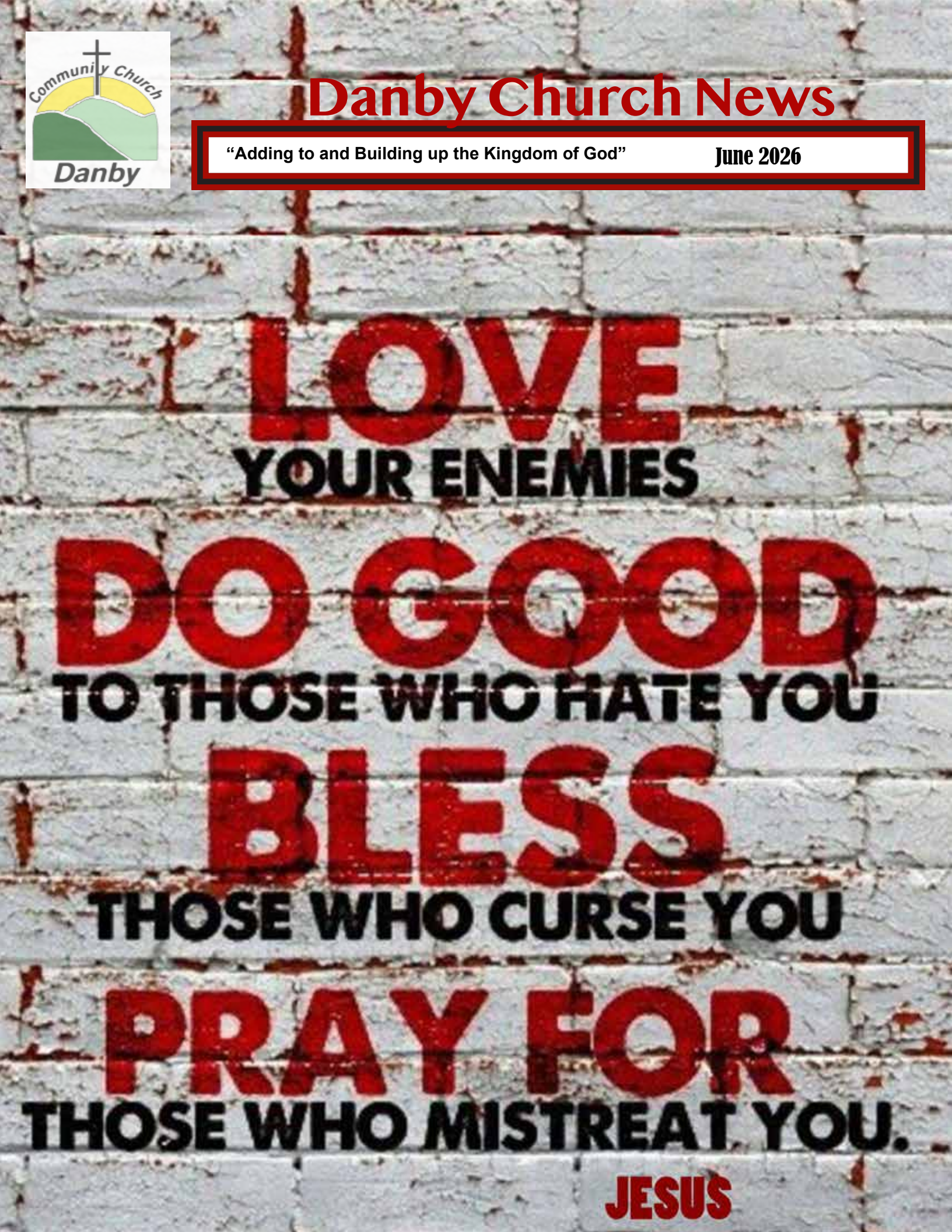
Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God" June 2026



From Our Pastor!

Two Bible verses have been challenging me lately. The first is Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect"—simple, straight forward and impossible to achieve. But, it's not impossible to strive for. We all need goals and ways to measure progress. The good news is Matthew 5:43-47 gives us a concrete context for measuring our progress as well as straight forward directions. The bad news is that what is required are some of the most difficult attitudes and actions for us to maintain.

