



Beloved friends,

Did you know that in 2019 our congregation celebrates 20 years as an **Open and Affirming** (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ? We will celebrate this significant anniversary in worship on **Sunday, May 19** with a special worship service, keynote speaker, and reception.

Now, as I write this, there may be some folks reading and wondering, "*What is Open and Affirming?*" Perhaps you are new to DCC or were not present for the process or actual vote on June 13, 1999. To begin, I want to be sure that you know about the **Second Hour** scheduled for **Sunday, February 3**, led by DCC members, Dave Hill and Doug Leich. This informative, educational opportunity will review the process DCC took to become an Open and Affirming congregation. It will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about DCC's history. However, this information does not answer the question – "*What is Open and Affirming?*"

I think depending on who you talk to, Open and Affirming might mean something different depending on the individual. In the United Church of Christ, Open and Affirming (ONA) is the designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.¹

For a church to declare itself "Open and Affirming" or "ONA" is a special designation. Some might wonder, "Why isn't it enough to simply say 'all are welcome'?" Well for starters, for folks in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer community, myself included, "all are welcome" is not enough to ensure the safety of LGBTQ people in Christian communities. Historically, churches that have used this messaging have failed at fully welcoming and affirming the LGBTQ community for a variety of reasons. As a result LGBTQ people of faith experience emotional and spiritual injury in churches that condemn their capacity to love and seek love. A public welcome, however, that names the LGBTQ community sends a clear message to LGBTQ seekers that they have a home in a congregation of the United Church of Christ.

Here at DCC, our Welcome Statement reads in the following way:

Danville Congregational Church is a diverse group of believers and seekers of God's direction in our lives. Our mission is to be a Christian faith community that accepts all persons, supports them in seeking deeper meaning in their lives, and prepares them spiritually and intellectually to make a difference in the lives of their families, community, work, and world. We are called to love our neighbors and to act as agents of reconciliation and wholeness. We welcome and value all God's people. All people, of diverse race, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental, and emotional ability are encouraged to participate in (continued on page 3)

¹ http://www.ucc.org/lgbt_ona



United Church of Christ
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd
Danville, CA 94526
www.danvillechurch.org
www.dayspringpreschool.org

Danville Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming church, welcoming all of God's people - of diverse race, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental and emotional ability.

Telephone: (925) 837-6944

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm

Worship Sunday at 9:30 AM

Everyone is welcome!

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock, Senior Pastor
John Kendall Bailey, Music Director
Mary-Marie Deauclaire, Handbell Director
Blair Hansen, Office Administrator
Liz Setlak-von Thury, Operations Coordinator
Janice Inman, Preschool Director

Church Officers

Kyra Kennedy, Moderator
Kristina Kelchner, Vice Moderator
Bob Britt, Treasurer
Syd & Leslie Dent, Financial Secretaries
Kim Michaud, Clerk

Commissioners

Bob and Diane Hardy, Buildings and Grounds
Amy Furber-Dobson, Children's Ministries
Joyce Klassen, Community Life Ministry
Trish Moosbrugger, Faith Journeys
Doug Leich, Outreach
Heidi Bridgeman, Stewardship
Janis Jang, Worship
Steve Paroli, Youth Ministries

Preschool Board

Janet Apostolo, Betty McCabe, Penny Davis, Charlie Hasselbrink, Sandra Lepley (chair), Nicole Noga

Rev. Eric's Pastoral Relations Committee:

Carol Gilliland
Chris Callison
Judy Halden
Alex Hasselbrink
Steve Paroli



Please submit Email all submissions for the Monthly Newsletter no later than the **15** of each month. You may Email submissions to: office@danvillechurch.org

CONNECT WITH US



Always stay connected with the Danville Congregational Church on INSTAGRAM,

FACEBOOK and now, on YOUTUBE. You may also receive emails from DCC by signing up at www.danvillechurch.org.



Please remember that the Deacons are available to pray with you or take your prayer request at any time. We can pray individually (privately) or pass your request to the whole Diaconate or the church-wide Prayer Support Team. Please feel free to contact any Deacon with your requests for prayer, or to be a part of the Prayer Support Team. Prayer requests can also be e-mailed to prayers@danvillechurch.org.

