

Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

January 2022



20 + C+M+B + 22

Glory to God in the Highest.

Bless and Dedicate Our Church Home to God for 2022



From Our Pastor!

I am being a perfect patient (please do not ask my wife about this), while at the same time my patience is being tested. It is good to experience both aspects of care giving, as a receiver as well as a giver. Our perspective changes for the better when we live through both sides of a common experience. Life is a series of experiences, spanning from the horribly painful and difficult to the beautiful. With endurance and prayerful attention to duty, we can redeem them all for the Kingdom of God.

So, let's go back to doing what we've always done! NO!!!!

Change is good and we need it, contrary to popular jokes and nostalgia. Most people really do not want things to stay endlessly the same. Sure, routine has its place, but we need change to improve.

There is an important exception. The one thing that must remain unaltered is the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Jesus lived; Jesus died; Jesus rose from the dead; Jesus will come again. As we dive deeper into understanding these truths, the reality of the Kingdom of God and our part in it unfolds. God's plan for humanity's redemption remains fixed as we grow into the enormity of divine grace.

So we enter 2022 a changed people due to circumstances beyond our control. A prolonged pandemic, economic disruption and social breakdown have taken a toll on church communities across the globe. As difficult as these times are, this challenge serves to strengthen our faith, not weaken it.

"But Pastor, aren't our numbers down?"

Yes, attendance is down if Sunday morning is your only measure. However, ministry to people is robust, if you count interaction and relationships.

What about money, paying the bills, maintenance, and all that financial stuff? We don't pass the plate anymore so we must be broke, right? God provides the inspiration to give what is needed, not what will be hoarded. We are in service and mission to our community and the world around us, and miracle of miracles, we are financially sound. We have not slowed our giving, our mission or our ministry.

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Area Coordinators	
Hospitality:	Charlene Testut
Spiritual Development:	Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
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Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:	
Chair:	Katy Prince
Praise Team Leader:	Pup Martinez martinez789@yahoo.com
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**See page 8:
Epiphany House Blessing**

The one thing that is lacking during these trying times is extending an invitation to a hurting world to come to know Christ. Isolation is not the natural environment for evangelism.

As we enter into a new season of life emerging from the uncertainty and frustration of these past two years, we need to carry the Gospel into our world as a message of hope and invitation for people to come and see that God is good. We do this best through direct interaction with people.

How do we offer Christ?

Remember that people need relationships. As the saying goes, “Make a friend, be a friend, and lead your friend to Christ.”

Get to know people. Listen for the other person’s story. What are their needs, hurts, joys, and sorrows? Find the points where you can relate people’s experiences to yours and what God has done for you personally as a believer. People may not show up at church the next Sunday but they cannot discount your experience. Don’t be discouraged by rejection. Even the coldest rejection leaves a seed behind. The time will come when what you have in Christ reveals itself as what other people need in their lives.

Be persistent without being annoying. Be a blessing whenever and wherever possible as the Holy Spirit directs you. A new era of a post-pandemic church is about to begin. As a church body we have been brainstorming new ways to serve and attract our community. When we open new opportunities, please get involved.

Mix with our neighbors and friends; always be willing to offer them the hope of Jesus and the support of a loving congregation in times of trouble and joy alike, even if they do not attend Danby Community Church. At the very least let them know we will pray for them.

You might not think you are an evangelist, but you are a child of God. Be yourself and let the Holy Spirit guide you into where your light will shine in this dark world. Praise God, I know you can do it!



Judy's Joke Corner

During church service, the people were nodding off. An announcement was made: “Beginning next week coffee hour will be held before church and not after the service.....”

A good laugh heals a lot of hurts!

It's church budget season. Time for the sermon on the Amount!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



He must become greater, and I must become less. **John 3:30**

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

Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

Adult Small Groups:

On January 7th, the Sunday morning group will begin a study on Creative Faith, which looks at the role of creation and creative arts in faith. Using articles published by Christianity Today, the three-part series will focus on the Christian concept of beauty, how great literature can lead people to faith, and why we need poetry to appreciate God's world. Each segment will likely take two weeks to complete, so the study will probably extend into February.

Please let me know if you are interested and I'll give you copies of the articles to read before class. The group meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am.