My second challenging verse is also one of my favorite pieces of Scripture, Ephesians 5:1-2, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

This Scripture also carries the sense of impossibility. Most folks are reluctant to sacrifice before looking for alternatives. Sacrifice carries the image of pain and suffering. If given options, it would seem sensible to crawl off the alter before someone gets hurt, especially if I'm the one to bear the pain or distress.

It is interesting that in these two verses both Matthew and Paul interject, "therefore," into the mix. They both used the same Greek word that is usually translated as "then."

I like the instruction that if you do what Scripture says, no matter how difficult or uncomfortable, then you will be both pleasing to God and you will be moving towards the highest standard possible. We are called to this higher standard.

Random thoughts:

The community garden has been cleared and planting is in progress. The Danby Resilience Group has taken on the project of producing produce! We are praying for a great harvest!

Money is tight this year; pray about how you can contribute to our

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2026

Pastor:	Ed Enstine *eenstine@aol.com* 607.592.8276
Admin Aide	Lynn Kingston-Harris *office@danbychurch.org* 607.272.1687

Administrative Council

Co-Chairperssons:	Paula Nelson *sfcnelson@aol.com* Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
Secretary:	Sheila Enstine
Treasurer:	Paula Nelson
Financial Secretary:	
Trustees Chair:	Charlene Testut *ctestut55@yahoo.com*

Area Coordinators

Hospitality:	Charlene Testut
Spiritual Development:	Sheila Enstine
Missions:	Suzanne Walker *suzrwalker@yahoo.com*

Community Outreach:

Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee:
SPOC: Chair: Deb Alve

Praise Team Leaders: Katy & Tommy Prince

Webmaster:	Janet Gray *jsg4@cornell.edu*
Newsletter Editor:	Janet Gray
Facebook:	Janet Gray

On the Cover

Matthew 5:43-47

Pastor's Message continued from page 2

church's finances and activities. Your time, talent, and treasure are very appreciated as they all contribute into the life of this church. Financially, 2026 has been a difficult year for many churches and entire denominations. We ask you to pray and listen for God's direction before you give. We trust God.

Please feel free to join any of our current Bible Studies on Sunday morning, Thursday evening and Friday afternoon. We have three distinct approaches to understanding the Bible and they are all very worthwhile.

God does not go on vacation during the summer. There is too much need and suffering and way too much at stake for a church to relax and coast just because the weather is nicer and the living seems easy. The world will always and for all time need Christ!

Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

Sunday Adult Bible Study@ 8:45 am
Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10:00 am
Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30 am
Tuesday, Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7:00 pm
Thursdays, Pastor's Bible Study @ 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Study 3rd Fridays @ 12 pm - this mth., June 19
Paws to Remember, 1st Saturday, 9:30am, this mth., June 6

Angel Pennies

Author Unknown

I found a penny today
Just laying on the ground,
But it's not just a penny
This little coin I've found

Angels put them there
That's what my Grandpa told me,
He said Angels toss them down
Oh, how I loved that story.

He said when an Angel misses you
They toss a penny down,
Sometimes just to cheer you up
To make a smile out of your frown.

So don't pass by that penny
When you're feeling blue,
It may be a penny from heaven
That an Angel's tossed to you

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

Danby Community Church Administrative Council Meeting

May 11, 2026

Present: Sheila Enstine, Gloria Miller, Paula Nelson**,** Charlene Testut. Sheila Enstine opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk's Minutes: The minutes for the April 13th, 2026 meeting were previously sent to Council members for their review. Charlene Testut moved to accept the minutes and Gloria Miller seconded the motion. Carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Paula Nelson distributed the income report, as prepared by the Church's Administrative Aide. Charlene reported that the Resilience Group collected about $600 for the Food Pantry, but had not yet submitted the funds to the Pantry. Gloria moved to accept the income report and Charlene seconded the motion. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paula submitted the Treasurer's reports for the General and Pass Thru accounts as of May 11th. She noted that there are two payrolls due in May and the gas and electric bill went down again. This is because we are paying by usage rather than NYSEG's estimate.
The balance forwarded from 2025 in the Pass Thru Account for the Food Pantry was sent to the Food Bank. Motion by Sheila to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Gloria. Carried.
Old Business: SPOC is working on the previously discussed changes in the Constitution. Some of the proposed wording needs to be corrected, and Paula will talk to Debbie about that. Charlene noted that SPOC can only recommend changes and that a congregational vote is needed to accept the changes.

