



Danby Church News

“Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God”

November 2020





From Our Pastor!

A few weeks ago, I read a post on an internet forum from a young pastor who was struggling with the weekly grind of creating sermons. How do you find inspiration and something to say every week? Sympathy and understanding came pouring in from all over the world, but there were few real solutions. I personally favor the advice, “relax and let God speak.” Easier said than done!

Preaching is only a part of what pastors do during any given week, but it requires preparation and of course the challenge to find the blessed message scattered about in a hectic schedule. In fact, for some pastors the Sunday sermon is an extremely stressful challenge. However, most consider it a blessing to speak God’s message to His people. Consider how you would prepare 15-25 minutes of material to present in public, every Sunday? Eighteen minutes in length is optimal. Your sermons have to be spiritual, useful, coherent, polished, proper, memorable, easily understood, and entertaining enough to keep people’s attention. Plus, you have to do it without repeating the same material from week to week.

The techniques for sermon prep are taught at seminary in homiletics class—fondly known as Preaching 101. You can pick and choose between inductive, deductive or abductive logic to frame your thoughts. A strict Bible study retrospective approach works for some. An application approach fills a different need for many, as wisdom always remains rooted in biblical principles.

There are formulas for style and structure: how many sentences pro and con to establish a point; how many points and sub-points to include; how to outline; and of course how to establish a “preaching point” that will wrap up everything, subject to the logical approach you’ve chosen.

Last but not least—NEVER ask the congregation a question—doom would ensue and someone might even interact with you while you’re still in the pulpit! All this is useful to know, but difficult to employ with any success. Achieving a good grade in preaching is infinitely easier than actually keeping the congregation awake after the ten minute mark of any sermon.

In truth, everyone has a few good sermons in them. Every Christian has something to share. If you are called, there will be words to offer what the Lord wants the congregation to hear. There will be peace in your spirit, even when the church didn’t want to hear what you needed to preach. People will remember what you said.

The reality is that not every sermon will be a homerun; some are foul balls! Not every style and method will work for everyone.

What’s in this Issue?

- From Our Pastor.....2**
- Mission Report.....4**
- Spiritual Development Update.....5**
- The Lost Older Brother.....6**
- Church Elves.....7**
- Thank You Pastor.....8**
- Admin Council Report.....12**

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:
Pastor Ed**

However, if you are not called, no amount of training and practice will ever get you past the grind and turmoil of weekly sermonizing.

So what approaches do I use and recommend? The most fundamental preparation every pastor needs before thinking about what to say on Sunday is prayer—solitary, intense prayer aimed at nothing more than hearing God's direction and inspiration. Pray for the words that God wants you to speak to the people. When finished with the sermon, go back and pray harder. God already knows what the congregation needs on any given Sunday. Preach His message!

This is the reason a pastor can continue to preach with freshness that defies repetition. Every church has different needs over time. Sometimes we need to cry and other times laugh. Sometimes we need to do both at the same time. God never runs out of sermons. Sermons are poured out for the blessing of God's people. As long as there are people to disciple there will be sermons to preach.

Let God be the author and pay attention to His message. Both the giver and receiver will be blessed.

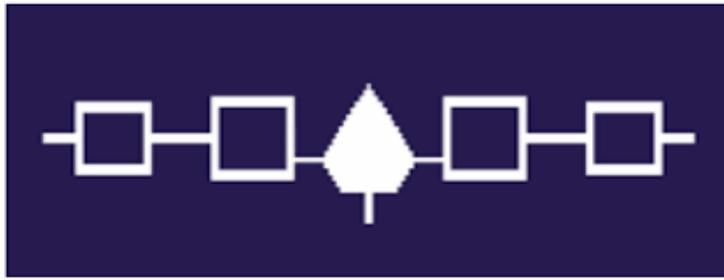


1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 ESV

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Jeremiah 3:15 - And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

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 Horton*

Plans are well under way for our church's mission trip to the Salamanca Reservation for Christmas. There are 22 needy children at Pastor Wallace Mapes' church. In addition there are six at the rescue mission, which is on the reservation.

These children will each get a filled box of gifts and backpacks stuffed with shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, and tooth brushes. Five needy families will receive a box with complete fixings for a Christmas dinner.