The Women's Bible Study will begin a new study in February. They will meet 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 comprised of two groups – Group One for children ages 6 – 10 and Group Two for ages 11 – 14. Youth Church meets every other week or if enough young people attend services. Children begin worship with their families in the Sanctuary and are invited to the nursery/Youth Church after the Lord's Prayer.

Ed Talks:

Although Pastor Ed is not currently producing "Ed Talks" due to his need to recuperate from foot surgery, you can still watch his prior talks 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.

Once Pastor Ed is on his feet again (literally) he'll be available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm.

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

Danby Community Church
Admin Council Meeting
December 13, 2021

Present: Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Margie VanDeMark, Charlene Testut, Dave McDermitt, Dale Horton, Judy Horton, Gloria Miller, and guest Gigi Johnston. Sheila opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Motion by Gloria, second by Sheila, to accept the minutes from November. Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula said \$1000 had been used from the Memorial funds and given to Halco Plumbing to help with restoring heat at Mabel's church. This was approved by the Memorial Committee. Paula went over the proposed spending plan for next year. Changes were made to decrease allowances in areas where we haven't needed them: Fellowship, Advertising, Office Expenses, Pastor Salary (Ed only accepted a 2% increase). Totals \$1800 less than this year's plan. Mobile Food Truck was removed from the plan as we no longer host it.

Margie made the motion to approve, seconded by Gloria, to accept. Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Dave reviewed his report. Gloria made the motion, second by Sheila, to approve the financial report, carried.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Charlene said an anonymous donor is giving \$2000 to benefit the food pantry. Sheila made the motion to use this money to purchase a computer for use at pantry registration and for ordering, with any excess to be put towards new doors for the Fellowship Hall. Approved.

Hospitality: Charlene reported that there will not be a January Chicken & Biscuit due to the surge in Covid cases, and February is to be determined. The Red Cross is returning to DCC and the next drive is scheduled for January. Tai Chi group will resume inside the building in January.

Spiritual Development: Sheila said the Adult Group is finishing the Gospel of John. In January & February they will study a Creative Faith program. The Women's Group is finishing their Advent Study. Nursery is available as needed and Youth Church every other week if children are present. Sheila thanks everyone who helped with the Care Baskets and Operation Christmas Child.

Trustees: Charlene said we have made a deposit for a contractor to do the roof repairs in February or March for a cost of \$4865. No one has been found to contract for the Fellowship Hall door project. The parsonage septic is finally fixed with Dan having worked on pipe separation repair and it has been approved by the Health Department. Dan also is repairing the ceiling leak wall board in the parsonage.

Missions: Gigi Johnston told us about her ministry with Tapestries of Life in Mexico which involves building materials for the parsonage and their mercy ministry (providing items needed, like diapers, to children). She also leads other mission outreach in many areas. Sheila made the motion to donate \$1200 to Tapestries of Life. Gloria seconded and all approved. Judy said Alison Buell felt led to provide Christmas boxes to the children at the Salamanca Indian Reservation & Rescue Mission. She and her children delivered these and they were well received and much appreciated! She plans to do more next year.

SPOC: no report

SAP: Sheila reported that Pastor Ed is "back to work and his office is on the couch."

Adjournment: Gloria moved that the meeting close at 8 pm. Approved.

Respectfully submitted, Margie VanDeMark/ Church 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.



Mission Report

By Judy and Dale Horton

On December 14th, the Danby Church delivered 17 shoe boxes to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box project to send Christmas to needy children all over the world.

On December 11th & 12th, we delivered Christmas to the native children at the reservation at Salamanca, New York, with Alison Buell and her family – Tina, Penny, Lincoln, and Robbie—joining us for a most amazing day! We delivered 26 boxes of Christmas cheer to the Healing Reigns Fellowship and 14 boxes to the rescue mission on the reservation. Along with the boxes, each child received a stuffed animal, a bag of candies, and a Bible to fit their ages.

A dish-to-pass lunch was held after the service. When it was time to go, the children cried, not wanting Allison's children to leave.

The following Monday, we delivered 25 more boxes to Newfield Elementary School where Pam Scot and Nicole Hoffman distributed them to the neediest children there.

