiquitous.
- Drinking coffee before wearing a mask is a bad idea (somebody up in here needs breath mints.).

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## Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2020

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**Our Cover picture:  
Welcome Home to  
Danby Community Church**

- It is hard to remember which day of the week it is when they are all the same, but Siri/Alexa knows. If this is what retirement is like, well, I'll pass.
- We learn much from waiting in lines! Long lines are a spotlight revealing true character. They are the perfect place to practice love, peace, patience, and self-control. Lines seem to be forming for just about everything! We shop fast and check out slow. Even with appropriate social distancing, when we talk everyone is sure to hear. A few days ago I had to wait for 45 minutes in line at the bank drive through, with multiple lanes, many cars, and apparently few tellers. Word to the wise, you do not have to leave six feet between cars. Why do we feel annoyed with the people in front and sorry for the people behind? Hand gestures and blowing horns do not speed up a drive through; we're all in this together. A best use of patience inducing situations is to pray for everyone around you, especially for agitated folks and most assuredly for every teller and cashier.
- Time is a gift that we long for when it is not available and a curse when we have too much. May God help us to use time for His glory.
- Any illusion of certainty in this world has vanished! There has never been certainty promised in this world – death and taxes excepted, according to my father. However, years of prosperity and relative safety have left us overconfident in unreliable optimism. Leaders declare, “We can do anything we put our mind to because we’re \_\_\_\_\_.” Really? No amount of legislation or opinion polling ever guarantees results.
- I am amazed at how quickly emergency declarations and laws change the fabric of our worldly existence. We have witnessed the largest disruption of our culture in this country’s history, 40,000,000 jobs lost and counting, churches emptied, businesses closed, life work destroyed, masks donned, and people socially distanced. We have morphed from a gregarious herd to bubble people in mere days.

Unfortunately, I predict history will record that our society lacked the moral, ethical, religious, and political acumen to properly navigate this current pandemic. Our house built on sand is being washed away by this crisis. We are doing the best we can with mediocre understanding and skill.

The Kingdom of God offers a much better way of doing life and handling the world. Jesus Christ provides a voice of sanity and compassion. Ephesians 5:1-2 says, “Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

Christians are people of hope and faith. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have woven the fruit of the Spirit into the quality of our character, modeling love, joy, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

We are not forsaken or abandoned. We do not panic. We do not imitate the world. Instead, we handle crisis with strength of character and courage. We seek wisdom and the welfare of all, without fear.

Share the blessings of salvation and the peace we have received through our Lord. As the apostle Paul knew full well, the circumstances and society in which we live will come and go, but the life we share in Christ is eternal.

God Bless



Stay tuned to each week for *ed*Talks, short videos from Pastor Ed on topics like Community, Fear, Blessings and Easter. These videos can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.danbychurch.org/ed-talks.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/danbychurch/> or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com>, search for Danby Community Church.

***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***

**Admin Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 18, 2020**

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Judy Cuyle, Gloria Miller, Charlene Testut, Katy Prince, Janet Gray, Kathie DeWolfe, and Judy Horton via Zoom.

Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 6:55 pm.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** Motion by Judy C. , second by Gloria, to accept the minutes from March. Carried.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Gloria made the motion, second by Margie, to approve, carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula states that our finances are OK. The VANCO (on line payment system) is different, but working well. Motion by Gloria Miller, second by Judy Cuyle., to approve the report, carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The 200th Anniversary of our church but we are unable to celebrate at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:** MargieVanDeMark brought forward a request from Sharon Boda to allow appointments to select clothing on the stage. We would offer times to our food pantry people this week when they come and one of us would be here with them when they come at staggered times. The plan was approved by Council members.

**Spiritual Development:** Sheila reported that the prayer vigils done remotely had more participation. She held a 200th Anniversary vigil. If you go to the church website and click on 200th Anniversary (top right) and then on Prayer Vigil you can see a list of what happened each year, to give you pause and use as inspiration for things to pray about. Sheila said we need to look for the green lights to see when it's safe to begin gathering, for church, nursery, children's church. We need to be very careful.

**Trustees:** No meeting. Charlene Testut reported that the building is closed. Now that construction can open she will check with Heritage Builders on the door replacement (Fellowship Hall).

**Missions:** Judy Horton said she has a newsletter from St. Joseph's School that she'll bring to church. Paula asked about Border Buddies, a mission we've supported but haven't heard from in recent years. She made a motion, seconded by Gloria, that we let this mission go and in it's place support the Second Wind Cottages. Approved by vote.