Many caring people have helped to provide this mission service. We will be taking the gifts on Saturday, December 12 & 13 and will give them out during the Sunday morning service. Charlie and Rachel Hunsinger will be providing a short musical concert, and their son Preston will act as the Christmas elf!

Many thanks to all who have helped in any way! Other missions of our church include the Renovation House, Second Wind Cottages, Samaritan's Purse, and various other projects.

Judy's Joke Corner

There are two new families in the church.: the Nut brothers, Chess and Wally, and the Apple brothers: Mack and Tosh!

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, "Pursing God"

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*

Operation Christmas Child:

The Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection week is November 16-23, 2020. The last day for delivering your packed shoe box to the Church is Sunday, November 22nd. Instruction brochures will be available in late October. No shoe box? Not to worry! We'll have plenty of empty shoe boxes available along with the brochures. More information is available on the Samaritan's Purse website, samaritanspurse.org/occ. You can also "build a box" and donate to OCC on the website.

COVID-19 and New York's Cluster Action Initiative:

New York State's "Cluster Action Initiative," divides areas into three zones: red, orange, and yellow. Currently, the Danby Community Church is in a yellow zone, which allows religious services and gatherings at 50% of maximum capacity. Our attendance is well below the 50% limit. The Church is monitoring our "cluster" color and we'll alert all of you if changes are needed. Thank you all for the good job wearing masks and social distancing!

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning adult study group is studying the Book of Romans. The group meets from 8:45 am – 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 meets at 1:00 PM on Fridays. Beginning October 30th, we start a new study called Pursuing God Encountering His Love and Beauty in the Bible.

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. 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 have a prayer request. November 17th will be the last day of our 200 Days of Prayer vigil in recognition of our 200th anniversary. Check it out on the Church's Web site, <https://www.danbychurch.org/200th-anniversary.html>. In-person 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 all of you in Jesus' "secret service." That's everyone who is calling and emailing our church family as well as making "safe" visits and providing for all manner of needs. Keep up the good work!



The Lost Older Brother *by Janet Gray*

I recently finished reading *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller. Prodigal means extravagant, which is Tim Keller's point in *The Prodigal God*, that God extravagantly loves us and gives us grace and eternal life for free! This is the good news!

We always think of the younger brother as lost, having asked his father for his inheritance ahead of time and then, squandering his fortune, he becomes destitute. . He realizes he must return home and beg his father to take him back. His father is overjoyed that his younger son has returned and accepts him back into the family, no questions asked, while the older brother seethes.

The older brother is angry and hurt that the father is lavishing the younger brother with robes, a family ring and a big party. The older brother has done everything right, obeyed his father, and was a good son. "How dare his father forgive his brother?" He wants to distance himself from his younger brother, "He is the sinner not me".

Which is the lost son? They both are. Keller reveals that people that are righteous, religious moralists are just as lost as the younger brother. They both need God's redemptive love and grace.

In the Casting Crowns song, "Start Right Here", the lyrics go:

I'm like the brother of the prodigal
Who turned his nose and puffed his chest
He didn't run off like his brother
But his soul was just as dead

As Keller points out, "Jesus tells us both the sensual way of the younger brother and the ethical way of the elder brother are spiritual dead ends. He also shows us there is another way: through him."

If you believe that God should bless you because of your good works and being a good person, as Keller writes, "then Jesus is your helper, not your Savior." If our churches are to call and welcome the younger brother, we must examine if we have become the older brother.

The lyrics from the Casting Crowns' song continues:

What if the church on Sunday
Was still the church on Monday too?
What if we came down from our towers
And walked a mile in someone's shoes?

We're the people who are called by His name
If we'll surrender all our pride and turn from our ways
He will hear from Heaven and forgive our sin
He will heal our land but it starts right here

Elves of the Church continued..... by Charlene Testut

If you come to church early Sunday Morning, you will find coffee in the pump pot thanks to Dave Swartout.

