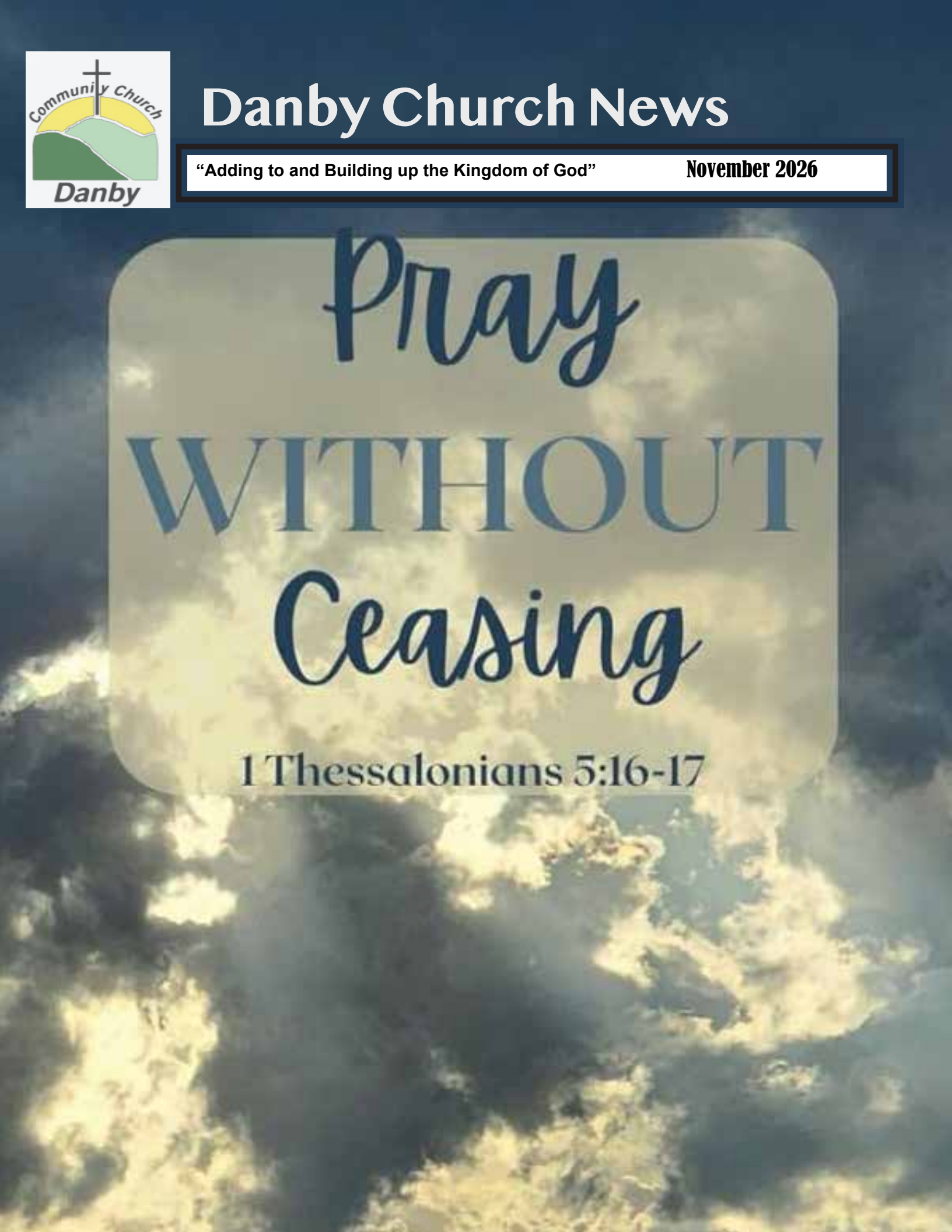
Danby Church News

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



From Our Pastor!

What's in this Issue?

From Our Pastor.....2
Spiritual Development Update.....4
Prodigal Son.....5
Admin Council Minutes.....6

Once a month I have the privilege of leading a prayer group consisting of other pastors from around the country. We meet together, face to face, via the internet. There is no set itinerary or liturgy to follow, but rather we rely on the Holy Spirit to guide our time together.

Each month our prayers and conversations move across a landscape of needs, desires, intercession, and sharing. As we dare to expose our needs and concerns, we build a bond that strengthens our connection to one another and to God. We also discover our strengths and talents. Every meeting is different, yet every time we gather there is a building of relationship and trust. In a tangible way the Holy Spirit is working and moving in both our individual and collective ministries as we share together.

I am always amazed at how every opportunity to pray serves different needs. We have also seen amazing results as our collective prayers are shared. Never think that prayers bounce off the ceiling or are too faint for God to hear.

In answer to an often unspoken question: Yes, we experience tangible results in our lives and ministries.

There are many ways to pray. As believers in the reality of salvation and purpose in Jesus the Christ, we are instructed by Scripture to maintain an active prayer life. This is not an option.

