



Danby Church News

"Adding to and Building up the Kingdom of God"

September 2024





From Our Pastor!

Look up! The shutters and steeple have been restored and repaired! That's one project complete and paid for in full.

Praise God!

“**Thank You**” to all who have contributed financially in this season of up-dating and restoring our beautiful 205-year-old old church home. It is our responsibility to keep this facility in good repair. After all, we're at least partly responsible for wearing it out.

Current funding on hand or pledged is approximately \$10,000 at this writing, and more is coming in weekly. We have more to do in the coming months.

One sign of a busy church doing the Lord's work is a well-used facility, testified to by wear and tear. Danby Community Church is not called to be a well-kept museum with “Do Not Touch” signs on every pew and “Do Not Enter” on every door. Jesus never sat still for very long, and the Bible instructs us to be diligent in our efforts to proclaim the Gospel by invitation and hospitality.

This old building, like us when we mature, needs some loving care and attention to stay healthy and vibrant. Please carefully consider giving to this worthwhile cause. Continue to pray about what God wants to provide through you as we practice good stewardship in God's Kingdom.

Other concerns

Some folks have mentioned they are concerned by a lack of attendance, the increasing age of our congregation, and the general lack of interest in church in the world around us.

These are valid concerns, but churches that are thriving are finding that old solutions do not address the new issues we're facing today. Although human nature has not changed, our society is changing.

The major difference is we, as a culture, are more public and prideful about our sinful nature. What used to be private and shameful now seeks acceptance and endorsement, across the behavioral spectrum. The institutions that used to help us bond to one another are now dismissed by our culture's celebration of hyper-individualism and privilege.

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Danby Church Officers and Leaders 2024

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Co-Chairpersons:	Paula Nelson sfcnelson@aol.com Sheila Enstine ssenstine@gmail.com
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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
Missions:	Suzanne Walker suzrwalker@yahoo.com
Staff, Pastor Oversight Committee SPOC:	
Chair:	Katy Prince
Praise Team Leaders:	Katy & Tommy Prince
Webmaster:	Janet Gray jsg4@cornell.edu
Newsletter Editor:	Janet Gray
Facebook:	Janet Gray

On the Cover

Joan Peak (our sound person)
and Les White

People have always privately rebelled against moral standards found in scripture while making public displays of piety. From Popes to common folk, double standards in conduct have abounded throughout history. However, this was never permission to call wrong behavior right.

The questions few people are really asking are: “Are we better off? Are our current, evolving, cultural norms making life better? How do we relate to a standard of behavior that no one seems to understand? What do we have to hold on to as a culture?”

I believe the Church offers guidance for how to live a spectacular life. We are more than an entertaining service on Sunday morning. We have a guide to living through good and bad times. We present an instruction manual called the Bible that can lead to a fulfilled life.

We offer a living relationship with God almighty through Jesus the Christ. We offer Jesus, who makes death no more than the transition into our next adventure with God.

We maintain a system of support through mutual care and prayer that is reliable and produces miracles of hope and healing. We restore peace through Jesus Christ into lives torn apart by the disrepair of sin and desperation.

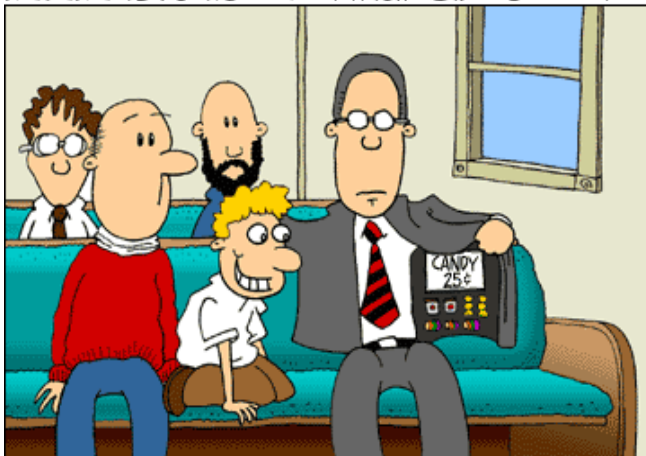
Unfortunately, the Church that our Lord established is too often not the church (little c) on the street corners of this country. The Church (big C) is alive and well in places like Danby and many others scattered across the globe. Jesus’ Church will survive and thrive, inside and outside the walls of buildings, regardless of location or country.

Fear not. Tend to the calling we are given – to build up and add to the Kingdom. Love God, love others, and make disciples. We will grow and thrive now and in times to come. I pray that God will trust us to care for His children, now and in the years to come.



**Together we can
make it happen!**

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Thanks to Debbie Zabawa 01-24-2001

**RONNIE FOUND A LUCRATIVE WAY TO PAY
OFF HIS BUILDING FUND PLEDGE**

As we take care of our places of worship, we not only deepen our reverence and feelings of appreciation for a meetinghouse, but even more so for the Lord whose building it is.

He has told us to “keep my sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:30).

