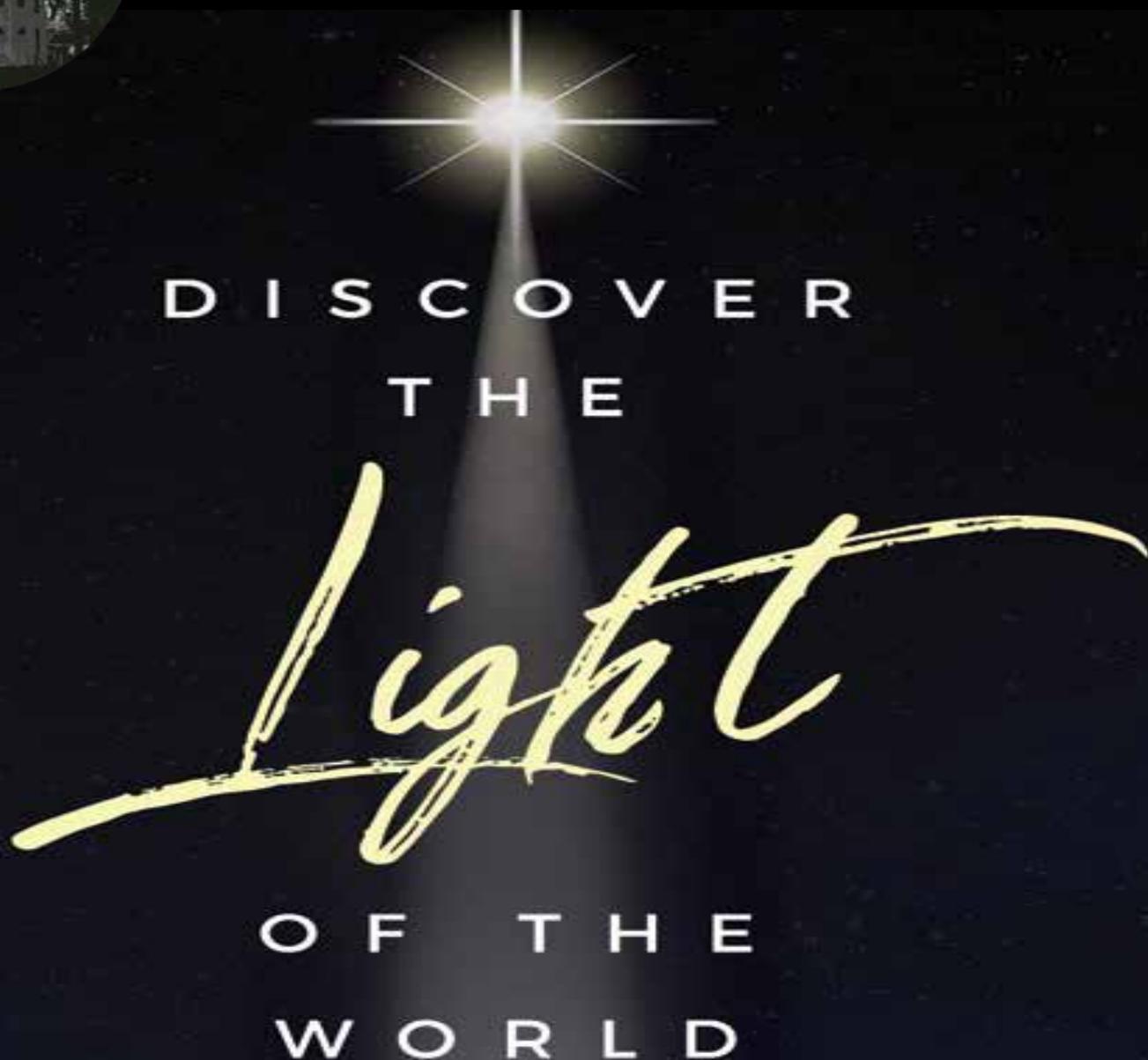




Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

December 2021



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5



From Our Pastor!

So, I hurt myself....

As most of you know, I managed to damage myself during a recent trip to Denver. A ruptured tendon and a severed ligament can really ruin a walk through an airport. My doctor says a relatively simple procedure, some new parts, and skilled sewing will have me good as new in no time. With proper rehab, restoration in my case will take three or four months.

We can view our lives and Christ's Church as a string of procedures and rehab aimed to better equip us over time. The point is no person or church body can remain stagnant over its lifetime and prosper.

As a body we are called to be in a relationship with the world, as awkward and difficult as that may be at times.