Prayer is not a burden; it is a blessing. Prayer can be fun! We are given the opportunity to spend time with a God who both loves us and has the best sense of humor in the universe. Some people may feel that pastors or priests should handle

Pastor's Message continued on page 3

Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2026

Pastor:	Ed Enstine *eenstine@aol.com* 607.592.8276
Asst Pastor:	Katy Prince *katyprince96@gmail.com* 607.351.6410
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

Pray without Ceasing

Pastor's Message continued from page 2

prayer duties. After all, they are the paid help. I am here to remind everyone that God is waiting for you to call home. Take some time to check in, often.

We can pray anywhere at any time. Posture is optional. Kneeling or standing, lying flat on your back or face down, it's all good.

There are plenty of great prayers you can read or recite, but a heart-felt praise or plea goes directly to the Throne too. The Lord knows your heart and knows your voice.

Prayers crying out in desperation are as important as shouts of joy and thanks giving. A child's prayer before bed is as precious as the most magnificent liturgical recitation. Pray individually and with a group. "Pray without ceasing," (1 Thessalonians 5:17). It can be done. Speak to God! If you examine your life, you'll see God has always been speaking to you.

Sunday Adult Bible Study- @ 8:45am
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 every Friday @ 1 pm
Paws to Remember, 1st Saturday, 9:30am

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.

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

Spiritual Development Update
from Sheila Enstine

Important Dates for November 2026

As the Christian year draws to a close, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday on November 22nd.
Pope Pius the XI established Christ the King Sunday in 1925 because of rising ideologies in Europe that were demanding people's total allegiance. The Pope wanted to remind people—especially Christians—that Christ is above all, not as a human politician (John 18:36), but as the incarnate Word of God and creator of the universe (John 1:1-3,14; Hebrews 1:1-3).

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26th. Not only are the last weeks of November a time to thank our Creator for the harvest from gardens and fields, but it is also time to celebrate spiritual growth and deepening fellowship with Christ and his Church.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, November 29th this year. Look for more on Advent and Christmas in December's newsletter.

Creation Care:

Speaking of showing gratitude to our Creator, let's take time this month to find ways beyond feasting to put that ideal into practice. The spiritual discipline of simplicity might be a way.

While visiting a Shaker village with our daughter, Pastor Ed and I were reminded of their famous hymn, "Tis the Gift to be Simple." Lines from the hymn are quoted in Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline. Foster points out, "Because we lack a divine Center our need for security has led us into an insane attachment to things."

Foster says that before we can practice simplicity in our outward lives, we must foster simplicity within. We can begin by understanding that acquiring more and more new stuff while throwing away more and more old stuff not only fills our landfills, but also clogs our lives. This is not about austerity, but rather keeping material provision in proper perspective. As my grandparents used to say: "Use it up, wear it out; Make it do or do without." Sounds simple.

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group meets at 8:45 a.m. and is studying of the book of Hebrews. Study guides are available. Let Sheila know if you're interested.
The Wednesday night Praise and Fellowship group gathers at 7:00 p.m. with the praise team in the sanctuary. After worship, the group moves to the All-Saints Room for fellowship and prayer.
The Thursday evening Bible Study meets at 7:00 p.m. and is studying the Gospel of John.
The Women's Bible Study meets on Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. in the Townsley Room. They are watching and discussing Season 5 of The Chosen. 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.

Spiritual Development continued on page 5

Spiritual Development continued from page 4

Congregational Care: If you're planning on visiting anyone in need of fellowship, please take a prayer shawl to them. We have a large collection of these shawls and a delivery log in the closet at the entrance to the education wing.

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.

The Lost Older Brother

by Janet Gray

I recently finished reading *The Prodigal God* by Tim Keller. Prodigal means extravagant, which is Tim Keller's point in *The Prodigal God,* that God extravagantly loves us and gives us grace and eternal life for free! This is the good news!

We always think of the younger brother as lost, having asked his father for his inheritance ahead of time and then, squandering his fortune, he becomes destitute. . He realizes he must return home and beg his father to take him back. His father is overjoyed that his younger son has returned and accepts him back into the family, no questions asked, while the older brother seethes.

The older brother is angry and hurt that the father is lavishing the younger brother with robes, a family ring and a big party. The older brother has done everything right, obeyed his father, and was a good son. "How dare his father forgive his brother?" He wants to distance himself from his younger brother, "He is the sinner not me".

Which is the lost son? They both are. Keller reveals that people that are righteous, religious moralists are just as lost as the younger brother. They both need God's redemptive love and grace.

In the Casting Crowns song, "Start Right Here", the lyrics go:

I'm like the brother of the prodigal
Who turned his nose and puffed his chest
He didn't run off like his brother
But his soul was just as dead

As Keller points out, "Jesus tells us both the sensual way of the younger brother and the ethical way of the elder brother are spiritual dead ends. He also shows us there is another way: through Him."

