



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

September 2020





# From Our Pastor!

Just because we have to be separated by at least 6 feet and wear a mask, there is no excuse to not be in ministry! Life continues to happen and people still need both physical and spiritual provision. The invitation by word and deed to enter into God's Kingdom through Jesus Christ should never be shut down.

The challenges of today can make us stronger. Current tragedies present opportunities to create blessings. Look for opportunity and be quick to act with love and provision.

I am very pleased to report that we invited the Gospel Church to use our building after they suffered the loss of their sanctuary to fire on Monday, August 10. They will be holding services on Sunday afternoons and prayer meetings on Monday and Friday evenings. While our two congregations worship with different traditions and language, we are family in the Kingdom of God.

With the addition of the Gospel Church's sessions, we are now hosting prayer in our sanctuary every day of the week. I am personally thrilled to have more people praying in our congregation both on and off site.

Our normal midweek events and group meetings are still cancelled due to the pandemic, but everyday moves us closer to a proven vaccine for Covid-19 that will enable us to restart and hopefully add to ministry. Soon we will be able to worship a bit closer together. Our challenge is to use this time to examine what and how we minister and worship.

Can we improve our effectiveness? What changes do we need to better serve God's purposes? How do we improve our witness in our community? Pray for inspiration. New ideas are always welcome.

On a personal note this shut down period has been very challenging. Work and ministry really didn't take a break just because the government instructed us to shut down. I've seen hard times before, but nothing like what we have today. No matter what befalls us, I'm old enough to recognize the futility of fearing the future and young enough to relish the struggle it takes to prosper.

We will get past this present time of testing and trial and God willing we shall be both wiser and holier than ever before.

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## Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2020

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## Our Cover picture:

**Julie and Dave Mastroberti**

## No Administrative Council or Trustee's Meetings in August.

### Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

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

The Women's Friday afternoon study will resume on Friday, September 18th. We meet at 1:00 PM.

The Sunday morning adult study group meets at 8:45 am in the adult class room. 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. We will complete our study of the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations on September 13th and begin a new study of the New Testament book of Romans on September 20th. Please contact me (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 and I'll get a study guide to you.

#### **Youth Church & Nursery:**

Youth Church resumed on August 16th with 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. We plan on reopening the nursery for babies and children through age 5 on September 13th. Until then, families are welcome to bring soft toys for younger children and sit together during worship.

#### **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 [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, <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:**

Lyn Aiosa, Pastor Ed and many other "unsung heroes" contact those who aren't able to attend in-person worship or other gatherings. 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 Lyn, Pastor Ed, Sheila, or for that matter, anyone in the body of Christ.

*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*

## Report on the Reuse Sale

The annual church reuse sale was held on July 31 and August 1 this year. Because of the pandemic of Covid-19, we put smaller items outdoors in the beautiful sunshine. People seemed to enjoy poking through the items on tarps with nothing more than \$1.

We also sold small furniture and larger items under an open tent. Inside we had a display of house wares, books, toys, bed comforters, linens, and more. We had plenty of nice, non-clothing donated items. Many of our church folk helped with sorting, displaying, pricing, and buying, plus advertising, cashiering, sign making, tent raising, and clean up. Income from the sale will be close to \$1,400 when all proceeds are in from consignment stores.

A big thank you to all and we will be needing someone to manage the sale in 2021. Please give it prayerful consideration.

Sharon Boda



## Pictures from the Reuse Sale

**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.**



## Church Elves *by Charlene Testut*

Do you know the story of the “Shoemaker and the Elves”? There was a shoemaker that had so much work that he couldn’t get it all done. He tried working day and night to get everything done, but he still couldn’t make all the shoes people had ordered. Finally, he had to give into exhaustion and went to bed. Now it seems that the elves had been watching and they decided to sneak into the shop at night and help the shoemaker. When the shoemaker came into the shop the next morning, there were shoes that filled the shop.