For example, people will come into our fellowship at Christmas and Easter, just because they always went to church for those holidays. Our culture puts more faith in Santa Claus than in Christ. When asked, too many people believe both are imaginary characters. But they will come to church and enjoy singing the traditional carols, paying no attention to the meaning behind the words.

This year we are taking a slightly different approach to the season. We will hold two special Christmas services. A Blue Christmas service on December 21 at 7 P.M. and a Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 7 P.M.

A Blue Christmas, marking the darkest day of the year, will offer our community an opportunity to remember all those loved ones we have lost but were unable to celebrate during the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. We've all lost a lot over the last couple of years and opportunities to find closure have been limited.

A Blue Christmas offers an acknowledgement of the sorrow and pain many of us carry into a season that is supposed to be filled with joy. A Blue Christmas on the darkest night of the year marks the slow return of light, a restoration of hope, and carrying the best of those who have gone before us into the future.

This is a new attempt to provide healing in the name of Jesus Christ to a hurting world that has fallen away from church. Although our culture has changed, human needs are unchanged. The Gospel of Grace is the consistent provision for those needs.

Jesus established a movement, His body on earth that is both capable and commissioned to prosper whether in or out of favor with the world. The Lord instructed His disciples to GO into the world, not to stay put, and so they did.

Now it is our time to prayerfully go forward seeking new opportunities to share the Gospel. The Blue Christmas service is such an opportunity.

What's in this Issue?

From Our Pastor.....	2
Spiritual Development.....	3
Admin Council Minutes.....	4
Going Wild.....	5

Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2021

Pastor:	Ed Enstine eenstine@aol.com 607.592.8276
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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
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Danby Community Church

Admin Council Meeting

November 8, 2021

This is not a competition between legacies and the future. Traditions are wonderful to remember, but in many cases they have served their purpose and we must not let them impede the Church from moving forward as a witness to our current culture. Not every new approach will work, but we must adapt to a fluid culture and changing technology to be heard.

Our challenge is to be wise in designing what will work and unafraid to risk failure. As Joshua proclaimed 3,400 years ago, “Only be strong and courageous...” Fourteen centuries later, Christ added the order to make disciples in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Make a friend, be a friend and lead that friend to Christ!

Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group is studying the Gospel of John. This is a 13-week study and participants use a study guide published by David C Cook. We meet from 8:45 – 9:45 am.

The Women’s Bible Study is using an Advent study based on the book and video Not a Silent Night–Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem, by Adam Hamilton. The Women’s study meets at 1PM on Friday afternoons in the All Saints room.

Nursery and Youth Church:

The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five.

Youth Church is available for ages 6 – 10 on an as needed basis and for ages 11 – 14 every other week or whenever we have visitors in that age group. Children begin worship with their families in the Sanctuary and are invited to the nursery/Youth Church after the Lord’s Prayer.

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 you have a prayer request. 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.

Blue Christmas Service, December 21st:

Traditionally, the Church celebrates Advent (begins Sunday, 11/28 this year) and Christmas by proclaiming the gifts of hope, faith, joy, and peace given to us in the birth of Christ.

However, celebration may be the last thing in many people’s hearts, as they face the holidays bearing grief from various losses, including death of loved ones, jobs, divorce, major life changes or illness. Dealing with loss is particularly difficult for those who were unable to share their grief because of the pandemic restrictions. For many of us, this will be a sad Advent and a blue Christmas.

As a service to our church family and the community, the Danby Community Church will hold a Blue Christmas service at 7:00 PM on the evening of Tuesday, December 21st, the longest night in the northern hemisphere. The intent is to remind participants that they are not alone and to honor their emotions as real and valid. All are welcome for a time of prayer, remembering, worship, and healing.

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 at jsg4@cornell.edu and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News

Danby Community Church

Admin Council Meeting

November 8, 2021

Present: Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Charlene Testut, Dave McDermitt, Katy Prince, and Gloria Miller. Sheila opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Motion by Dave, second by Katy, to accept the minutes from October. Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Dave said finances are doing well. Gloria made the motion, second by Margie, to approve the financial report, carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Gloria, second by Katy, to approve, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave reported that the time capsule is almost ready to close up. He had pictures of the location where it will go and Katy suggested showing them in church on a power point on the day the capsule is buried. Charlene is looking for another water distributor as Culligan will only deliver every 3 months (lots to store). Katy and Dave had suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS: Sheila asked about the possibility of putting stones on the back driveway to fill holes. Charlene said they'd wait until spring due to upcoming snow plowing.

