



Danby Church News



"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

November 2022





From Our Pastor!

Things that make me smile!

“A glad heart makes a cheerful face” (Proverbs 15:13a ESV).

Everyone knows that 2022 has been a challenging year to say the least. Our society, culture, and world in general continue to drift away from sanity and civility. Joy, peace, and hope in this turbulent world are rare commodities.

However, when I look into the Kingdom of God I find nothing but good!
So what is smile-inducing for me lately?

I smiled when, on Sunday morning October 9, 2022, we had more men than women in church for the first time in the 13 plus years I’ve been a pastor. That head count was a surprise and a delight! It made me smile that Sunday and many times since.

I value the faithful, devoted women of our church. I count them all as dear sisters in Christ. At the same time, it is known that the higher the ratio of men to women in attendance, the more likely a church is to be growing—strange but true.

We need to attract men to grow the church and bring their families. Very few churches can say they ever have a majority male attendance. I personally know of only one in upstate New York, although I pray there are others.

I smile when we have Bible studies that are filled with folks from both inside and outside our congregation. This is the case on the Friday afternoon and Thursday evening studies. The Great Commission of Matthew 28 says go and make disciples. Too many times, people cling to the go or at least send someone else and forget the objective is to make disciples. We obey the second half of the Commission when we dig into scripture and learn to apply it to our lives, inside and outside our fellowship. The more people the better!

Continued on page 3

What’s in this Issue?

From Our Pastor.....	2
Spiritual Development.....	4
Meditation on Worship.....	5
Update from SPOC.....	6

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!

**Nancy Rose,
our biker gal**

It always makes me smile when I hear that our congregation is different from others. We do acts of support and kindness that people have not experienced in other fellowships. A part of me wishes we were not unique in this, but I find joy in knowing that the disciples here in Danby are willing to extend themselves into what God expects of His Church.

Knowing that this church family/community is willing to share each other's burdens makes me smile and thank God for each of you. We all have a turn at needing help and it is wonderful to know other folks really do care about us.

As we gather in small groups doing different things around and for the church, there is a delight that is hard to describe. Wednesday evening is an opportunity to play music and share life. I don't always smile outwardly when I'm trying to figure out how to play the guitar, but inwardly I'm delighted to be praising God in a special communion of saints. From around 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, people gather, talk, and share life. We never know exactly what will happen, but it is wonderful!

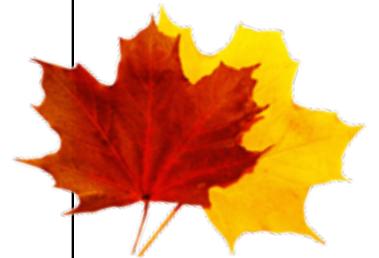
Even meeting in our different task groups is something to look forward to. Who knew that what we used to call a committee meeting could actually be fun? The twist is that we also share what God is doing in our lives as well as the life of our church when we meet.

These and many other activities in the Kingdom make me smile. But apart from the above, I rejoice in the relationship we share in Christ. It makes me smile to see how God is growing us, producing fruit, and strengthening our individual and collective walks with the Lord. It makes me smile to see you and recognize the Kingdom of God at work, right here in Danby, right now.

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
Thursdays - Bible Study @ 7pm
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am



Spiritual Development Update *from Sheila Enstine*

Important Dates: The season of Pentecost or Ordinary Time will end on Christ the King Sunday, November 20th. On the following Sunday, November 27th, the altar cloths will change from green to purple, signifying royalty and the beginning of Advent. Advent is the beginning of the Church year, so Happy New Year as we begin preparing for the King of Kings to enter more deeply into our hearts and lives.

Women's Holiday Retreat: "Let there be peace on Earth" is the title of our annual Women's Holiday Retreat, Saturday, December 3rd. Registration starts at 8:30 am and the program is from 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM. Lunch will be served at noon. See Judy Horton for more information.

Adult Small Groups:

- **The Sunday morning study group** is postponed. We'll try to pick up with the second lesson in the Philippians and Colossians study, possibly in early December.
- **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 requests
- **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 studying Margaret Feinberg's "Verbs of God". The group meets at 1:00 PM. See Suzanne Walker if you're interested in joining the study.

