Danby Church News

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

SABBATH REST

From Our Pastor!

What's in this Issue?

From Our Pastor.....2
Making Friends is Hard.....4
Feed My Starving Children.....5
Spiritual Development Update.....6
Annual Safe Sanctuary.....7

Sometimes we all get tired, which should make taking a break feel so much better. The question is, where can we find true rest. In a busy life, taking time off can feel like a guilty pleasure, but it is really a holy gift from God.

As a personal confession, I'm not a poster boy for formal sabbath rest. Scriptures command we set aside a sabbath and that has always been a challenge for me. However, as my body gets older and my mind gets stronger, I'm beginning to understand how to honor God's command to take a break and walk with the Lord for a while, just enjoying His company.

I need the inspiration that comes with holy down time. My summer schedule has been crazy busy with meetings and travel as well as business as usual in our active little church. It's all good, but it sure can wear down even the most resilient among us. It has certainly taken a toll on me.

Hebrews Chapter Four talks about a sabbath rest being ordered and enabled by faith in the Lord. But it is so easy to react to the constant pressures of life by moving in our own strength instead of trusting God.

Who's in control is a tricky question. I've come to the conclusion that it certainly isn't me nor do I want total control to be my responsibility. Trust and obey is more than an old hymn; it's a winning formula.

In faith we must push the world aside and turn our attention to God's presence. As we entrust our challenges

Pastor's Message continued on page 3

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On the Cover

Hebrews 4

Pastor's Message continued from page 2

and labor to God's direction, the Holy Spirit refreshes our souls. The more we trust in the Lord the more capacity we have to handle life. God really does know exactly what we need, and the Holy Spirit has perfect timing.

So as the temperatures cool and the trees turn color, I'm praying for a chance to catch my breath and settle into a more relaxed pace. With no more travel for a while, I can return to regular morning prayer sessions.

I'm carving out time every day to read life-giving chunks of the Bible, pausing often to remember every day is a gift and must be treated as holy unto the Lord, paying proper attention to a sabbath rest every week, usually Mondays for me. 'Sounds like a schedule worth keeping.

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!

Making Friends is Hard

By Katy Prince

I recently read the book *Women Are Scary: The Totally Awkward Adventure of Finding Mom Friends* by Melanie Dale about moms making friends with other moms. I wish that I had read it back when I was a young mom and had my first baby or when my children were young and in public school. But I realize that even as I get older it is still hard for me to make friends.

We're told not to make friends at work, because they are co-workers, but we spend so much of our time at work and the rest of our time at home taking care of our families, and then maybe (hopefully) Sunday morning at church renewing our spiritual batteries for the upcoming week. When do we have time to go make friends? I've thought I made friends at work, but when that job ended, so did the friendships - well mostly. I do still have one friend that I made at work, and our friendship has lasted the test of time and separation for over 20 years.

Jesus called the disciples to himself. He called Simon Peter and Andrew from their work fishing. He also called James and John while they were fishing with their father Zebedee. He also called Matthew out of his job as a tax collector. (See the book of Matthew for more information on this.)

My best friend is my husband. And I have friends at church too. I guess if I want to make friends, the best place to do it is in a Christian setting, with other Christians who are like minded. Now don't get me wrong; it is OK to have different opinions and not all think exactly alike, but having friends who you can relate to in many ways is beneficial in some important ways, as The Bible reminds us, *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another"* (Proverbs 27:17).

Good Christian friends can help us to:

- Grow in our faith - "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thes 5:11).
- Stay grounded - "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear" (2 Tim 4:3). If we don't have good Christian friends who believe in the Bible, we will find people who will just say what we want to hear, whether it is biblical or not.
- Pray together - Jesus taught the disciples to pray what we call The Lord's Prayer and with Christian friends, we can pray that prayer out loud together, and we can pray together whatever is in our hearts. It sure does feel good.
- Find accountability - Good Christian friends will see your transgressions and love you through them. They won't ignore them, but will help you to overcome them in a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1-2).
- Experience belonging - Jesus said, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). With good Christian friends, we can feel that we belong with Jesus in human form.
- Serve together - Serving together is always more fun, and even Jesus said that He came to serve (Mark 10:45).
- Have joy and fellowship - We aren't meant to go through life alone, but to be with other people. Yes, even if you are an introvert, having a time to gather together with other believers and commune together is important for your spiritual wellbeing. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42).