All of this was done without credit to any person, but in the love inspired by Danby Community Church and God our Father!



Gus and Janet Gray delivered a Christmas basket to Priscilla Barber

During the week of December 12th, many church volunteers delivered baskets of cheer to local homebound members and friends who gratefully received them.

At our December Council meeting, Gigi Johnston presented information about her upcoming mission trip to Tapestries of Life in Mexico. Many friends and family from the Danby Church have participated in mission trips to this wonderful ministry in the past. Council agreed to gift \$1,200 to Gigi for her trip.



Tapestries of Life in Mexico

The Church also donated to the Heifer Project.

We designated the Christmas Eve offering to the Second Wind Cottages Dryden House for Women and their Children. You can read about this new project at <https://www.tompkinsweekly.com/articles/second-wind-raising-funds-for-upcoming-dryden-house-2/>



A Prayer for 2022

from Ron Hamilton
CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

The past two years have been unpredictable and unstable. Pastors and church leaders have been forced to make tough decisions. Believers are confronted on every side about what to think and what choices to make. Everyone wants us to take sides. We can find direction from God's Word as we begin a new year. Paul's prayer for the Philippians is a great example.

*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.
(Philippians 1:9-11)*

This is time when our love for God and others can grow. God will speak into our minds and hearts as we seek Him. We learn more about Him and His will for our lives as we do this. This helps us make decisions in our daily lives that honor Him and reflect His character.

God promises to help us "discern what is best". We don't have to be confused by the mixed messages that call us to "Do this and do that!" Our goal should always be to do what the Lord wants us to do.

I pray Philippians 1:9-11 over you today! I encourage you to pray this over your life, your family, your friends and your church as we begin another year.



Bless and Dedicate Your Home to God for 2022

By Sheila Enstine

One of the frustrations of the COVID-19 Pandemic is the difficulty in finding contractors and renovation supplies. I've been trying to replace two doors since May or June of 2021.

The delay may be a blessing in disguise. In addition to waiting for an increase in the availability of contractors and doors (and a decrease in the cost of doors), I recently discovered a centuries-old tradition known as the Epiphany House Blessing, which includes a ceremony called the Chalking of the Doors. Although known throughout the world, this practice seems to have waned in the United States.

The Epiphany season begins on January 6th, marking the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus' first home, when he was about two years old (Matthew 2:1-2; 16). The Epiphany House Blessing involves prayers of dedication offered by a priest, pastor, or the head of the household after using chalk to inscribe a series of numbers and initials above the door. If you were to do this for 2022, the inscription would look like this: 20 + C+M+B + 22

The numbers represent the year and the plus signs represent the cross. There are two traditions for the meaning of the letters CMB. One says that they stand for the fictional names of the Wise Men, but I prefer the tradition in which they stand for the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* – may Christ bless the house.

The prayers are often followed by blessing each room with holy water, a Catholic tradition with an important spiritual significance. There is much to be said for routine "house cleaning," praying in each room for God's protection and dedicating each area for Christ's purposes.

This is a great way to dedicate your home and household to God for the New Year as well as celebrate the season of Epiphany. All that's needed is chalk, holy water if you want to use it, and prayers. You can compose your own prayers or use any of the House Blessing prayers and liturgies published on the internet. Here's one from the Roman Ritual Epiphany Blessing of Homes:

"Lord God almighty, bless this home, and under its shelter let there be health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to your commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May your blessing remain always in this home and on those who live here; through Christ our Lord. Amen."

This New Years day I'll be chalking 20 + C+M+B + 22 above my outside doors. If they're eventually replaced, I'll do it again.

If you decide to perform the Epiphany House Blessing, invite everyone in your household to take part. Each person can add his or her blessings to the prayers. Let me know how it goes.

God bless you all, your homes, and your households in 2022!



Thank you Lorena Miller & Michele Dunning for the beautiful decorations for the Blue Christmas Service and the Christmas Eve Service. Thank you Doug Nash for getting the gorgeous white poinsettias. Each person that attended the Blue Christmas Service and lit a blue votive candle in memory of their loved ones, took home a candle.

