

Danby Church News

“Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God”

September 2022





From Our Pastor!

“Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness: Break up the fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you” (Hosea 10:12).

If you are familiar with Hosea, you know that the rest of this book is a stern indictment of the sins and misbehavior of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Nothing good would come from Israel’s falling away from obeying God’s commandments. As God withdrew His protection, a brutal defeat and exile lay ahead.

The future was bleak, but eventually, after being crushed by their neighbors, they would repent and God would again bless them. You can find the promise of restoration in Chapter 14.

Hosea 10:12 seems out of place. What is the point of living a life of righteousness and kindness, breaking up fallow ground in preparation for a growing season, if all around you is doomed for destruction?

God was giving the people a way forward beyond their circumstance. In the midst of Israel’s faithlessness and the coming destruction for the generation to whom Hosea spoke, the Lord offered a path to restoration for anyone willing to listen and act.

Nations and communities face judgment on a grand scale, but so do individuals. God provides grace for both large and small. Hosea 10:12 is instruction for godliness for everyone swept up in the storms of circumstances beyond their control.

Keep your focus on God’s commands. Always seek to do what is right and pleasing to God.

Care for those around you with what is needful out of what God provides.

Search for God’s ways by studying scripture. Seek the wisdom from above that will make your life fruitful and pleasing to the Lord. Do it now. Time is always running forward and there is no way to recapture the opportunity we have at this moment.

Continued on page 3

What’s in this Issue?

From Our Pastor.....	2
Dish to Pass.....	4
Admin Council Minutes.....	5
Spiritual Development.....	8
The Life of Grace.....	10
Biker Sunday.....	11

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!

**Dan Vorrasi and
Pastor Ed
on Biker Sunday!**

The promise is a rain of righteousness upon you – revival and saturation by God’s will—and the grace to live in God’s ways.

The world’s systems of power and corruption have changed little over the expanse of history. Human nature has stayed consistent, dangerous, and self-serving. But, even in the midst of a corrupt godless society diving headlong towards its own doom, there is hope. Our hope is in the Lord.

Sow the seeds of righteousness. Be faithful to our God and be blessed both here and through eternity. We are the workers in the fields, the harvest is the Lord’s, His grace is sufficient.

From Our Pastor - September 2019

It is September, can Christmas be far off?

Every year the commercial aspect of Christmas hits the stores a few days or weeks earlier than ever before. I suspect this year will be no different. Long before the first frost we’ll see the first Reindeer—with or without red noses. The commercial calendar is already full, let the buying begin!

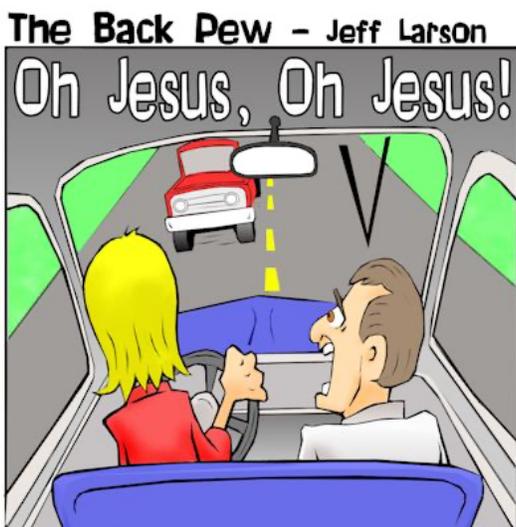
In fact, the natural course of seasons takes its turn without much attention to our cultural folly. Perhaps this year it is finally time to halt watching commercial enterprise landmark our calendar and return to experiencing God’s creation one day at a time.

We should experience the beauty of our world and the presence of the Lord in an intensely personal way every day. What if we praised God in the near perfect calm of early morning sunrises right through to the beauty of sunsets? How many times do we allow ourselves to be inspired by the luxury of just gazing into a star-filled night sky? God presence is proclaimed in all of creation at all times.