Making Friends continued on page 5

Making Friends continued from page 4

That hour or so in church on Sunday morning isn't enough time to really make friends. We're busy worshipping and praying and singing and listening and learning. I'm glad that at Danby Community Church we always have Coffee Hour after church. And I'm thankful for the Bible study groups, worship practice and fellowship on Wednesdays also. Through these and the special events that we host at Danby, I feel I have made some life-long, good Christian friends. My heart is full and my spirit is lifted. I hope to see you at the church too!

Feed My Starving Children Ithaca Mobile Food Pack_

The Ithaca Mobile Food Pack (IMP) will hold a food packing event for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) on Thursday, September 24, through Sunday, September 27, 2026 at the New York State Army National Guard Armory located at 1765 Hanshaw Road in Ithaca, New York.

On their website (https://www.fmsc.org) the FMSC vision statement says, "Through God, FMSC will strive to eliminate malnutrition and starvation in children throughout the world by helping to instill compassion in a generation that hears and responds to the cries of those in need until all are fed."

The IMP has hosted the food packing event for 15 years. In that time over 17,000 volunteers have packed over 4 million meals, which have fed approximately 11,400 children daily for a year. What a difference four days can make!

This year the Danby Community Church will join the event on Friday, September 25th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We have filled six out of eight reserved spots. If you would like to help make a difference and join the DCC team, let Sheila Enstine know ASAP because we have to release the two unfilled spots by September 10th.

If you're unable to volunteer during our group time, you can also register for yourself at the following site –

https://www.fmsc.org/volunteer-listing/?mobilepack=2609-145MI.

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.

Spiritual Development Update

from Sheila Enstine

Ordinary Time, a Season of Growth (and Harvest):

During September and October, the Christian Church remains in Ordinary Time, a season for growth in our relationship with Christ, each other, and with God's creation. Harvest has begun.
Take some time to think about what are you reaping spiritually, emotionally, and communally.

Adult Small Groups:

The Sunday morning group will resume the study of I Corinthians on September 6, at 8:45 a.m.
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 is meeting on the third Friday of the month at people's homes. The group gathers at noon for a dish-to-pass, followed by a discussion of Edward R. Brown's book, Our Father's World. 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.

Safe Sanctuary Renewal Meeting: The annual Safe Sanctuary Renewal Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who works with children or youth in our church programs is required to attend this meeting.

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: Don't forget the Danby church's Prayer Shawl Ministry. There are a large collection of shawls and a delivery log in the closet at the entrance to the education wing. Written prayers that explain the shawl's source and purpose are attached to the shawls. If you're planning on visiting anyone in need of fellowship, please take a shawl to them (and enter the details in log).

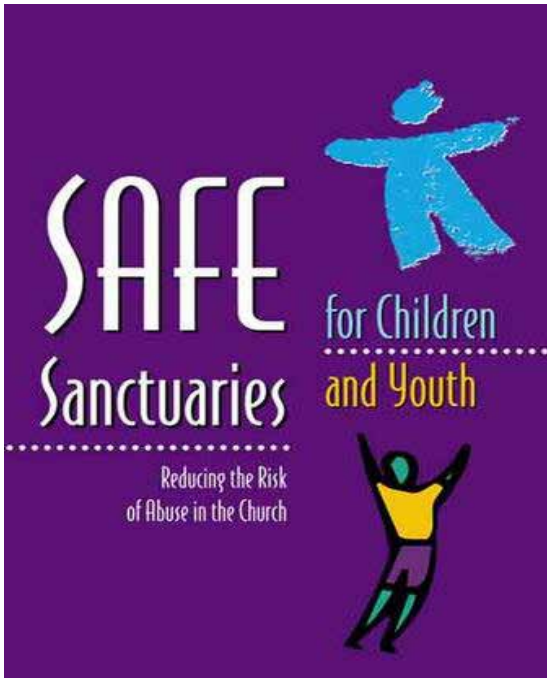
Paws to Remember: At 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, the Paws to Remember group gathers to support those who are grieving the loss of their pets.

