



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

May 2020



Happy 200th Anniversary Danby Church!!



From Our Pastor!

Danby Community Church is doing GREAT! Week after week we are making history as new records are noted in all the following categories:

Sunday service attendance numbers.

Number of people who fall asleep during the sermon.

Complaints about the length of the service and/or the music being too loud or too soft.

Number of bulletins going to waste.

Complaints about the sanctuary being too hot or too cold.

We have achieved and maintain absolute 0 across the board! It makes one wonder if we can keep this up for much longer.

The Church of Jesus Christ is still active and effective in the world. Our congregation is deployed but not dissolved.

I am really impressed that everyone I've called is doing well. Everyone is in good humor. Everyone is looking forward to being back together again. There is a sense that people are realizing how much they miss their church family. We all have to sacrifice to stay safe for this little while, but oh how we miss being together! Praise God, if we didn't miss the fellowship something would be terribly wrong.

While we have been "shut down" the Danby Community Church has been able to host a Red Cross Blood drive, 31 pints donated! We have hosted two monthly Food Pantry dates. Both had distribution outside. We're adding a new free food cabinet by the St. Pauly clothing shed, supplied by the Tompkins County Health Department. A Sunday morning, ZOOM Bible Study is available (contact Sheila). People are calling around to friends and neighbors to make sure we're still all doing O.K.

As a Pastor I've had to learn some new tricks. We're doing short video messages each week. "edTalks," one letter and 11 minutes shorter than those other talks, are available to view through the Danbychurch.org website or at the Danby Community Church page on Facebook and YouTube. I've been amazed at the response; the first video has been viewed over 1,400 times and the others are gaining views daily. Amazing!

So, is the church empty? Yup. Is the Church closed? Not by a long shot. Stay safe and look for ways to serve until we come together again. Continue to be a blessing and in return be blessed!

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**Our Cover picture:
The Danby Church**

Mother's Day Devotional 2020

by Katy Prince

“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, **“Woman, here is your son,”** and to the disciple, **“Here is your mother.”** From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” John 19:25 - 27



Many of you who are reading this devotion today have mothers who are no longer with you on this earth. Some of you may not even know your birth mother. Some may have more than one person you call Mom.

Growing up I had many “Moms”. I called a lot of my friend’s mothers Mom, I had a step-mom, and I was graced to live many years with my birth mom. And, now that I am an adult, I am Mom to three adult children, step-mom to three adult children, and Mom or Mama Prince to a few others. What a blessing it is to have Moms in my life that I love and to be a loved Mom.

It is so important to have a mother and to continue to be a mother, once you have been a mother, that Jesus, while dying on the cross, “gave” his mother to the “disciple whom he loved” (believed to be John). The fact that Jesus said, “Woman,” was neither disrespectful nor was Jesus saying to Mary that she was no longer His mother, but He was giving her the continued opportunity to be a mother even after His own death.

I’ve known very few women who have lost a child, but pertaining to those I do know, I’ve seen the devastation that it leaves behind. It is a feeling that I can’t even grasp totally. My mother and I saw “The Passion of Christ” together and in the end, I felt the sadness that Mary must have had for Jesus. When he gave her to “the disciple whom he loved,” he gave her someone to lean on and take care of. I can’t even imagine giving my mother away! If you are one of the people in my life that have lost a child to death, my heart goes out to you and I pray that God will grant you comfort and peace and someone to care for.

My own mother died just over nine years ago. And you know what I learned from that experience? When your parents have both left this earth, you are an orphan, no matter how old you are. That was when I became an orphan. When I was over 40 years old, I learned what it was like to be an orphan.

This Mother’s Day I don’t have my mom to go see or to call. I don’t have my grandma to go see or to call. I pray to get a call from (and hopefully see if this quarantine is over) at least some of those people I mentioned above who call me Mom. I pray that you get those calls too and if you still have someone on this earth that you call Mom, why don’t you give her a call? I know she’ll appreciate it!

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

Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

Adult Small Groups: The Sunday morning adult study group used Zoom.US conferencing to complete the Books of Judges and Ruth. The next study will be on the Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. We will continue with Zoom until we can begin meeting at the Church. If you would like to join the on-line study, contact Sheila Enstine at ssenstine@gmail.com or 229-4135. You can use your smart phone as well as a lap top, desk top or tablet for a Zoom meeting.

The Women's mid-week group is on hold until we can resume meeting at the Church. Check out the Church website and Facebook page for updates on dates, times, and subject matter.

