



# Danby Church News

“Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God”

**November 2023**



## From Our Pastor!

### Psalm 73 is an Eye Opener

Even the greatest of Biblical kings had their moments of doubt and frustration. Psalm 73 shows us the anguish of King David as he surveyed the wicked living in ease and prosperity while he suffered in bitterness and disappointment.

However, in verse 17 something wondrous happens; he comes into the sanctuary of God and his spiritual eyes are opened to reality. A fuller picture of life came clear to the King and he recognized God’s definition of success versus our limited human understanding.

We live with absurdity and cruelty in this world and wonder why. The wicked do seem to prosper while the righteous and innocent suffer. Way too often we ask God, “If you can...”

Like the father of the demon possessed son in Mark 9, we ask in faith shaded by doubt. Consider the weakness of doubt expressed in, “If you can,” versus the power of humbly pleading, “I do believe; help my unbelief.”

Very often our belief wrestles with circumstances. We struggle with both present and past experiences set against the seemingly impossible. We feel hope-

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### Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2023

<b>Pastor:</b>	Ed Enstine eenstine@aol.com 607.592.8276
<b>Administrative Aide</b>	Lynn Kingston-Harris office@danbychurch.org 607.272.1687
<b>Administrative Council</b>	
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
<b>Area Coordinators</b>	
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Charlene Testut
<b>Spiritual Development:</b>	Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
<b>Missions:</b>	Judy & Dale Horton therose8641@yahoo.com
<b>Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:</b>	
Chair:	Katy Prince
<b>Praise Team Leader:</b>	Pup Martinez martinez789@yahoo.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Janet Gray jsg4@cornell.edu
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Janet Gray
<b>Facebook:</b>	Janet Gray

### On the Cover!

**Fran Snyder**  
went to be with the Lord October 26, 2023  
We’ll miss you Frannie!!

less doubt and it eats away at our faith.

That is the moment we need to reenter the sanctuary of God, the Church. Not only do we enter a building, but also fellowship with God's people who love and support each other, just as Jesus loves and supports them.

We are like King David, beset by all sorts of troubles, many self-inflicted and others aimed at the King due to his wealth and power. David was a man worn down by strife and betrayal, yet aware that God was his strength, song, and salvation. Psalm 73:28 declares a new resolve, "But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I might tell of all Thy works."

This world and our human nature does not make life easy for anyone. But rest assured, God loves you. Jesus died for you. To experience the fullest most rewarding life possible, live for Him. Amen

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We are organizing a spiritual gifts assessment. Please contact me if you wish to take part. We will take several weeks to go over individual gifting and how to best express the gift God has given you.

Please be in prayer for the protection and covering of God on our congregation! We face a number of challenges in this world, which is increasingly hostile to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please take part in our monthly prayer calendar. Your prayers are heard!



**Danby Community Church  
Administrative Council Meeting  
October 9, 2023.**

**Present:** Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Charlene Testut, Paula Nelson, Gloria Miller, Katy Prince, and David McDermitt.

The Council meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Ed, 7:01pm

**CLERK’S MINUTES:** Meeting minutes from Sept - motion to approve (Sheila), second (Katy), Carried.

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

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula gave Treasurer’s report. Motion to approve report (Charlene), second (Dave), Carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Katy preached while Pastor Ed was away 10/08. Headphones: the church has 6 which is adequate.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There will be a wedding at the church Friday 10/13. Also on 10/13, there will be a Danby candidate’s forum in the fellowship hall – both parties will be present. Spectrum may provide us with an upgraded router to replace our current router and a second router will be purchased and installed in the fellowship hall to boost Wi-Fi signal in that area. Pastor Ed is looking at options for an upgraded projector in the Sanctuary. To help the worship team, Katy & Tommy offered to donate a large screen tv/monitor that could be placed on the back wall of the sanctuary so they can see the lyrics more easily than from their music stands.

**HOSPITALITY:** We hosted the Candor church and 4C’s representative. There will be a roundtable the last Sunday of this month, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Ukrainian church will be having a luncheon on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT:** Dates in the church calendar: 10/31 is the Vigil of All Saints. All Saints Day is 11/01. All Saints Sunday is 11/05 (which is also time change Sunday). Thanksgiving is 11/23 and 11/26 is Christ the King Sunday celebrating the Lordship of Christ – the last Sunday in the Christian calendar year which begins again with Advent in December.

