



# Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

October 2024





# From Our Pastor!

## DLT: Doing life Together

The idea of a church body organized around Doing Life Together or DLT is not a new concept. The first chapter of The Book of Acts talks about how the disciples gathered together and formed a close-knit community, centered on devotion to Jesus’ teachings, prayer, and DLT. Scripture records how everyone shared and had all that they needed.

Fast forward a couple thousand years and we have churches formed around that same concept thriving throughout the world. However this is not so common in our modern mainline churches.

Too many churches have forfeited Christ-centered community for individualism and social agendas, especially in the United States. Most of our population in the United States does not consider Christianity a necessity. Perhaps our prosperity is at fault or maybe we’ve become too self-sufficient for spirituality to matter. It could be the pervasive message from our culture to always put #1 first and simply push Jesus aside until he’s needed for a funeral or a wedding.

Whatever the cause, the result is a tremendous number of once strong churches are either failing or fading into irrelevance.

As dire as this may sound, it does not signal the end of Christianity. The demise of so many of our institutional churches may grab our attention, but this should not blind us to the number of vibrant faith communities scattered across this land. The Kingdom of God is very much alive.

So what will keep Danby Community Church healthy and enlarge our outreach?

The first ingredient for Kingdom success is congregants living out their devotion to Christ as His disciples. A Church body is more than a few weekend attendees considering Christ for an hour or two a week. The Church is people allowing the Holy Spirit’s guidance in their lives 24/7. A healthy Church body delights in prayer, studying the Bible, and lives out DLT both inside and outside the Church.

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### Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2024

<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>	
Co-Chairpersons:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
Secretary:	Dave McDermitt davidmcdermitt@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com
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Trustees Chair:	Charlene Testut ctestut55@yahoo.com
<b>Area Coordinators</b>	
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Charlene Testut
<b>Spiritual Development:</b>	Sheila Enstine
<b>Missions:</b>	Suzanne Walker suzrwalker@yahoo.com
<b>Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:</b>	
Chair:	Katy Prince
<b>Praise Team Leaders:</b>	Katy & Tommy Prince
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Janet Gray jsg4@cornell.edu
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Janet Gray
<b>Facebook:</b>	Janet Gray

### On the Cover

## Shryl Edburgh.



What is this DLT you speak of, Pastor? DLT stems from five concepts gleaned from Paul's Epistles.

Colossians 3:12-14 Bear with one another with forgiveness in Love

Ephesians 5:2 Submit—entrust life and welfare to one another

Philippians 2:3 Proper attitude towards one another

Romans 12:10 Devotion to one another

Romans 12:16 Harmony within the Body.

We live out DLT best in small groups that come together to form our larger church community. Our building is a center of worship. It is also a launching point for ministry into the world.

In the coming months we will be offering new opportunities to join together in new ways. You might even have some ideas of your own. Please come forward with what the Lord is revealing to you. We have room and time for multiple groups to meet throughout the week. Remember DLT is not held captive in a church building. Regardless of time or place, in every Christian group establish and demonstrate these 5 characteristics: love, submission, proper attitude, devotion, and harmony.



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  
Thursdays, Pastor's Bible Study @ 7pm  
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. 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 October 2024:**

October 31<sup>st</sup> is the Vigil of All Saints, originally “All Hallows Eve” or “Hallowe’en”. The word “hallowed” comes from the Lord’s Prayer and in this case refers to remembering and honoring the many saints—especially the martyrs—who have gone before us. The vigil begins the night before All Saints Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>. All Saints Sunday is November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We can observe All Hallows Eve or All Saints Day by reading about the lives of the saints or watching movies about them. Examples are: *The Song of Bernadette*; *Joan of Arc*; *A Man for All Seasons* (on the life of Thomas More); *Merton*, a Film Biography; *Romero* (about the Archbishop of San Salvador Oscar Romero, martyred for his work for social justice); and *The Saint of 9/11* (about the NYC fire chaplain Mychal Judge, killed while ministering to fire fighters in the North Tower).

This year, instead of succumbing to the secularization of Halloween, gather friends and family to watch one of these inspiring accounts of the saints of the Christian Church.

## **Small Groups:**

**The Sunday morning group** is studying of the Book of Acts. The class runs from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM.

**The Wednesday night praise and fellowship** gathers at 7 pm with the praise team. After worship, we have a time of fellowship 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. This group is reading and discussing Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth’s “Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together”.

**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.

**Safe Sanctuary Renewal Meeting:** The annual Safe Sanctuary review and renewal meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 24 at 6:30 PM in the Townsley Room**. Anyone who works with children or youth in DCC ministries is required to attend this meeting.

