



Danby Church News



"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

March 2022





From Our Pastor!

Psalm 126:2-3: “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, ‘The

LORD has done great things for them.’ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.”

In times such as this, it seems like finding smiles and laughter is almost impossible. Over two years it has been one blow after another. The constant pressure of fear and angst thrown against us seems overwhelming. But is that really the truth of the present conditions of the world?

Even more importantly, is that the state of the Kingdom of God on earth?

I would encourage everyone who is tormented by so much oppression and turmoil to meditate on Psalm 126 and study Psalm 73.

We live in two diametrically opposed Kingdoms. The world and all the corruption, strife, plagues, and war it brings cannot overcome the Kingdom of God. While the world and its systems inevitably bring regrets and sorrow, the Kingdom of God always brings joy and satisfaction.

The choice is up to the individual. The Church’s job—our job—is to make the choice clear to the world around us.

Consider Romans 10:14-15: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

We are the people of God proclaiming the glory of God to

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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!

Joan Barber

people who, whether they know it or not, desperately need God.

So, how shall we act? We could set up a sign that reads, “Turn or Burn!” We could beat people over the head with a ten-pound Bible and hope they surrender. Or, we could be a people of unrelenting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-25). I have pointed out in past sermons this is fruit (singular) not fruits (plural) of the Spirit and in fact love is defined by the eight qualities that follow it in the text. Perhaps this scripture should be our instruction on how to practice love.

We have a wonderful God, an amazing Savior in Jesus Christ, and a constant companion in the Holy Spirit, who produces the fruit of the Spirit within us. Together this Holy Trinity brings us hope and purpose that is able to overcome the world’s foolishness and malice.

“But Pastor,” you might say, “I am hurt and wounded and in pain!”

So you might be, and we all experience the grief and anguish of being human. Even Jesus wept and felt the dread of impending torture and execution. Always remember that our human experience cannot avoid the sting of doubt and sorrow. Our divine experience within the Kingdom enables us to see beyond present circumstance and pray along with the Savior, “...yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Today, we face a struggle unlike any that churches in this country have previously faced. Christianity has been marginalized over the last 50 years and now forces are determined to eliminate faith altogether.

Can the Church of Jesus Christ be killed? The answer is NO! The world has no more chance of killing off Christianity than the Romans had of eliminating Jesus by crucifixion.

Rejoice in the face of oppression and sorrow. Proclaim the truth of God into the demanded silence of the world.

Matthew 5:10-12: “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.”

Now it is our turn to overcome the world by our faith and our actions. Be a blessing and in return be blessed.

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*

Lenten Prayer Vigil:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, 2022. This year's Lenten prayer vigil will focus on praying for the surrounding municipalities, including the land itself, the leaders, citizens, and first responders. Katy Prince has compiled a list of prayer suggestions and index cards with the names of the towns in the Tompkins, Tioga, and Cortland Counties. We plan on distributing the list and cards during the worship service on Sunday, February 27th.

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group will begin a study of James and the three epistles of John on the first Sunday in March. This is a 13-week study using curriculum published by David C. Cook. Study guides are available for anyone interested in the class. The group meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am.

The Women's Bible Study is using "The Vision of His Glory" by Anne Graham Lotz. This is a seven-session study based on the Book of Revelation. The Women's Study Group meets at 1PM on Friday afternoons in the All Saints Room.

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. We spend the first hour practicing with the Praise Team for the Sunday service. After worship, we share prayer requests and talk about our faith journeys. All are welcome.

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 Lord's Prayer.

Ed Talks:

Those with email on file with the Church will receive notification when new Ed Talks are posted on the Church's website, www.danbychurch.org (click on Ed Talks on the green banner) and on the Church's Facebook page. You can view his prior talks on those sites.

