



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

February 2023





From Our Pastor!

The weather outside my office window at the church is kind of nasty as I write this. The wind is blowing swirls of fresh snow off the roof and I'm grateful to be inside. On the flip side of that, if I were decades younger this would be a perfect morning to go outside and play.

Alas or perhaps fortunately, this article needs writing. I must stay inside and be an adult. Praise God!

A few minutes ago, two red foxes made their morning rounds outside my window. Not much to hunt out there, no mice above the snow in this weather, but a wild fox must hunt. They do not have the luxury of home delivery. I felt a twinge of pity that they are in the cold, but only for a moment. They don't seem to mind the cold. It's business as usual for them and for me.

Unlike my furry visitors, people and churches are not held captive by the urgency of a daily struggle to survive. We have the luxury to coast or we can strive, confident in the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is an appointed time for everything." The challenge is to figure out when is the right or wrong time.

Saint Paul added this wrinkle in 1 Corinthians 6:12, NIV: "I have the right to do anything'--but I will not be mastered by anything."

There is comfort and predictability in routine, just as there can be dullness. Sometimes we all need to retreat to the comfort of the familiar. At other times, we need to risk the challenge of change and chance. We are drawn by both the

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2023

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:	Dave McDermitt davidmcdermitt@gmail.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

On the Cover!

Aydon and Adam Smith

assurance of sameness and the energy of unpredictable adventure.

Perhaps the strength of emotional and spiritual maturity can be measured by the level of security we have in the tension between the comfortable known and the risky unknown. Sometimes it can be fun, other times agony. This dynamic was apparent in Jesus' ministry on earth. You can see the confusion it caused in the actions and questions of the Apostles. Eventually they got it! And so will we.

A godly, life-affirming system happens when we live into a permanent cycle of vision, accomplishment, rest, and new vision. This honors what God is doing with us, but also allows the church freedom to follow the Holy Spirit in new ways.

The foxes outside my window hunt in their territory in different ways, depending on conditions and seasons. Their life is simple but not easy. Today they will walk in the cold of winter, wind and snow, rest in the warmth of their den, and perhaps dream of a greening spring. Their cycle of days will take them through routine and adventure as God has equipped them.

He will do the same for us. We can learn a lot by looking out a window into God's creation.

Judy's Joke Corner

What kind of lighting did Noah use for the ark?

Floodlights!!



Who ran the first canning factory ?

Noah.....he had a boatful of preserved pairs !!!

**Danby Community Church
Administrative Council Meeting
January 9, 2023.**



Present. Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Judy and Dale Horton, Dave McDermitt, Gloria Miller, and Paula Nelson. Pastor Ed opened with prayer at 7:03 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES. December meeting minutes: motion to approve (Dale), second (Gloria). Carried.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y REPORT: December report: motion to approve (Gloria), second (Judy). Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula's report for last month's meeting was prepared and available for last month's meeting, it was just overlooked. She then presented her new monthly report. In addition to the monthly report, she presented the church's 2023 spending plan. Motion to approve (Dave), second (Gloria). Carried.

NEW BUSINESS/Looking Ahead.

- Sheila reported that the Upper Room daily devotional booklet costs \$1.29 per copy. If we decrease the number of copies in our subscription, we will still pay the same amount, so, the number will be decreased on a test basis.
- The annual church meeting will be held this Sunday, Jan. 15th. Refreshments provided.

REPORTS.

Hospitality.

- Funeral and repast for Linda Wilson held Saturday, Jan. 7th.
- Second roundtable on Jan. 29th is a dish-to-pass.
- Alison has been in charge of overseeing the volunteers providing refreshments for fellowship time after church; she will clarify the weekly instructions to include washing associated dirty dishes.

Spiritual Development. The church is in the season of Epiphany which lasts until Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

Current Small Groups:

Sunday morning group 8:45-9:45am. Current series studying Philippians & Colossians has restarted.