Hospitality: Charlene reported on the Election Night Dinner. Cost is about \$450 and we always exceed that in donations. There will be no after Thanksgiving Dinner this year.

Spiritual Development: Sheila said the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are due by Nov. 21st for her to take to Bethel Grove Church. The Women's Bible Study is "Not a Silent Night" (Christmas/Advent from Mary's point of view) and they are planning to assemble care packages for shut-ins and will ask the congregation to participate. Youth Church and Nursery are always available if needed and Sheila appreciates the flexibility of our volunteers. The Adult Study Group is working on the Gospel of John.

Trustees: Charlene said Dan has repaired a leak in the parsonage roof that had caused a problem with the kitchen ceiling. The parsonage septic needed a pipe repair and not a replacement. This was worked on by Dan and approved by the Health Dept. Charlene is trying to find a contractor to repair the roof over the office area.

Missions: No report.

SPOC: Katy said they're working on replacements for the three open church leadership positions (Trustee, Clerk, Council Chair). She reported that Pastor Ed has agreed to a 2% salary increase. She mentioned we likely need a savings fund for the future if we ever get a new pastor that needs more salary and benefits than Ed has taken. Katy will be filling in for Pastor Ed on Nov. 28 due to his vacation and on Dec. 5, 12, and 19 following his surgery on Nov. 30th.

SAP: Sheila reported for Ed (home resting after his leg injury) that they are planning a Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 21. They also had a brain storming meeting to discuss ideas for outreach including several fun activities.

Katy closed the meeting with prayer at 7:55 PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gloria, seconded by Sheila.

Respectfully submitted, Margie VanDeMark/ Church Clerk

Going Wild with the Ancient Church

By Sheila Enstine

The Spiritual Advisory Panel is discussing new ways to connect with the Danby community. One of my own suggestions is to link with the Wild Church Network, a loosely connected network of churches that encourages unity in caring for God's creation and worship outside.

Yes, worship outside - as in not inside a church building, actually exposed to the elements, surrounded by God's creation.

Many people say they don't attend church services because they'd rather worship outside, in God's natural cathedral. I have a feeling that in our area, where so many people advocate for conservation and environmentalism, many nature lovers would respond to an invitation to worship outside.

Please understand—this is not about worshipping nature, but rather worshipping the God of nature. We would start slow, perhaps offering an outdoors worship service quarterly, aligning with ancient Christianity's observance of Ember Days.

Ember Days have a long history, going back to the early centuries of the Christian Church. Like so many other observances, the modern Church has forgotten them. The term likely comes from the Latin quarter or Quattuor Tempora, referring to "the four times". The early Church set aside four sets of three days to regard, remember, and sanctify the four seasons. The three days are the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of the following weeks:

1. The week after the third Sunday of Advent
2. The week after the first Sunday of Lent
3. The week after Pentecost Sunday
4. The week after the 3rd Sunday of September or the Sunday closest to September 14th

My idea is to hold a Wild Church service on the Sundays before the quarterly Ember Days, after our regular services. Yes, it might be cold outside, or rainy, or hot. This is a problem, why?

Worshippers will be advised to dress appropriately, bring an umbrella or sun glasses, and come with gratitude for the gift of our beautiful planet, in repentance for our abuse of the dominion God gave us (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8:6), and celebration of Christ's redemptive work, even in the natural world (Romans 8:21-22).

Think of it this way. The outdoors is handicapped accessible, there's plenty of light, no one will care if the children are noisy, fresh air is healthy, and we will experience an entirely new way of responding to God's goodness and provision.

If you would like to explore the Wild Church Network and/or observance of the ancient Ember Days, feel free to email me at ssenstine@gmail.com or talk to me after church any Sunday.

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.





Julie Mastroberti visited Mel VanGorder on his birthday

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Zeke the shepherd needed a little help from ..'FRIENDS' to find the newborn baby Jesus. **Luke 2**

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2001
SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT

Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

- Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am
- Sunday Adult Education Class @ 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

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

TUESDAY, DEC. 21ST
7PM.

A service of reflection and remembrance.
A service of healing and hope.

DANBY COMMUNITY CHURCH
1859 DANBY RD., ITHACA, NY
607.272.1687



Christmas Eve SERVICE

Danby Community Church * December 24 @ 7pm



Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org
Welcome Home!!

Here's What Is Happening in December!!

Blue Christmas Service

a service of healing and hope

Tuesday, December 21 @ 7pm

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24 @ 7pm