Carol Bassett
Larry Berlin
Dee Brook
Peggy Gierke
Nancy Hill
Janis Jang

Karen Kawaguchi
Cheryl Pierson
Anne Seiler
Diane Stein
Richard Stein

OUR PURPOSE

Loving God
Loving Each Other
Being God's Love in the World



We'd love to know about your joys and concerns. If you have something to share in the next newsletter, please send it to Peggy Gierke by **February 15**.

Prayers of Healing ...

- Steve Bridgeman., recovering from a fractured pelvis.
- Janis Dewar's friends, Karen, who is caring for her father in his final days, and Barbara, caring for her ill sister.
- Amy Furber-Dobson's father, Alan, continued healing following heart surgery.
- Dave Halseth's sister, Marcia, entering her final days.
- Norm Palmer.
- Jerry Mulcahy.

Continued Prayers ...

- Ken Boehmert
- Sylvia Martino
- Mary Ann Prickett
- Tom Olwin
- Chris Sonnemann

Prayers of Sympathy ...

- Rachel Pickett's grandfather passed away last week.

life of our worshiping community, and that we encourage their full participation at all levels of leadership.

And so, my hope as we review our history and move forward, is that we will also wonder together, "Now what?" To declare ours a congregation that is Open and Affirming is not only a special designation, but it is also a great responsibility. We have the responsibility to live into and communicate God's unconditional love to all people no matter who they love or what they look like. I wonder, how will we live into this call as an ONA congregation more fully and faithfully?

See you in Church,

Eric

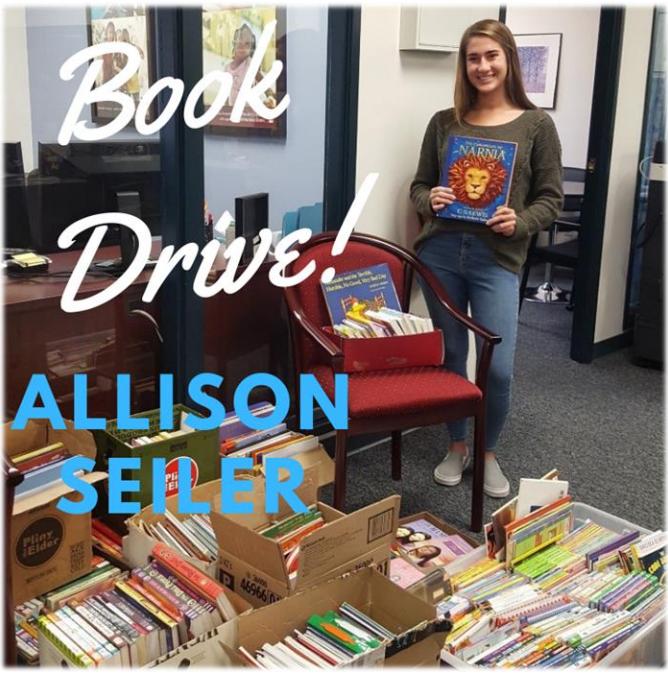


Join us for a
Pancake Breakfast
after worship on
Sunday, March 3
Hosted by
The Community Life Commission and
The Emmaus Committee
If you'd like to help
please contact Kim Michaud

(Pastor's message continued from page 1)

the worship, life work, and service of this church. We affirm that all are beloved by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We affirm the family in all its diverse forms and we affirm all loving and committed relationships.

At DCC, there is no question that we welcome and affirm the presence of LGBTQ folks in the



Every night until I was eleven years old, I would get read to before bed. This led to my great love for reading, yet as I grow older, I have come to realize how much I took my towering bookcase for granted. Not only is reading to young children extremely beneficial to their development, but the number of books in a household is strongly correlated to academic achievement as well as economic status. This relationship prompted me to organize a book drive in our community for children of homeless and at-risk families. After reaching out to fellow DCC member and Board Chair at Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Carol Gilliland, I was able to put my vision to action. My goal was to provide a leg up to those who might not have the luxury of getting read three different books every night like I did, and to make an effort to tilt the scales back into the favor of these children who are already faced with so many hardships and inequalities. As a result of the compassion and generosity of our community, I was able to provide over 400 books for children of all ages in CCIH. I feel so lucky to have had this amazing opportunity to serve others, and from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank all those who supported me throughout this project, especially our DCC family.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Your Worship Commission met on January 15, opening with Kathie Hixon giving us a summary of the Opening and Affirming events leading up to our **20th anniversary on May 19**. Don't miss Chris Rauen's series of 5 articles in *Good News* leading us through the history of our ONA journey 20 years ago.