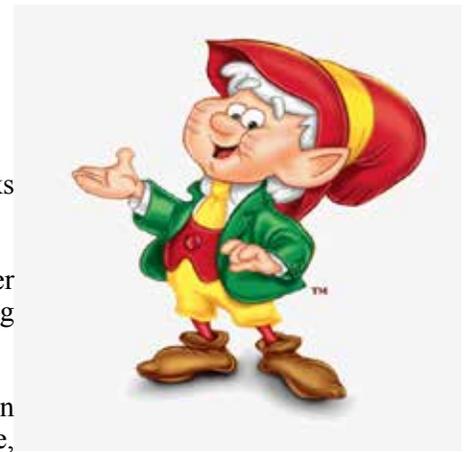
Before the service Rollie Boda plays the organ. Currently he is recovering from finger surgery, but soon he will be back upstairs playing the organ. You can find him practicing during the week when he is back in form.

The Praise Team practices on Wednesday evening getting ready for leading worship on Sunday. Stop by at 7pm on Wednesday to hear Steve Hubble, Pup Martinez, Ed Enstine, Katy and Tommy Prince, Janet Gray, Debbie Alve, Judy Horton and Daryl Snyder.

On Sunday, Tom Gray “mans” the computer for the order of service slide show including praise song lyrics. Pastor Ed sends Janet the order of service by Friday so she can create the slide show. Bleu Martinez runs the sound system.

Lorena Miller and Michele Dunning change the decorations for each season, as well as making sure the candles are ready.

It does take a whole village to run a church.



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>!



Pastor Ed

Thank you for your spiritual leadership this past year. Your words and presence provided a significant degree of stability to all of us and we are certainly grateful

God Bless
Paul S

Bill has had several major surgeries over the years and I have gotten used to spending time in hospital waiting rooms. I have always preferred to wait alone. When Bill had his aortic valve replaced, the doctor and his team started the surgery around 6 a.m. I didn't hurry from the motel to the hospital, knowing it would be a lengthy surgery. However, by early afternoon, with no word from the doctor, I began to get a little nervous. I was SO glad to look up and see Pastor Ed walking towards me. He stayed with me until the doctor came to tell us how the surgery went. Bill and I both appreciate Pastor Ed taking the time to drive to Syracuse to see how things were going and to pray for us.

Judy C

Pastor Ed Enstine has a soothing voice, a calm and friendly manner, and dedication to his congregation that is unflinching. He is a good man, a nice friend.....and the Danby Community Church is lucky to have him at the helm.
Gay H

What I like about Pastor Ed

He lives what he preaches and a real person. Not fake. (What you see is what you get LOL)
I also like the way he includes history when teaching the Bible. It brings a new light and understanding.
Steve H

As the Pastor's wife, I tend to have a biased viewpoint, but I do appreciate what I see as Pastor Ed's loyalty to his calling. Pastor Ed is careful to stay true to the Gospel of Christ and attempts to preach this Gospel with grace and peace. In case you don't already know, Ed is also faithful in prayer for the Danby Church family. We often pray together at home, and Ed intercedes for all of you in the Lord's Sanctuary almost every day of the week. Pastor Ed doesn't limit his love for the congregation to preaching and prayer. He "puts feet on his prayers," as the saying goes. I've lost track of the number of times he's headed out in the dark of night or early morning to help a brother or sister in need.
For Pastor Ed, his ministry is his life, and I wouldn't have it any other way.
Sheila E

I appreciate pastor Ed Enstine at our church for being a pillar upholding God's servanthood, as I've known for 9 years. God bless and thank you Ed.
Pup M

Pastor Appreciation continued on Page 9

Things I appreciate about Pastor Ed: his intelligence – he makes history interesting as he relates it to today (wish my high school history teachers had done that). He is calm, consistent, and reassuring at all times – especially this year when his job is very difficult!

Margie V

Thank you, Pastor Ed, for all you do for us! Perhaps we do not say enough how much we appreciate you and Sheila. I especially appreciate that you are always keeping us in your prayers. Specifically, I know you pray for each of us individually. Thank you for that. I love that we are a church full of prayer warriors; and the reason for that is that we have been led by example. You never ask us to do anything that you yourself are not doing.

You have shown us how to love everyone as you have spent time with the unsaved, no matter if it's behind a building, or in a jail or in Hospice. You have shown us how to find the love in everyone. You remind us to always be a witness for the Lord and never stop inviting others into our church family. And you help us to see that God loves everyone, not just the ones that are easiest to love.