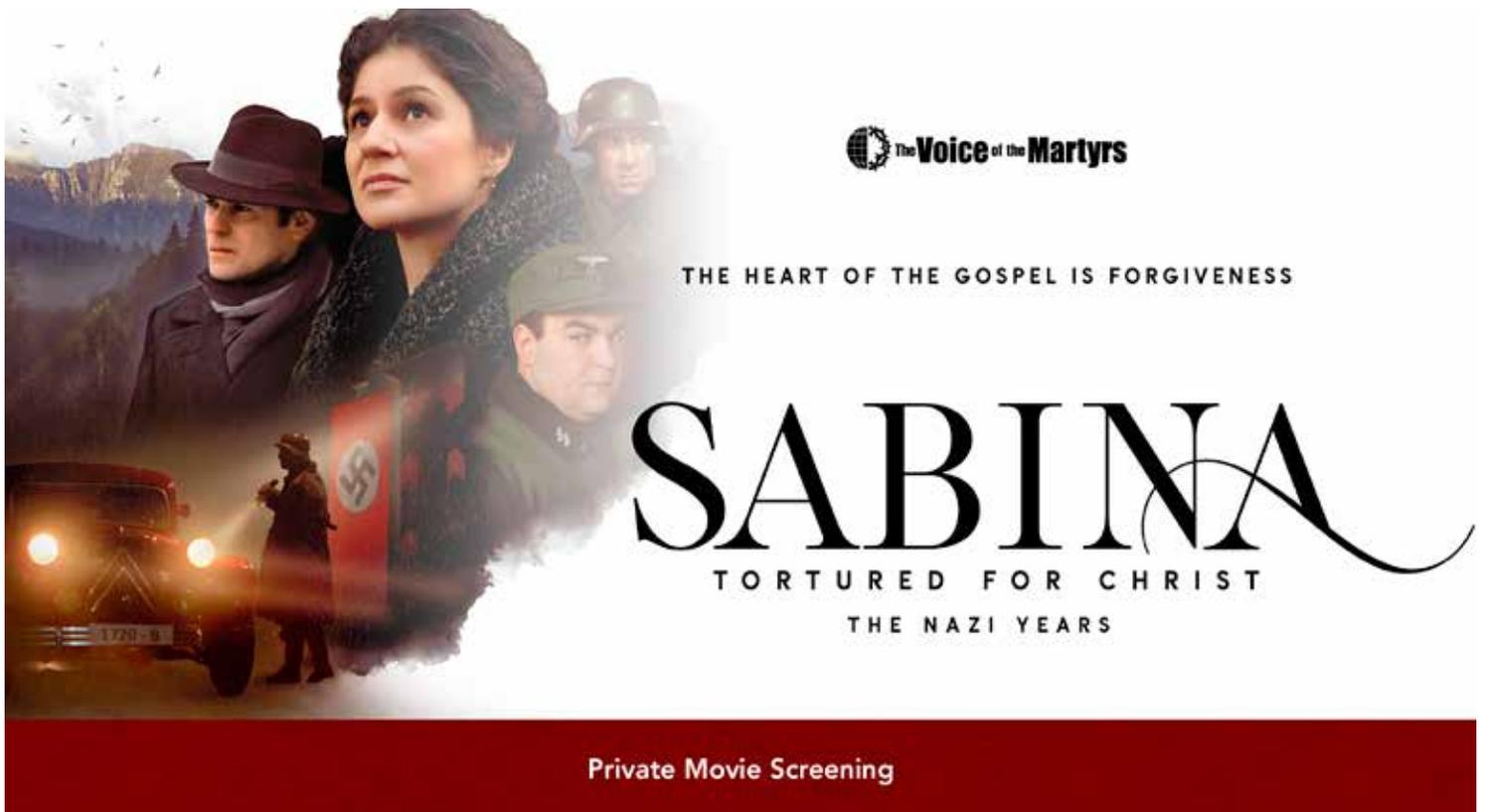
Prayer Opportunities:

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. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm.

Missions Report *by Judy and Dale Horton*

This month \$700 was spent to purchase one heifer, one goat, one flock of chicks, and many seeds to support the Heifer Project, which helps needy countries around the world. This money is collected with our "noisy offering" monthly.

Janet Gray has generously offered to embroider labels with our prayer shawl message on them to be sewn on the prayer shawls that we give to the sick and needy shut-ins! Great idea. Janet!



Private Movie Screening

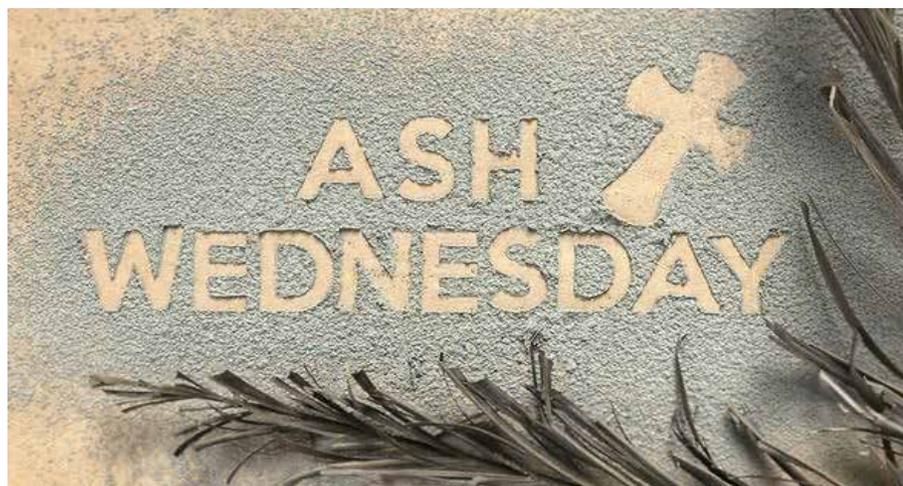
Friday, March 11 @ 7pm

You are invited to a special showing of Sabina.