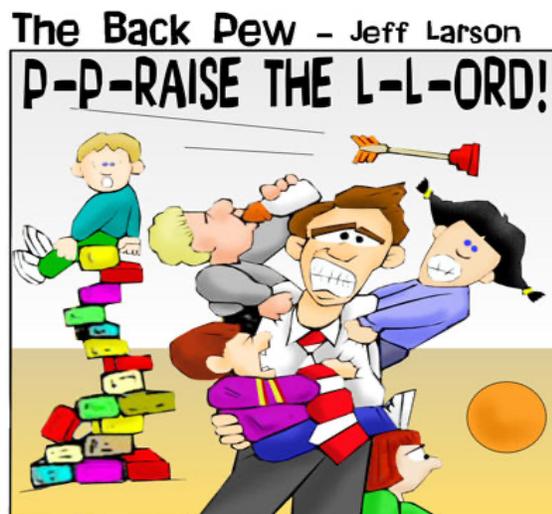
As the author of Ecclesiastes noted repeatedly, most of what we do is vanity, or meaningless. After three thousand years nothing in human nature has really changed. But access to the divine nature, peace and meaning is always available through Jesus Christ.

There is an irony to life, what we tend to value most is often the least worthwhile. As the Lord observed in Matthew 12 and Luke 12 there is more to life than we think.

This Fall, slow down every once in a while and let the sufficiency of God’s grace and creation wash away the anxiety of life. Enjoy what God provides His children. Settle yourself deeply into the presence of God and the security of God’s Kingdom. Whatever life and the world throws your way hold fast to the confidence that you are eternally beloved of God through Jesus Christ,



Interschool Memo: The Drivers Education Department insists that 'School Prayer' be reinstated.



Joe is a guy who will NEVER say NO to serve in any capacity at Klemphire Community Church . Even to SERVE THRU CLENCHED TEETH in church preschool.



Danby Community Church Dish-To-Pass Round Table Discussion Event You're invited!

Join us on September 18, 2022 for

- Church at 10:00 am
- Dish-to-pass Lunch at 11:30am
- Round Table Discussions at 12:00 pm
- 6 Topics!
 - Intentional Grandparenting, facilitated by Tommy Prince
 - Justice vs Righteousness, facilitated by Sheila Enstine
 - Youth - Peer Pressure, Bullying and the Media, facilitated by Joan Peak
 - Planting Seeds and Harvesting Workers facilitated by Pastor Ed Enstine
 - Intercessory Prayer - Standing in the Gap facilitated by Daryl Snyder
 - Let Your Yes be Yes and Your No be No - facilitated by Devon Buckley

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

Danby Community Church
Administrative Council Meeting
August 8, 2022.

Present. Pastor Ed Enstine, Sheila Enstine, Paula Nelson, Charlene Testut, Katy Prince, and Dave McDermitt. Pastor Ed opened with prayer at 7:04pm.

CLERK'S MINUTES. July meeting minutes - motion to approve (Katy), second (Charlene). Carried.

FINANCIAL SEC'Y REPORT: Dave gave report. Motion to approve (Sheila), second (Katy). Carried.

TREASURER REPORT: Paula gave report. We will check if can reduce the number of pamphlets in our subscription to the "Upper Room". Motion to approve (Charlene), second (Sheila). Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The ReUse sale was very successful, earning over \$1,900 for the church. Many thanks to Sharon Boda and the entire team of volunteers.
- The Sundaes on Wednesday with the Ithaca Concert Band went well. It was nice that it ended early enough so people could talk afterwards while it was still light outside. We will consider getting more ice next time for ice cream though it was a very hot day. The donations totaled \$290 and it cost \$241 (the band was free), so the event 'paid for itself'.

NEW BUSINESS: See ministry areas below and:

- August 16th. Safe Sanctuary Training Meeting. 6:30 ~ 8:30. Refreshments will be served. This is recommended for everyone in the church as we all bear responsibility to protect the children that enter the church for any reason.
- August 19th. The next 'Danby Summer Market' is Friday, August 19th in Dotson Park. We encourage the congregation to help at or simply visit the church table planned for this event.
- August 21st. 10:00am. Biker Sunday begins with church service. See Chrissy; Pastor Ed to preach
- August 26th. Women's Friday Bible study meets for dish-to-pass at noon at Sharon Boda's.
- September 18th. Dish-to-pass after church service some Sunday to encourage discussions
- Autumn event. Donuts & Coffee. Need a project leader. Pastor Ed suggests having it on a Friday as a trial or Monday & Friday, do it for a few weeks, and continue if it draws people, or drop it if it doesn't.
- Autumn event. Possible "Parents Night Out" on a Friday evening or on 'back-to-school' night.
- Autumn event. Possible Election Night dinner.

continued on page 6

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.