## **Prayer Opportunities:**

- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at [katyprince96@gmail.com](mailto:katyprince96@gmail.com).
- **Church Prayer Calendar:** The monthly prayer calendar will be circulated on the first and second Sundays of each month.
- **In-person prayer:** Please contact Sheila or Ed if you have thoughts about the time and day of the week when you’d like to gather for group prayer.

## **Congregational Care:**

Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for arranging for flower deliveries and many thanks to those who pray for, visit, and deliver meals to recuperating members of our church family.

**Danby Community Church**  
**Administrative Council Meeting**  
**September 9, 2024**

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

**INVOCATION.** Pastor Ed opened with prayer at 7:03pm.

**CLERK'S MINUTES.** Motion to approve July's meeting minutes (Charlene), second (Gloria), carried.

**FINANCIAL SEC'Y REPORT:** Motion to approve July income report pending two corrections: 1.) create separate line items for the new Vanco 'sub-accounts'; 2.) continue reporting Noisy Offering donations separate from Missions though they're related since the Noisy Offering first and foremost supports the church's existing commitments to Second Wind and Renovation House. (Gloria), second (Sheila), carried.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Paula presented the report. Overall income to General has been low, so some money was taken from savings. Pastor Ed reported that a \$395 donation "in kind" donation was made to the community garden, so this is a savings. Motion to accept Treasurer's report (Katy), second (Sheila), carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Internal Audit. Sheila is resuming the church audit and may work back in time starting with 2023.
- Community Garden. Tommy and Katy will put in the storage shed till next year any fencing material that hasn't yet been installed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Katy motioned for the SPOC committee to hire a cleaner for the church at \$20/hour for 6 hours/week. Second (Dave), carried.

**REPORTS.**

**Hospitality.**

- There is a Wings & Watch party planned for October 4<sup>th</sup>. Watching The Chosen. Stay tuned for details.

**Spiritual Development.** Please see Sheila's separate Spiritual Development column. Also:

**Current Small Groups:**

**Sunday morning group 8:45-9:45am.** This group has started a study of the Book of Acts.

**Thursday night Bible study 7:00pm.** Pastor Ed continues his study of the Gospel of Matthew.

**Friday Women's Bible Study:** The group will start up again on Friday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. They haven't settled on the book they'll study. Please see Suzanne with questions.

**Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship.** Informal weekly gathering at 7pm.

**Nursery and Youth Church:**

**The nursery** is available for babies and children up to age five, and the **Youth Church** is available for ages 6-10 (grades 1-5). Both groups could use additional volunteers.

*Admin Council Minutes continued on page 6*

Copies of the volunteer schedule including greeters & ushers are on wall above the water cooler and emailed to participants.

**Prayer Opportunities:**

- Prayer Chain: Thanks to Katy Prince who can be contacted at “katyprince96@gmail.com”.
- In person prayer. Please come Wednesday evening before the 7:00 praise and fellowship.
- The latest monthly prayer calendar organized by Sheila, is in effect.

Thank you to Doug Nash and Paula Nelson for donating and coordinating flower deliveries.

**Food Pantry.**

- Last month 87 families were served. The coalition of County food pantries is writing grants to try to keep up with the rising demand for food goods. Our food pantry could use additional volunteers.

**Trustees.**

- The steeple is done and is watertight.
- Lowe’s (out of Trumansburg, not the Ithaca company) replaced the filters in the church’s 2 water softeners and they are working properly.
- The company, Castle Services of Ithaca has offered to help with some challenging facility needs: 1.) steam cleaning portions of the church siding which have green algae; 2.) in the education wing, as time allows, using a chisel to create better access to the hearing system ports that leak water seasonally.

**Missions.**

- No report other than the monthly commitments to Renovation House and Second Wind Cottages have been paid, as well as additional money donated to Samaritan’s Purse.

**SPOC.**

- They met to discuss the hiring of a church cleaner.
- They may put out a church questionnaire.
- Partnership Sunday is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**SAP:** Tentatively planning to meet Friday, September 20 at 6:30. Pastor Ed had the joy of marrying a couple who eloped (after counseling them).

Motion to adjourn (Gloria); no ‘second’ needed by Robert’s Rules of Order.  
The meeting concluded at 8:21 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Administrative council clerk



**Greetings from your Staff Pastor Oversight Committee (SPOC);**

This year, we have decided to conduct a more in-depth questionnaire consisting of 25 questions. While it may seem lengthy, our commitment to being the best church possible for our community remains our priority. Following the introduction of the Partnership Agreements last year and their renewal this year (which are due by December 1st), we believe this is an opportune time to refresh our understanding of your perspectives.