Thank you for all the time you spend in our house of worship, making yourself available to so many. And thank you for your willingness to share God's building with others. I'm so glad you had your mind opened to hear God telling you to go and extend our love to the church down the road when it was taken from them by fire. I'm so very glad we can share God's love in that way.

Again, we all truly appreciate you AND Sheila for all you do. Thank you for being there for us all.

~Blessings~
Debbie A

Pastor Ed's heart is for the lost, he continues his search daily for those needing to find the truth as God has commanded, building up the Kingdom of God and spreading the truth through his words, actions and Love

Dave S

I appreciated and counted on the 10-minute video YouTube edTalks our pastor made for us when we could not go to church. They have become a habit to watch even now after our church services are reinstated.

Gail M

Kindness, encouragement, support, teaching, and humor flow freely from Ed and Sheila Enstine blessing Danby and beyond! My family and I have been very blessed by their friendship and prayers, and I am so grateful for them!

Melinda D

During these very stressful times politically, financially, and health issues for many of us, we tend to look to our spiritual advisors for comfort, moral support, and guidance. Since Dale and I came to this church Pastor Ed has fulfilled these needs over and over, and continues to do so. His ministry has grown by leaps and bounds through his online messages. He never fails to make the way plain and clear for anyone to turn to our awesome God. During what we believe to be the last days, this is the truth we need to hear. Thank you, Pastor Ed, for being a true man of God.

Judy and Dale H

For Pastor Ed, it just amazes me how he does as much as he does between the church and his business, and how he is able to relate to everyone - all ages, and backgrounds. Definitely a God-given talent/ability.

Dave M

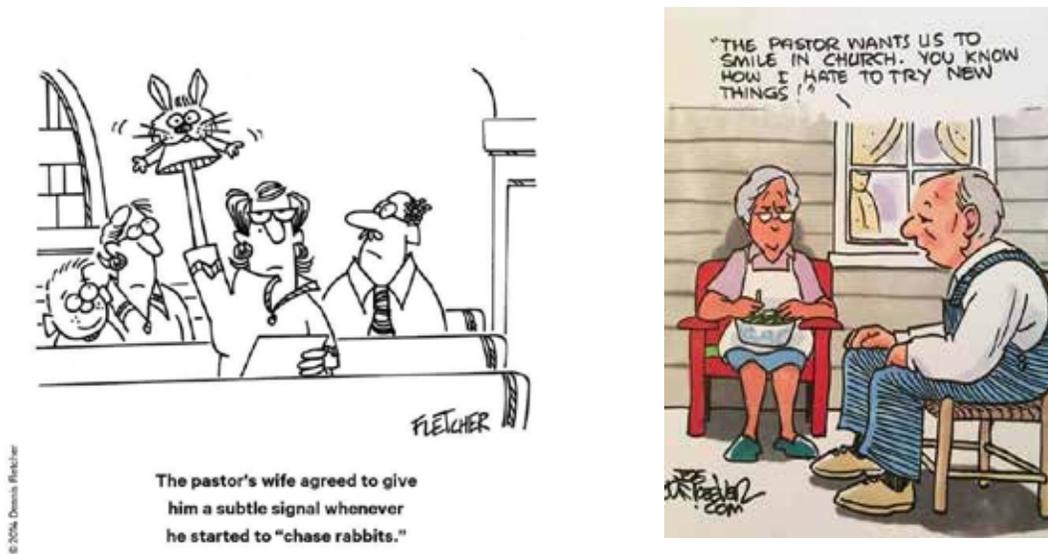
We appreciate Pastor Ed's sense of humor. His knowledge of the Bible and history weaves messages that are relevant for today. I appreciate all he does for the church and the congregation. We don't know if folks realize all the behind the scene tasks that Pastor Ed performs for the church and the community.

We also appreciate Sheila for all she does. Being a pastor is not one man or woman, but a team. Pastor Ed and Sheila make an excellent and spiritually guided team.

Janet and Tom G

Dave and I appreciate Ed for MANY reasons - Pastor Ed genuinely cares for, prays for and serves his flock and his community by visiting those in the hospital, Hospice, jail, the housebound and those in need. Ed is a solid biblical scholar in his own right and we learn something new, relevant and enlightening with every message and, over the years we have been at DCC, we have seen Ed grow in his passion and compassion in his ministry. Ed has his own way of keeping the serious a little light with his humor and self-deprecation, making him approachable and relatable. We have found Ed to embrace whatever the current situation we live in and minister from his heart. Ed and Sheila lead by example, thereby being the best of spiritual leaders.