Youth Church & Nursery: Once we resume Sunday services, we will continue with our Youth Church schedule of every other week. There will be no youth church on Communion Sundays (the first Sunday each month). Nursery care will be available every Sunday for babies and children through age 5.

Ed Talks: With one letter shorter than "Ted" and about half as long as "Ted Talks," Ed Talks are Pastor Ed's video replacement for his Sunday sermons. You can watch the short sermons (aka homilies) on the Church's website, 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: Judy Cuyle has done a wonderful job keeping the prayer chain responsive to the congregation's needs during "New York Pause." Contact Judy at gncat87@yahoo.com or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate or if you know someone who needs prayer.

Prayer Vigils: Thank you to everyone who participated in the March 26th and April 9th prayer vigils. The vigils were held remotely, with people from New Hampshire to Texas signing up via e-mail and Facebook. Because they were remote, we were able to cover all eight of the "watches" within each 24-hour vigil. Read more about prayer watches and participants' experiences elsewhere in this newsletter.

Congregational Care: With social distancing our new normal, our phone visitation ministry is ever more important. LaWanda Cook and Lyn Aiosa are our stalwart "visitors." Pastor Ed is also trying to call everyone on the Church's directory list. Of course we know that all of you are calling and emailing each other, which is what it means to be a member of the body of Christ. If you know someone who could use a friendly conversation and/or prayer, contact LaWanda, Lyn, Ed or Sheila.

Notice!!! A friend of the church has a large supply of yarn—some in the original wrappers—that she would like to donate to anyone who can use it, especially for knitting or crocheting the prayer shawls. Contact Sheila if you're interested and she'll arrange for delivering the yarn to you.

Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am

Sunday Adult Education Class on Judges @ 8:45am

Youth Church @ 10:30am every other week

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

Dear Church Family, we know that supporting Danby Community Church is important to you. Our work supporting members and our community will not stop because of this public health challenge.

Danby Community Church now provides online giving through Vanco eGiving as an option, it is a convenient and secure way to make a one-time or recurring donation, so you can continue to support our work using Web Giving.

Danby Community Church is a strong community. We will weather this together, even if we're not at services. We appreciate your giving, and we do important work with members' generosity. As we alter the way we operate, please consider making a gift via eGiving.

The eGiving link is located on the Danby Community Church website.

You can also send your tithes and offering via "snail Mail" by mailing them to Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850 Attn: Financial Sec.



As the early Congregational Church started to grow, meetings were held in homes, schoolhouses and when the congregation got too big, they met in a barn, built in 1812. The congregation continued to grow and it was decided to build a real church building. Work was begun in 1817 and finished on May 1, 1820 at a cost of \$2040.00.

Most of the first work was donated and the timber for the framework was donated and delivered by the community.

The Danby Church is the oldest religious/church building in Tompkins County.



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 beatification 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@highlandfarmskennel.com or 607.273.3251

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

A Thank You to the Danby Church Community by Charlene Tesut

In our “usual” daily lives, this day, Friday April 17, 2020 would be one of our very busy Chicken and Biscuit Dinner events. I’m using this day to reflect and to thank everyone who helps make these dinners possible. I apologize to anyone in advance that I leave out. I’m sure I’ll wake up in the middle of the night realizing I should have included someone.

Here is a look at what goes into those dinners! The potato peelers and chicken cutter uppers (I know there is no such word) are Sharon Boda, Dick Hautala, Kathie DeWolfe, Linda Howe and others who come in on Friday morning to do their magic. It’s amazing that the chicken I leave in the frig on Thursday is cut up and ready, along with peeled and cut up potatoes on Friday Morning.

The biggest thank you goes to Lorena Miller. Without her there wouldn’t be Harvard beets. Believe me I tried to make the beets without success! Not only does she do the beets, but without her help with EVERYTHING else, there wouldn’t be a dinner. She comes in along with Michelle Dunning, they wave their hands, and things come together. I’m always amazed with what they can do in very little time.

Many people help setup the dining rooms. All those little details like place mats and salt and pepper shakers are in place. Kathie DeWolfe comes in and transforms the potato chunks into mashed potatoes. Desserts that have appeared magically in the refrigerator and pantry are cut and put out by the “Dessert Crew”: Marge VanDeMark, Gloria Benson, Connie Merritt, and Joan Barber. Thank you to all who contribute their desserts.