Free Popcorn and movie snacks

Great character is sometimes forged amid great turmoil. Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years is the story of how God’s love transformed an ambitious, atheistic hedonist into one of the greatest Christian women of the 20th century. The film opens with Sabina Wurmbrand risking her life to show Christ’s love to a trio of Nazi soldiers. Why? Why would a Jewish Christian risk her life to help her enemies – members of the army that killed her entire family?

Experience the amazing true story that has redefined the concepts of love and forgiveness for millions around the world.



**Ash Wednesday Service
March 2nd @ 7pm**

Judy's Joke Corner

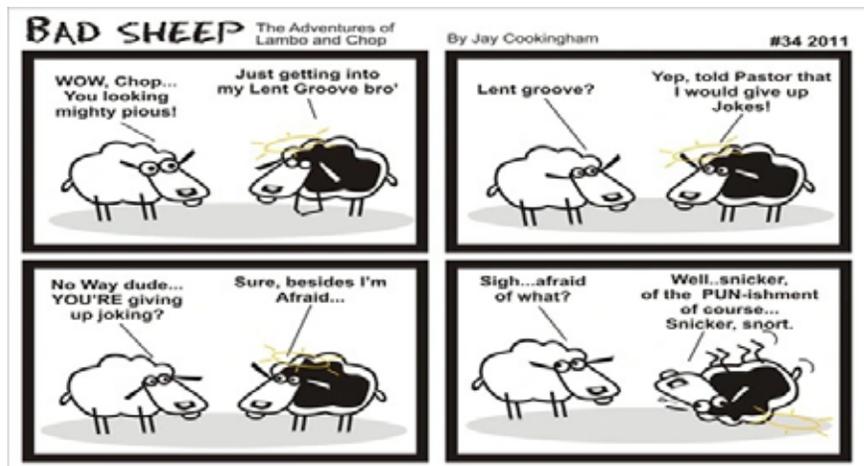
A traveling evangelist always put on a grand finale at his revival meetings. When he was to preach at a church, he would secretly hire a small boy to sit in the ceiling rafters with a dove in a cage.

Toward the end of his sermon, the preacher would shout for the Holy Spirit to come down and the boy in the rafters would dutifully release the dove.

At one revival meeting, however, nothing happened when the preacher called for the Holy Spirit to descend. He again raised his arms and exclaimed, Come down, Holy Spirit!! Still no sign of the dove. The preacher then heard the anxious voice of the small boy call down from the rafters, "Sir, a black and white cat just ate the Holy Spirit, shall I throw down the cat?"



A man got up one morning and said to his wife, "Honey, I'm not going to work today. I don't feel very well, and I'm tired. I'm not going."
 She looked at him and said, "You have to go."
 He replied "No, I'm not going."
 "But you're the preacher!" she replied



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

What Lent is Not

By Sheila Enstine

As spring approaches each year, once again the Church attempts to define the meaning of Lent. Perhaps we will better understand its importance by explaining what Lent is not.

Lent is not a time to “give up something you like,” only to return to it when Lent is over. For some people Lent is a time to fast or give up favorite foods, like chocolate or red meat, or reduce time on the internet, or refrain from some other unproductive habit. After all, it’s only 40 days (not counting Sundays), and after Easter we can go back to our old ways.