New Business: There was no new business.

Hospitality: Charlene reported that we hosted the memorial service for Dorothy Hulbert and we are scheduled to host a memorial service for Lyn Aiosa on May 30th. Regarding the Chicken and Biscuit Dinners, the costs are increasing and we aren't sure how we will cover the costs next season. We may continue with free-will donations or return to a set price.

Spiritual Development: Sheila reported that there are no changes in the weekday and Sunday small groups. Details regarding Spiritual Development activities are published in the monthly newsletter.

Food Pantry: Charlene reported that Joan Peak is now doing the computer data input. We are seeing additional volunteer help from the community. Most of the additional food donations come from Wegmans and Sticks and Stones Farm.

Trustees: Charlene reported in Diana's absence. Dan is still receiving estimates for furnaces and we expect installation before this fall. We also need to replace the sump pump under the sanctuary.

Missions: No report. Paula noted that we continue to honor our commitments to Second Wind and Renovation House.

SPOC: No report.

SAP: Sheila reported in Pastor Ed's absence. He is planning on a SAP meeting in May. The NCD survey won't begin until this fall. Pastor Ed plans on talking about the elements of a healthy church in a series of sermons.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m. with an ending prayer by Sheila Enstine.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Enstine, Church Clerk

The next Administrative Council meeting is Monday, June 8th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Spiritual Development Update
from Sheila Enstine

Ordinary Time, the Season After Pentecost:

After celebrating Pentecost, the Church enters Ordinary Time, the longest season in the Christian year. The word ordinary is from a Latin term that means ordered or counted, as in counting the days. Ordinary Time extends to the Sunday before Advent and is a time to concentrate on spiritual growth. Like the growing season in the natural world, Christians use this time to learn more about how to follow Christ and increase in their fruitfulness for the Kingdom of God.

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group is studying the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The class meets on Sundays at 8:45 a.m. in the education wing.

The Wednesday night Praise and Fellowship group gathers at 7:00 p.m. with the praise team in the sanctuary. After worship, we have a time of fellowship and prayer.

The Thursday evening Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m. and is studying the Gospel of John.

The Friday afternoon Women's Bible Study meets on Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. This group is currently watching and discussing the second season of The Chosen. Watch for a change in schedule and meeting place during the summer. All women are welcome to attend. Please contact Suzanne Walker if you're interested.

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

Youth Church: After the praise and prayer requests on Sunday mornings, children ages 6 through 12 (about 6th or 7th grade) are welcome to attend Youth Church.

Prayer Opportunities:

- **Zoom Prayer**: A Zoom prayer meeting is available on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Contact Sheila if you'd like to join in.
- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at katyprince96@gmail.com.
- **Church Prayer Calendar:** After signup during the prior month's worship service, digital copies will be sent to those with email. Hard copies will be available at the church.

Congregational Care: Please inform church leadership about anyone you know who needs contact—flowers, notes or cards, a phone call, a visit, prayer, Holy Communion or anointing.

Paws to Remember: At 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, the Paws to Remember group gathers to support those who are grieving the loss of their pets.

Creation Care:

Why care for creation? Because God's creation is the home He provided for all of us, and because He commissioned his people to steward our home (Gen. 2:15). We can all do more to be intentional stewards, and in doing so care for one another as well as our fellow creatures. Watch for ideas and opportunities for creation care in future issues of the Newsletter.

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.

Robby and the Special Olympics

Our family is privileged to have my youngest son Robby participate in the Special Olympics, thanks to Debbie Alve who suggested it and organized other church members to help carry it out.

