



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

June/July 2022





From Our Pastor!

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33 NIV).

This declaration came as Jesus was finishing his time on earth. His disciples were expecting great things, but they were also confused and probably afraid of the dangers confronting them in Jerusalem. The Lord had just done and said things that both comforted and confounded them.

He’d washed their feet and told them he was going away to prepare a place for them. He’d spoken of vine and branches, abiding in the vine, and bearing fruit, which painted vivid images of future hope. Then the enormity of the declaration, “This is my body..., this is my blood,” too laden with implications, was more than a mind could comprehend.

And yet Jesus declares, “Peace.” Everything around them, from Roman soldiers to religious authorities declared just the opposite.

Jesus still speaks “Peace,” but the world is at war and in turmoil. How do we as individuals and as a Church receive God’s promise?

As followers of Christ, we are citizens of God’s Kingdom, whether we realize it or not. Entry is through belief in Jesus Christ. The experience of life in the Kingdom is different from that of the world around us. We have no geographic boundary and no patch of ground to declare as our own unique political property. We have no military and yet we wear the armor of God. The Kingdom we offer allegiance to is invisible, but extends everywhere.

While the world we live in faces fear, famine, disease, and hopelessness, this will never define the Kingdom. The changing winds of politics do not direct us. Fear and hopelessness are not our leaders. Instead we are called to overcome these things and invite others to overcome with us.

Our invitation should always be “Come and find rest and hope with

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2022

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!

Dan and Chrissy Vorassi

sisters and brothers who care about each others' welfare and walk with the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Jesus has paved the way forward."

The characteristics of Jesus' life demonstrate the qualities inherent in God's Kingdom. His very nature is what we must build into our lives. The qualities we need to develop are found in Galatians 5:22: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." This fruit is the result of abiding in Him. It is a witness to those around us and will lead to a harvest of souls.

Pray ceaselessly for guidance and direction. Study the scriptures for wisdom. Gather together as often as possible for support. Seek the welfare of all. Always be ready to tell others what God, through Jesus the Christ, has done for you and can do for them. Be strong and courageous. Always remember by the grace of God that you are loved beyond measure and you are never abandoned or forsaken. All who believe in the Lord have already stepped into eternity. Be at peace, the war is won.

Danby Community Church
Administrative Council Meeting
May 9, 2022

Present: Paula Nelson, Gloria Miller, Charlene Testut, Judy Horton, Dale Horton, Pastor Ed, Dave McDermitt.
Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:04 pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES: Meeting minutes from April - motion to approve (Gloria), second (Dale), Carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Dave gave report. Motion to approve report (Judy), second (Gloria), Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula gave report. Motion to approve Treasurer's report (Dale), second (Gloria), Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- At the Ithaca Community Band concert in August, ice cream only will be served.
- New stone was purchased from Robinson's (Candor) and improved the church driveway.
- King Ferry bottled water service is under way.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The 'idea hamsters' met to generate new ideas to welcome the community to our church. Many ideas were offered (approximately 60) and categorized. After church on Sunday, May 15th, there will be a follow-up meeting for all who are interested to sort out which ideas to implement. Pastor Ed discussed the importance of not rushing into doing events/activities for the sake of doing them, but instead to first see how each one can tie into another so that each activity/event complements the other to create a greater effect/draw. In this regard, he referenced Brett Clemmer's book, "No Man Left Behind". Even though there are overlaps with hospitality, missions, and spirituality, we may eventually want to have an 'Events' Coordinator to coordinate these types of activities.

REPORTS.

Hospitality: Events are being planned for this year. Stay tuned.

