



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

**February 2024**



**Ruth, the church cat**



## From Our Pastor!

It seems impossible that I'm alive and well in 2024, yet here I am, doing fine as the calendar turns. My generation thought 30 was old back in 1967. My goodness how foolish we were, but the music was great! January 1<sup>st</sup> just marks another day, not some momentous moving of heaven and earth. But we silly humans have created a host of traditions and sometimes confusing systems to keep track of the passing of time.

A case in point is the leap year. Every four years February has an extra day. Pity the poor kids who have to celebrate their birthdays on the wrong day most years. I am told that February 28 is the substitute date for leap babies. On the other hand, it might be an enjoyable fantasy to tell folks you are 20 when you're really 80.

No matter how you divide the year or how many birthdays you celebrate, there isn't much you can do to change the inexorable creep of change that happens across a life well spent. On my birthday in 1949 the world was a far different place than it is today. In 2049 the majority of what was common at my birth will be museum exhibits. Such is life as we become antique or as I prefer, "vintage."

The Danby Community Church has a history to celebrate as well as a future that should not be feared. Most of us will not be here in a very few years, but what we accomplish now will bear fruit that honors God far into the future.

We pray for God's guidance and provision. We seek the blessing of greeting people who will replace us in these old pews. Future generations will need our prayers as much as we inhabit the prayers of those who have gone before us. Soon it will be someone else's turn to turn on the lights and make the coffee on Sunday mornings. I pray they will be surrounded by the same warmth and love we enjoy together today. May they feel God's presence when they enter our beloved sanctuary.

The future will get here whether we want it to or not. Our job is to be people who spread the Gospel by actions and words, here and now.

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### Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2024

<b>Pastor:</b>	Ed Enstine eenstine@aol.com 607.592.8276
<b>Administrative Aide</b>	Lynn Kingston-Harris office@danbychurch.org 607.272.1687
<b>Administrative Council</b>	
Co-Chairpersons:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.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
<b>Area Coordinators</b>	
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Charlene Testut
<b>Spiritual Development:</b>	Sheila Enstine
<b>Missions:</b>	Suzanne Walker suzrwalker@yahoo.com
<b>Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:</b>	
Chair:	Katy Prince
<b>Praise Team Leaders:</b>	Katy & Tommy Prince
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Janet Gray jsg4@cornell.edu
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Janet Gray
<b>Facebook:</b>	Janet Gray

**On the Cover!**  
**Ruth is our Church Cat that catches mice, is a therapy cat and greeter**

Please pray that God will entrust us with the children of His Kingdom. Make a friend, be a friend, and lead that friend to Christ. Be not afraid, the lord is with us now and forever.

**Danby Community Church  
Administrative Council Meeting  
January 15, 2024**

**Present.** Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, and David McDermitt. Pastor Ed opened with prayer at 7:01 pm.

**CLERK'S MINUTES.** December meeting minutes: reviewed, no corrections, but no quorum, so no vote.

**FINANCIAL SEC'Y REPORT:** December report reviewed. No quorum.

**TREASURER REPORT:** no report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- New projector – on hold.
- TV monitor for sanctuary here, but not installed.
- Tax exemption status for Parsonage – application submitted.
- Back taxes on Parsonage – paid.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Annual meeting this Sunday, 1/21/24.
- Partnership Sunday currently planned for the following Sunday, 1/28, which will allow new officers to start February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**REPORTS.**

**Hospitality.**

- Chicken & Biscuit planned for February.
- Nancy Weitzel passed away and a memorial will be held in the spring.

**Spiritual Development.** The church is in the season of Epiphany which lasts until Lent which this year is February 14th.

**Current Small Groups:**

**Sunday morning group 8:45-9:45am.** Sheila is leading a series studying Gospel of Mark

**Thursday night Bible study.** Pastor Ed is leading a study of the Gospel of Matthew.

**Friday Women's Bible Study:** On break until Lent.

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**Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship** informal gathering at 7pm.