Well it seems that we at the Danby Church have our own set of elves that come and do all those things that keep the church running. The first of these “elves” that come in and decorate are Lorena Miller and Michelle Dunning. Magically the tree goes up and is decorated during Christmas as well as all the other things that make the church beautiful. With the change of seasons there is a change in the decoration. Each week things magically appear. Most of the decorations are handmade.

Thank you, ladies, for making the church look beautiful!





# Pester the Pastor

## What does the Bible say about fear?

The word fear is used a lot in the Bible, which makes sense when you think about how often fear creeps into our everyday lives. Working from the original biblical languages, translators used two different meanings for the English word fear.

On one hand, fear is an important and complex emotion. Fear is essential to our survival, but when it becomes a terrorizing or paralyzing phobia, fear can be a counter-productive waste of time and energy. When confronted with the unexpected or unknown, human nature often responds with fear. If danger does not materialize we feel relief and if danger is eminent we are quicker to respond.

As we learn what to fear and what to avoid, life becomes safer and we survive with a lot less needless pain. Reasonable fear prevents most folks from poking bears, playing with snakes, and swimming with crocodiles, etc. People learn to keep their heads down when the sticks and stones of life are flying our way. Fear tempered with a modicum of reason is a good and useful tool.

To guard our spirits, we are instructed to react with this emotional fear when evil thoughts and actions come our way. We should be afraid of the destruction that happens as we're drawn away from God and level-headedness by evil.

The second meaning of fear is reverent awe (Ecclesiastes 12:13). We are told to fear God. Our God deserves all the respect and honor we can give. This meaning of fear in reference to God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9: 10).

Using the word fear with two different meanings has probably caused most of us a moment's pause. If God is so loving and wonderful, why fear Him? The answer is we have no reason to fear harm but every reason to be amazed. We are privileged to be aware of the awe and wonder that God deserves while knowing He loves us as His children. Because we serve an awesome God, we are secure forever through Jesus Christ (John 3: 16-17). We have the ability to come before the Throne of God, and that should leave us with a sense of joy, peace, and countless blessings. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).



# Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

**Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am**

**Sunday Adult Education Class on Jeremiah & Lamentations via @ 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 resume September 18**

## God is Sovereign by Dave McDermitt

Take a turn off the main hallway on the 2nd floor of Weill Hall at Cornell and you enter the short, connecting hallway to the lab where I work. You'll walk past incubators, a large centrifuge, some refrigerators, two Deli fridges, a regular freezer, then cabinets with lots of glassware and test tubes. Past all that you can see into the lab itself and beyond that to the large windows that face east. With all of its nooks and crannies, plus the work itself to do, I didn't pay much attention at first to one corner by the lab entrance - the lab photo wall.

This is where people have taped or pinned postcards from trips they've taken, as well as a phone call list for emergencies, a building schematic, and an equipment sign-out, among other things. Over the years, though, I've become familiar with what's posted there and although much of it predates my joining the lab, there's one piece of paper taped there that I never understood - a simple drawing of a light brown dog with floppy ears and an upturned tail. There's no identifying information on it and although I had never thought to ask anyone about it, in the back of my mind, it seemed out of place.



Since I've been at Cornell, between the gorges, illnesses, freak accidents, and other incidents, the campus has had too many tragedies, some public and some private. One involved my friend and co-worker, Dr. Matt Miller. Matt was one of the greatest guys I've ever known: humble, generous, funny, motivated, caring, and excited about life. When Matt skied, he took double black diamond trails at White Face; when he went to Cedar Point amusement park with the country's tallest roller coasters, he rode them over and over with an all-access, front-of-the-line pass. When he decided to hike all the Adirondack peaks over 4,000 feet, he did all 46 of them twice - doing them the 2nd time to accompany his fiancée. Here he is after summiting Whiteface with a reflection of the elevation marker in his sunglasses.



In the spring of 2017, Matt had gotten engaged, was having great success at work, and we all knew he had something planned for every weekend that summer: a college friend had recently bought a house and was having a pool party near Harrisburg; he had tickets to an event at Ommegang; we had a lab retreat in August at Raquette Lake; and there was wedding planning (Denise and I were invited), among other things.