Spiritual Development:

- Important dates to keep in mind: Ascension Day Thursday May 26th, Pentecost June 5th.
- The unison prayer at beginning of Sunday service is from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer.
- Special Prayer Meetings During the Great 50 Days: Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, May 12th, May 26th, and June 2nd. The prayer focus on May 12th is for the Danby Church, May 26th is for the world-wide persecuted church, and June 5th is for prayer for salvations.
- Adult Sunday morning Bible Study (8:45 – 9:45) is studying the three epistles of John and will finish at the end of May. In June, a new 13-week study series of the book of Proverbs will begin; study guides are available for anyone interested. Zoom Bible study is available on Tuesdays for anyone who misses on Sunday.
- Women’s Bible study is following Anne Graham Lotz’s “The Vision of His Glory” – a seven session study based on the Book of Revelations. Each session is divided into two meetings, so the series is lasting 14 weeks. This study meets at 1:00 pm on Fridays. No decision has been made on the next study.
- Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship is a casual gathering of worshipers made up of the praise team and anyone who would like a mid-week boost of joy and fellowship. The first hour is spent practicing with the Praise Team for the Sunday service. After worship, they share prayer requests and talk about their faith journey. All are welcome.
- Nursery and Youth Church. The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five, as needed. This past Sunday the three children were content to stay in the sanctuary. Normally, Youth Church is comprised of two groups – Group One for children ages 6 – 10 and Group Two for ages 11 – 14. Currently both teachers are healing from injuries, so maybe it’s just as well that the church hasn’t had older kids.
- Volunteer schedule. The schedule for volunteers is printed and posted above water cooler; also emailed to participants. Thanks to Paula and Diana for volunteering for each communion Sunday.
- Prayer Opportunities. For the church prayer chain, contact Judy Cuyle at gncat87@yahoo.com or call 279-5089. In person prayer is on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 pm. Thursday prayer meetings may be continued periodically.

Trustees:

- David Mastroberti (Naturescape Landscaping) will be hired to do the fellowship hall door replacement as he can do the job for significantly less than the other bid. He is currently researching doors and will be able to provide an itemized bid once the spring landscaping rush is over.
- A new laptop has been purchased and put in place for the Sanctuary as the other one failed.
- Dan will rent a more powerful power washer this summer in order to be able to reach the top of the front of the church.

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

- They are looking at ways to repair the steeple belfry as quite a few slats have fallen off which has enabled bats to come in and the falling debris is also hazardous to those below.
- The online banking service, Vanco, which is currently used by some in the church will be explained before service for those who are not familiar and may be interested in online offerings.

Missions:

- Judy and Dale reported that the Indian school at the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota has 35 students graduating which is encouraging. Also, another approximately 35 are in the next class of students!
- They have a desire to focus on Danby area kids for this Christmas.
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup is due to happen this month (preferably) – or by end of June.

SPOC: No meeting, but they are looking at doing a survey of the congregation. Also, Katy is looking at job descriptions for church positions for the end of year report – whether folks want to keep their current positions, etc.

SAP: No meeting, but the brainstorming meeting was held and ideas are being pursued.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria), second (Dale) - meeting ended at 8:01.

Prayed out by Pastor Ed.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Dave McDermitt, 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](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.**



## **Spiritual Development Update** *from Sheila Enstine*

### **Important Dates for June:**

Our last prayer meeting for The Great 50 Days is Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. The theme is salvations. You will have the opportunity to pray specifically for people near and dear to you who need Jesus in their lives.

June 5<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Jesus' resurrection, when the Holy Spirit descended on the assembled disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem. Pentecost is also known as the birthday of the Church. The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, symbolizing the flames of the Holy Spirit.

### **In The Works:**

The “idea hamsters” are looking at developing special worship services (outside in God’s creation, Invitation Sundays, etc.) and special interest small groups (art appreciation, crafting circles, nature care, book studies, etc.). Stay tuned for updates.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

The Sunday morning group will begin a 13-week study of the book of Proverbs in June. The group meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am and we also host a Zoom session on Tuesdays for those who can’t attend the in-person class.

**We are adjusting the schedule for Wednesday evening Praise and Fellowship.** We will begin at 7 PM with conversation, sharing scripture, prayer requests or testimonies. At 7:30 the Praise Band begins rehearsing, which is another opportunity for all of us to worship together. This is a free-flowing, casual time of fellowship and all are welcome.

The Women’s Bible Study completed Anne Lotz’s “The Vision of His Glory” in May. We will meet once in June, July, and August and combine each meeting with lunch. Details will be announced later.

**Nursery and Youth Church:** The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five. Normally, Youth Church is comprised of two groups – Group One for children ages 6 – 10 and Group Two for ages 11—14. Youth Church will meet if there are enough young people to make up a group. Youth begin worship with their families in the Sanctuary and are invited to the nursery/Youth Church after the second praise song.