Pastor Ed said church may resume on June 26/Phase 4 (Sunday, June 28) if all goes well with initial phases. There are no specifics yet. Possibly using music videos in place of singing. We may do a survey to ask what people want to feel safe. Ed would like to offer a drive-through communion a week prior to opening to give information as well.

Paula Nelson said we will plan to meet on our usual day next month, Monday, June 8th.

Gloria made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm, seconded by Judy Cuyle Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk

**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.**



## How to Respond to a Pandemic According to Martin Luther *by Sheila Enstine*

Plagues and pandemics are not new to humanity. The bubonic plague or Black Death devastated Asia and Europe during the middle ages, killing hundreds of thousands with each outbreak.

During an outbreak in 1527, Johann Hess wrote to Reverend Martin Luther, asking him if a Christian should stay in the city or run away from a deadly plague. Luther's response was distributed as a pamphlet. In "Whether One May Flee From A Deadly Plague" Luther provides wisdom for the ages, applicable for Christians dealing with COVID-19.



There are two reactions to a plague that are equally sinful, Luther says, although they appear at opposite spectrums of behavior. The first sin is to flee from responsibility. As shepherds of their flock, clergy must remain to fulfill Christ's rule (John 10:11). Secular officials, such as mayors, judges, etc. must likewise fulfill their duty to others if there are no capable substitutes. Servants are responsible for their masters, masters for their servants, parents for children, children for parents, and neighbors for neighbors. To abandon our calling is a great sin, "instigated by the devil." Luther also attributed to the devil repugnance and fear of the sick. However, where no emergency exists and there are enough clergy available for ministry and enough people for nursing the sick, it was permissible to leave the city.

The second sin was to remain in the city for the wrong reasons. This included assisting the sick with the expectation of personal reward and "tempting God with rash and reckless disregard of what might counteract death and plague." Rash behavior included: disdain for medicines; visiting places known to be infected; and "ridicule of intelligence and warnings with the wish to prove independence." Luther equated such behavior to suicide for one's failure to care for the body and murder for infecting and poisoning others. He was adamant that these sins, like all sins, come from the evil one. To defeat evil, Luther prescribed the following remedies.

Remember that "we are mutually bound together," and cannot in good conscience abandon one another. In our day, we have ample health care professionals and hospitals, but we are not one-dimensional beings. Our spirits and souls need a sense of belonging and purpose. Continue to reach out to one another. Take courage and put on the love of Christ. Remember that Satan's scheme is to make us unduly fearful and anxious and to lose sight of Christ.

Take care of your body – "use medicine...fumigate your house...shun [avoid] persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence." And take care of your soul – Luther advised people to go to church during the plague, because this is where we learn how to live well (we can watch Ed Talks, live-stream services, and attend Zoom meetings). Church is also where we learn to die well, to prepare for death through confession of sins and reconciliation with neighbor, committing ourselves to God. Be ready for both, Luther advises us, to live and to die according to God's will. Care for your body, but in an emergency, be bold enough to risk your life for another, which is the way of Christ.

## Our Stance on Racism

The murder of George Floyd and other innocent people of color across this nation cannot be overlooked or ignored by the Church. The depth of pain and grief caused by these senseless crimes added to the frustration of centuries of discrimination is overwhelming. We must not let the violence of racism go unchallenged; change has to happen both in attitudes and actions.

Fine words are easy to speak but simple to dismiss. It is by actions that the true fruit of repentance and righteousness are manifest. We must speak out but also act in ways that glorify God and offer respect to all people.

There is no place for racism in the Church. When recognized, it must be eliminated and cannot be glossed over, excused or tolerated. The bond we share in Christ demands we stand as a family in the Kingdom of God. To do less is not acceptable.

Therefore, at the Danby Community Church:

We will respect all people regardless of race, color or creed.

We will do the work that mercy requires for those in need.

We will challenge injustice.

We will act in all righteousness for the sake of our witness and the good of all people.

We will proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and follow His teaching as faithful disciples.

**This statement is informed by the following Scripture:**

**Micah 6:8; Luke 10:25-28; Romans 12: 1-21; Galatians 5:13-25; Ephesians 4:17- 5:21**

Welcome **HOME**  
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am

Sunday Adult Education Class on Jeremiah & Lamentations via Zoom @ 10:00am

Youth Church will resume in August

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Communion, Conversation and Prayer 5-6pm

Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm

Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am

Women's Bible Study, TBA

# It has gotten even easier to give to Danby Community Church!

## GIVE PLUS<sup>+</sup>



### Online

Allow your members to give on your website

### Mobile

A smartphone app that makes eGiving easy from anywhere.