REPORTS.

- **Hospitality.** Many events listed above in ‘New Business’.

- **Spiritual Development.** Several events listed above in ‘New Business’.

Important Dates: We continue to be in the Season of Pentecost in ‘ordinary time’, the longest in the Church calendar, which lasts until Christ the King Sunday in November – the last Sunday in November. Liturgical color is green to symbolize growth.

Current Small Groups:

Sunday morning group 13-week series on Proverbs started June 27th. Study guides are available for anyone interested in the class. The group meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am.

Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship gathering back to at usual time (7pm).

After worship, we share prayer requests and pray together.

Women’s Bible Study: The group is meeting for fellowship and lunch, and reading “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23” by W. Phillip Keller. Next meeting is 8/26 at noon at the Boda’s.

Nursery and Youth Church:

- The nursery is available every Sunday for babies and children through age five, if needed.
- Youth Church is on summer break; Open to ideas for a possible Sunday School/Youth Church restart in the Fall perhaps beginning with a “Parents Night Out” - will discuss at the **Safe Sanctuary meeting on 8/16**. Copies of the volunteer schedule including greeters & ushers are on wall above the water cooler and emailed to participants.

Prayer Opportunities:

- Prayer Chain: Contact Judy Cuyle at gncat87@yahoo.com or call 279-5089.

- In-person: Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm

Congregational Care: Thank you to Paula Nelson and Doug Nash for flowers for congregants.

Outreach:

- There will be a table at the Danby Summer Market this Friday, July 15th. Setup will be around 3:30. Ed and Sheila will be stationed at a card table with a canopy with handouts. We encourage folks to stop by and mingle and at the end to help the vendors pack up.
- Handouts will be provided at Food Pantry to keep folks aware of what’s happening at church
- Biker Sunday is being spear-headed by Chrissy; message by Pastor Ed. Sun. August 21, 10am.
- Donuts & Coffee. Pastor Ed suggests having free donuts and coffee to pass out to commuters and community folks on a Friday as a trial or Monday & Friday. The idea is to try it for a few weeks, then continue if it draws people, or drop if it doesn’t. Needs project leader.

- **Trustees:**

- Working on heater plumbing in hallway. Any mold will need to be addressed.
- Door replacement is pending. Dave and Dan will do the construction.
- Slats in the belfry can be replaced from the inside; Katy will check with Tommy.

continued on page 7

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

- **Missions:** Monthly mission commitments were paid as normal to Second Wind Cottages and to Renovation House.
- **SPOC:** 28 surveys were returned. The submission period is over. Results to be summarized at next SPOC meeting. SPOC committee will need 1 more member. Will discuss nominations for 2023.
- **SAP:** No meeting. Needs 1 more member.

Motion to adjourn (Dave), second (Charlene). Meeting ended at 8:04.

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Respectfully submitted,  
David McDermitt, Church Clerk

>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  
Wednesdays, Live Music & Conversation @ 7pm  
Sweet Hour of Prayer, Saturday, 8am  
Women's Bible Study, Fridays @ 1pm

### **Florence Geuther**

For those of you who remember Florence (and Darwin) Geuther. Mom and Dad were members of the Danby Church for 40 plus years before relocating to NH in 2002 to be closer to the majority of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I am letting you know that our Mom, Florence, passed away peacefully in her sleep last evening (Saturday August 20th) at the age of 95-1/2.

Hello to all in the hills of Danby

Mark Geuther  
50 Spruce Lane  
Dover NH 03820

## Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

**Important Dates:** We are in the season of Pentecost or Ordinary Time, the longest season in the Church year. This season continues through Christ the King Sunday on November 20th. The liturgical color is green to symbolize growth.

### **Adult Small Groups:**

- **The Sunday morning group** is studying the Book of Proverbs. We expect to complete the Proverbs study at the end of September. Then we will focus on the letters from Paul to the Philippians and Colossians in the New Testament. Study guides are available for anyone interested in the class. The group meets from 8:45 – 9:45 am.
- **Wednesday Night Praise and Fellowship** gathers at 7 pm with the praise team and after worship, we share how Christ has moved in our lives and pray together.
- **The Women’s Bible Study** is studying “A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23” by W. Phillip Keller. See Suzanne Walker if you’re interested in joining this group.