And then it is showtime!!!! We always start the dinner with a group prayer, but that is not the first time God has entered in. It always leaves me awestruck that there is enough of everything, no matter how big the crowd. He and I shop and cook together. I can’t describe it, but there is a calm I feel when I know that everything is in His control. If you have heard Pastor Ed’s chicken story about going out and finding enough chickens to cook, that does have some truth to it. There have been several times that I have purchased the last case of chicken thighs or chicken breasts from Maines. So next time someone asks, “How do they know how much chicken to cook?”, answer with, “They don’t; God does.”

One of the requirements of being a server is a pleasant personality. All kidding aside, thank you to all those who have served the food. The times I have looked out into the dining room and saw the line wrapped around the room, I am very thankful that there are people serving the dinner. Dishes and busing are not the most glamorous jobs, but then again it always gets done. Thank you to Dick Hautala, Rick Hautala and Alan Van DeBogart for washing and washing and washing.

Last but not least are those who come and show the community that we are the caring and loving church that we strive to be. Nothing is more important than showing the community that we “practice what we preach.” You have taken your time to talk with and invite “strangers”.

Without the whole Danby Church community, we would be nothing more than a place where people can come for dinner. Anyone can go to a restaurant for that. We offer God in action and for that I thank all of you.



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.





Pester the Pastor

This month's question: Should we be afraid of the future?

The answer for those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is, "NO!"

The Lord gave us clear directions in the Matthew 7:24-27 parable. The foundation that will last and not fall to the world or be subject to fear is a life built on the rock of Jesus Christ.

Fear and the future is a two-headed beast that will always prowl the landscape of uncertain times. We can tame the beast by faith in the power and goodness of the Lord.

Some types of fear can actually protect us from harm. Fear keeps us from playing with things that bite and sting. That's useful. Fear can motivate. When our earliest ancestors discovered that lions hunt on the ground, they quickly learned to climb trees and so forth. But fear of the unknown is a fear that can't be anticipated or prepared for ahead of time.

We can conquer unanticipated fear with trust. Read Matthew 6:25-34. The word anxious is used in many translations, but the word fear is a reasonable substitutional translation. Christians are not a people of unreasoned fear or anxiety for that matter. We trust in our God to work His will for the greater good, all the while protecting beyond what the world sees or knows.

We are God's people experiencing life in a fallen world. On one hand we are subject to the infirmities that befall our humanness—illness, age and the like, but on the other hand always confident that every situation can be turned to honor God and achieve His purpose.

Today we are challenged to exhibit common sense, be careful and use all the tools at our disposal to remain healthy, safe and mitigate the spread of this current plague. We are blessed by the safety nets our society has provided and the care of our medical community. Research will bring new treatments and vaccines. These are tools we should employ and thank God for providing.

We should always live a grace-filled life but rest assured at some point we will go to be with our Lord. In the meantime, be about our Father's business, proclaim the gospel, study the scriptures and be about service and prayer. Hold fast to Jesus' words in John 16: 33b, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage: I have overcome the world."



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.

Messages from our Church Family

Diana Benson

Monday thru Friday my husband and I have our granddaughter so home school and taking her new puppy out constantly. I am not bored. LOL

Eloise Phinney

She is well and has family nearby to check in and make sure she anything she needs. With her usual good humor, Eloise says that she went the foot doctor about a month ago, but hasn't been anywhere since. Now that she's able to get around, there's no place to go. One of her sons also delivers mail to Frannie. The manager at Frannie's home is in contact with the family. Eloise sends her prayers to her church family.

Gloria Benson

I am spring cleaning and trying to stay positive.

Gloria Miller

As you can see, I've been painting, cleaning, cleaning out, sorting, sanitizing....and each day is a repeat. Makes the time go faster for me and it's all relaxing..even the cleaning.

Gail Mazourek

As a family, we have had wonderful ZOOM video conferences from our home to four Buffalo homes. I write my weekly column as usual and have been revising a novella written by my daughter, Cynthia, and I. Cooking never takes a holiday.



Gloria Miller's cabinet masterpiece

grandson Graham's growth during his second year of life. Our other three grandchildren live in Ithaca, so we are able to see them during hikes in the woods and visits at the cabin occasionally.

Above all I am thankful for the trust I hold in Jesus Christ my Lord and the realization that he has a plan for all these turbulent times.

Gay & Gary Huddle

This has been a scary and uncertain time. We are comfortable at home and we do feel blessed about that.

We have taken rides and we have gotten together with immediate family, either in our cars, or spaced apart in the yard.

We are hoping for a recovered world before too long so we can return to "normal" with going to the library, out to dinner, seeing a movie, leisurely shopping, visiting Mom Huddle (age 94), helping our grand-daughter prepare for college experience, and giving big hugs all around to everyone.