Julie and Dave Mastroberti



Did you know you can get the Danby Community Church Directory on your phone or tablet/pad?

You can access the church directory in real-time using IconCMO's mobile app!!

What is IconCMO? IconCMO is the name of the system Danby Church uses for our church database. You can download the app on your phone to access it from anywhere.

How do I get the app? Go to either the Google "Play Store" app on your Android or the Apple "App Store" app on your iPhone. Search for IconCMO using the search bar and download the app with the blue dove logo called "IconCMO."

Once you download and install the app, you'll need the church's phone number (6072721687) along with a username and password to access the directory.

Contact the Janet Gray via email (janetgray@highlandfarmskennel.com) create a username and password for you. Once she does so, however, you only have 48 hours to log in for the first time before the information expires, so be timely!



Danby Community Church
Admin Council Meeting
October 12, 2020

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Gloria Miller, Dale Horton, Judy Horton, and Charlene Testut. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Paula said we are good shape financially. She plans to list VANCO donations separately from envelopes. Margie made the motion, second by Dale, to approve the report, carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Gloria made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Margie, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Dale asked about the search for recorded organ music to use in our services if needed. Ed said had not had success finding a program for our hymnal. At this time our music is working well with the praise team. Paula read a thank you note received from Eveline Stewart for flowers the church sent to her.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor Ed reported that papers have been filed: we are no longer affiliated with the Methodist Church. At some point we will owe \$2500. in court fees. He has composed a letter to the UCC explaining our request to withdraw our denominational affiliation with them. Copy enclosed. Margie asked about a newer church directory (from 2015) and Paula replied that it was updated in 2019.

Hospitality: Charlene expressed concern about coffee time after church in colder weather. Discussion ensued about placing floor markers in the fellowship for social distancing. Both the Senior Exercise and the Tai Chi groups wish to resume their meetings as well as the Coop Extension Youth Group. Charlene said the adult groups can resume with understanding about distancing but that the youth group should not return at this time.

SPOC: Dave McDermitt has agreed to fill in as interim Financial Secretary. Via telephone, Katy Prince reported that SPOC recommends Dave's appointment. Charlene made the motion that Council approve this appointment, seconded by Gloria, and motion carried.

Spiritual Development: Sheila reported that the Sunday AM adult study with about five members, continues with Romans. The Friday PM women's study continues with the "Taste and See Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Makers" course. Youth Church meets every other week with two age groups. Nursery has been reinstated but Sheila keeps an eye on CDC guidelines. Nursery is not "babysitting" but a ministry for adults. Safe Sanctuary training will probably be small groups and via zoom. She again is grateful for Judy Cuyle keeping the email prayer chain going. Ed is available at church on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5-6 pm and prayer meeting is every Saturday 8-9 am. Cards and phone calls by members are appreciated as is the flower ministry.

Trustees: Charlene said the garage has been painted by Daniel Vorrasi.

Missions: Judy is thankful for our support of the Guidi ministry in Newfield. She will pursue learning more about the Heifer Project. The boxes for the Salamanca reservation church children are being collected, 26 total, and they will provide five meals for the families. These will be delivered on December 13th. Sheila said it would be nice if a group from our church went to visit their church on that date. Judy asked about a donation to the Newfield Fire Dept. to thank them for their help at the Aiosa home. Paula will send a \$200. donation.

SAP: Pastor Ed said the Kingdom Apostolic Church no longer uses this building due to the virus concerns. The Ukrainian Church continues to meet here Sundays after our service as well as Monday and Friday evenings.

Margie asked about the outcome regarding the sheriff being contacted and the shed vandalism. There was a recent incident as well. It was recommended that we ask St. Pauly to move the shed closer to the highway to perhaps deter vandals, or maybe we would need to have the shed removed. Margie will make the call to St. Pauly after talking with Sharon Boda and further consideration.

Adjournment: Gloria made the motion, seconded by Sheila to adjourn. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk



Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in November!



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.