Sunday morning Bible study #2. Pastor Ed will begin a new Bible study on the Gospel of Mark on Sunday morning at 11:45 after fellowship time. The first meeting will be the Sunday following the annual meeting.

Thursday night Bible study. Pastor Ed is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew. The group is still studying chapter 5.

Friday Women's Bible Study: On break until February.

Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship informal gathering at 7pm for praise, sharing,

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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

fellowship, and prayer requests.

Nursery and Youth Church:

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

Youth Church is available for ages 6-10 (1st – 5th grades) if there are students. Copies of the volunteer schedule including greeters & ushers are on wall above the water cooler and emailed to participants.

Prayer Opportunities:

- Prayer Chain: Contact Katy Prince at “katyprince96@gmail.com”.
- Saturday mornings at 8:00 am in the sanctuary.
- Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm with Pastor Ed.
- Tuesdays via ZOOM with Sheila. 6:00pm. Focus is to pray for the church and one another.

Flowers:

- Thank you to Doug Nash and Paula for continuing to provide flowers as needed for folks in the church.

Congregational care:

- A broad thank you to everyone who helps with congregational care.

Trustees.

- Doors have been replaced at the fellowship hall entrance and they’ve made a huge difference already in helping the food pantry delivery.
- The computer was replaced for the sound system which has made it possible for the sound check person (Joan) to sit with the rest of the congregation instead of in the balcony.
- Charlene is working with the furnace repair person to fix our furnace more adequately as it just has a temporary fix currently.

Missions.

- Thank you to those who gave boxes.
- There was some discussion regarding the additional units proposed for Second Wind’s Newfield location.

SPOC. Working on filling church positions.

SAP: No meeting.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria), second (Judy). Meeting ended at 8:06.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Administrative council clerk

**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.**



## *Study – an Essential Pillar in the Life of Grace*

By Sheila Enstine

“Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth...I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:17-21 BSB).

On the night before Jesus was crucified, he prayed the above prayer for his disciples – those present at the time and those who would come after them. That includes you and me.

Notice that Jesus did not pray for our health, wealth or comfort. Instead he prayed for our sanctification.

Sanctification is a life-long process that begins when we accept Jesus’ salvation. It is a journey of becoming more holy in thought, emotion, word, and action. The Holy Spirit leads us in our sanctification, training and equipping us for Christian ministry on earth, unity with fellow believers, and instilling an expectant hope of eternity with God.

Also notice the essential ingredient in sanctification – God’s word. Jesus equates God’s word with truth. Earlier in John’s Gospel, in one of Jesus’ great “I am” statements, Jesus identifies himself as truth: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

If we would become fit servants in the Kingdom of God and representatives of the life of Grace, each of us must devote ourselves to study of God’s truth as written in the Bible. Amazingly, when we commit to studying God’s written Word, we reap a better knowledge of His living Word, Jesus (John 1:1,14).

Most Christians know this is the case, but some of us stop short of intentional Bible study for two reasons. One reason is “I don’t understand what I’m reading” and the other is “I don’t have time”.

Let’s tackle the first roadblock – not understanding. There certainly are passages in the Bible that are hard to understand.

Although I’ve been involved in personal and group Bible studies – including the use of concordances, guides, and commentaries – for over forty years, there are still many passages I don’t understand. I don’t let that stop me. I’ve learned to pray for help from the Holy Spirit, the Author of God’s Word and our ever-present Teacher. If I still don’t understand a passage, I just read on until I find something that I do understand. There’s plenty of truth to be acknowledged and acted upon in what I do understand.

As for finding answers to our lingering questions, group studies can help. Group Bible studies are where we can express our confusion and ask questions. This is where we can build trusting relationships with other believers and that, in turn, helps create the unity that Jesus prayed for.

Beginning personal and group studies means rearranging our schedules. This brings us to the second roadblock – “I don’t have time.”

We all have the same amount of time – 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week. The issue really isn’t about time. It’s about intention. What do you intend to do with that 24/7?

