



# Danby Church News

“Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God”

October 2020





# From Our Pastor!

## Unintended Consequences

Experience teaches us what to expect. We learn to plan for the “normal” and deal with the exceptions. That is how life functions for just about everyone. Life is never totally predictable, but it is usually well within the parameters of normal.

Day to day, year in and year out we live, plan and do the best we can. Life moves at a pretty even pace, until unintended consequences hit us like a bolt out of the blue! That’s when life can become either delightful or difficult. Sooner or later we all experience the delightful surprise or endure the tragic event that happens without warning.

Right now we are in a year of challenge the likes of which few of us have ever seen. No one predicted the events of 2020, a year we will not forget and never want to repeat! Covid-19 was the spark that ignited an explosion of unintended consequences.

The fear that shut us down with little forethought from anyone in authority is a disaster for individuals, local communities, the country and the world. Well intended action created unintended consequences that will take years to work their way out of our culture.

Who would have thought churches would be closed at Easter or our economy devastated by forced closures. Did anyone ever imagine that to go into a store and buy anything we would have to put on a mask?

Divorce, domestic abuse, alcohol consumption, stress and related mental problems, economic fallout, business failures, destroyed lives and relationships are just some of the destruction we have brought upon ourselves. We isolated ourselves into despair and now we can’t seem to find our way back from the anger and rage of this uncertain time. We indeed are a world deep in mourning and grief. The sky isn’t falling—it already fell.

Covid-19 has exposed how foolish it is to put your faith in the world. Human nature is a self-centered mess. Money, position, education, and social status are all artificial social constructs that can evaporate when enough people change their mind about what is valuable. If this pandemic has proven anything, it has shown us we can have the rug pulled out from under our feet without warning.

But wait! There is something else to consider. There is an unintended consequence to the unintended consequence!

God is still working with and through His people, now more than ever before. The world is not out of control, it is doing what the world does and people are acting the way people act. We have never experienced this in our life time but pandemics have come and gone dozens of times and will come and go again in the future. Nations and Dynasties have risen and fallen in predictable fashion as far back as we can look. Even the United States will eventually crumble. It is not a question of if it

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**Our Cover picture:  
Deb Alve at Praise Team rehearsal**

will; only when is in doubt. As the world changes, people will look to what is stable and secure, let that be faith in Jesus Christ.

We serve a risen Savior, not a political party. Our God saves and preserves. We have a promise of life and life abundantly now and into eternity. Our cause is justice and mercy in humility as we serve one another and add to the Kingdom of God. Our experience has shown us the value of fellowship, mutual support, grace, and forgiveness.

Our faith has persevered and prospered through everything the world has thrown at us and all the errors our human nature has inflicted on the cause of Christ. The church, small c, has been far from perfect. The Church, capital C, has been awesome! We have ministered and overcome and continue to be a haven of security and continuity in a changing world. After 2,000 years the Gospel of Jesus Christ remains steadfast.

There is no need for a religious new normal. The Church of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God is doing what it always has done. We pray, we serve, we share and we continue unabated. The world may command our doors closed, but we are not stopped. A consequence of this pandemic is awareness that worldly security is an illusion. The unintended consequence is that the year 2020 has proven once again that permanent security resides in the abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

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

#### **Adult Small Groups:**

Beginning September 20th, the Sunday morning adult study group started a 13-session study on the Book of Romans. The group meets from 8:45 am – 9:45 am on Sunday morning. 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](mailto:ssenstine@gmail.com) or 229-4135 if you're interested in either the in-person or Zoom meetings.

The Women's mid-week study resumed on Friday, September 18th. The group meets at 1:00 PM. We are currently reading "Taste and See Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, & Fresh Food Makers" by Margaret Feinberg.

**Youth Church & Nursery:** Youth Church 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. We are trying to be flexible with the age boundaries, recognizing that siblings and friends may want to stay together for group sessions. Plans are developing for occasional music sessions that will include all ages. 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. 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.

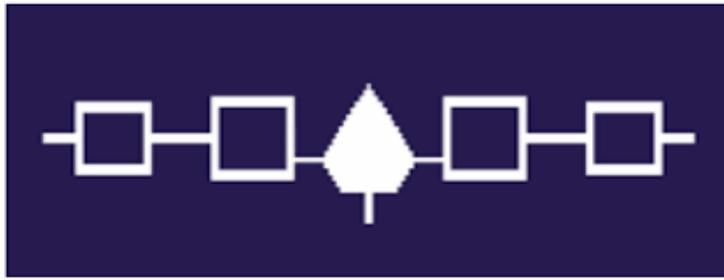
**Prayer Chain:** Contact Judy Cuyle at [gncat87@yahoo.com](mailto:gncat87@yahoo.com) or call 279-5089 if you would like to participate in the prayer chain or if have a prayer request.