We have provided several options for you to submit your questionnaire.

1. You can download it in PDF format here:

[https://www.danbychurch.org/uploads/7/3/2/6/73263777/danby\\_community\\_church\\_survey\\_2024.pdf](https://www.danbychurch.org/uploads/7/3/2/6/73263777/danby_community_church_survey_2024.pdf) and return it to the church,

2. You can submit it online here: <https://forms.gle/R3VKWgviLnviZvXq8>

3. Alternatively, you can request a hard copy at the church. Hard copies will be available for you to pick up during services or coffee hour.

The questionnaires can be submitted anonymously; however, if you would like someone to contact you, please include your information in the final question.

We have put considerable thought and prayer into these questions and sincerely hope to receive a robust response. Thank you for your participation.



## FAITHFULLY PRAY

The best way to help your pastor is to faithfully and regularly pray for:

- Intimacy with God
- Marital love and unity
- Spiritual protection
- Divine guidance
- Emotional and physical well-being
- Parenting skills
- Genuine friendships
- Financial provisions
- Daily wisdom
- Personal encouragement
- Helpful mentors
- Effective ministry
- Time management
- Quality study and prayer times
- Helpful training and books
- Leadership skills

## FONDNESS

- Let the pastor know how God is specifically using them to bless, help and teach you to follow God.
- Remember your pastor's birthday and anniversary with a card, gift or social media post.
- Show appreciation for your pastor's strengths and give grace in their weaknesses.

## FREEDOM

- Give your pastor's spouse the freedom to be themselves and to find their own niche at the church.
- Let your pastor's children "be kids," care about them, and pray for them.

## FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

- Prepare a meal or baked goods for them (ask about favorite meals or certain foods to avoid).
- Give your pastor a gift card for restaurants, fast food or coffee shops.

- Give your pastor food from your garden, orchard, hunting or fishing trips.
- Invite your pastor and family to your home or a restaurant for a meal.
- Invite your pastor and family to go fishing, sailing, camping, hunting, to the gym, concerts, plays or sporting events. Offer to cover some or all of the costs.
- Offer your pastor's family sports, concert or event tickets.
- If you have a vacation home, timeshare, recreational vehicle or camping gear, offer to let your pastor use it.
- Share frequent flyer miles that can be used for conferences, vacation, mission trips or holiday travel.
- Offer your pastor the use of your dependable vehicle, SUV or minivan for a holiday family trip or vacation.

## FREELY SHARE

Share your skills and time to help with any of the following items:

- Babysitting
- Auto maintenance and repair
- Home repairs, maintenance and projects
- Decorating, painting and wallpapering
- Haircuts and beauty treatments
- Medical, dental and chiropractic care
- Lawn and garden upkeep
- Legal, estate and financial services
- Tutoring or lessons for children

If needed, communicate in advance if there are any out-of-pocket costs the pastor will need to cover (e.g., parts for a car repair or materials for home repair).

## FINANCES

Faithfully give to your church, so your pastor can be properly compensated. Beyond the pastor's church salary, the Lord may prompt certain individuals to provide personal funding to help with any of the following items:

- Bless Your Pastor offering
- Marriage conference or retreat costs
- Christian camp fees
- Back to school fees, clothing or supplies
- Children's college tuition
- Mission trips
- Lessons or tutoring
- Family or couple's vacation or getaway
- Pastor's conference, seminar or training
- Seminary courses or sabbatical
- Student loan debt
- Retirement savings
- Medical expenses

## PAY IT FORWARD

Most people have heard about "paying it forward." Do you know you can also pay it forward by passing along possessions you no longer use or need? Possible items could include appliances, furniture, musical equipment, clothing, sports equipment or electronics. Ask if the items you may have available are actually needed and wanted by the pastor's family. Also, be sure they are in good condition and will not need costly repairs.

*Note: Please be prepared to graciously allow your pastor to decline anything that you offer. Also note that most items mentioned here are not normally tax-deductible to the giver, but are to be given out of gratefulness to God for what he has given to you to Bless Your Pastor.*



Danby Community Church  
**FREE** invites you to

**Movie Night**  
**Friday, October 25**  
**Movie 7:00pm**

**UNSUNG  
HERO**

Childcare provided





# Pester the Pastor

This month's question: should we be afraid of the future?

The answer for those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is, "NO!"

The Lord gave us clear directions in the Matthew 7:24-27 parable. The foundation that will last and not fall to the world or be subject to fear is a life built on the rock of Jesus Christ.

Fear and the future is a two-headed beast that will always prowl the landscape of uncertain times. We can tame the beast by faith in the power and goodness of the Lord.