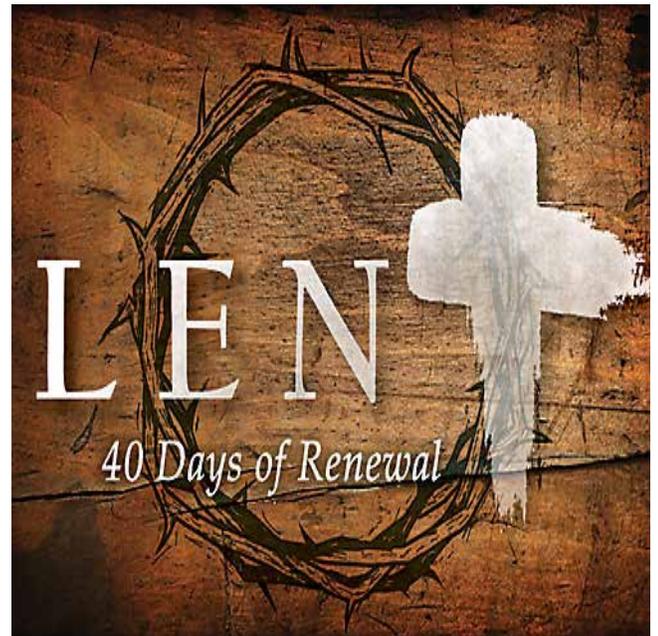
St. Basil the Great, the bishop of Caesaria during the 4th century AD, said this about fasting in general: “Take heed that you do not make fasting to consist only in abstinence from meats. True fasting is to refrain from vice. Shred to pieces all your unjust contracts. Pardon your neighbors. Forgive them their trespasses.”

That quote contains a clue to the greater significance of Lent. It is a time to recognize, acknowledge, and pull out by the roots unproductive, mundane, profane and unjust habits and never allow them into our lives again.

However, Lent is not a time for summoning our human strength and will power to overcome our sins. In self-examination, not only do we discover our unjust contracts and our unforgiving hearts, but we also discover our inability to do anything about it without God’s help. It is a time to pray, “Forgive me Lord, for I am a poor sinner, and without your grace, there is no health in me.”

But Lent is not a dark wilderness of guilt and shame. In confession of our dependence on God, we find a ray of spring sun. Fasting from substances and habits is an outward sign of an inner process, an emptying of obstacles to God’s transforming power. That emptying leaves space in our souls for God’s inspiration.

So Lent, therefore, is a time of making room for and planting the seeds of new life in our hearts, minds, and souls.



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.



Lenten Prayer Focus

By Katy Prince

This year for Lent, let's pray for our local municipalities. There are 53 municipalities in Tompkins, Tioga, and Cortland Counties. If we each pray for just one of those (and make sure we get them all), we can be praying through Lent for the people in our own neighborhoods.

On February 27th at church, we handed out 3X5 cards with the name of one municipality on each card. The following are the prayer focuses for each week, a scripture to go with that prayer focus, and a prayer that you can pray by inserting the municipality you are praying for into the prayer. Your prayers can expand on these prayers, but we are asking you to pray at least this prayer every day of the week, for that week.

On the 3X5 cards you have space to write whatever you would like. Does the prayer remind you of a specific someone that you know? Write that person's name on the card. Did God give you a specific insight during the week about your municipality? Write it down. You can also use the resources you have to find out more about your municipality. Who is the Mayor or Administrator? Who are the Legislators or Board Members? Who is the Highway Superintendent or any other officer in that municipality? You don't have to do this, but it is just an idea. Our main focus is to just pray. God knows!

If you want to report back to church how this exercise has touched you or others you know, please bring it to the attention of our congregation during Prayer Joys and Concerns. Here are the prayers, and all of the municipalities are listed too, so if you didn't get a 3X5 card, feel free to select a municipality of your choosing.

Week 1 (2/27-2022 - 3/5/2022)

Focus: Land

Scripture: Psalm 65:9-13



Prayer:

Thank you, O God for your grace and goodness. May your face continually shine upon (municipality), so that your ways may be known there. I praise you, O God; and may all the people there praise you. Then their land will yield its harvest and you, Lord, will bless them. Lord, I give you this land, the homes there, the labor, and the (county, city, town, village). Look with favor on that community, protect its citizens and leaders, and enrich the land so that it may be a blessing to others. I pray that you would be honored and lifted up in (municipality). Amen

Week 2 (3/6/2022 - 3/12/2022)

Focus: Leaders

Scripture: Proverbs 8:15-17



Prayer:

Thank you, O God for the civil servants in (municipality). Thank you for their hard work and sacrifice. May you continually bless them. May you generously give to each of them wise and discerning hearts to skillfully govern the people of their (county, city, town, village) Give these leaders and staff wisdom so that they may solve problems, distinguish between right and wrong, and bring order, stability, and prosperity to (municipality). Amen

Week 3 (3/13/2022 - 3/19/2022)

Focus: Citizens

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:19



Prayer:

Lord, thank you for your Wisdom. As a citizen of Heaven, I ask you to fill the citizens of (municipality) with Wisdom and Revelation by the power of your Spirit. Enable them to know you better, to know your will and your plans for their lives. Lord, give them a heart of Wisdom. May your Wisdom produce in them creative ideas, solu-

tions to problems, new technologies, and products. May you give them sound counsel and good judgment to help them make good decisions. May you also give them greater knowledge, understanding, and power so that they may live skillfully and give back what is good and excellent into (municipality). Amen