**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, <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:** We offer several opportunities for group prayer. One is Saturday morning in the Sanctuary 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:** Currently Lyn Aiosa and David McDermitt are reaching out to people who aren't able to attend worship services. However, although not officially "assigned" to do this, many of you are calling and emailing each other to stay in touch as well as making "safe" visits and providing transportation for shopping, doctor appointments or church services. Thank you to all of you who are doing this. And if you find that our Lord brings someone to mind, give them a call. Find out what's going on in their lives and pray together. That's likely the reason Jesus reminded you of those people. Keep up the good work!

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



## **Missions Report** *by Judy Horton*

Danby Community Church's outreach mission for this fall is to provide a Christmas for needy children at the Seneca, Mohawk Reservation at Salamanca, New York. We are providing 22 boxes filled with goodies for the children as well as a large stuffed animal for each child and a backpack.

We will also provide Christmas dinner boxes for five families. This project has spread to other people who don't have a church mission project and want to help those less fortunate. One very lovely Christian woman (a full blood Cherokee) has promised to make a batch of Christmas cookies for the dinner boxes.

Pastor Ed and the pastor of the church on the reservation plan to talk about the possibility of our church doing something more permanent, a more lasting help, as well as the Christmas project for the children.

There's a rescue mission on the reservation to help children that become homeless for various reasons and a home for senior citizens which we will investigate to see where we might be able to do some lasting good.

The Christmas gifts will be taken to the church at Salamanca on the second Sunday in December. The boxes are all dispersed, but we still need donations of food for the dinner boxes. Please call Judy Horton at 564-7749 to volunteer.

**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, "Taste and See" Bible Study

**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.**



## **Admin Council Meeting September 14, 2020**

Present: Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Gloria Miller, and Charlene Testut.

Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 6:59 pm.

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

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Judy Cuyle has resigned as Financial Secretary and Paula has done the deposits in August. Margie made the motion, second by Gloria, to approve the report, carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula stated that we are still in very good shape financially. Margie asked about the money she found in very old envelopes in the clothing shed. Pastor Ed had suggested we give these funds to Second Wind Cottages as it's not likely anyone will contact us to retrieve them. Gloria made the motion to do this and Margie seconded, carried. Sheila made the motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Charlene, carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Paula said she contacted IPD regarding our recent shed break-in and they recommended calling the Sheriff's Dept. as the plate number is not local. We thank Dan V. for getting the plate number. Pastor Ed will make the call.

Hospitality: Pastor Ed said that the memorial service for Beverly Dawson will be postponed until spring as family needs to travel from NC. Also he said that the womens retreat usually held in December will likely be held at Easter time.

**Spiritual Development:** Sheila reported that the Sunday AM adult group began studying the book of Romans. This coming Friday at 1 pm the women's study will resume. We are using Taste and See Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers, & Fresh Food Makers by Margaret Feinberg.

Youth Church meets every other week. Sheila again thanks Judy Cuyle for keeping the email prayer chain going. Sanitization takes place after Sunday service and for now we haven't been doing prayer shawl distribution.

**Trustees:** Charlene said soap dispensers (touch free) are now installed in all bathrooms as well as automatic air fresheners around the building. She said Dan Vorrasi has power washed the church building and is now painting the parsonage garage. He also mows and trims regularly – THANK YOU Dan!

The wifi router problem that services offices, classrooms and meeting rooms was repaired. Another wifi router may be needed for the middle of the building, as well as a second computer monitor for the office. Charlene reported that Etna FD will be using our kitchen for food prep for their upcoming event.

**Missions:** Ed reported that the shoebox project (organized by Judy and Dale Horton) is underway for the Salamanca Indian Reservation children (about 20).

**SPOC:** Ed said the committee has been reviewing job descriptions.

**SAP:** Pastor Ed said his weekly videos have been widely viewed. He had ordered an NCD Survey but will put it on hold for now. His job as an interventionist is also on hold even though many churches are requesting this service. Ed will let the UCC know that we will no longer be affiliated with them.

Charlene noted that Food Pantry hours are now reduced to 4-6 pm. The friends from the Ukrainian Church want to help...they are grateful to be able to use this building.

Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 pm. (Then we remembered rules of order, so Gloria made the motion to adjourn and Sheila seconded.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk

## **What We Can Learn From the Riot in Ephesus** **By Sheila Enstine**

Riots, like pandemics, are not new to humanity. Several riots are recorded in the Bible. Two examples in the Old Testament are the angry mob in the town of Ophrah that wanted to kill Gideon (Judges 6:11-32) and an enraged crowd in Jerusalem that wanted to have the prophet Jeremiah killed (Jeremiah 26:7-9).

In the New Testament, Jesus was crucified due to the rage of murderous thugs (Matthew 27:20-24) and later on, the Apostle Paul narrowly escaped death when the city of Ephesus flew into a riot (Acts 19:23-41). While there are several other instances of riots in the Bible, the riot in Ephesus can help us understand how these disturbances begin and possible means for their end.