Steve Hubble

For me this time away from others and the norm has made me appreciate the simple things in our lives. It could have been worse Thanking Jesus amen

Lynn Kingston-Harris

We've been doing just fine, a little antsy to get on with things. Our daughter, Vicki, just gave birth to our new granddaughter,



We are well and hope the same for you and Tom.

Dave and Pat Swartout

During this time of stay-at-home, we are blessed to be in a warm climate where we can be outside walking, hiking, biking, and playing golf. Although we would rather be worshiping on Sundays in the church, we have enjoyed seeing, and listening to, the many church services on-line, as well as some of the Christian concerts. We will get through this. Stay safe and stay well. God is Good!

Doug and Holly Nash

I miss my church family very much and can't wait to be with you all again. We are trying to make this a positive time in our lives by doing some of the things we enjoy. I have been working at preparing the garden waiting to receive the seed packets I have purchased (sunflowers, etc. for the shop and vegetables to preserve). Much work and time has been spent preparing to

reopen Flower Fashions for Mother's Day. We are praying that day will come. Holly is enjoying spending time in the kitchen baking and cooking (there goes my cholesterol lowering diet). We are thankful for Skype which allows us to watch

Marley. She's cute as a button! Lots of pictures, but really wanting to hold her and cuddle up.

We have been "spring cleaning" and getting our extra bedroom ready for my mom to move in with us as soon as this quarantine is over. She's in need of home care and lives alone, but she is stubborn and doesn't want to leave her house. She's coming around to the idea, though.

We've tried to order groceries on line, but all the sites we've been on have issues, so not very successful. We are pretty stocked up but do run out of milk, beverages, and fresh vegetables.

Face-booking more than normal, changed out our computers, upgraded to windows 10, and marathoned a few Netflix/Amazon series. Keeping up with our office gmail and working on my jewelry. Trying out some new recipes and baking with my husband, we love it.

So here's my boring list of activities. Not much of an inspiring tale to write about, but we're staying calm and peaceful, and enjoying the time together.

Katy and Tommy Prince

Tommy and I have a new granddaughter! Mariella Elizabeth Joy Banfield (7lbs 10 oz, 19.5") was born today to our daughter Danielle and AJ. Everyone is healthy!

Paul Schulz and Lori Knarr

We are doing well. Lori is at our Pittsburgh home and I remain in Ithaca, although am traveling back and forth as possible. Our business, EMF, has been deemed an essential business thus am involved in that activity on site. We miss our church family immensely---we both are finding wonderful peace and guidance with the recent initiative of the "edTalks".

Melinda Daetsch

Dear Danby family, I'm doing well in Hartford CT! I had to self quarantine at home earlier in March (which was the recommendation for anyone who was sick at that time since testing was not generally available. I don't think I had "it" but didn't want to risk exposing anyone to whatever bug I did have) and by the time my 2 weeks of self quarantine were over, the governors of CT, NJ, and NY had announced a travel ban, so I wasn't able to come back to Ithaca.

Life during global pandemic without a dish washer, washing machine or dryer (as is the case in my apt in West Hartford) is a bit challenging as is spending up to 11 hours a day at "my post" in my study in front of my computer teaching and preparing for my classes, however I'm very grateful that my students have adjusted so easily to this way of learning and that we are able to continue learning online.. I'm actually learning a lot from THEM, especially about navigating in cyberspace.

Putting everything into perspective however are the reports I get from my friends who are working on the medical front lines in Hartford, Boston, and NYC. I am humbled by the way that they, and so many others, are putting their lives on the line daily. Praying for them, and for our world as we go through this stormy time. Lastly, I love watching John Krasinski's "Some Good News". Last week featured Boston Red Sox, and you KNOW that got me going!

Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eg08rJGKjtA> God bless everyone!

Dawn Smith

I am isolating at home most of the time, and spending time with my 99 year old mom who lives at her home with my brother. I have been reading, watching movies, cooking and baking, taking walks (6 feet apart) in Brooktondale with my neighborhood friends, and doing some yard work and spring cleaning. I miss Danby church and pray that everyone stays safe and healthy.

Dawn

Bill and Judy Cuyle

Bill and I are not used to being home so much, of course. I'm preparing every meal instead of going out to eat a few times a week. Grocery shopping is now done on the computer, with pickup at the store. More house cleaning is getting done. I'm walking regularly still. I'll be glad when it gets warm enough for me to walk outside. Bill spends time working on his 1973 Plymouth Duster and rebuilding an engine for his 1973 Dodge pickup truck. He loves working on motors!

