# Danby Church News

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

# From Our Pastor!

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### Which do you want, quality or quantity? How about both!

There is a temptation to admire large and well-run churches, but God measures the Church one person at a time.

My son goes to a mega church in Las Vegas. It is truly impressive and extremely well organized. The pastoral staff is dynamic and worship is an impressive, professional production. Attendance on any given Sunday dwarfs the entire yearly attendance at most of the churches in our country. And yet, as my son tells me, he doesn't know anyone around him week after week. There are some familiar faces, but nothing beyond polite nods. Although it's easy to hide in a crowd, nobody can or should hide from God and godly relationships.

I understand that when you are dealing with 3,500 people in an auditorium, it's difficult to develop relationships on Sunday morning. Most large churches depend on small groups to provide a space for personal interaction, but they take place away from Sunday morning.

The true measure of success for a church is not butts in seats, but disciples growing in faith and good works. To borrow from the Closer Walk renewal movement, as Christian sisters and brothers, "We want to fill your head with ideas and your heart with fire." Think about what that means for a church – new and inspired ministry and motivated workers in the harvest fields.

I thank God that we have a family of faith in Danby that is willing to do the works of God! Stay strong and courageous. The Lord is counting on you.

New Idea:
Mondays, starting October 26 at 7:00 p.m. we will offer a new small group called Questions of Fatih. Everyone is welcome to bring whatever question they may have about religion, church, the Bible, etc. This is a chance for open, non-judgmental dialogue to examine what people think as well as explore what experience and tradition have

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## Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2026

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|---|---|
| **Pastor:** | Ed Enstine<br>*eenstine@aol.com*<br>607.592.8276 |
| **Asst Pastor:** | Katy Prince<br>*katyprince96@gmail.com*<br>607.351.6410 |
| **Admin Aide** | Lynn Kingston-Harris<br>*office@danbychurch.org*<br>607.272.1687 |
| **Administrative Council** | |
| Co-Chairperssons: | Paula Nelson<br>*sfcnelson@aol.com*<br>Sheila Enstine<br>*ssenstine@gmail.com* |
| Secretary: | Sheila Enstine |
| Treasurer:<br>Financial Secretary: | Paula Nelson |
| Trustees Chair: | Charlene Testut<br>*ctestut55@yahoo.com* |
| **Area Coordinators** | |
| **Hospitality:** | Charlene Testut |
| **Spiritual Development:** | Sheila Enstine |
| **Missions:** | Suzanne Walker<br>*suzrwalker@yahoo.com* |
| **Community Outreach:** | |
| **Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee:** | |
| **SPOC:** | Chair: Deb Alve |
| **Praise Team Leaders:** | Katy & Tommy Prince |
| **Webmaster:** | Janet Gray<br>*jsg4@cornell.edu* |
| **Newsletter Editor:** | Janet Gray |
| **Facebook:** | Janet Gray |

**On the Cover**

**The Family of Faith**

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taught.
Bring your questions. We certainly will not have all the answers, but it will be time well spent exploring topics together in a civil, relaxed gathering. And if you don't have questions, bring a friend who does.

Remember:
Sunday November 1 at 2:00 a.m. local time, clocks move back one hour to 1:00 a.m. You'll gain an hour's sleep, but if you forget you'll arrive in church an hour early.

Welcome HOME
a place where you belong

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 3rd Fridays @ 12 pm
Paws to Remember, 1st Saturday, 9:30am

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*

**All Saints – a Celebration of Remembrance of our Spiritual Forebears**

At the end of October, the Christian Church celebrates All Saints Vigil on October 31st and All Saints Day on November 1st. No wonder that the altar cloths are white during All Saints, considering the passage from Revelation that is usually read during this celebration:

"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:13-14).

Another passage often read during All Saints is from Matthew 5:1-12, the Beatitudes. These "beautiful attitudes" identify the Saints as truly counter-cultural people.

This month, ask yourself who are the greatest witnesses for Christ to you, contemporarily or historically. Spend some time praising God for them.

**Adult Small Groups:**

**The Sunday morning group** meets at 8:45 a.m. and is beginning a study 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. 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.

**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.

**Creation Care:** Christians Caring for Creation is non-profit organization that brings together Christians to care for creation. Their website says, "We challenge Christians to act boldly in loving God and neighbor by loving all God's creation."

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C3, as the organization calls itself, provides inspiration, information about our earth's current ecological problems, and highlights best practices that individuals and churches can use to impact creation in positive ways. **For more information go to https://www.christianscaringforcreation.com**

**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.

# Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

The Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week is November 16-23, 2026.

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.

Labels to attach to your shoebox with explanations on how to pack a shoebox will be available on our display table in the Townsley Room. The instructions include ideas of what to pack in the boxes. A $10 donation is requested to cover shipping and project costs. Because Samaritan's Purse is requesting that donations be made online, there is no envelope for checks as in past years.

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.

If you prefer, Samaritan's Purse will pack a box for you. Go to samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to find out more about this option.