Ephesus was a port city in the area that is now Turkey. Most cities in the Roman Empire worshipped a patron god or goddess, and for Ephesus that goddess was Artemis. The Apostle Paul's Christian message convinced many of the Ephesians to accept Christ, but that in itself wasn't the cause of the riot. The real problem was the Christian converts were no longer buying shrines for Artemis produced by the craftsmen of the city. When Demetrius—a silversmith who knew how to incite a mob—made a passionate speech about the danger of losing business and of perhaps bringing the wrath of Artemis upon Ephesus, the city flew into an uproar!

After seizing Paul's companions, the crowd rushed into the theatre. Acts 19:32 says: "The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there."

Finally, the city clerk quieted the crowd. In the Roman Empire, a city clerk held authority similar to a governor of a region. In his speech, the clerk warned that if the people didn't calm down and use the court system to lodge their complaint, they could be accused of rioting. Such an accusation would bring down the Roman boot on their heads. So they stopped yelling and went home. Riot over.

Notice that the city clerk didn't use force, but he did use the authority of his office and an appeal to reason to quell the riot. Unlike Pontius Pilot in Jerusalem, the magistrate of Ephesus knew how to use his authority. He seems to have understood that a lynch mob does no one any good and that the rule of law means exactly that – no one is above the law, including passionate, overwrought, rabble rousers.

In an interview with Mike Wallace on 60 Minutes in 1966, Martin Luther King defended his belief in non-violent protest, but he also said, "A riot is the language of the unheard." We can all sympathize with that statement. Lack of response to protests against racism and police brutality creates dry tinder in the soul of a people, easily ignited by a fresh spark of injustice. However, the riots we're seeing in 2020 are not due to the frustration of the unheard. Instead, opportunistic anarchists have hijacked the protest against police brutality, using it as an excuse for their own brutality. To take a line from Acts, "most of the people do not even know why they were there."

If the riot in Ephesus can be our guide, stopping the current violence requires that those vested with authority stand up to the mob, give them fair warning, and then arrest and prosecute those who continue looting, vandalism, and violence. As it is, in Portland, L.A., Rochester, and elsewhere, the unheard remain unheard. No one can hear the voice of the protest over the din of the riot.

And if the Apostle Paul can be our guide, during a time of social upheaval and riots, lean into Christ for moral guidance, specific direction, and pray for the Holy Spirit's intervention. Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll find a prayer guide for such a time as this.

### **How to Pray During a Time of Social Unrest and Riots** *by Sheila Enstine*

In August, I participated in an on-line prayer conference that focused on protests and riots in general and the riots in Portland, Oregon specifically. Two pastors who minister on the streets of Portland shared their experiences as well as insights on how to pray during this time.

The conference was hosted by The Global Watch (<https://www.theglobalwatch.com>), an international prayer movement that includes more than 80 countries. In June of this year, the Africa Watch hosted the "Joel 2:15 Solemn Assembly—Healing of the Nations from the sins of Slavery and Rascism." The following prayer suggestions are gleaned from these two conferences.

- Praise our Father in heaven for creating all people, and acknowledge that we are all created in God's image.
- Acknowledge and confess prejudices and mistrust towards people of ethnicities, races, cultures or generations different from yours. Ask for forgiveness in this area and forgive others (Matthew 7:3; 1 Peter 3:18).
- Ask God for opportunities to bless people by acknowledging their value.
- Ask for God's will to be done in bringing justice and righteousness for all people (Romans 12:19-21).
- Pray for law enforcement officers who are weary.
- Pray for righteous leaders to rise up in the Church and in government.

**How to Pray continued on page 7**

## How to Pray continued from page 6

- Pray for government leaders in states, regions, and cities to fulfill their oaths of office (1 Timothy 2:2).
- Pray for young people caught up in the Marxist movement, drug addiction, and the occult (Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 2 Timothy 1:7).

Finally, be of the same mind as the Apostle, who wrote in his letter to the Christians in Thessalonica:

“And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:14-22).

## The Elves Continue..... by Charlene Testut

The Elves at the Church continue to do work while no one is watching!!

If you notice the church building seems brighter, it’s because Daniel Vorassi has power washed the whole exterior. Not only the building, but also the sidewalks have been cleaned; not only the outside, but also the floors are mopped, especially after Food Pantry.

Rumor has it that the garage is due for a face lift! If you’re very quiet, you may catch him working on it.

This summer there wasn’t a blade of grass or dandelion that was spared on the lawn.

There are automatic soap dispensers in all the bathrooms as well as automatic air fresheners. Dave Swartout has made sure they are secured to the walls. Now everyone can wash their hands touch free.

Dick Hautala makes the snow disappear from the parking lot in the winter. He also is very willing to come to the rescue when there are leaky pipes or other “emergencies”.

While we are not in the building, even when it was closed for the pandemic, these “elves” are busy at work making sure that nothing is falling apart. Sometimes you can catch them at work, but not very often, because they are like magic, doing the work when no one is watching.

Next month: behind the scenes of the Sunday service.



Elf Dan Vorassi hard at work!

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



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# Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in October!

**GIVE PLUS<sup>+</sup>**



Online	Mobile	Text
Allow your members to give on your website	A smartphone app that makes eGiving easy from anywhere.	Make giving as simple as sending a text.



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.