In addition to Debbie, I want to thank Kara Eaton, Lorena Miller, and Bill and Michele Dunning for contributions of driving and cash. This helped with gas expenses and food for a hungry young man after basketball practices. If I have forgotten anyone, I want to offer my apologies, but be assured your help and prayers were appreciated.

Parenting a child with special needs often leads to closed doors to the child and his family. Often people don't realize that they are doing this and don't intend to cause harm or hurt feelings, but as the parent of such a child it can be very discouraging at times.

I knew little about the organization when Robby first started attending basketball practice in Dryden and didn't want to see him disappointed. I was delighted to find that he enjoyed it, was valued as a player and connected with the other team members. When I ventured out to some of the practices, it was wonderful to meet people who weren't taken aback by some of his problems and shared that they were dealing with some of the same issues.

In researching information for this article about the Special Olympics, I learned many new things about the organization. The site specialolympics.org provided the information that I used to delve into the story behind the Special Olympics. I thought that Eunice Kennedy Shriver had started it back in the early 60s on a whim, as a summer activity one year, and that it had grown since then to a nationwide program. I was mistaken and found that there was much more to it than that.

The Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation started in 1946. The organization's aim was to do good works, and it eventually focused on providing grants for research into the causes of intellectual disabilities or ID, which at the time was referred to as "mental retardation." In 1947 Joseph Kennedy's daughter, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, became a trustee. Over the next ten years, the foundation became a financial resource for many organizations that needed grants to study the cause of ID. By 1957 Eunice took over as the director, and the organization continued to provide money to doctors and hospitals across the country studying the subject.

In 1960 Eunice was called by a neighbor who couldn't find any summer camp that would accept her child. That summer Eunice started the first camp for children with special needs at her Maryland farm, with 34 children and 26 counselors. The children participated in a wide range of athletic activities ranging from horseback riding to swimming. At that time, she was adamant about each special needs child being paired with a non- delayed child. Her own son Tim was paired with a special needs child and described how much fun he had. With the camp's success, people came to observe, and soon individuals involved with parks and the school system came to see what it was all about. This led to more interest nationwide.

It wasn't until 1962 that Eunice revealed that she had a sister who had intellectual delays. At the time, it was often considered a shameful thing, and many children were ignored by school systems or hidden away in institutions.

In July of 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Chicago. By the 21st century the Special Olympics had spread around the world, and as of January 2024 there were close to 3 million intellectually delayed athletes involved in the program along with 600,000 unified partners, people without intellectual delays who also participate in the competitions.

The Special Olympics provides many more services, including information kits explaining to school children what intellectual delay means; Healthy Athletes which provides health care services for participants including dental, hearing and vision screenings; nutrition education; and clinics instructing participants in injury prevention. Since 1997, they have provided more than 1.7 million health exams in 130 countries.

As of January 2024, there were 227 accredited Special Olympics programs in 177 countries and territories. Within those programs there were 20,000 local clubs.

Participants in the Special Olympics have been found to have improved intellectual understanding and other health benefits due to participating in exercise through this program.