- On February 3, during our second hour, we have a special presentation given by Doug Leich and Dave Hill. They will give us a brief history of our church, referencing three sermons from Rev. Elizabeth Felts to prepare us for our historic vote.
- Invitations go out in February. If there are any people you think should be invited, please contact Kathie Hixon.
- Our **May 19** Opening and Affirming service will have special decorations, wonderful music, and keynote speaker. Afterwards, all will be invited to a champagne reception in Kairos Hall that will be organized by Carol Gilliland.

Other worship discussions centered around...

- Assessment of Advent services- We are open to any feedback from the congregation.
- The offering plates on Communion Sunday - It was noted that there wasn't enough room for the plates on the altar table. A pedestal will be available for the offering plates on those monthly Sundays.
- *Celebration Bells* will be in hiatus while *Quattro* takes its place for the duration.
- Choir attendance is up and it's getting more crowded in the choir section. We still, however, have room for more!

Our next meeting will be **March 5**. All are welcome to join us in the Music Room!

Worship Commissioner

Janis Jang



"Love Makes the World Go 'Round!" will be the perfect theme for February, as we prepare for a month of Valentine's Day excitement! The Character Trait of "I Am Kind" will be discussed as the children prepare Valentine's cards to share. The children are also creating festive collection bags to use when they receive Valentine cards from their friends. Each classroom will also enjoyed a variety of festive Valentine's activities!

The children will focus on learning the letters Ll, Mm, Nn, and Oo as well as enjoy activities about ladybugs, love bugs, mice, masks, noodle art, and more! Activities will included Leaf printing, making heart patterns, letter tracing, marshmallow estimations, experimenting with noise sounds, and building nests.

One of the children's favorite events at Dayspring will occur in early March. Dayspring will join with many schools across the nation to highlight literacy. Read Across America Day will celebrate Dr. Seuss and our favorite "Cat in the Hat."

The Priority Enrollment period for current Dayspring and DCC families will be from February 4 through March 1. This is a special time which allows these families to enroll early for Dayspring's 7-week Summer Program (June 10-July 26) and the Fall 2019-2020 school term (August 14, 2019-May 29, 2020). Interested DCC families turning in an application during this time, simply need to write the words "DCC Member" across the top of their child's application. To read more details and view videos of exciting things happening at Dayspring, please visit:

www.dayspringpreschool.org

RE-ENROLL NOW!

Priority Re-enrollment period for Dayspring Preschool and

Danville Congregational Church families has begun:

Summer 2019 program (June 10-July 26)

ENROLLMENT DATES:

2/4-3/1 2019

2019-20 School Year

(August 14, 2019 –May 20, 2020)

ENROLLMENT DATES:

2/4-3/1 2019

Visit the Dayspring website at:

www.dayspringpreschool.org for more information.

Finance Committee

Quarterly Update

Income & Expenses			
	7 Months Ended December 31, 2018		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income			
Commitments	\$ 189,578	\$ 207,900	\$ (18,322)
Other Income	57,439	60,110	(2,671)
Total Operating Income	247,017	268,010	(20,993)
Dayspring Phase II Interest Contribution	11,850	11,025	825
Dayspring Allocation	200,000	200,000	0
Total Income	458,867	479,035	(20,168)
Expenditures			
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 249,042	\$ 268,282	\$ (19,240)
Mortgage Principal & Interest	142,739	142,739	-
Phase II Notes Interest	5,775	6,440	(665)
Total Expenses	397,556	417,461	(19,905)
Net Income / (Loss) before Depreciation	\$ 61,311	\$ 61,574	\$ (263)
<p>Income: Fiscal year to date, Commitment Income is \$18,300 under budget. The Finance Committee asks that if you are behind in your pledge giving so far this year, please consider "catching up" so that we can avoid implementing spending cuts in future months.</p> <p>Expenses: The church operating expenses are \$19,000 under budget due primarily to the Associate Minister's position remaining unfilled. The budget assumed the Associate Minister would start in October 2018.</p> <p>Net Income: Note that the Net Income would be \$45,000 less if we had a full year of an Associate Minister and full staffing in the church office.</p>			
The church's mortgage balance is currently \$3,399,890. The interest rate on the mortgage is 4.25%. In March 2020, the interest rate resets to a floating rate. At current rates, the interest rate would increase to 6.7%, which increases the annual interest expense by \$81,000. The Finance Committee is reviewing refinancing proposals, from our current mortgage holder and the United Church of Christ's Cornerstone Fund.			