Week 4 (3/20/2022 - 3/26/2022)

Focus: First Responders

Scripture: Joshua 1:9

Prayer:



Lord, thank you for the First Responders on (municipality). May you grant them courage and strength, knowledge, and wisdom in their respective roles to be there for the citizens of (municipality) in times of crisis, fear, and hurt. As they work to protect, rescue, and heal the people of their (county, city, town, village) may you protect them from whatever may be trying to overtake or hurt them. Show them your mercy and comfort. Give them your strength to overcome whatever obstacles may be in their way. God, give them a sense of purpose in their work and daily lives and draw them closer to you each and every day. We also lift up the families of these first responders and ask you to surround them with your loving presence and give them peace when their loved ones run toward uncertainty. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Week 5 (3/27/2022 - 4/2/2022)

Focus: Poor and Sick

Scripture: Proverbs 22:22 and Psalm 41:3

Prayer:



Thank you, Lord, that you desire justice and healing for all. May the citizens of (municipality) be attentive to the cries of the poor and sick in their (county, city, town, village). May the citizens share the burdens of the poor and sick and come to their aid. May they treat the poor and sick with mutual respect, fairness, healing, and love. Show your loving kindness to the poor and sick to bring hope, encouragement, healing, and freedom. Let there be equality and equal application of the laws and rules and services within (municipality). Give liberty, healing, and justice to all, dear Lord. Amen

Week 6 (4/3/2022 - 4/9/2022)

Focus: Prosperity

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Prayer:



God, when good people succeed and increase in (municipality), the entire (county, city, town, village) is uplifted. Justice, goodness, and hope increase exponentially to benefit all citizens. In this way, good and upright people bring honor, glory, and prosperity to each other and to you. We thank you, God, for empowering the people of (municipality) to preach the good news. Let more people open their hearts to Jesus. May you revive this (county, city, town, village) with new life. May every person, marriage, family, school, and business enjoy the blessings of God. Let the benefits of your people influence (municipality). Amen

Week 7 (4/10/2022 - 4/16/2022)

Focus: Church

Scripture: Ephesians 4:3

Prayer:



Lord, give the people of (municipality) a spirit of unity as they follow you, so that with one heart and mind they may work together for the good of their (county, city, town, village) and glorify your Name. Give them your humility Lord, and let all barriers, walls, strongholds, and divisions that keep them separated from you and one another come down. In Jesus' name. Amen

The cities, towns and villages we are praying:

Tompkins County	Tioga County	Cortland County
City of Ithaca	Town of Barton	City of Cortland
Town of Ithaca	Village of Waverly	Town of Cincinnatus
Town of Caroline	Town of Berkshire	Town of Cortlandville
Town of Danby	Town of Candor	Town of Cuyler
Town of Dryden	Village of Candor	Town of Freetown
Town of Enfield	Town of Newark Valley	Town of Harford
Town of Groton	Village of Newark Valley	Town of Homer
Town of Lansing	Town of Nichols	Village of Homer
Town of Newfield	Village of Nichols	Town of Lapeer
Town of Ulysses	Town of Owego	Town of Marathon
Village of Cayuga Heights	Village of Owego	Village of Marathon
Village of Dryden	Town of Richford	Village of McGraw
Village of Freeville	Town of Spencer	Town of Preble
Village of Groton	Village of Spencer	Town of Scott
Village of Lansing	Town of Tioga	Town of Solon
Village of Trumansburg		Town of Taylor
		Town of Truxton
		Town of Virgil
		Town of Willet



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



Easter Story

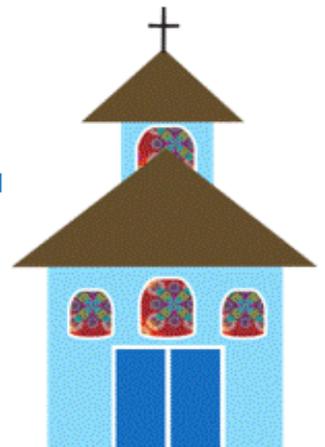
Word Search

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APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 CAVE
 CHURCH
 CROSS
 CROWN
 CRUCIFIXION
 DISCIPLES
 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
 JUDAS
 LAMB
 LAST SUPPER
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PENANCE
 PENTECOST

PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SAVIOR
 SON
 THORNS
 TOMB



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Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!



What's Happening in March?!?

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
MARCH 2 @ 7PM

Movie Night! March 11 @7pm