Paula Nelson

Going stir crazy. Been watching TV and cleaning. Missing everyone!

Pup and Tammy Martinez

Gdday mate! we've been participating with the social distancing by doing our part as best that we can. Tammy & I alone go out for supplies, food(including carry out), propane, etc. Bleu & Davey are home schooling, Tammy being their teacher, myself as guidance counselor. I've been worshiping the Lord on drums, guitar, & piano. We've been keeping updated with the Governor & the President's mandates, & abiding the best we can. God's blessings to all, sincerely f.p.m.

Alison Buell

All things considered, we are doing very well. The kids are finding time to do lots of things that they hadn't had time to do before. They have been gardening, doing repair projects, knitting mask connectors for nurses and cooking. Not needing to drive anyone, anywhere is wonderful for me. I have been getting out with the kids and taking walks which has been enjoyable. My response to my cancer treatment continues to amaze my oncology nurse practitioner, so no complaints from me Blessings, Alison

Susie Cobb

Working from home, which can be difficult looking at a computer all day, especially with my vision. The commute and parking to work are great though!

Linda Howe

I'm doing ok, my kids are a great help and enjoy Pastor Ed's videos very much!

Janet and Tom Gray

Tom and Janet are keeping busy doing maintenance on the boarding kennel while we have no dog guests. In between maintenance, Tom is working on his Land Rover restoration and reading. Janet has been working on bringing up on-line giving, getting Pastor Ed's videos on the website and Facebook, golden retriever rescue and club newsletters, church newsletter and some sewing. They are both baking and cooking new dishes. Playing with goldens (when it isn't snowing/raining.) Getting garden ready.

Linda Lowe

Linda Lowe misses getting out and wishes the weather would warm up. The upside of her time at home is that a good friend and neighbor made masks for her and people from the Danby Church are checking in on her.

Seen Around Church



April Food Bank



Who is that masked man??



OK, I didn't get the camera out fast enough, but this is what it was like April 15 when Dan Vorassi tried to mow the church lawn and it snowed all of sudden!

Isolation or Inspiration?

You've likely heard "These are strange times" more than once in the last month. That's an apt description for this era, when state governments shut down "non-essential" businesses and health experts tell us to stay home and refrain from socializing. In addition to experiencing financial hardship, many people feel depressed, lonely, and purposeless.

However, our faith comes equipped with ancient, Biblical practices that not only take advantage of periods of stillness, but are enhanced by pilgrimages into the "wilderness." These practices go by many names, like centering prayer, quietness with Jesus, or watches of the day and night.

Our remote prayer vigils on March 26th and April 9th are examples of these practices. Some who participated in the vigils have shared their experiences:

"[I experienced] a general sense of the Spirit and was excited to be part of a chain of people who were joining in a group faith effort...I felt led to pray for people ahead of and during their time slot..." DM

"I realized how important the discipline of prayer is. I pray daily but had not participated in this level in quite some time. It was refreshing. I feel so much closer to God. I count it a privilege to intercede for others." MW

"I noticed an important difference to be reminded to be seeking God in prayer all day. Before anything else. God first. And when I wasn't doing that it was pretty obvious and I had the chance to shift my focus back to God..." MD

"Actually peaceful knowing God sits next to ya' in times when words and thoughts are hard to come by or express. I try to focus on few things rather than many. Picturing in my mind who and what I'm praying for helps me stay focused, and ending knowing God is in control, that's His job. Mine is to trust despite what I hear or see... was a refreshing time... Peace." DS

"I was reminded of when the Lord spoke to Moses of the sacrifice blood on the door post of their homes, when the death spirit was passing by. So it is with what is happening today. If people would receive the Lord in their hearts, the sacrificed Lamb of God!" FM

"I feel that I am in constant prayer with Jesus, but sometimes I feel like I'm just busy... I talk to Him about everything, but I don't like to be idle." KP

Common themes here are community, the presence of the Holy Spirit, discipline, peace, refreshment, communion with Jesus in stillness and in work, and fresh visions of the Word. Although the world around us sees this as a time of multifaceted crisis, I encourage you to see this as our Lord's provision –the means of refreshment and Spirit-empowered purpose. We are not isolated; we are inspired!

~Sheila Enstine



Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in May!

Happy 200th Anniversary Danby Church!

May 1

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, May 22

1-6pm

Coming in June