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Open and Affirming at Danville Congregational Church

(Second in a series of articles by Chris Rauen.)

In the fall of 1996, Danville Congregational Church formed an Open and Affirming (ONA) committee. This would be the first step in a multi-year process to become recognized as an ONA church. In less than three years – after many second-hour and council discussions, workshops, a classroom program, and adult study video series, among other activities – the ONA designation for DCC would become official.

This effort followed a movement that began decades earlier within the larger United Church of Christ community. 1972 was a milestone year. On June 25 of that year, William R. Johnson was ordained as the first openly gay minister of the United Church of Christ by the Golden Gate Association, which consists of UCC churches in San Francisco, the peninsula, and the North Bay. Rev. Johnson and fellow UCC members then founded the UCC Gay Caucus, now known as the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC. This group advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community within UCC, and supports UCC churches in their efforts to become recognized as Open and Affirming.

In the spring of 1982, another milestone was achieved when the Rev. Anne Holmes became the first openly lesbian minister, ordained in the Emmaus UCC church in Vienna, Va. The debate over Holmes' ordination was "highly charged," according to a news report at the time. She ultimately received a substantial majority of votes, but the controversy cost the 350-member church about 20 percent of its active membership.

Advances in promoting ONA more broadly came in 1985, when the UCC General Synod adopted its ONA resolution. The resolution urges UCC congregations to declare themselves "Open and Affirming." The word chosen to reflect a church's ONA commitment is covenant, defined as "a promise we make to God." In support of this covenant, DCC is among the estimated 30 percent of UCC 5,000 churches that today have voted to be an ONA church.

At DCC, the committee that was formed in 1996 set the stage for a comprehensive set of second-hour discussions and educational programs in 1997, 1998 and 1999. We'll take a closer look at these next month.

DCC will have second-hour discussions on the steps and milestones leading to the ONA vote, and a **20th Anniversary Celebration** on **Sunday, May 19**.



We will be celebrating **20 years** of open and affirming at Danville Congregational Church. There will be a guest speaker, special music and reception. Keep an eye out for Chris Rauen's historical review of our O and A process over the next few months.



Wise Congregations
for Mental Health
Conference
March 2, 2019
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location
City of Refuge UCC
8400 Enterprise Way
Oakland, CA 94621

Do not fear; for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isa. 43:1

Isaiah reminds us to live not in fear, but the personal, restoring and renewing relationship with the loving presence of God.

Affirming this faith, we will meet together to address a part of our experience, which is sometimes painful and, at the same time, often leads to a deeper appreciation of the gift that we call life. While we know that one out of four people is directly affected by mental health challenges, we also know that we can be a resource helping individuals and families respond to these challenges.

At this conference, you are invited to:

- Hear stories by persons who have been affected by mental health challenges
- Learn about mental disorders, suicide, and minority mental health
- Learn the steps to become a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health
- Receive practical steps to start a mental health ministry
- Worship together, share, and meet new people with a common interest

If you are interested in attending, please email Rev. Eric at eric@danvillechurch.org. We are interested in forming a delegation from DCC for this event!

You may register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wise-congregations-for-mental-health-conference-march-2-2019-registration-53439851033>



After many months of picking out the perfect flooring for Koinonia Hall, it was finally installed the week of January 21. A big thanks to our Buildings and Grounds Commission as well as to our Operations Coordinator, Liz, for her efforts to make it happen. Thank you to Brett Clark and Tom Sonnemann for their help in the installation. Be sure to check it out after Sunday Worship Services.





Outreach Commission

A Spirit of Giving

The Outreach Commission would like to celebrate your generosity during the holiday season. In November, about **25 DCC folks** provided and helped serve dinner to the eight homeless families in the Mountain View Emergency Family Shelter in Martinez. Then the congregation responded compassionately to our designation of our Thanksgiving offering for **California Wildfire Disaster Relief** with offerings amounting to **\$4,916**, which are now at work through the United Church of Christ's disaster relief ministries. Although a communication breakdown with Shelter, Inc. resulted in a very abbreviated **Christmas for Others** gift window, we did provide **ten wrapped gifts and five \$25 gift cards**. We requested that the gift cards go to residents of Shelter, Inc.'s Mary McGovern House, which has a special connection to DCC and is named for one of the saints of DCC.