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

**Safe Sanctuary Renewal:** If you weren’t able to attend the August 16<sup>th</sup> Safe Sanctuary meeting and you’d like to volunteer in children’s and youth ministry, talk to Sheila Enstine to arrange a make-up session.

**Youth Ministry Restart:** One subject discussed at the Safe Sanctuary meeting was a youth ministry restart. The first step in a restart is recognizing that to attract children and youth, it is essential that we reach out to families in our community.

There are several opportunities to do this, including involvement with Danby community functions, like the Summer Market at Dotson Park. The next Market is Friday, September 16th, from 4-7 PM. Come out to the Park, meet your neighbors, support the vendors, and sit awhile at our information table.

Another possibility is a “Parents’ Night Out”/“Kid’s Night Out” that would be held on a Friday evening. Hosting mid-week day camps that correspond to school districts’ Recess Days and Parent Teacher Conference Days is another option, as well as seasonal fairs during school breaks. Please let Sheila know if you’re interested in helping with any of these or if you have ideas of your own.

### **Prayer Opportunities:**

- Prayer Chain: Contact Judy Cuyle at [gncat87@yahoo.com](mailto:gncat87@yahoo.com) or call 279-5089.
- In-person: Saturday mornings at 8:00 am. Pastor Ed is available for prayer and conversation in the Sanctuary on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 pm

### **Congregational Care:**

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



**Calling all volunteers!!!**

**We have some great events coming up in the fall to the end of the year! Can you help??**

**Summer Market at Dotson Park.** The next Market is Friday, September 16th, from 4-7 PM. Come out to the Park, meet your neighbors, support the vendors, and sit awhile at our information table. Contact Sheila Enstine to help.

Youth Ministry restart with **“Parents’ Night Out”/“Kid’s Night Out”** that would be held on a Friday evening. Hosting mid-week day camps that correspond to school districts’ Recess Days and Parent Teacher Conference Days is another option, as well as seasonal fairs during school breaks. Please let Sheila Enstine know if you’re interested in helping with any of these or if you have ideas of your own.

Possible **Election Night Dinner.** We need a “project leader” for this event to happen. Contact Charlene Testut if you are interested.

**After Church Coffee Hour.** We need a “project leader”. Contact Charlene Testut if you are interested.

**Free Coffee and Donuts,** Friday, September 16, 7:30am to 9:30am. Take out for commuters and Community Coffee Chat for those you would like to eat in and chat. Need helpers to make coffee, distribute coffee/donuts, chat with community friends and family, cleanup. We are giving this a try and see how it goes, with hopes to have this as an on-going event. If you can help, contact Janet Gray or Pastor Ed.

**Women’s Christmas Retreat,** Saturday, December 3 from 8:30am to 3:30pm. If you would like to help, contact Judy Horton.

**PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH**



## The Life of Grace

*By Sheila Enstine*

Christians understand that we are not saved from our sins by our own strength or power, be it through good works, level of education, talents and successes or our station in life. Such things are mere fig leaves, inadequate coverings for the shame of sin (Romans 5:6).

We know that only the Messiah's sacrificial blood can cover our shame and that when we believe in Jesus as our Savior and acknowledge his sacrifice, we are delivered from the punishment we deserve. We are saved by grace, God's unmerited favor (Ephesians 2:8-9).

However, God's grace doesn't end at the cross. Grace is also the means by which we grow as disciples of Christ. The theological term for continued growth in Christ is sanctification, but a more practical term is what the Walk to Emmaus retreat movement calls "The Life of Grace."

The Holy Spirit leads us into the life of grace. The night before his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus explained the work of the Holy Spirit: "He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you" (John 16:13-14).