Do you intend to grow in your knowledge of Christ? Do you intend to be equipped for ministry and fellowship with other believers? Do you thirst for the Holy Spirit’s inspiration? If so, it is essential that you commit some of that 24/7 to both personal and group Bible study.

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If you don't already have a Bible study plan, I suggest starting with one of the Gospels. The Gospel of Mark is short and powerful and Pastor Ed is starting a group study on Mark in February. Check the Spiritual Direction report for day and time.

There's no way around the essential; grab that weekly planner and make time for study.

# Love Word Search

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | Y | D | S | N | G | E | G | I | P | B | E | E | E | H |
| U | P | A | E | M | L | G | A | A | V | E | A | B | O | N |
| W | R | T | V | Q | F | P | R | R | J | A | T | P | W | E |
| U | E | I | E | Z | J | R | B | R | Z | R | E | O | P | Z |
| U | N | R | I | G | H | T | E | O | U | S | N | E | S | S |
| N | E | B | L | B | Q | P | P | G | F | M | H | C | J | K |
| N | S | Q | E | K | E | R | S | A | V | P | P | R | P | X |
| E | J | E | B | C | O | P | T | N | C | M | L | C | X | Q |
| R | N | S | C | V | O | N | E | T | N | X | J | J | T | C |
| D | P | D | O | I | E | M | D | E | R | E | F | F | U | S |
| Y | N | K | U | I | O | R | I | J | E | A | L | O | U | S |
| R | E | I | T | R | D | J | O | N | F | L | C | G | V | K |
| D | R | A | K | F | E | Z | E | A | G | X | M | K | O | F |
| Z | P | Y | Z | D | A | S | R | R | R | L | S | R | A | W |
| Q | T | K | X | B | W | R | E | V | E | N | Y | Y | C | N |



Is **PATIENT**

Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong **SUFFERED**

Is **KIND**

Does Not Rejoice In **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

**REJOICES** With The Truth

Does Not **BRAG**

**BEARS** All Things

Is Not **ARROGANT**

**BELIEVES** All Things

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

**HOPES** All Things

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

**ENDURES** All Things

Is Not **PROVOKED**

**Danby Community Church**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**January 15, 2023.**



**Present.** Signed in: Bill Cuyle, Judy Cuyle, Dick Hautala, Rick Hautala, Sheila Enstine, Ed Enstine, Charlene Testut, Gloria Miller, Diana Benson, Devon Buckley, Johnny Driscoll, Doug Nash, Carrie Musser, Linda Lowe, Debbie Alve, Steven Clark, Joan Peak, John Tottey, Suzanne Walker, Kathie De Wolfe, Joan Barber, Lorena Miller, Bill Stock, Alison Buell, Judy Horton, Janet Gray, Tom Gray, Katy Prince, Tommy Prince, Sharon Boda, Fernando Martinez, and David McDermitt.

**Membership.** 11:40. Due to vote on possible affiliation with the 4C conference, Katy Prince from the SPOC announced that only members can vote on affiliation. Therefore, along with Pastor Ed, she asked for those in audience who wanted to join the church as members could do so after group interview by Pastor. This was done and the following people joined with approval of membership:

John Driscoll, Devon Buckley, Linda Lowe, John Tottey, Steven Clark, Joan Peak, and David McDermitt.

**Call to order** by Paula Nelson at 11:45. Opening prayer by Pastor Ed Enstine.

**Pastor's Remarks:** Pastor Ed asked membership to be willing to participate. He specifically asked us to participate in community events held at the church. He thanked the membership.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from last year's annual report (Janet Gray), second (John Tottey). Carried.

**REPORTS:**

**Pastor's Report.** Report as prepared, page 5. Pastor Ed is eager to continue as Pastor of the church.

**Financial Secretary's Report.** Page 6. David McDermitt reviewed the 2022 income report.

**Treasurer's Report.** Pages 7-10. Paula Nelson presented her report. She noted that \$10,000 was transferred from savings at the beginning of 2022 in order to cover ongoing bills such as the weekly payroll expense of \$2,000. Debbie Alve asked whether our regular income is enough to meet our obligations. Paula noted that we are OK for now.

