



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

June 2023





From Our Pastor!

Okay, the office window is finally open and the warm breeze feels nice after the chill of winter and this oddly cool spring.

The trees have leaves and the grass is growing again.

When I was in Minnesota, some of the local folk noted that their winters were so long and harsh that they earned their summers. I understand how they feel.

Green is a wonderful color! I look forward to the annual change from drab grays and browns to vibrant green, the color of new life. But green is only one of many colors that paint our world.

It interests me how influential color is to our mood and general well-being. There are videos of people who have been color blind seeing colors for the first time, thanks to some amazing glasses that are now available. Young and old alike break down in tears at their first perception of green, blue, and red. The sky and grass become overwhelmingly beautiful.

I wonder how many people are living with a condition of spiritual color blindness, unaware of the beauty that surrounds them. I remember a young woman who told me that after accepting the Lord she was seeing the world in vivid color for the first time and it was beautiful.

Through the salvation of Jesus the Christ, we are new creatures with new eyes opening and new sight focusing on a beauty that is beyond our comprehension. We see with new understandings. God does indeed make all things beautiful for those who believe.

In the meantime, as we live our normal day-to-day lives, our sight is limited. Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 reminds us that there is an appointed time for everything. Even our winters serve a purpose. During those winters, the lord gives us experience for use in His Kingdom.

Turn your experience, strength, and wisdom into gifts for godly service. Enjoy life by living out who God has made you in a way that grows your witness to the goodness of God.

Some sweet day the Lord will restore our sight in full and it is going to be glorious. We have so much to look forward to.

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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!

Dave McDermitt



**Volunteers are needed for our monthly Food Pantry.
Contact Charlene Testut @ ctestut55@yahoo.com**

Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am
Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30am
Sunday Adult Education Class @ 8:45am
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Communion, Conversation and Prayer 5-6pm "Back in the fall"
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm
Thursdays - Bible Study @ 7pm
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am
Women's Bible Study, Fridays @ 1pm

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*

Important Dates for June 2023:

Beginning the day after Pentecost Sunday, the Church enters a time of spiritual growth known as Ordinary Time. Ordinary comes from the Latin word ordinal, meaning counted. We are counting the Sundays from Trinity Sunday, June 4th this year, to the last Sunday before Advent, Christ the King Sunday. The liturgical color changes from white for Trinity Sunday to green for the remainder of Ordinary Time. Green symbolizes growth in Christ.

Adult Small Groups:

- **The Sunday morning group** is studying the Old Testament history books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Ester. We meet 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 koinonia (sharing our faith) 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 meets at 1:00 PM in the All Saints Room. During the summer months, this group will move to a monthly schedule. We plan on reading Phillip Keller's *Lessons from a Sheep Dog: A True Story of Transforming Love*. See 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 music 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:

- **In-person Prayer:** 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 often encountered 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.

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.



Administrative Council Meeting

May 8, 2023

PRESENT: Paula Nelson, Sheila Enstine, Ed Enstine, Charlene Testut, Judy Horton, Dale Horton, Katy Prince, Gloria Miller

The Council meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a presentation by Peter Wood from the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. All Council Members were in agreement with accepting the Constitution and By-laws of the CCCC and joining with the CCCC.

The regular meeting was called to order to 7:42 with prayer by Ed.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved with a motion by Gloria and seconded by Katy. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: not available.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept by Sheila, seconded by Charlene. Motion carried.

Katy made a motion that the Financial Secretary of the Danby Community Church will be the second signer for the Food Pantry Account. This was seconded by Gloria. Motion carried.

Katy made a motion that the Treasurer of the Danby Community Church is given authority to obtain all financial information for the Church. This was seconded by Gloria. Motion carried.

Old Business: Katy reported the Round Table discussions have been well attended with good responses. Katie is contemplating holding the discussions quarterly, possibly starting early fall.

New Business: The last Chicken & Biscuit dinner will be held this Friday, May 12. Paula will check with her contact for desserts.

Hospitality: The Women's Group held a Princess Tea party which was well attended and will do this again next year.

Spiritual Development: Important dates on the Christian calendar - Ascension Day, on Thursday May 18. We will celebrate Christ's ascension on the following Sunday, May 21st. Pentecost Sunday is on May 28th this year. Nursery and children's church are still available each Sunday. Debbie Alve and Sheila Enstine are always available. There was a notice posted Sunday that parents are to watch their children, especially when they play outside. This is a safety measure.

There are no prayer meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays; Saturday morning 8:00 a.m. is still available.

Paula Nelson and Doug Nash again thanked for sending flowers to those in need.

Trustees: Charlene reported there are no new problems or concerns.

Missions: Judy reported bags of candy were taken and distributed to 35 children at the Salamanca Reservation. The children were very appreciative.

Money continues to be sent to Second Wind and Renovation House.

SPOC: The group has not met lately. They will meet and go over the NCD survey which was completed.

SAP: the NCD survey results increased by 3 points showing the Church did very well

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 with prayer by Ed.

Submitted by Gloria Miller

Worship – an Essential Pillar in the Life of Grace

By Sheila Enstine

In his classic work *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster identifies worship as a “corporate” or communal discipline.