Our renewed relationship with Eden UCC in Hayward resulted in our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** donating about **300 knitted hats and scarves to Eden UCC** for distribution to community members served during a December "Comidas para Cherryland" food pantry. This was followed by a year-end appeal for **winter coats** to be donated to children and youth of immigrant families and unaccompanied immigrant youth through Eden UCC's collaboration with the Hayward Unified School District and other neighboring school districts. Thank you for donating **74 beautiful, new and gently-used winter coats**, most of which were blessed during our December 30 worship service.



And you gave **\$2,070** in our Christmas offering, which will be divided between the UCC Christmas Fund and Ensuring Opportunity – the Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa County. Thank you, and may God bless you!

Doug Leich
Outreach Commissioner



The Winter Men's Lunch series continues this month at noon at **The Brass Door Restaurant** in San Ramon. The dates for this series are Series 1:

February 7, 14, 21, 28

As usual, we will eat together, catch up on each other's lives, and discuss the scripture planned for the following Sunday. We tend to have a vigorous discussion in which all men are invited to participate. Detailed Bible background is not necessary, though you may pick up some.

If you have any questions, or want on the email list for reminders and are not on that list already, please contact Dave Hill at dghill@sbcglobal.net.



1 Cheryl Pierson
5 Annalise Northway
Kiko DeBarger-Gestring
10 Barbara Carrillo
20 Cheryl Beck
21 Judy Leach
Karl Mead
Judy Halden
22 Oliver Beaver

E

Emmaus Teams

SCHEDULE

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| February 3 | Team 1 |
| February 10 | Team 2 |
| February 17 | Team 3 |
| February 24 | Team 4 |

•DCC•

Youth Ministries

EVENTS

FEBRUARY YOUTH EVENTS

February 3

9:30 Worship

3PM "Soup"erbowl Party at the Seilers' home.

Bring a snack to share and a can of soup for the Food Bank! Come cheer on your favorite team!

February 10

9:30 Worship

6 – 8 Youth Group & Food Fundraiser

Please bring \$10 for dinner!

February 17

9:30 Worship

No Youth Group Meeting, Holiday Weekend

February 24

9:30 Worship

6 – 8 Youth Group



WITNESS OUR WELCOME **WOW!**

16TH ANNUAL
INTERFAITH WORSHIP
CELEBRATION

Come Celebrate God's Inclusive Love Welcoming All of God's Children;
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender + and Straight Allies

Sunday, February 10th, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Ave., Livermore, CA

"Living into Hope: Agents of a New Day"

*with Rev. Kristin Stoneking
Pastor at Epworth UMC in Berkeley*

- Mt. Diablo UU Church will be receiving the Spirit Award for their years of serving the LGBTQ community and their recent ministry at the border with immigrants.*
- Special Music provided by Asbury Ringers, Community Children's Chorus, UU Church Choir & more!*

The WOW celebration is sponsored by more than 30 congregations and organizations, including PFLAG & the Pacific Center & the Rainbow Community Center. Offering will benefit the Jewish Family and Community Services for the LGBTQ immigrants project.

Reception to follow hosted by Asbury UMC & PFLAG.

Questions: Rev. Kathy La Point-Collup at 925.477.1950 or Rev. Will McGarvey at 925.597.9797.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Holy Moly 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Youth Sunday 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Art of the Ketubah *Special Viewing* 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Quattro Handbell Rehearsal	28	29	30	31 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group #3 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	1	2
3 Communion Sunday 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Godly Play 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Youth Group "Soup"erbowl Party	4	5 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Last Third of Life Group	6	7 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group #3 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Winter Men's Lunch series 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Godly Play 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Commission Meetings 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group & Food Fundraiser	11	12	13 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stewardship Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Dayspring Preschool Board	14 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Diaconate Meeting 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group #3 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Winter Men's Lunch series 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 AM Newsletter Deadline	16
17 Ingathering Sunday NO Youth Group 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Godly Play 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Endowment Committee Meeting	18	19 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Finance Committee	20 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Tenant Relations Committee Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Rev. Eric's PRC	21 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group #3 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Winter Men's Lunch series 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Godly Play 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group	25	26 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Council Meeting	27 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	28 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Spiritual Formation Group #3 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Winter Men's Lunch series 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	1	2 Youth Group Overnight at DCC