Paula then presented the church's 2023 spending plan. She trimmed where she could, but utilities and insurance costs continue to rise. SPOC increased the pastor's salary by 8% in order to make the position more enticing when Pastor Ed steps down though his education and mileage expenses were lowered. The amount for missions was reduced by \$1,000. The custodian is Dan Vorrasi since the Wilson's have both passed away. Motion to approve spending plan (Tommy Prince), Second (Diane Benson). Carried.

Motion to approve Pastor's, Financial Secretary's, and Treasurer's reports (Gloria), second (Tom Gray). Carried.

**SPOC Report.** Katy Prince delivered report. She explained that their church survey was successful, and she would like to have another survey completed this year to ask deeper questions. She mentioned that the job of the Pastor is not to produce sheep (members) – rather sheep produce sheep while the Pastor is the shepherd. The information regarding 4C affiliation follows further down.

**Trustees' Report.** Charlene delivered remarks. We have a 200-year old building so there is and will be repairs needed for it. They have a list of things to do, but they/we need to be realistic about what can be done based on money that is

available to do things. The major capital improvement project in 2022 was the installation of the double doors at the front of the fellowship hall. This is a major help to those unloading deliveries for the food pantry because the new doors eliminate the need for a center post, so the delivery driver's lift can enter the hall with pallets. They are still looking for a fix for the furnace as a needed part is taking a long time to arrive, so the furnace is running on 1 boiler instead of 2. Alison Buell asked to say a prayer that the part would come quickly and so she prayed for this. Charlene reminded membership that the Trustees are just a governing body, so if someone sees something wrong, they should tell them about it, then volunteer to do it. She thanked Michelle Dunning, Lorena Miller, and Doug Nash for their help throughout the year. Doug mentioned he ties deliveries of flowers to the delivery of other flowers, so ours may not go out on the exact date requested.

Spiritual Development. Sheila reported that the focus in her written report was on the worship team because the church is blessed to have an amazing team that we should appreciate. She noted that there's always someone available with a lesson if there are children on Sundays. Zoom prayer on Tuesdays at 6:00pm is available for those interested. Doug Nash thanked Sheila for going above and beyond what a Pastor's wife might be expected to do for a church, especially given the medical issues she's had.

Missions. Judy Horton gave the report. The accomplishments are listed in the printed report. She said that Pastor Ed and Scripture instruct us to reach out, so we must do so like Daryl Snyder has with Ward's trailer park in Newfield. She continues to have a passionate heart for the Native American people. Members should let her know what's on their heart for outreach.

St. Pauly's Shed & DCC Clothing Program. Sharon gave the report. The shed allows us to have a summer sale because people often drop off items that the shed doesn't accept which made us all laugh. For instance, someone gave 10 shopping bags full of books in great shape. She said rather than getting 6 cents per pound as St. Pauly's gives to the church, it's often more profitable to resell things. Their primary buyer is Plato's Closet, followed by Mama Goose; Trader K's has closed. Jewelry is re-sold online with the help of her daughter, Chris. There was 'only' 1 episode of vandalism this past year, so compared to previous years, it was a 'good' year in that respect.

Election of Officers. Katy reported the open positions which include the Administrative Council chairperson, 1 position with SPOC, and 1 position with the Trustees, as well as the Clerk being willing to give up the position if someone else wants to do it.

- Council chair. Katy mentioned that the position of Council chair could also be done as a co-chair with Paula. Paula said the primary responsibilities were to make an agenda for the Council's monthly meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, to lead the monthly meeting, and to be responsible. Sheila offered to serve as co-chair if membership didn't think it was a conflict of interest. Dave M. offered but was told he already has 2 positions. Debbie inquired with someone else in mind for it.
- SPOC. The committee provides oversight and connection with the Pastor and staff. Joanie Barber volunteered for the position.
- Board of Trustees. The Trustees are the legal body of the corporation of the church who serve to address problems. The church's constitution requires that the Board include 6-9 people. Dan Vorrasi was offered a position and accepted, while Dave Swartout was removed.