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

Project MRO (maintenance, repair & overhaul) Caring for our Church Building



We are in the midst of a campaign to fund the maintenance, repair and overhaul of our beautiful historic church building. Some projects have been completed like our steeple shutters and roof. Others are in the works: Here is the list of projects that are on this list. **The cost of the projects are estimates and can change.**

- Sign – Replacing the sign with a digital sign. This will allow posting information about upcoming events in a timelier manner. We’ll be able to program the new sign from inside the building, eliminating the need to stand outside – especially in the winter – to change the information. **Progress towards this goal was also hampered by a recent amended town zoning law regarding signage allowances and restrictions

- Fellowship Windows – New windows will be more energy saving. The Fellowship Hall is being used more and more for church and community activities. New windows will help with heating this space.

- Kitchen and Fellowship Hall Flooring - The kitchen, especially, is missing some tiles and others are chipped. The Fellowship Hall is beginning to show wear at as well.

- Sanctuary Front Doors – Repair or possibly replace the doors. The current doors have a crack in the panel and are difficult to open.

- Smaller projects that we discovered, like repair the heat for the rooms in the classroom addition.

If you would like to contribute to these important and necessary projects, please contact Pastor Ed. Contributions /Pledges should earmarked “Building and Maintenance”. If using GivePlus on the website, select the Building and Maintenance button. God Bless

Spiritual Development Update from Sheila Enstine

Important Dates for September 2024:

Holy Cross Day is the same day every year, September 14th. This is a time to refocus our attention on the meaning of the Cross and its implication for believers. We are reminded of the kind of lives we are to live as Christians, to take up Christ's cross and follow him (Matthew 16:24).



After Holy Cross Day are the fall Ember Days. These are four sets of three days – Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays—that correspond to the change of seasons. This year the fall Ember Days are September 18, 20, and 21.



According to one tradition, the Ember Days are set aside to “thank God for the gifts of nature, teach men to make use of them in moderation, and assist the needy.” Although the Danby Church doesn't formally recognize the Ember Days, perhaps each of us can set aside Ember Days to “hear the cry of the Earth” and think about how we can attend to our calling as stewards of God's creation.

Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group will begin a study of the Book of Acts on Sunday, September 1st. The class runs from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM. See Sheila for the study guides.

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 has been meeting monthly during the summer at individuals' homes. Weekly sessions will resume later in the fall.

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 5th grade) are welcome to attend Children's Church.

Prayer Opportunities:

- **Prayer Chain:** Contact Katy Prince at 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.

THE CHOSEN



Watch Party and Wings

Friday, October 4 @ 6:30 pm

Chicken Wings and Rootbeer

Watch Season 1, Episode 1 and discussion

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.



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

A Prayer for Creation

By Sheila Enstine

One of the items on our Church Prayer Calendar is “Creation Care”. This is a cause dear to my heart and I know that is the case for many of us at the Danby Church.

Christians often misread the Genesis account, interpreting the story of Adam’s placement in the Garden of Eden with a human dominion point of view rather than a human stewardship orientation. As a result, we have aligned ourselves with a secular, consumptive culture.

We are part of a huge problem. I won’t quote statistics because the stats on CO2 emissions, sea level rise, glacier loss, species decline, and ocean acidification are so large that we can’t comprehend what it all means. However, personal stories make it real.

We’ve all noticed that our winters are nothing like they were decades ago, in temperature or snow fall. We are witness to increasing summer temperatures around the world, accompanied by droughts and forest fires and floods in other areas. These events, in turn, are one cause of human migration as well as species displacement.

Landfills—a crazy concept when you think about it—are filling up. We are so consumptive that we displace other creatures’ habitats with massive ditches to bury our garbage. Meanwhile, we ravenously take from the earth to make more – stuff, some of which is toxic.

I could go on and on, but I won’t. Instead, I offer the following prayer of confession, repentance, and petition for our Creator’s leading in our high calling as stewards of the Garden.

Holy, mighty, creator God, we praise you for your beautiful universe. Thank you for the good earth, for water and rain, for clouds and wind and fresh, sweet air. Thank you for the sun, so bright and life-giving. Help us Creator God, to care for these elements that you have so graciously given us.

Forgive us our trespasses upon the good earth, for taking from it more than we need and for our lack of care for our fellow creatures. Forgive us for treating our fellow creatures as objects to use and abuse. Forgive us for the suffering caused by our greed and gluttony.

We acknowledge our greed, gluttony, and apathy. Forgive us Lord, and deliver us from avarice and covetousness.

Inspire us, we pray, through the ministry of your Holy Spirit, to once again take on the mantle of stewards of your good earth. Replace our greed with gratitude and replace our desire for more with hunger for righteousness, justice, and compassion for your beautiful creation.

In Jesus’ strong name we pray. Amen





Danby Community Church
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www.danbychurch.org

Welcome Home!!

What's Happening?

WATCH PARTY AND WINGS

Friday, October 4, @ 6:30pm

Free Chicken Wings and Rootbeer

Watch Season 1, Episode 1 of the The Chosen

October - Movie Night - TBA