



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

January 2024



photo by Chrissy Vorassi



## From Our Pastor!

I don't do New Year's resolutions well. With the best of intentions, I can usually hold to my resolution for a few days in January. At that point, the best intentions of doing or not doing whatever have fallen through and it is time to get on with life as usual.

As far as my slacker ways in regard to resolutions, I'm not alone. People who pay attention to such nonsense report that New Year's resolutions have a remarkably short shelf life. Twenty-three percent of those who declare their best effort give up by January 7. Forty-three percent stick it out until the end of January. The remaining resolution makers fall by the wayside throughout the year, with only 9% seeing their resolution to completion.

As far as I'm concerned, with or without an annual resolution, a yielded life is wonderful. Praise God for all the blessings we enjoy right here and now, including the challenges we'd rather not face. Perhaps it is best to look for what God is doing to and for us and then join in the fun. Even if the world is a mess, we do not have to add to despair, confusion, and chaos. After all, Christians are supposed to be new and improved creatures in Christ. The Lord has left us enough instructions in scripture and the role models of countless saints to show us how to live a full life, even if it takes effort.

We are taught in Scripture to be "Doers of the Word and not hearers only." Nowhere does Scripture say to be part of the 91% who give up before the goal is accomplished.

So what are we going to be doing at the Danby Community Church in the coming months?

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### Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2023

<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>	
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
<b>Area Coordinators</b>	
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Charlene Testut
<b>Spiritual Development:</b>	Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
<b>Missions:</b>	Judy & Dale Horton therose8641@yahoo.com
<b>Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:</b>	
Chair:	Katy Prince
<b>Praise Team Leader:</b>	Pup Martinez martinez789@yahoo.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Janet Gray jsg4@cornell.edu
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Janet Gray
<b>Facebook:</b>	Janet Gray

### On the Cover!

## Danby Community Church in Winter

**Events:**

The Saturday morning prayer hour has been moved to Tuesday Evening at 5:30-6:30 P.M. Visitors and folks with prayer needs are most welcome.

We will be hosting “Free Coffee and Donuts” every month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, from 8:00 to 10:30 A.M. Join us and bring a friend.

Wednesday Evening from 7 P.M. until done, the Praise Team will be playing and all are welcome to join in the conversations following the music session. We never know exactly what will happen, but everyone is welcome.

Various Bible studies continue on Sunday mornings, Thursday evenings, and Friday afternoons. People are welcome to join at any time.

A Spiritual Gifts Assessment and study, “Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts” will begin Tuesday Evenings, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. Everyone is invited. You all have spiritual gifts; find out what they are and how best to use them.

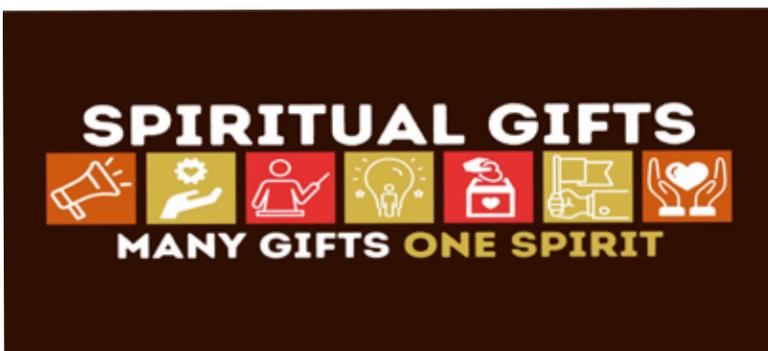
On January 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, we are hosting a Finnish Folk Trio called METKU in our fellowship Hall. The Danby Community Council is sponsoring this program.

Further in the future we will be serving Chicken and Biscuit Dinners on the second Friday of February, March, and April, from 5:00-7:00 P.M. Come and get to know our neighbors!

Lent comes early this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 14, Good Friday on March 29, and Easter on March 31.

I am blessed to be your Pastor! The work you all do to foster and grow the Kingdom does not go unnoticed and is certainly appreciated. Danby Community Church is making a difference in the world. We have survived the trauma of the pandemic years and are stronger for the trials we faced. It is now time to minister and harvest. The fields are ripe. We can add to and build up the Kingdom of God.

As always the first and most important activity we can do is to hold each other up in daily in prayer. Now that would be a most wonderful New Year’s resolution!



**Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts**

**starts Thursday, Jan. 9 @ 7pm**

**Contact Pastor Ed for details and to join**

**Danby Community Church**  
**Administrative Council Meeting**  
**December 11, 2023.**

**Present:** Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Paula Nelson, Gloria Miller, Katy Prince, and David McDermitt.

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Ed.

**CLERK'S MINUTES:** Draft meeting minutes from November; motion to accept – approved and carried.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT:** Dave gave report. Motion to approve report (Katy), second (Charlene), Carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula gave Treasurer's report including 2024 spending plan. Motion to approve report (Gloria), second (Charlene), Carried. Motion to approve paying bills until spending plan is approved at January's annual meeting (Katy), second (Charlene).

**OLD BUSINESS:** Still waiting on quote for new projector; TV monitor will be installed in sanctuary.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Parsonage – we will apply to have it made exempt from property/school taxes. Motion to pay back taxes owed on parsonage (Katy), second (Gloria).

**HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP:** Movie night was held and a second movie night (The Star) will be held Friday, 12/14. Donut and coffee, Monday, 12/18.

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** We're in the season of Advent. Blue Christmas service - 12/21, and Christmas Eve service on Sunday, 12/24 (there will be 2 services that Sunday). The 12 days of Christmas are 12/26 to Epiphany is Saturday, 1/06/24. Epiphany Sunday, 1/07/24, marks the beginning of 'Ordinary Time'. Lent is 2/14/24.

Small groups.

- Sunday morning Bible study: the Gospel of Mark
- Wednesday evening: praise and worship
- Thursday night Bible study: the Gospel of Matthew
- Friday women's group is discussing the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life",

Nursery and children's church continues to be available as needed.

Prayer.

- Tuesday evenings 5:30 – 6:30. (No longer Saturday morning prayer)
- Prayer chain continues.
- Prayer calendar will re-start in 2024.

*Admin Council Minutes continued on page 5*

*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*

Flower donation ministry continues.

The church is open to ideas for new ministries. Please contact Sheila.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Food pantry served 108 families last month which is up from 94 families the previous month which was itself a high number. Every pantry in the county is seeing an increase.

**TRUSTEES:**

- Will fix toilets

**MISSIONS:** No report. We continue to provide \$50/month to 3 ministries: Second Wind Cottages for men, for women, and Renovation House Spencer.

**SPOC:**

- Katy presented changes to the church Constitution which will be presented at the annual church meeting to be voted on.
- Membership Sunday will be held 12/31 – will be announced 12/17 and 12/24; partnership Sunday will be next year.
- Nominations for church officers and areas of responsibility – contact Katy.

**SAP:** Meeting held.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria); Second (Dave). Meeting was adjourned at 8:39.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Council clerk

**Welcome New Members:**

**Pictured: Pastor Ed  
Alison Buell  
Mary Wimsatt  
Adam Smith  
Jim Benniger**



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 January 2024:**

The Christmas Season or Christmastide began on Christmas Eve and continues until Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Liturgical color during Christmastide is white, symbolizing purity.

Epiphany Sunday is commonly celebrated on the Sunday after the 6<sup>th</sup>, which is January 7<sup>th</sup> in 2024. Epiphany means manifestation and it celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. Three narratives from the Gospels are read during this season. They are: the visit of the Magi or Wise Men from the East; Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist; and Jesus' first miracle – the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. The season after Epiphany lasts until the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. The Liturgical color for the Epiphany Season is green.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

**The Sunday morning group** is studying the Gospel of Mark. 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.

**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:** After a break in December, we will continue with our Church-wide Prayer Calendar. After signup during the prior month's worship service, digital copies will be sent to those with email. 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 are interested in reviving our prayer shawl ministry or 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**

## Annual Congregational Meeting



Sunday, January 21st after church

Important meeting concerning a SPOC recommendation to move from "lifetime" membership to "partnership". Also annual reports, voting on officers.



## 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

# 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  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

**Welcome Home!!**

**What's Happening?!? in January??**

**Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts**  
starting Tuesday, January 9 @ 7pm

**Free Coffee and Donuts**

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

**COMMUNITY COFFEE CHAT**

**Annual Meeting**  
Sunday, January 21 after church

**Starting in February**

**Chicken and Biscuit is Back!**

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