### Text

Make giving as simple as sending a text.

## Introducing GivePlus App

You can now make a contribution to our church through a mobile app!

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for “GivePlus Church” to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account.

You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history.

We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry, and thank you for your support.

You can also use the **eGiving link** located on the Danby Community Church website on the front page using your computer. Just click on this picture



In addition you can continue to send your tithes and offering via “snail mail” by mailing them to Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 Attn: Financial Sec.

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

# Danby Food Pantry

This month, like the last, we have been limited in the activities of the church. The one thing that we have done for both months is the Danby Food Pantry. During this time it is even more important that we serve the community and the food pantry is one small way to show the community that we care.

We have had to change the way the food is distributed because of the pandemic. In the past, the people came into the building and selected the items they wanted, but because of the contact limitations for the past 2 months boxes have been packed ahead of time for distribution.

It takes the whole week to prepare for a pantry distribution on Thursday. On Monday, food from the food bank is delivered. Thank you to: Dick Hutaula, Jim Sczpanski, Bill Cuyle, Judy Cuyle and John Tottey for unloading the pallets and bringing the items into the church. Tuesday and Wednesday are spent packing food into 65 boxes. It is no small task to assemble the boxes. Thank you to Danny and Betty Wheeler and Judy and Bill Cuyle for the hours and hours they spend. Thursday morning there is an army of people that go to various locations to pick up produce, bread, and other food items donated to the pantry. I am always amazed by the amount of items that are donated.

The gnomes come in and package the bread items and sort the produce. Special thank yous to Marge VandeMark and Gloria Benson for packaging dozens and dozens of rolls, bagels, and doughnuts. Finally, Thursday afternoon, is as they say, show time!

If you drove by on Thursday afternoon you may have wondered why there were numerous tables outside. This is the way that the cold and frozen items as well as produce and bakery items are distributed. Again, it takes an army to do this. Marge VandeMark, Chrissy Vorrasi, AJ Simmons, and Sheila Enstine helped “man” tables. Dan Vorrasi, Steve Hubble Dave McDermitt and Ed Enstine carried boxes and boxes and boxes out to people, taking many directly to cars. Suzanne Walker and Kathie DeWolf distributed Catholic Charites items. This is a mission that gives essential items such as toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo, and other personal care items to the community. Sharon Boda and John Tottey load their cars with cardboard to take to the recycling center.

At the end, tables are put away, items that were not distributed are put in the storeroom for next month and within minutes the Fellowship Hall is returned to normal. Maybe our “motto” should be Serving God through Community.



**Judy and Bill Cuyle getting boxes ready**

Charlene Testut

## Church Reopening Planned for June 28, 2020

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” – Psalm 122:1

The projected re-opening date for worship at the Danby Community Church is Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Our worship service will be a shortened version of what you’re used to and we’ll be using some new procedures. We’re using State and CDC guidelines for gatherings for two reasons. We want help keep everyone who worships and fellowships with us safe from the spread of the COVID-19 virus and we want to be witnesses of Christ’s love to our community.

The procedures for our worship gathering follow.

- Before starting for church, evaluate your health. If you don’t feel well or are running a fever please stay home and rest.
- BYOB – Bring your own Bible, if possible. This will reduce the number of items that will need sanitizing after the service. Bibles will be available for anyone who needs them.
- Bring face masks for each member of your party and hand sanitizer. If you don’t have these items, we will have them available as you enter the main Sanctuary doors.
- Ushers will be stationed outside of the main Sanctuary doors to assist anyone who needs an alternate means of entering the building.
- Upon entering the Sanctuary, you will be greeted by an usher who will explain where to sit. We will use staggered seating – pews opposite, behind, and in front of occupied pews will remain unoccupied. Families and people who traveled together will sit together. We encourage anyone who is able to climb stairs to sit in the balcony or choir loft. Signs in each pew section will indicate where to sit.
- We will reduce hand-to-hand contact by: providing praise and prayer request notepaper to be collected and read aloud from the pulpit; projecting the order of service on the screen; waves rather than handshakes; and donation stations rather than passing the plate. We encourage the use of eservicepayments for tithes and offerings, available on the church’s web site and a mobile app.
- Nursery and Youth Church are closed for now. Families will remain together during the service and young children are welcome to bring soft toys with them. Depending on county and regional data, we expect to reopen the nursery and Youth Church in August.