You can find more information about Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child online at **https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/**

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

**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.**

## Danby Community Church Administrative Council Meeting

## September 14, 2026

**Present:** Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson**,** Charlene Testut, Suzanne Walker. Pastor Ed opened the meeting with prayer at 7:00 p.m.

**Clerk's Minutes:** The minutes for the July 13th, 2026 meeting were previously sent to Council members for their review. Charlene Testut moved to accept the minutes and Suzanne Walker seconded the motion. Carried.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Paula Nelson distributed the income reports for July and August prepared by the Church's Administrative Aide. Council noted that the Vanco deposits were entered on the wrong line on the July report and the error continued in the line-item totals on the August report. Paula will have this corrected. Sheila Enstine moved to accept the income report as corrected and Suzanne seconded the motion. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report**: Paula submitted the Treasurer's reports for the General and Pass Thru accounts as of September 14th. All our bills are current, and we continue to see decreases in our gas and electric bill. The remaining funds for food from the Danby Cemetery meeting will be transferred from the Pass Thru to the general account. Paula transfers funds into the money market account whenever she can to rebuild our savings. Charlene moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, second by Suzanne. Carried.

**Old Business**: Council reviewed a report from SPOC Chair Debbie Alve regarding language for the proposed changes to the Church Constitution. The language for the minimum number of times Council will meet is correct, but there appears to be a misunderstanding about the needed changes for the Financial Secretary. We should also address who the Financial Secretary is responsible to when that person is a non-partner employee. Sheila will talk to Debbie about this.

**New Business**: There was no new business.

**Trustees:** Charlene reported that we may not have to replace the furnaces because they were originally wired incorrectly. They have been rewired and we will have only one thermostat. Dan is getting estimates on a new water softener for the church. The new softener in the parsonage is working well, with no bad smell or rust. Tommy Prince is requesting estimates for repairing the wall in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Ed is looking at estimates for a new sanctuary projector. The remaining bulb life in the current projector is about 29%. New projectors use lasers rather than bulbs and are much brighter.

**Hospitality:** We will reconsider holding Sundays on Wednesdays for the next season. The Church has held them for about 15 years and has reduced the number of dates as well as food offered.

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**Spiritual Development:** Sheila reported that the annual Safe Sanctuary Covenant Renewal meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. This year we will focus on the need for a standard operating plan to prepare for emergency events.

The Sunday morning Bible study has reconvened, and they are finishing I Corinthians. The Women's Summer Bible study will meet at Sheila's home on the coming Friday, September 18th. They won't meet on Friday September 25th due to the Feed My Starving Children Ithaca Mobile Pack. The Women's study will reconvene at the Church on Friday October 2nd. Pastor Ed is organizing a first and third Mondays "Bible Dialog" for community participation. Other details regarding Spiritual Development activities are published in the monthly newsletter.

**Food Pantry:** Charlene reported that funding for the Food Pantry appears to be sufficient for the remainder of the year. Remaining funds will carry over to 2027.Donations to the DCC Food Pantry should be made on-line through the Food Bank. We are seeing more volunteers coming from the community. The Resilience Group has helped with this.

**Missions:** Suzanne reported on the upcoming Feed My Starving Children Ithaca Mobile Food Pack and the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection. Brochures and pre-printed boxes will be available. Suzanne requested that we forward some of the funds in the Pass Thru Account to Heifer International for a goat or a water project. She will give Paula the donation information.

**SPOC**: See Old Business above.

**SAP:** No report as SAP has not met recently. Pastor Ed noted that the 4Cs conference has trimmed its budget, but is requesting congregations to consider increasing their donations, up to 2% of their operating budgets. Charlene Testut moved that the Church donate $1,500 to the 4Cs Conference and continue to donate $500 per quarter year on a regular basis. Suzanne Walker seconded the motion. Carried. This will need to be reflected in next year's spend plan.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m. with an ending prayer by Pastor Ed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Enstine, Church Clerk

**The next Administrative Council meeting is Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**

## Nature and Nature Journaling

Join writer Ronda Roaring, entomologist Carolyn Klass, botanist Robert Wesley, and PRI Director of Outreach Rob Ross for an informative two hours, talking about nature, nature journaling, and how to use the community science data base iNaturalist. Skulls, rocks, and other fantastic natural things will be on display. An identification walk in Dotson Park is also planned to follow the talk, so wear boots. October 10 from 2:00-4:00 in the Fellowship Hall at the Danby Community Church, 1859 Danby Rd., Town of Danby. For humans of all ages and abilities. The church is accessible with parking right next to the building. You need only bring your mobile device, if you have one. For questions: 607-207-1904. *Not a DCC event*.

**Danby Community Church**
**1859 Danby Road**
**Ithaca, NY 14850**

***www.danbychurch.org***

# Welcome Home!!

Check out what is going on at Danby Church at:
danbychurch.org

## Questions of Faith

**All Welcome**

**Mondays, starting October 26 at 7:00 p.m**