### **Additional Prayer Opportunities:**

Contact Judy Cuyle at [gnatcat87@yahoo.com](mailto:gnatcat87@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. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Watch for future prayer meetings, possibly monthly gatherings, that emphasize national and world issues.

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



**Missions Report**  
*from Dale and Judy Horton*

In the last few years, Danby Church has supported several mission projects to the Salamanca Reservation at Salamanca, New York and St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota. We also support the Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoe Box project, which sends Christmas gifts to children all over the world.

This year the Missions Ministry would like to reach out locally to children for Christmas. We welcome any ideas. Please feel free to call Dale or Judy with ideas! 607 564 7749 or 607 423 4748.

## Judy's Joke Corner

**What was Noah's profession? He was an ark—itect !!**



**What did Noah say when he was loading the ark? " Now I herd everything!"**

# 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

# Staff Pastor Oversight Committee (SPOC) would like your input

The Staff Pastor Oversight Committee (SPOC) would appreciate your input. Included in this month's newsletter is a short questionnaire to help us to know you and your needs better so that we can grow in our understanding of our community and be able to serve you and help you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

If you would please complete the survey either online at: <https://forms.gle/ssvHBwcyHDncnCZZ6> (also a link is on the Danby Community Church website at <https://www.danbychurch.org/news.html>) or use the paper form included here and either mail it to:

Danby Community Church

1859 Danby Rd.

Ithaca, NY 14850

ATT: SPOC

or put it in the collection plate at church any Sunday in June or July, 2022.

We truly appreciate your input and look forward to seeing how we can improve our service to you.

## Danby Community Church 2022 Survey

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

PLEASE NOTE!!! You are NOT required to log in, that is only if you want a copy of your survey sent to you, and your Google account and email address are NOT a part of the survey. We are not collecting that information.

\* Required

4. 4. Do you watch "Ed Talks" \*

Mark only one oval.

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't know what "Ed Talks" is.

1. 1. Where do you attend church? \*

Mark only one oval.

- Danby Community Church  
 I don't attend church  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. 2. How do you attend church \*

Mark only one oval.

- In person  
 Online (i.e. Facebook Live, watching TV evangelists, etc.)  
 I don't attend church  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. 3. If you are not attending church in person, please say why not.

Mark only one oval.

- I don't feel safe being around people because of COVID-19.  
 I have gotten used to not attending in person.  
 I am afraid to attend church in person for other personal reasons.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. 5. What do you enjoy most about in-person services at Danby Community Church?

Mark only one oval.

- Pastor Ed's sermons  
 The Worship Music  
 Fellowship  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. 6. Do you feel "spiritually fed" after the sermon?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes. The sermons fill me spiritually.  
 Often. I know the pastor has my best interest at heart.  
 Sometimes. I feel the sermons aren't as relevant to me as they could be.  
 Rarely. I am feeling disconnected with the sermons for personal reasons.  
 Not really. I am feeling disconnected because of the doctrine being taught.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_



7. Do you have additional comments about the sermon?

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11. If you would like us to contact you, please include your contact information below.

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8. Does the worship music at Danby Community Church feed you spiritually?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- No

9. Do you have additional comments about the worship music?

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10. What do you feel is missing from church?

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Google Forms





## **Ascension, Pentecost, and the Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

*By Sheila Enstine*

Christ's Ascension into heaven, 40 days after His Resurrection, is as important to Christians as the Resurrection itself. And Pentecost, 10 days after the Ascension, is as important as the Ascension itself.

Jesus explained why in John 16:7, "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

During his last hours with the disciples, Jesus wanted to encourage them with the truth that although he would no longer be with them physically, he would be present in another form. They would need His presence because they would be persecuted and wrongly condemned by the world (John 16:1-3). They would need a strong defender.

In fact, advocate is translated from the Greek word *parakletos*, a male noun that refers to a helper, defender or one "called alongside" in court proceedings. He is able to make right judgments because he is intimately close to the situation.

We need the Advocate to protect us from the accusations and condemnations of the evil one and the world around us. Indeed, in the context of John 16, we see that the Advocate will not only defend believers, but will also render right judgment against the world. In John 16:12, Jesus refers to the Advocate as the Spirit of truth, who will guide his disciples into all truth. He will also declare Jesus' glory to the believers (16:14).