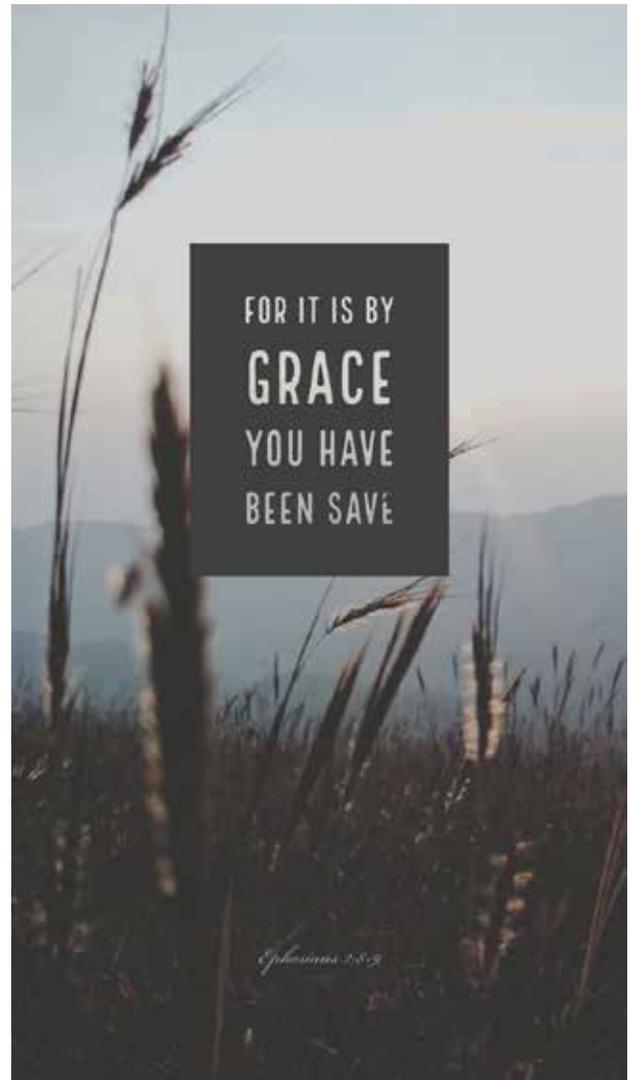
While it is true that we are not saved by our own power or strength, we do need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to stay connected to Jesus and grow in our knowledge and love of God. We can stay connected through spiritual disciplines.

The word discipline comes from the same root word as disciple, which is a learner. Therefore, spiritual disciplines are tools for disciples to learn about the life of grace. There are three essential disciplines or pillars that support the life of grace – passionate worship, study of the Word, and grace-filled works.

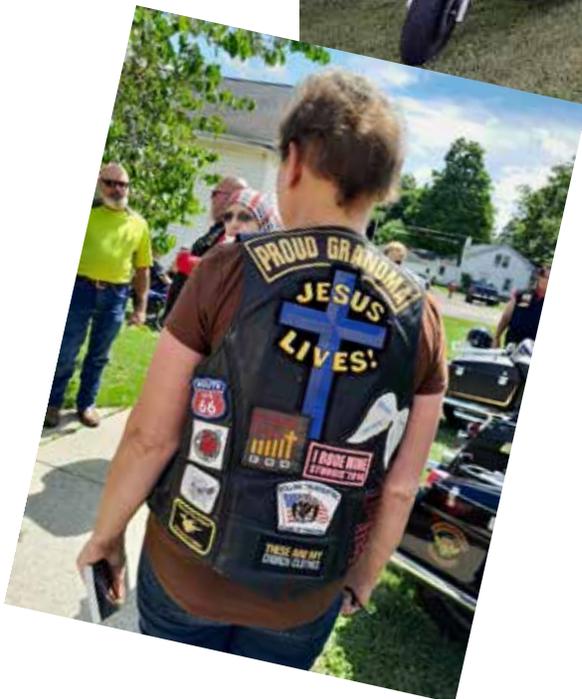
The first one, passionate worship, is more than one hour on Sunday morning. Actually, we prepare for that one hour on Sunday with personal worship during the week.

This can include personal prayer and praise – inside or outside—morning or evening, prayer and praise with family, keeping a gratitude journal, and confession. St. Loyola's daily Examen is a good format for this discipline. Consider seeking out mature, trust-worthy Christians to serve as spiritual mentors. None of us is so advanced in the life of grace that we can't learn from others.

In future issues, I'll talk about tools for studying God's Word and accomplishing grace-filled works. For now, though, use some of the above ideas to create or renew the first pillar in the life of grace.



# Biker Sunday August 21, 2022



*photos by Chrissy Vorrasi*



Danby Community Church  
1859 Danby Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

**Welcome Home!!**

What's Happening in September?!?

**Dish to Pass and Round Table Discussion**  
**September 18 @ 11:30am**

**Free Coffee and Donuts**  
**Friday, September 16, 7:30am - 9:30 am**  
**Take out or join us for**  
**Community Coffee Chat**