Blue Christmas Service



Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Boxes to Salamanca

By Alison Buell

On December 12th, 2021 my children and I traveled to Kill Buck, NY to Healing Reigns Church on the Native American reservation in Salamanca NY. Kill Buck is a small hamlet outside of Salamanca. The experience was eye opening in many ways. The church recently acquired their building, which had been an Alliance Community Church. At the time they acquired it, it needed major rehab. They accomplished that and opened for services this past March.

I am not sure what I expected to find, but it was different from what I thought it would be. Pastor Mapes was friendly and welcomed me and my children warmly. The congregation of about 40 people also welcomed us. Several of my children participated in the children's church service.

Pastor Mapes gave a good sermon and the praise team played loudly and enthusiastically. Some of my children were excited that the music sounded to them like rock music. Judy Horton sang a beautiful song for the congregation. At the end of the service, the pastor announced that we had brought Christmas shoeboxes for the children. The people who received them were very grateful and the children liked what we brought for them.



My four children participated in handing out the boxes with Judy. When they were calling out the names, there were some that went unclaimed. One man was talking to me and pulled out a piece of paper from his pocket with a sheepish look on his face. He told me that it was a list his wife had given him with the names of his grandchildren on it. He seemed hesitant to show me. I exclaimed that these were ones we had prepared and we were wondering where they were. I told him to go back and get them. He was still hesitant saying he feared that people would think he was Scrooge. I assured him that no one was thinking that and to go ahead.

One frail woman who was wearing a nasal cannula for oxygen therapy was packing up leftovers from the dish-to-pass dinner to take home. I asked her if I could pray for her. She allowed me to and it was one of several times that I felt the Holy Spirit moving in that church. Later, she was trying to gather three boxes with her grandchildren's names on them to take home. I asked her if she needed help. She said no in a happy tone. The only thing she needed help with was hiding them from her grandchildren when she got home. At that moment, it struck me that those boxes were probably the only thing that those children would be getting for Christmas.

During the dinner that followed, we sat with the church members. I was able to talk to several people and find things that I could pray about for them. I also shared some of my experiences regarding things the Lord has done for me.

One of my children, who had complained about not being allowed to wear ripped jeans to the service, commented that the people didn't seem too dressed up. I said that maybe what they were wearing were the best clothes that they had. My kids had a wonderful time with the children who were there and when we had to leave one of the little girls was crying because she didn't want Penny to leave. On the drive home, the kids were talking about a scar one of the children had that looked as though an animal had chewed her arm. Another child was missing parts of his fingers on both hands. I said that maybe they don't have access to the type of medical care that is readily available to my children, which was a new thought to them.

As we drove back towards the highway, I asked the kids to look out the windows and tell me what they saw.

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

“Shacks!” said one of them.

I agreed and told them that those were the types of places where some of the people we’d just met lived.

In the past, I have heard people say that they don’t want to send support to charities overseas when there are so many needs in this country. It was nice to be meeting that need. On the other hand, I have heard people complain that there is no reason that the Native Americans on the Allegheny reservation in Salamanca should need anything because they have a casino that is bringing in millions, if not billions of dollars. People also say it is the responsibility of the Native Americans to take care of themselves.

It is probably the truth that the casinos bring in lots of money. Despite that fact, very little trickles down to the average citizen. My heart still goes out to the children who have no control over those circumstances.

The Holy Spirit had told me to make 75 Christmas boxes and we still had about 25 to give away. With the help of her niece, Judy was fortunate to find some local children who attend Newfield School who were not going to have any Christmas presents. Her niece was glad to take the boxes to someone who distributed them for us.



Tina, Robbie, Lincoln and Penny Buell

I want to express my appreciation to all the people who helped with this project. Judy Horton encouraged me during the times when I felt overwhelmed and didn’t know if we could pull it off. Cindy Ball provided enough materials to fill almost 20 boxes. My sister in law Mary Alice Kimball heard about it and offered a financial contribution. Debbie Alve donated items to help fill the boxes. My four children helped me shop for the items, pack bags of candy, and fill the boxes, in addition to agreeing to come along when we delivered them. I also appreciated all of those who prayed for us during the time we were working on it. Thank you to any I may have forgotten to mention.



Filling Christmas boxes for the children at the reservation at Salamanca, New York



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www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

 CrossCards.com

HAPPY
New Year

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4