If you believe that God should bless you because of your good works and being a good person, as Keller writes, "then Jesus is your helper, not your Savior." If our churches are to call and welcome the younger brother, we must examine if we have become the older brother.

The lyrics from the Casting Crowns' song continues:

What if the church on Sunday
Was still the church on Monday too?
What if we came down from our towers
And walked a mile in someone's shoes?

We're the people who are called by His name
If we'll surrender all our pride and turn from our ways
He will hear from Heaven and forgive our sin
He will heal our land but it starts right here

Reprinted from November 2020 Danby Church News

Danby Community Church Administrative Council Meeting

October 12, 2026

Present: Diana Benson, Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson**,** Charlene Testut.

Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk's Minutes: The minutes for the September 14th, 2026 meeting were previously sent to Council members for their review. Charlene Testut moved to accept the minutes and Diana Benson seconded the motion. Carried.

Financial Secretary's Report: Paula Nelson distributed the income report for September 2026 prepared by the Church's Administrative Aide. The line-item total for the Vanco deposits has been corrected. Charlene moved to accept the income report. Diana seconded the motion. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paula submitted the Treasurer's reports for the General and Pass Thru accounts as of October 12th. Our bills are current. The bill from Spectrum recently arrived and will be paid soon. The gas and electric bill is down from an average of $800 per month to less than $400 per month. Paula submitted the quarterly report of disbursements as of 9/30/26. The contribution to the 4Cs was charged to miscellaneous expenses in the Programs Area, which is now over the Spend Plan allotment. The 2027 Spend Plan will need a line item for our commitment to the 4Cs. Other items that may need increases are Utilities and Technology. Council will need to meet before the annual meeting to adjust the Spend Plan for 2027.

Diana moved to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Charlene. Carried.

Old Business: Pastor Ed reported that at their recent meeting SPOC corrected the language for a non-partner employee acting as the Financial Secretary. The SPOC Chair will submit this and language for the minimum number of times the Administrative Council will meet to Council for our approval. These changes to the Constitution will be presented for a congregational vote at the annual meeting.

New Business: Sheila introduced the need for the Church to create an emergency action plan (EAP) to address procedures for events such as fires, inclement weather, medical emergencies, and violent incidents. She distributed statistics on the percentage of these occurrences in faith-based facilities nation-wide and an outline of steps to create a plan. The steps include forming an ad-hoc group to formulate a plan. The group would be limited in scope and duration. It could call in experts, including local first responders, to help identify vulnerable areas.

Sheila made a motion that Administrative Council commission an ad-hoc task group to create an EAP. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Council identified individuals to ask to be in the task group. Sheila will compile the objectives, responsibilities, and time frame for the task group and invite the identified individuals to participate in the group.

Hospitality: Charlene is considering hosting an Election Day Dinner if we have enough volunteers. The menu will be simpler than in prior years.

Spiritual Development: Sheila reported that one person whose Safe Sanctuary Covenant lapsed has renewed the covenant and another person is considering renewal. When people who formerly participated in the Safe Sanctuary program leave the Church for more than a year, their records are shredded. Therefore, when people renew, they need to go through the screening process again.

Pastor Ed is organizing a Bible dialog for community participation, preferably on Mondays. This will likely begin in November. The exact days and times will be announced.

Other details regarding Spiritual Development activities are published in the monthly newsletter.

Admin Council Minutes Continued on page 7

Admin Council Minutes Continued from page 6

Food Pantry: Charlene reported that the Food Pantry would be held the following Thursday. In September 66 families took part, including 10 new families, but other regulars didn't come. Normally we host 80 to 90 families. This month is the turkey sign-up for distribution in November. Due to the fire at the Shurfine Food Mart in Spencer, which was their only grocery store, the Spencer community donated extra funds to the Food Bank to help people from that area. This month volunteers will begin filling out confidential contact information. Charlene is considering finding a new volunteer coordinator.

Missions: No Report.

Trustees: Charlene reported that a new water conditioner, rather than a water softener, was installed. The conditioner should remove the rust stains in our fixtures. The leak from the hot water baseboard in the south-east meeting room was repaired. Tommy Prince is waiting for estimates for repairing the wall in the Fellowship Hall. We received a donation for a railing on the pulpit stairs, which will be installed next week. Pastor Ed is waiting for a response from his contact for a new sanctuary projector. The remaining bulb life in the current projector is about 28%. It is possible to install a new screen that rejects ambient light.

SPOC: See Old Business above.

SAP: No report as SAP has not met recently. Pastor Ed is still planning on another NCD survey.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. with an ending prayer by Pastor Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Enstine, Church Clerk

The next Administrative Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Appreciation Month

Thank you Pastor Ed, Katy and families for all you do for us!

Danby Community Church
1859 Danby Road
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www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

Samaritan's Purse OPERATION Christmas Child

IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!

The Danby Community Church will deliver your shoebox gift to the regional drop-off location for you on Sunday, November 22nd. Be sure to have the box packed and ready to go by the end of the service that day.