Motion to approve nominations (Tom Gray), second (Tommy Prince). Carried.

**Affiliation with the 4C's - Conservative Congregational Christian Conference** (www.cccusa.com).

Katy Prince explained her feelings about affiliation which is that being part of something bigger is a good thing and will add to us adding to the Kingdom of God. There is a \$75 application fee which if the church can't cover, she would gladly pay. Because of the time and expense for our church to separate from the Methodist church, there is a concern or wariness of once again joining a denomination. Someone remarked that the 4C's isn't a denomination per se, but a 'conference' and Katy noted that it is very easy to dissociate from the 4C's – it just requires sending them a letter. They would like 2% of our income – but even this is not mandatory. They do a lot of outreach. Debbie said that the 4C's can provide financial help if needed; Katy agreed but only if we applied for it.

Motion to adjust proposed 2023 spending plan to reflect affiliation with the 4C's if they accept us (Charlene), second (Katy). Carried.

Before voting on a motion to affiliate, Sheila suggested the motion should be stated as 'applying to affiliate with' instead of just 'affiliating with' the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (4C's). Motion (Katy), second (Janet). Motion carried with unanimous approval to apply to affiliate with the 4C's.

**General Comments.** Dick Hautala suggested that the church contact Joel Gagnon, the Town supervisor, to see if they could put salt down on our icy parking lot.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria), second (Janet). Meeting ended at 12:43.

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>Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am
Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30am
Sunday Adult Education Class @ 8:45am
Sunday Adult Education Class after church service starting Feb.5
Tuesdays via ZOOM - Prayer with Sheila @ 6pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Communion, Conversation and Prayer 5-6pm
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm
Thursdays - Bible Study @ 7pm
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am

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

Important Dates:

Lent 2023 begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. The Ash Wednesday service will be on that date at 7:00 PM. During Lent, the liturgical color on the altar is purple, representing repentance.

New Care Notes Brochures

To help you observe the season of Lent, we have two new Care Notes brochures on display – “40 Ways to Enrich Your Lenten Prayer” and “Lent – A Time to Pray for Others.” Be sure to take one for yourself and another to give away.

Adult Small Groups:

- **The Sunday morning group** is studying the Books of Philippians and Colossians. We meet on Sundays at 8:45 am.
- **New! – A Sunday afternoon group** will begin a study of the Gospel of Mark on February 5th. The group will meet after the worship service. Grab some refreshments and join in.
- **The Wednesday night Praise and Fellowship** gathers at 7 pm with the praise team. After worship, we have a time of koinonia (sharing our faith) and prayer requests.
- **The Thursday evening Bible Study** begins at 7 pm. Pastor Ed is leading a study on the Gospel of Matthew.
- **The Friday afternoon Women’s Bible Study** meets at 1:00 PM in the All Saints Room. See Suzanne Walker if you are interested in joining the study.

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

Children’s Church: After the Morning Prayer on Sundays, children ages 6 through 10 (about 5th grade) are welcome to attend Children’s Church. There is always someone prepared with a lesson.

Prayer Opportunities:

- **Zoom Prayer Gathering:** You are invited to Zoom prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. Let Sheila Enstine know if you’re interested and she will send an email to you with the meeting link. It’s easy!
- **In-person Prayer:** If remote prayer meetings don’t appeal to you, we also offer an in-person prayer time in the Sanctuary on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. This is an opportunity to petition the Lord for others and for ourselves without the distractions we often encounter at home or on the road.
- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at katyprince96@gmail.com.

Congregational Care: Thank you to everyone who has seen a need and responded in love. Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for faithfully arranging for flower deliveries.





Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!



What's Happening?!?

FREE COFFEE AND DONUT



Mondays, 1/23, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Take out or Dine In

Join Us for **Community Coffee Chat**

Ash Wednesday Service, February 22