- Safe sanctuary renewal is Tuesday, October 10, at 6:30.
- Operation Christmas Child: national collection week is 11/13 – 11/20. Bethel Grove is the drop off area. The church is ordering 50 boxes and will challenge the church to fill them; no candy and no toothpaste are allowed. The cost is a \$10 donation.
- Sunday morning Bible study has started a 13-week study of the Gospel of Mark.
- Wednesday night praise and fellowship at 7.
- Thursday evening bible study continues in the Book of Matthew with Pastor Ed.
- The Friday 1pm women’s group is reading Sheila Walsh’s “In the Middle of the Mess”.
- Nursery and Children’s church continue.
- Prayer is offered Saturday 8am, through the prayer email group via Katy Prince, and with the church prayer calendar sign-up.
- Shawl ministry is still available; people are asked to note who a shawl was given to
- Phone visitation has fallen off
- Once-a-month church bulletin seems to be working and sufficient.

*continued on page 5*

*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](mailto:jsg4@cornell.edu) and your question (and answer) may appear in the next Danby Church News*

**FOOD PANTRY:** Delivery this month and hereafter is happening the same day as food pantry day which is helpful for the organizers.

**TRUSTEES:** A new kitchen refrigerator was purchased.

**MISSIONS:** We continue to provide \$50/month to 3 ministries: Second Wind Cottages for men, for women, and Renovation House Spencer.

**SPOC:** Continue to work on a rough draft of partnership-membership wording; this change in membership ‘style’ will require a change in the church Constitution which will require a special all church meeting for consideration and voting. They will meet next week to discuss Pastor Ed’s performance review and a possible raise. It will soon be time to ask for nominations to fill openings for church officers and areas of responsibility.

**SAP:** Didn’t meet last month, but plan to meet this month to discuss restarting small groups and perhaps a men’s group.

Motion to adjourn (Gloria); Second (Sheila). Meeting was adjourned at 8:12.  
Pastor Ed prayed the group out.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Council clerk

### Operation Christmas Child

The Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week is November 13-20, 2023.

The Danby Community Church will deliver your shoebox gift to the regional drop-off location for you on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to have the box packed and ready to go by the end of the service



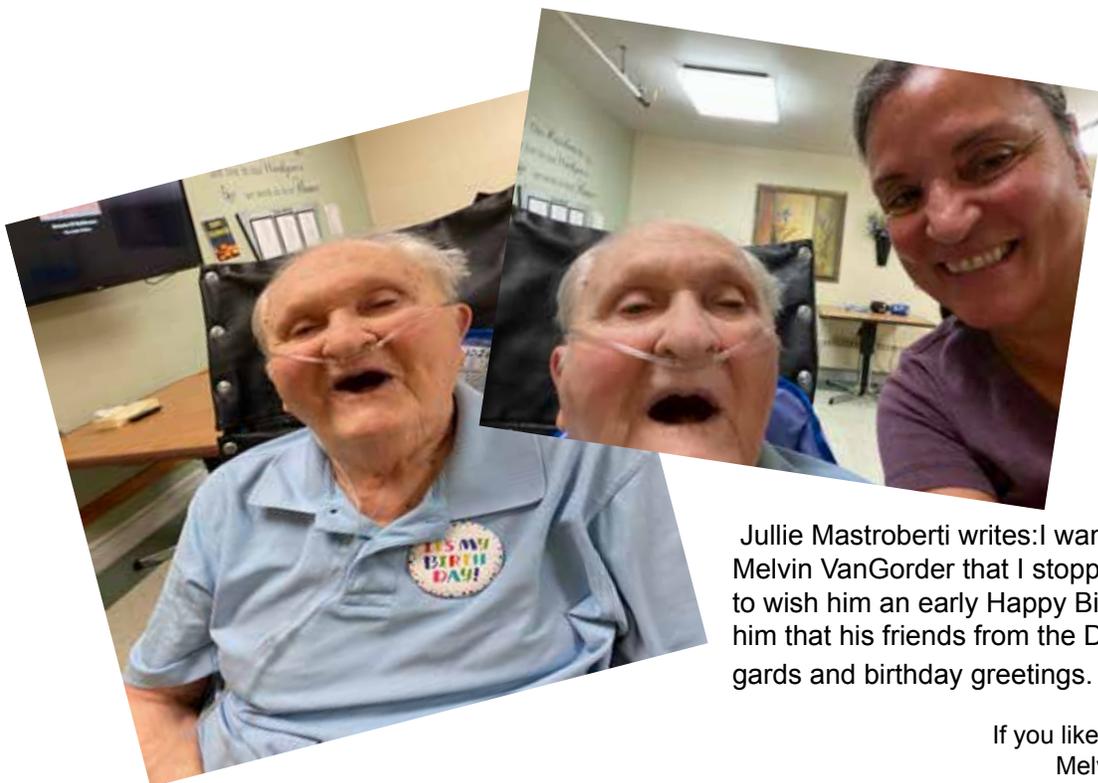
that day.