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

Children's Church: After the Morning Prayer on Sundays, children ages 6 through 10 are welcome to attend Children's Church. A great big "Thank You" goes to Debbie Alve, Katy Prince, and Janet Gray for volunteering to lead Children's Church and to all the helpers for their loving care of babies, toddlers, and children.

Family Ministry – Call to Prayer: Continue to pray for the families you know, either near or far, family or acquaintances. Pray not only for God's provision, protection, guidance, unity, and love and wisdom for parents, but also for the love of Christ to enter their homes. Pray for opportunities to befriend them, be a friend, and invite them into your lives.

Prayer Opportunities:

- Prayer Chain: Contact Judy Cuyle at gncat87@yahoo.com or call 279-5089.
- In-person: Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. The Tuesday and Thursday prayer hour with Pastor Ed is cancelled for now.

Congregational Care:

Thank you to everyone who has seen a need and responded in love. Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for arranging for flower deliveries.

NOTICE: The Kings Cemetery Annual Meeting has been changed to Nov. 19th, instead of the 12th. Same time though, it's still 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm.

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

Meditation on Worship

By Sheila Enstine

I wasn't able to attend worship on Sunday, October 9th, due to back pain. I confess that I was "catastrophizing", thinking that I'd never be able to get out and do things or be productive again. The only comfortable position I found was leaning against my kitchen counter.

The counter is adjacent to an east-facing window. As I gazed out the window, I began to pray for God's healing. Just then, the sun rose over a 50-foot tall pine tree in the back yard, sending light flooding onto the kitchen counter. I took this as an unqualified "Yes" to my prayer.

Then I glanced at the stove clock — 10:00 AM — just when my brothers and sisters at the Danby Church would be gathering for worship. I knew that although I was not with you all in person, I was joining you in worship.

When I lowered my eyes to look out the window, avoiding the blinding sunlight, I saw water droplets dance and shimmer on the verdant blades of grass. A few late blooming dandelions blazed back in yellow glory. Meanwhile, I saw evidence of the wind, as it initiated a lovely ballet in the almost translucent greens, oranges, and gold of maple leaves.

This is what is meant in Psalm 66:4: "All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."

I continued with all of you and all of creation, worshipping the Creator with song and praise, thankful for so many evidences of love and care. And I prayed for you and all created things.

Some would call this combination of incidents a mere coincidence. But why do we call coincidences "mere"? "Co" means in partnership or concurrent with someone or something else, like co-worker or commingle. Do we ever say, "They are mere co-workers" or "The chef merely commingled the ingredients"? These situations require intention, from an intelligent agent, working with a purpose in mind.

The ancient Christian mystics knew that the four elements of creation—fire, earth, wind and water—are fellow "creatures", as much as animals and plants. In his "Canticle to the Sun", St. Francis of Assisi speaks of Brother Sun who, in cooperation with Sister Earth, Brother Wind, and Sister Water, responds in obedience to God's creative purposes. In this way, the elements worship.

That morning, God intentionally arranged events so that I unwittingly leaned against my kitchen counter at 10:00 AM. Only when I began to pray, Brother Sun rose over Sister Earth's pine tree, cascading brilliant energy, created billions of years ago, onto the counter. At the same time, the Danby Community Church responded to God's call and gathered in worship.

So we are able to worship, any time, any place, and in any situation. Look for signs of Father God's presence and provision, in the love of family and friends and our fellow creatures, including Brother Fire, Sister Earth, Brother Wind, and Sister Water, and give thanks.

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.



Updates from Staff Pastor Oversight Committee (SPOC)

By Katy Prince, SPOC Chair

There are a couple very important updates from the Staff Pastor Oversight Committee that we would like you to know about.