Additional details will be announced at the beginning of the service and fellowship will be available outside of the building. If you would like to help sanitize after the service, please contact Charlene Testut or Sheila Enstine.

If you have questions or comments, contact Pastor Ed, Sheila Enstine or Charlene Tesut.

### POSSIBLE WAYS TO REPLACE THE HANDSHAKE by PLANTE TULSA WORLD CAGLE CARTOONS.COM



## **Spiritual Development Update** *from Sheila Enstine*

**Adult Small Groups:** Beginning on Sunday, June 14th, we will begin a study on the Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. Let me know if you're interested in this study and I'll arrange for getting the study guide to you.

We will use Zoom on Sunday mornings until we can begin meeting at the Church and possibly continue using it for those who would like a group study but have difficulty with physical attendance and or Sunday mornings. If you would like to join the on-line study, contact me (Sheila Enstine) at [ssenstine@gmail.com](mailto:ssenstine@gmail.com) or 229-4135.

**Youth Church & Nursery:** Considering the current advice from health professionals and government agencies, it seems best to watch what happens as New York reopens during the summer. If we don't see a large increase in COVID-19 cases in the Southern Tier region during June and July, we'll resume Youth Church and Nursery in August. Until then, families are welcome to bring soft toys for younger children and sit together during worship.

**ed Talks:** "Ed Talks" are Pastor Ed's video replacement for his Sunday sermons. You can watch the short sermons on the Church's website, [www.danbychurch.org](http://www.danbychurch.org). Click on Ed Talks on the green banner. You can also link to the videos from the Church's Facebook page.

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Judy Cuyle at [gmatcat87@yahoo.com](mailto:gmatcat87@yahoo.com) or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate in the prayer chain or if have a prayer request.

**200 Days of Prayer:** To recognize the 200th anniversary of the completion of our sanctuary, you can participate in 200 days of prayer. Details and inspiration for prayer are available on the Church's Web site. Go to <https://www.danbychurch.org/200th-anniversary.html>. Click on the picture and you'll find a list of important events for each of the 200 years since 1820!

**Prayer Meetings:** As New York reopens, we have a couple of options for group prayer. One is Saturday morning in the Sanctuary at 8:00 am (with less than 10 people and social distancing). Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 PM. Another possibility is an on-line prayer meeting using Zoom. Please contact me if you'd like to participate in an on-line group prayer meeting.

**Congregational Care:** LaWanda Cook and Lyn Aiosa continue visiting by phone. Pastor Ed is trying to call everyone on the Church's directory list. Thank you to all of you who are reaching out to your brothers and sisters with phone calls, emails, and "safe" visits. If you know someone who could use a friendly conversation, contact LaWanda, Lyn, Ed, Sheila, or for that matter, anyone in the body of Christ.



Interested on being on the team for the 200th Anniversary of the completion of our church building? There are some great ideas being presented such as beautification of the outside grounds, a gospel concert, a birthday cake, an ice cream social, connecting with the town historian, and more!  
If you would like to be a part of planning this historic milestone, please contact:  
Janet Gray @ [janetgray@highlandfarmsskennel.com](mailto:janetgray@highlandfarmsskennel.com) or 607.273.3251

Some of our members have been using their extra time to take beautiful pictures of the church. Enjoy!