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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”.
- - Tuesday evenings in the sanctuary with Pastor Ed and Sheila, 5:30 – 6:30.
- - Prayer calendar has re-started.

**Food Pantry.**

- 93 households were served last month.

**Trustees.**

- Acknowledge that the Parsonage needs several repairs.
- Will have someone in to look at the ceiling and roof of the kitchen annex.

**Missions.**

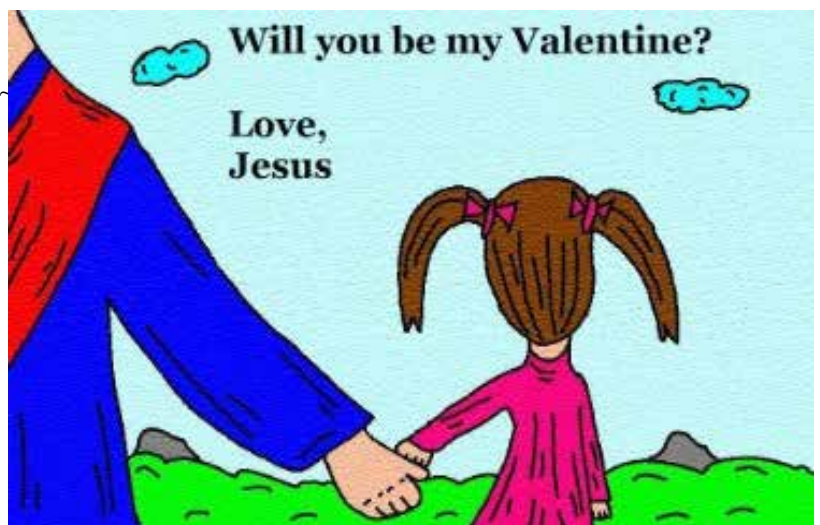
- We expect to have a new missions coordinator.

**SPOC.** Partner agreement has been prepared and is ready for the annual meeting.

**SAP:** Plan to meet the last Monday of this month..

Meeting ended at 8:09. Sheila prayed us out.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Administrative council clerk



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

**Change is Good but “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)**

*By Katy Prince, SPOC Chair*

I’ve heard it said that a good change is a change that no one notices. Well, in the past few months a LOT of things have changed at the Danby Community Church (DCC). From the Worship Team to the DCC Constitution, there have been changes, and there are some more changes to come. I don’t want these changes to go unnoticed, even if that saying above is true.

We are saddened by the departure of our Worship Team Leader, Fernando Martinez (Pup), and we pray that he has found a place of worship where he will feel the Holy Spirit in his heart and soul. And we are saddened that our lead guitarist, Steve Hubble, has moved to Florida, but we are happy for him that he is closer to his children and grandchildren, and that some of the pain from being cold here in New York has left him.

We are grateful that Tommy Prince has stepped into the Worship Team leadership role with his wife Katy (hey that’s me!). Tommy and Katy are doing their best to bring to the congregation a feeling that God is with us and for us through the music they play with the Worship Team. (P.S. The Worship Team meets every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm to practice, lifting a joyful noise and to share a time of community and prayer as a small group. Everyone is welcome to come to that meeting.)

The change in the Constitution redefines the membership of the church. In reality it just changes the word member to partner and requires that each partner renew their partnership with the church on a yearly basis. This is in an effort to hold the church accountable, to be in contact with and support its partners, and hold the partners of the church accountable, to be in contact with and serve the church. A Partner is a person who has received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, being baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and is in agreement with the purpose, beliefs, strategy, and structure of the DCC. Here are the four points of partnership:

1. Partners will protect the unity of the DCC by acting in love toward one another, refusing to gossip, and by following the leadership.
2. Partners will share in the responsibility of the DCC by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit.
3. Partners will serve the ministry of the DCC by discovering their gifts and talents, being equipped to serve with the pastor and leadership, and by developing a servant’s heart.
4. Partners will support the testimony of the DCC by attending faithfully, living a godly life, and giving regularly.