1. **Nominations** for 2023 have been discussed and we have two or three vacancies that are in need of being filled. If you are interested in any of the following, please contact someone from SPOC and plan on attending the church annual meeting in January 2023 (actual date to be determined, but usually a Sunday right after church).
 - a. Trustee
 - b. SPOC member
 - c. Administrative Council Chair
 - d. Church Clerk

2. **Membership** of the Danby Community Church has changed since we have become an independent church. The members of SPOC are recommending we no longer think of ourselves as “members” but as Partners in this Church. Membership has developed undertones of having dues, specific requirements of service, etc. But, partnership as defined by the SPOC is: *a formal relationship between the Danby Community Church and the Christian attending on a regular basis. This Partnership is really just a reflection of the relationships with the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), the Christian, the local Church, and community that already exist within the body of Christ Jesus.*
 - a. **1 Corinthians 1: 4-9** ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom *you were called into the partnership* of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Emphasis mine)
 - b. **1 Corinthians 12:12 - 14** ¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Each year SPOC is going to ask all partners of the Danby Community Church to renew their partnership. Please don't fret about this, it is just a way for us to all love Jesus, love one another, and keep our relationships current and relevant.

3. And lastly SPOC is **recommending** that as a Church we affiliate with the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) - which has been referred to recently as the 4C Conference. Our pastor is already a member of the CCCC Conference. In order for our church to become a member of the CCCC Conference, we must vote on this proposal at the annual conference in January 2023. I am including here some information and areas where you can do your own research on the CCCC conference and we ask that you prayerfully discern what God is calling us to do.
 - a. Reasoning:
 - i. Being part of something bigger than ourselves. Ecclesiastes 4:12, “And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Continued on Page 7

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

1. Between our church, a supporting conference, and God we would have a threefold cord and not be quickly broken!
- ii. Support - the CCCC Conference offers support for member churches.
 1. Financial Health Resources
 - a. Assistance in a financial crisis (hopefully we will never need)
 - b. Free training resources (we could all take advantage of training in growth in the Kingdom of God).
 2. Resource sharing
 3. Support in finding a new pastor when the time comes
 4. Spiritual support and connection with other Christians who love Jesus, love one another, and desire to make disciples for God.
- b. Information about the CCCC.
 - i. To affiliate ourselves officially with the CCCC, we must do the following process (direct from the CCCC website): “Churches seeking membership in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference must affirm without reservation our Statement of Faith and our Statement of Polity (see the CCCC Constitution, Articles III & IV) and must affirm our Code of Ethics for Churches. Any church in full agreement with these statements, having duly voted to associate with the CCCC, may submit an application for membership. After the application has been received, an interview with a CCCC Area Representative will be scheduled to begin the membership process.”
 1. The CCCC Statement of Faith:
 - a. We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written.
 - b. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - c. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
 - d. We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
 - e. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling power and fullness the Christian is enabled to live a godly life in this present evil world.
 - f. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
 - g. We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ.
 2. Code of Ethics (high points, more information is available in the CCCC Constitution Addendum)
 - a. Believing that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church
 - b. Believing that the local church is an expression of the family of God
 - c. Believing that the Church is a universal body
 - d. Believing that the witness of the church in the community affects the ministry of that church to the community and reflects on Christ, the Head of the Church
 - e. Believing that our membership in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference is not only a privilege but also involves responsibility
 - f. Believing that the pastor and other spiritual leaders are shepherds of Christ’s flock
 - ii. The CCCC at the website: <https://www.cccusa.com/about-us/>

I know this is a lot to think about and I’ve been praying about this for a long time. I pray you will pray for discernment with me too and be prepared to come and vote what God places on your heart in January. If you have any questions please contact me (katyprince96@gmail.com, 607-351-6410), or Pastor Ed.



Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

*Election
Night Dinner*
Tuesday November 8
5pm - 7pm
Pork or chicken
and all the fixins

The graphic features a dark blue background with a decorative border at the top consisting of alternating triangular bunting flags in red, white, and blue with stars and stripes. The text is centered and uses a mix of red and white colors for emphasis.

Annual Women's Holiday Retreat on Sat. Dec. 3
The doors open at 8:30am for registration and snacks.
The morning program begins at 9:15am and the day ends at 3:30pm.