Without His glorious ascension, the Advocate would not come and we would be bereft of defense before the world, knowledge of the truth, and appreciation of Christ's glory. This is why Pentecost is as important as the Ascension. Pentecost means 50. It is the Greek word for the Hebrew festival of Shavuot, also called the Feast of Weeks, which celebrates the wheat harvest. It's no accident that the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, came at Pentecost, which is 50 days after Jesus' Resurrection.

Shavuot or Pentecost is one of three pilgrimage festivals in the Hebrew calendar, so that devout Jews from throughout the Mediterranean would be in town to witness the Holy Spirit's manifestation. With the outpouring of the Spirit of truth on the fledgling Christian Church, the believers were able to communicate the Gospel in the languages of the people who had come to the festival.

Because the Holy Spirit abides with every believer in Christ, we are equipped to speak the Gospel to those around us. He is a Person, the third Person of the Trinity. He is our ever present Advocate, Defender, and Instructor in Truth.

There's much more that can be known about the Holy Spirit and his ministry on Earth. In the next newsletter, I'll talk about the work of the Holy Spirit within Christ's body, the Church.



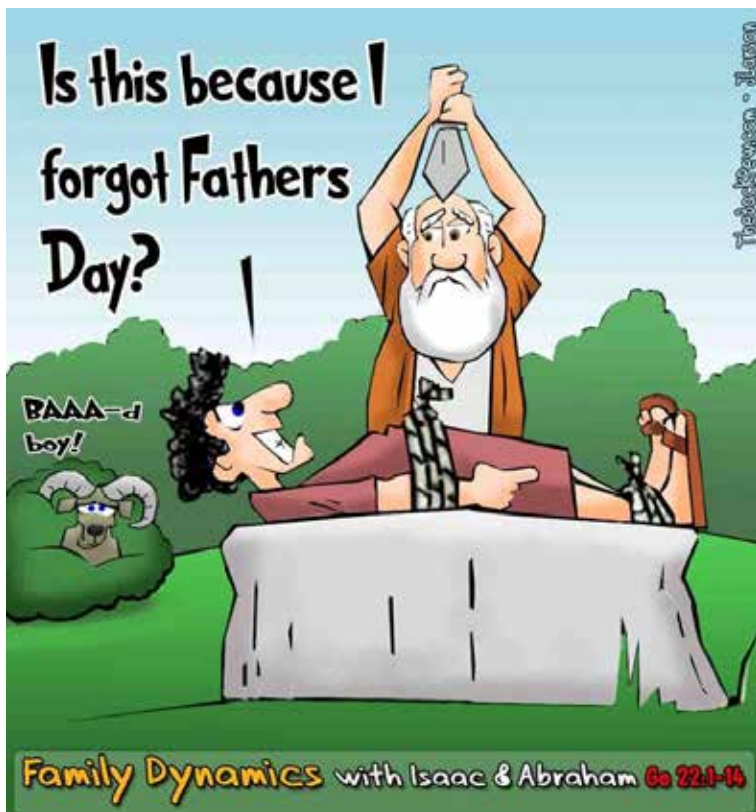
**Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10**

As we get back to church and activities after almost two years on being on hiatus, it is good to be planning some great events for the summer and fall. Won't you help?

*Why is volunteering at church important?*

The number one reason that most people volunteer in a church setting is to strengthen their relationship with God. Spending increased amounts of time in the church enhances your ability to do your duty — God's work.

We'll need folks to set up, clean up, make coffee, scoop ice cream, talk with our guests. We also need help with marketing, technology, music, and prayer. Invite a friend to help! We all have something to offer and there are so many opportunities!





Danby Community Church  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

**Welcome Home!!**

**What's Happening in July & August?!?**

**Outside Sunday Service**

**Sunday, July 10 @ 10am**

**Sundaes on Wednesday**

**August 3 @ 6:30pm**

**Music and Ice Cream Sundaes**

**Biker Sunday w/ the Hellfighters Motorcycle Ministries**

**Sunday, August 21st @ 10am**

**Biker service, Food, Music and Bike Ride**