Some types of fear can actually protect us from harm. Fear keeps us from playing with things that bite and sting. That's useful. Fear can motivate. When our earliest ancestors discovered that lions hunt on the ground, they quickly learned to climb trees and so forth. But fear of the unknown is a fear that can't be anticipated or prepared for ahead of time.

We can conquer unanticipated fear with trust. Read Matthew 6:25-34. The word anxious is used in many translations but the word fear is a reasonable substitutional translation. Christians are not a people of unreasoned fear or anxiety for that matter. We trust in our God to work His will for the greater good, all the while protecting beyond what the world sees or knows.

We are God's people experiencing life in a fallen world. On one hand we are subject to the infirmities that befall our humanness—illness, age and the like, but on the other hand always confident that every situation can be turned to honor God and achieve His purpose.

Today we are challenged to exhibit common sense, be careful and use all the tools at our disposal to remain healthy, safe and mitigate the spread of this current plague.

We are blessed by the safety nets our society has provided and the care of our medical community. Research will bring new treatments and vaccines. These are tools we should employ and thank God for providing.

We should always live a Grace-filled life but rest assured at some point we will go to be with our Lord. In the meantime, be about our Father's business, proclaim the gospel, study the scriptures and be about service and prayer. Hold fast to Jesus' words in John 16: 33b, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage: I have overcome the world."

*Pester the Pastor - Reprinted from Janaury 2021 Danby Church News:*

***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***

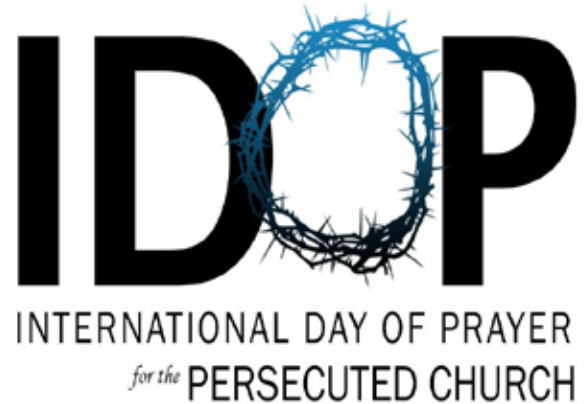


# The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

By Sheila Enstine

November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 are the designated Sundays for this year's International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). Churches, small groups, and individuals can choose either of these Sundays (or both) to join in this prayer effort.

According to IDOP.org, “for more than two decades the World Evangelical Alliance has organised the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) as a global event that unites millions of Christians in prayer for the persecuted Church.”



Here are some statistics from the IDOP website:

- In the past year, around 5,000 Christians were murdered because of their faith.
- Over 14,000 Christian properties have been attacked
- Over 4,000 believers have been detained, often in harsh and inhumane conditions.
- An estimated 316 million Christians worldwide live under significant persecution, facing daily threats to their lives, livelihoods, and freedoms.

These numbers represent individual fellow Christians, as the website says, “...men, women, and children who courageously endure suffering for Christ.”

Two other organizations, Global Christian Relief and Open Doors, produce prayer guides that describe the hardships endured by Christians in specific areas of the world.

The Open Doors entries for late October tell about Columbia, where church leaders are targeted and pressured by guerilla groups. Many believers in remote areas have had to leave their homes to escape violence and the church leaders who remain have lost their jobs. Global Christian Relief describes persecution in Nepal where people who have converted from Hinduism face religious nationalism in the form of loss of jobs, denial of education, and the resulting poverty.

Our responsibility is to pray for our fellow believers' courage and faithfulness, for deliverance from evil, for the end of persecution, and for their ability to witness Christ in threatening circumstances.

In fact, this year's IDOP theme is “Courageous Faith,” inspired by Deuteronomy 31:6, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD YOUR GOD GOES WITH YOU; HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.”

Spend some time in October learning about the persecuted Church. Online sources are [idop.org](http://idop.org), [Opendoorsusa.org](http://Opendoorsusa.org) and [globalchristianrelief.org](http://globalchristianrelief.org).

Books that might be of interest are [The Insanity of God](#) by Nik Ripken (during COVID our Sunday morning group did a Zoom study of the video version of this book), [Tortured for Christ](#) by Richard Wurmbrand (DCC hosted the movie a few years ago), and the Book of Acts in the New Testament.

Come to church prepared to pray for the persecuted members of your Christian family on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.



Danby Community Church  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

**Welcome Home!!**

## **What's Happening?**

**Movie Night - "Unsung Hero"  
Friday, October 25 @ 7pm**

**Election Night Dinner  
Tuesday, November 5, 5pm - 7pm  
Pork and Chicken and all the fixings**