Creation Care:

From Wendell Barry's poem, "How to be a Poet":
"Breathe with unconditional breath the unconditioned air. Shun electric wire. Communicate slowly. Live a three-dimensioned life; stay away from screens. Stay away from anything that obscures the place it is in. There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places."

The full text of this poem is available at https://onbeing.org/blog/parker-palmer-how-to-be-a-poet/.

Annual Safe Sanctuary Covenant Renewal Meeting



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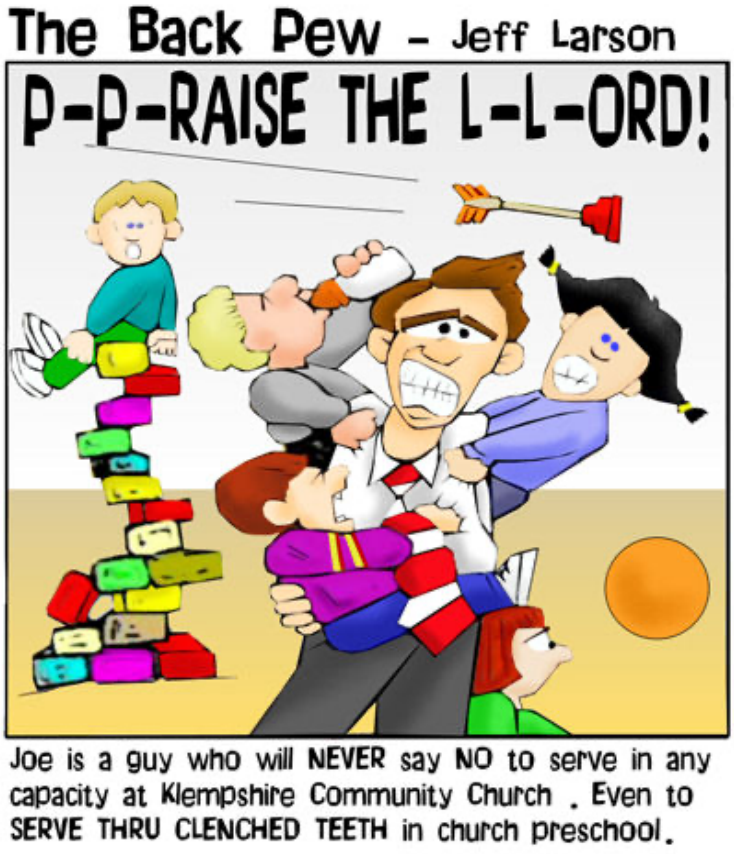
Anyone who works with children or youth in our church programs is required to attend this meeting.

This year we will talk about the need for an emergency action plan to address possible events such as natural disasters, medical emergencies or violent incidents. We will talk about what we already do, what we can do better, and what we can start doing to prepare for emergencies.

Meeting participants will be able to review information gathered from a meeting hosted by a nearby church and presented by Protect His House, a company that helps churches build safety teams and develop standard operating plans.



Read any good books lately?

Read any good books lately, besides the THE GOOD BOOK? Have you watched a film recently that you think your friends would like to see? We are looking for a book or film reviews for our next Danby Church News. If you have any recommendations, please send us a book or film review of a couple paragraphs including a synopsis of the book or film and why you recommend it to Janet Gray: jsg4@cornell.edu

Danby Community Church
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Welcome Home!!

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

Annual Safe Sanctuary Covenant Renewal Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30pm

Feed My Starving Children Ithaca Mobile Food Pack
Friday, September 25th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m