If you haven’t received your partnership agreement to fill out, please see the Pastor or me (Katy Prince, Staff Pastor Oversight Committee Chairperson).

And, it’s a brand new year and after a few conversations with Pastor Ed and within the Staff Pastor Oversight Committee, I have volunteered to preach once a month at Danby Community Church. This will give Pastor Ed time to relax and time to pursue a few other activities that he is interested in with the CCCCs. At this time the plan is for me to preach on the fourth Sunday of the month, so your next opportunity to see what God has to say to us through me is February 25th.

These are big changes, but they aren’t changes in our overall mission of the DCC, which is to add to and build up the Kingdom of God. They are changes to reignite our souls and bring us in closer relationship to each other and to God. Remember what it says in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Amen.

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 for February 2024:**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> this year and concludes on Holy Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Resurrection Sunday is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Lent lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays, which are “little Easters.” The word Lent comes from the Germanic “langitinaz” for lengthening of days. This season is a time of self-examination and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Christ’s victory over sin.

Fasting from certain foods or meals is a traditional practice during Lent, but there are many other ways to observe this season. This could be a time of increased generosity, prayer, and Scripture reading. We might better think of this season as a time of Christ-examination and think about what we need to do to become more Christlike. No doubt, this will include relinquishing habits and attitudes that hinder our walk with Him.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

**The Sunday morning group** is studying the Book of Psalms. The class meets on Sundays at 8:45 am. Let Sheila Enstine know if you’re interested.

**The Wednesday night Praise and Fellowship** gathers at 7 pm with the praise team. After worship, we have a time of fellowship and prayer.

**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** is on break until Lent. Contact Suzanne Walker for more information.

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

**Children’s Church:** After the first set of worship music on Sundays, children ages 6 through 10 (about 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to attend Children’s Church

### **Prayer Opportunities:**

- **In-person Prayer:** Tuesday afternoons from 5:30 to 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary.
- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at [katyprince96@gmail.com](mailto:katyprince96@gmail.com).
- **Church Prayer Calendar:** During February, the topics we are covering as a congregation in prayer are: Our Pastor and All Shepherds; Current World Conflicts; Spiritual Fruit; The Unity of Christ’s Church; For Workers in the Harvest; Healings; and Salvations. Participants with email will receive digital copies. Hard copies of the calendar will be available at the church.

### **Congregational Care:**

Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for faithfully arranging for flower deliveries.

If you have other ideas for studies, prayer or congregational care, please contact Sheila Enstine.

**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.**





FREE COFFEE & DONUTS



Mondays, 1/15, 2/19, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17

8:00 am - 10:30 am

Take out or Dine In

Join Us for **Community Coffee Chat**



**Dish to Pass Lunch**

Sunday, February 18 after church



**CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER**

Fridays, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, Apr. 12

**5pm - 7pm**

Chicken and Biscuits and all the fixings,  
beverage and dessert

By donation



**ASH Wednesday Service**

Wednesday, Feb. 14 @ 7pm

Welcome **HOME**

a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am

Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30am

Sunday Adult Education Class @ 8:45am

Tuesdays, Prayer Meeting @ 5:30pm

Tuesdays "Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts" @ 7pm

Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm

Thursdays, Pastor's Bible Study @ 7pm

Fridays, Women's Bible Study @ 1pm "on break until Lent"



Danby Community Church  
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*[www.danbychurch.org](http://www.danbychurch.org)*

## Welcome Home!!

What's Happening?!? in February??

### Chicken and Biscuit

Fridays, Feb. 9, March 8, and April 12 5-7pm

ASH Wednesday Service  
Wednesday, Feb. 14 @ 7pm

### Dish to pass lunch

Sunday, February 18 after church

### Free Coffee and Donuts

Mon. 1/15, 2/19, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, 6/17 - 8am - 10:30am

COMMUNITY COFFEE CHAT