Brochures that explain how to pack a shoebox are available on our display table in the Townsley Room. The brochure has ideas of what to pack in the boxes and an attached envelope for the requested \$10 to cover shipping.

There are a few things that you should not put in the boxes—candy, toothpaste, liquids such as tubes of paint, fragile objects like snow globes, and any war-related item. Check the brochure for more details.

You can also find this information online at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Contact Sheila Enstine at 607-229-4135 with any questions.



Jullie Mastroberti writes: I wanted to share with those who remember Melvin VanGorder that I stopped by Elderwood today to visit him and to wish him an early Happy Birthday. Mel turns 93 in October. I told him that his friends from the Danby Church send him warmest regards and birthday greetings. Mel is such a sweet, dear gentleman.

If you like to send Mel a card:  
Melvin VanGorder  
Elderwood at Waverly  
1 South  
37 N. Chemung St.  
Waverly, NY 14892

## Welcome HOME

a place where you belong

Sunday Worship Celebration @ 10 am  
Sunday Youth Church @ 10:30am  
Sunday Adult Education Class @ 8:45am  
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm  
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am  
Women's Bible Study, Fridays @ 1pm

**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 November and Early December 2023:

**All Saints Day is November 1<sup>st</sup>.** This is a time for all Christians to remember and appreciate the witness of the faithful men and women who came before us. All Saints Sunday is observed on the following Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

**The Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection week is November 13-20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** See the OCC announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

**Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Christ the King Sunday is November 26<sup>th</sup>.** This is the last Sunday in the Liturgical Year and celebrates the full authority of Christ as King and Lord of the Universe.

**The Women's Christmas Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>,** from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This year's retreat is in memory of Judy Horton who was one of the founders of this annual recognition of the beginning of Advent. Please contact Glenna Dickson at 607-564-3134 to register.

**Advent begins on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Adult Small Groups:

**The Sunday morning group** is studying the Gospel of Mark. The class meets 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. This group is reading and discussing *In the Middle of the Mess* by Sheila Walsh. 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 worship music on Sundays, children ages 6 through 10 (about 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are welcome to attend Children's Church

### Prayer Opportunities:

- **In-person Prayer:** We offer an in-person prayer time in the Sanctuary on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am.
- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at [katyprince96@gmail.com](mailto:katyprince96@gmail.com).
- **Church Prayer Calendar:** Thank you to everyone who is participating in our Church-wide Prayer Calendar. Hard copies of the calendar are available at the church.

**Congregational Care:** Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for faithfully arranging for flower deliveries. We want to revive our prayer shawl and phone visitation ministry. Please let Sheila know if you're interested in this or if you have ideas for other types of ministry.

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

**Welcome Home!!**

**What's Happening?!? in November??**

**Election Night Dinner**  
**Tuesday, November 7**  
**5-7pm**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**  
**Boxes due Sunday, Nov. 19**

**Free Coffee and Donuts**  
**Monday, November 20**  
**8am - 10:30am**  
**COMMUNITY COFFEE CHAT**