Before we go any further, let’s clear up a misconception. Discipline is not synonymous with punishment. The word discipline comes from the same root word as disciple, which is a learner. Spiritual disciplines, therefore, are tools for disciples to learn about the life of grace. Worship is an essential tool or pillar in that life.

Like any discipline, we advance in our ability with practice. When learning to play an instrument or learning a new language, the student might attend a weekly class, but there is always the expectation that the learner will practice at home.

Foster explains that although worship is primarily communal, we need to prepare for the gathering together of worshippers by practicing personal worship during the week. He calls this “cultivating a holy expectancy”.

We expect to hear God’s voice in communal worship because we’ve learned to recognize his voice in private worship at home and in smaller groups during the week. Worshipping at home privately, with family, or in small groups can include the same elements as Sunday worship, such as praise songs or hymns, silent contemplation on the nature of God, confession and repentance, Scripture reading, thanksgiving, and intercessory prayers.

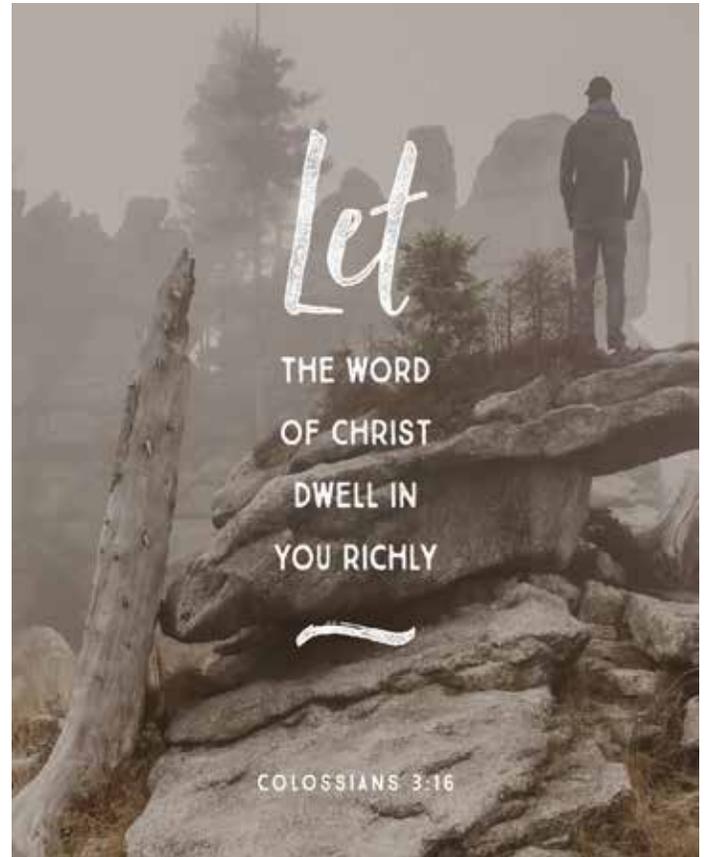
There’s no required format in personal worship or communal worship. Foster points out that neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament gives us a prescription for the order of worship. This is not to say that form and ritual aren’t useful, it’s just that form and ritual themselves do not guarantee passionate worship.

There are practical things each of us can do to prepare for Sunday’s communal worship. One is to get to bed early on Saturday night so that you can get up early on Sunday morning, able to worship God with “all of your strength.” You can use the extra time on Sunday morning to pray for the Holy Spirit’s anointing on the pastor, worship leaders, and teachers.

When arriving at church, especially before entering the sanctuary, pause and reflect on the fact that you are entering sacred space. Have a sense of being gathered with other believers, a fellowship of Holy Spirit empowered worshippers – the body of Christ.

Foster’s beautiful phrase for this gathering is, “a divine melting of our separateness”. He uses the temple imagery of journeying from the outer court into the inner court and finally into the Holy of Holies.

The dynamic gathering of the saints, with their collective experiences of personal worship, produces spiritual fruit in each believer’s life. Gathered worship enables us to hear God’s call on our lives more clearly. This clarity, in turn, leads to greater obedience.



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We are chastened, challenged, and cleansed by the public reading of the Word of God. Listeners cannot help but hear, see, even feel Christ's desire to mold and shape our lives into His image. As Foster puts it, "To stand before the Holy one of eternity is to change!"

The author ends his chapter on worship with this fitting passage from Scripture:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing songs and hymns and spiritual songs with thanksgiving in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

By practicing Colossians 3:16 each day, each of us will be cultivating that "holy expectancy" that produces passionate worship at home and in the gathering together of the saints.

Danby Community Church invites you to **Sundaes on Wednesdays**



Wednesdays: July 26, August 2 & 9

6:30 pm FREE Ice Cream Sundaes

FREE Music @ 7pm

July 26 - Ithaca Concert Band

August 2 -TBA

August 9 - TBA

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



Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

What's Happening?!? This Summer??

FREE COFFEE AND DONUT



Mondays, 5/15, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21

8:00 am - 10:00 am

Take out or Dine In

Join Us for *Community Coffee Chat*



Sundaes on Wednesdays

July 26, August 2 and August 9

Rummage Sale Tentative date: July 28 and 29