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

When Matt went camping near the high peaks over the 4th of July weekend, everything was perfect. His fiancée, sister, and others had come to celebrate at his favorite campsite. On the last day there, he went swimming in the Ausable River. Matt loved his life and was not reckless. In fact, he was meticulous in planning, on thinking things through, and about his own safety, for his own's sake and those close to him. On the preceding two days, he concluded the river's water level was too high and not safe for swimming.

However, by the third day, they decided it was safe to go in. Tragically, like me, he may not have fully appreciated the grave danger caused by "negative buoyancy" which is created in a river when a lot of water rushes over a waterfall creating super-aerated water, causing one to sink uncontrollably. Like an ocean riptide, it can't be fought; at best, it has to be swum through rather than against. Matt may also not have realized that although the river level had receded from previous days, the water flow was still 10 times the average for that date. Matt was big and strong, and he made two jumps without a problem, but after the third jump, he drowned – briefly resurfacing before succumbing.

A few weeks later, after the initial shock and emotion, Brian, Denise, and I packed into our van and headed out to pay our respect to his family at the memorial service in his hometown of Conneaut Lake, PA, a small town in Western PA about halfway between Erie and Pittsburgh. After the service, across from the restrooms, we were surprised to see a small cardboard box with a little cushion and a tiny, adorable puppy sleeping on it. She seemed so out of place at the feet of the crowd milling around, and Brian and I were curious.

As it turned out, the woman who brought it had found it by the side of the road and we were surprised to hear she was open to adopting it out. Well, Denise had been wanting a dog, so even though this was very unexpected, she gingerly tucked the puppy into a handbag, "smuggled" her into our hotel room, and here we are three years later with our now grown-up "Peanut" very much a part of our family.

Work at my job continued. I was assigned to work alone on the project that Matt left behind so suddenly. There have been some challenges; a few times I've wanted to email or call him about his project, then realized unlike other co-workers who had left and I could still contact, Matt was really gone. Life is short and sometimes unexpectedly cut off. Life is also hard, this year more painful than most with the Covid19 pandemic and social unrest.

That brings me back to the picture of that dog. I started noticing and thinking about that picture in the lab. It seemed so out of place. What was it really doing there? No one had any connection to it; I was now the longest-serving lab member and I didn't know. And then, like a Bible verse that you've read before and suddenly one day it means something more to you, I looked at that picture and realized – a small, dog with a light-brown, short-haired coat, probably female, with an upturned tail and floppy ears?

Of course - that's our dog! And it is. Drawing on left; pictures of Peanut on the right.



When I wrote the title, "God is Sovereign", it's a moment like this, years in the making, measured down to such details, that tells me God is watching over me – watching over us. He knows. Psalm 139:16 states: "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Well before Matt joined the lab, before I joined the lab, someone put this picture up, maybe for some reason, or maybe not, but God knew everything that was unfolding and put this in place for a reason, for years later - for me. For that dog we would adopt after Matt's death. Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The LORD your God is among you; He is mighty to save. He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you with His love; He will rejoice over you with singing."

Although I haven't fully grasped this, the Bible and these events tell me that God was singing over me before I even met Matt - that before I knew I needed this picture, it was already in place. He's spoken in his Word and He's still speaking and acting in our lives. Do you hear Him? Do you sense Him drawing you to Himself?

- God bless you on your journey.



## Red Cross Blood Drive



**Kathie DeWolfe monitors the entrance**



**Judy Cuyle donates blood**

# GIVE PLUS<sup>+</sup>



**Online**

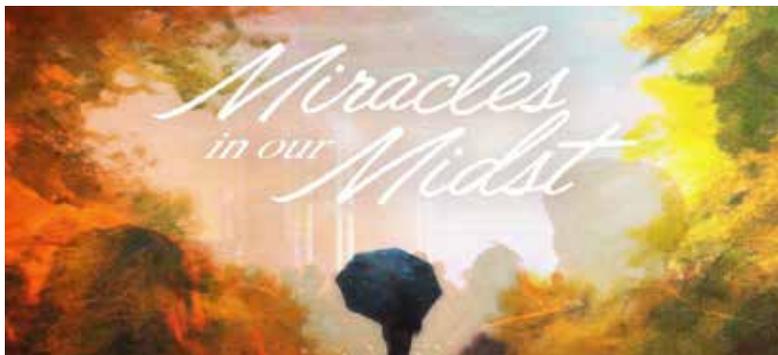
Allow your members to give on your website

**Mobile**

A smartphone app that makes eGiving easy from anywhere.