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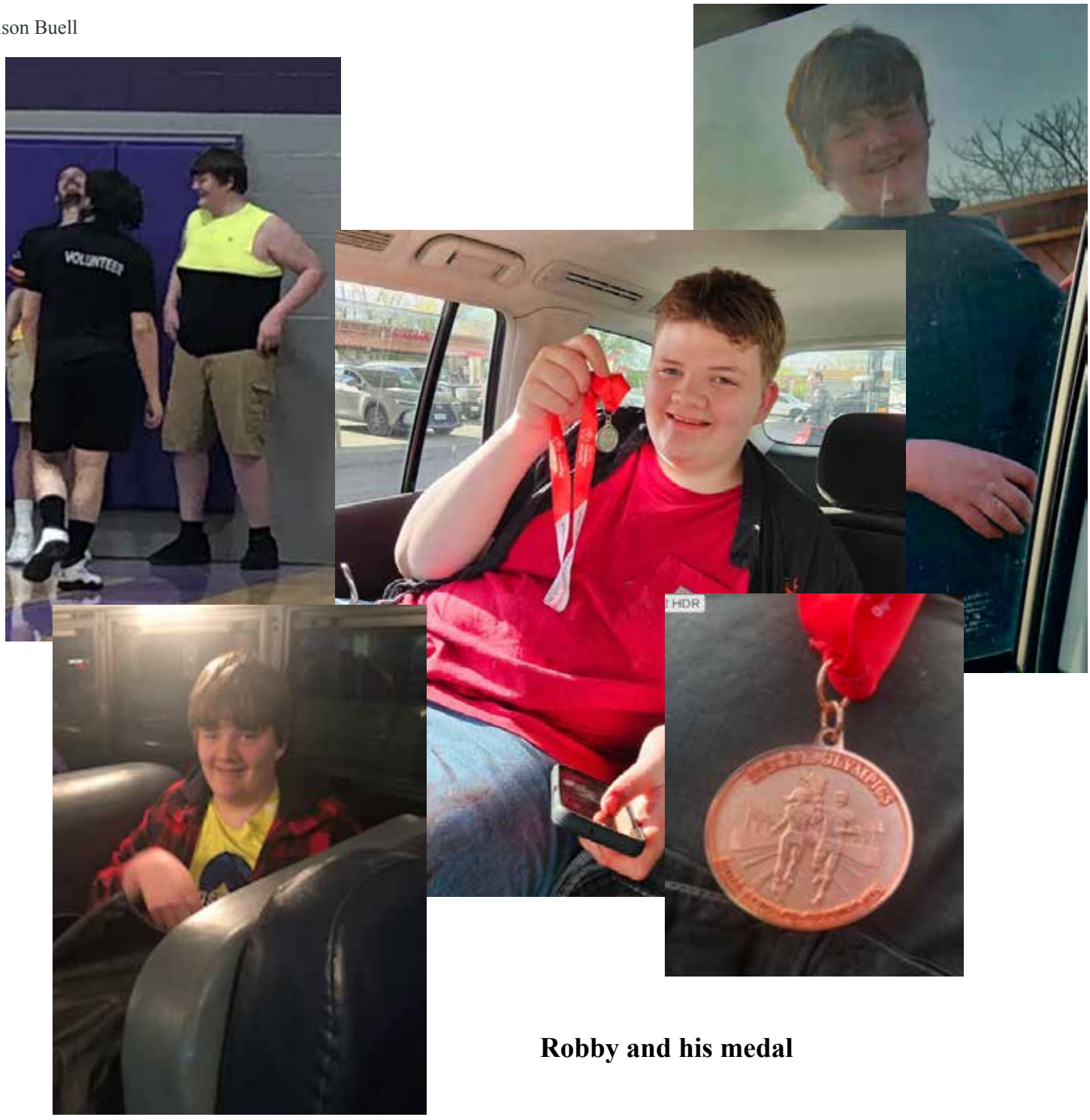
United States presidents, including Robert F. Kennedy, William J. Clinton, Joseph Biden as a vice president, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush supported the organization. Celebrities including Maya Angelou, Frank Sinatra, and Bob Hope have participated in activities or fund raisers to help the cause of the Special Olympics.

Robby has seen success with the Special Olympics, which is something that often eludes him in his daily life. He's valued for his height and ability to play basketball. His team won first and second place trophies in the regional competitions, and next weekend he is going to the state competitions in Utica with his teammates. At this point, he is going alone, which will be the first time he's gone away for a positive event by himself. He's very excited and yesterday wanted to start packing for the event. His health and attitude have improved, and he has developed friendships with other teammates.

As a final note, I want to share what Eunice Kennedy Shriver said in her address at the 1968 Olympics. She said," Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt." I consider that good advice for all of us.

Alison Buell



Robby and his medal

Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Check out what is going on at Danby Church at:
danbychurch.org

Coming in July & August

Sundaes on Wednesday

Wednesday, July 22 @ 6:30pm

Ithaca Concert Band

Wednesday, July 29 @ 6:30pm

Ageless Jazz Band

Wednesday, August 5 @ 6:30pm

Dee Specker and John Simon

Re-Use Sale

Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25