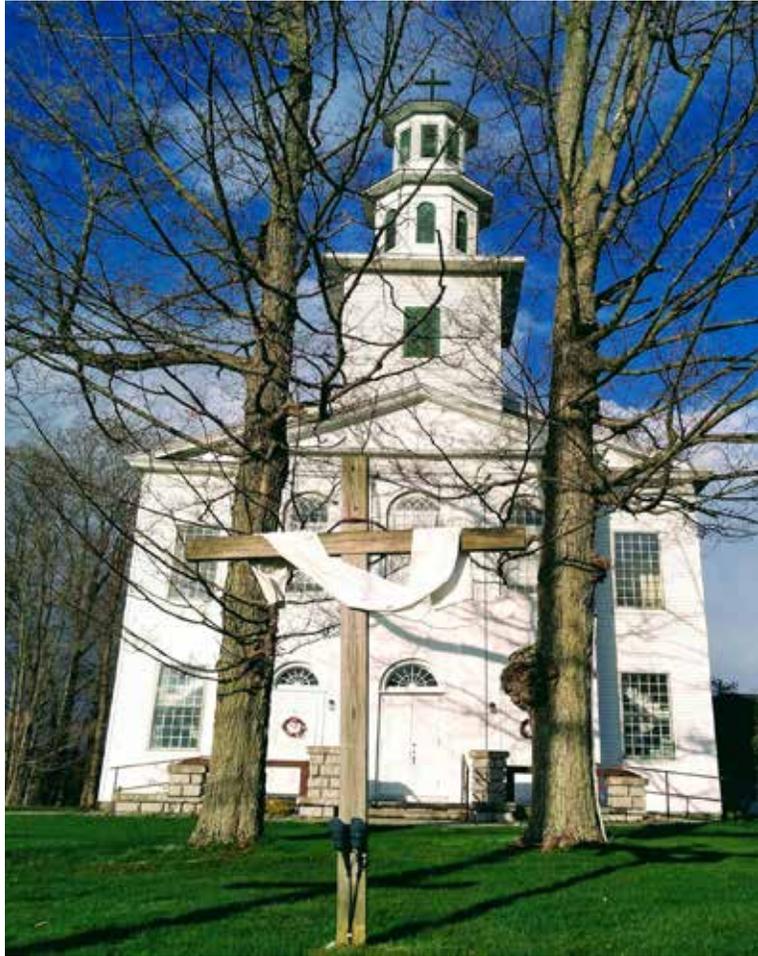


Photo by Chrissey Vorrasi



Photo by Dave McDermitt



Photo by Chrissey Vorrasi

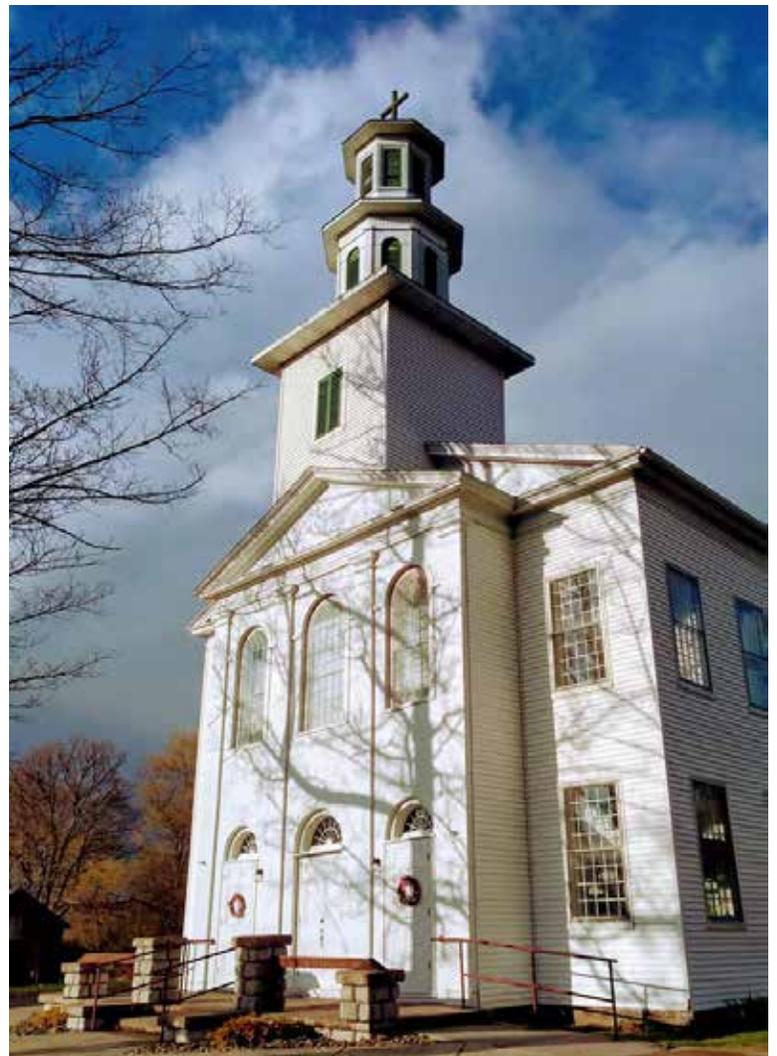


Photo by Chrissey Vorrasi



Danby Community Church  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

[www.danbychurch.org](http://www.danbychurch.org)

**Welcome Home!!**

**Here's What's Happening in June!**

**Church starts back**  
**Sunday, June 28th**  
**10am**