**Text**

Make giving as simple as sending a text.



## Miracles in our Midst By Sheila Enstine

As our nation journeys through a summer of riots, racial tension, and crass public discourse, we are still dealing with an ongoing pandemic. COVID-19 has taken hundreds of thousands of lives, sent our economy into a nose dive, and separated families and friends through “social distancing.” Many feel that it would take a miracle for any good to come from these circumstances.

Indeed, victory arising out of hardship and goodness overcoming evil is the definition of a miracle. The patriarch Joseph described the nature of miracles when he told his brothers who had sold him into slavery, “ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20 NIV).

God did not protect Joseph from suffering but God did preserve his life and gave him success in Egypt. By the time a lengthy famine devoured the middle-east, Joseph was in a position of authority, second only to Pharaoh. God used Joseph to save two entire nations—Egypt and what would someday become the nation of Israel. However, Joseph didn’t understand this until after he was reunited with his family.

Likewise, I personally didn’t understand why God led me to begin praying about a year ago that the Danby Community Church would always be a sacred, holy place in service to Jesus Christ, regardless of the name on the church sign. After the events of August 10th, 2020, I have a clearer understanding and I hope you’ll see it also.

August 10th was the sad day that the Gospel Church of Danby burned in an act of arson. But because our fellowship had renamed itself the “Danby Community Church” several years ago, and because our mission to community has intensified since then, we were primed to offer the use of our sanctuary to our brothers and sisters of the Gospel Church. And these good people have called our offer “a miracle!”

In his book *Miracles*, Eric Metaxas says, “Even though prayers are not offered only to get desired results, there is little doubt that most miracles are the result of prayer.”

There is no doubt in my mind that if we keep praying for God’s will to be done and if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will see good triumph over the evil that currently stalks our nation and the world.



What a different social media world  
it would be...

# SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 10am Worship Service 11:30am Brunch 11:30am Coffee Hour	31 9am Strength Grp.	Sep 1 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	2 7pm AA Meeting 7pm Music Service	3 9am Strength Grp. 12pm Sr. Citizens Mtg. 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	4 8am Hour of Prayer	5 8am Hour of Prayer
6 10am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	7 9am Strength Grp. 7pm Trustees Mtg.	8 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	9 7pm AA Meeting 7pm Music Service	10 9am Strength Grp. 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	11 8am Hour of Prayer	12 8am Hour of Prayer
13 10am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	14 9am Strength Grp. 7pm Admin Council	15 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	16 7pm AA Meeting 7pm Music Service	17 9am Strength Grp. 3pm Food Pantry 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	18 1pm Women's Bible Study	19 8am Hour of Prayer
20 10am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	21 9am Strength Grp.	22 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	23 7pm AA Meeting 7pm Music Service	24 9am Strength Grp. 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	25 1pm Women's Bible Study	26 8am Hour of Prayer
27 10am Worship Service 11:30am Brunch 11:30am Coffee Hour	28 9am Strength Grp. 12pm Food Truck 7pm SAP	29 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	30 7pm AA Meeting 7pm Music Service	Oct 1 9am Strength Grp. 12pm Sr. Citizens Mtg. 5pm Pastors Hr @ Sanctuary	2 1pm Women's Bible Study	3 8am Hour of Prayer



Danby Community Church  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

## Welcome Home!!

Here's What's Happening in September!

**Women's Bible Study,  
Fridays @ 1pm  
resumes Friday, September 18th**



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.