

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

9:30 AM

Fourth Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE *Serenity* Vivian Khor

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Eric Sherlock

INTROIT *Come and Find the Quiet Center* Chuck Bell

*Come and find the quiet center in the crowded lives we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be...*
- Shirley Erena Murray

*OPENING PRAYER Penny Atkin

One: God of Open Spaces, we are choked, clogged and cluttered.

All: Let us *make* room for You.

One: Draw us into this time of worship to assess our real needs.

All: Let us *find* room for You.

One: Help us clear out our hearts to find room for holy desires.

All: Let us *be* room for You.

One: In the name of Jesus, who invites us to wholeness.

All: Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you;

All: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another and pass the peace of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN *Sanctuary* (Insert)

TIME WITH CHILDREN Pastor Todd Atkins-Whitley

SCRIPTURE *Luke 12:13-34* Penny Atkin

SERMON Rev. Eric Sherlock

ANTHEM *Sing Me to Heaven* Daniel Gawthrop

*In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poets gloss.
Words alone are vain and vacant, and my heart is mute.
In response to aching silence, memory summons half-heard voices,
and my soul finds primal eloquence and wraps me in song, wraps me
in song.*

If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby.

If you would win my heart, sing me a love song.

If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem.

Sing me to heaven.

Touch in me all love and passion; pain and pleasure.

Touch in me grief and comfort, love and passion, pain and pleasure.

Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem.

Love me; Comfort me; Bring me to God.

Sing me a love song. Sing me to heaven.

- Jane Griner

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People Chuck Bell

*Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.*
- Shirley Erena Murray

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And
lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

TIME OF GIVING

Call To Offering

Offertory *The Gift to be Simple* arr. Dale Wood

*Doxology **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below ;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* #576

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *In the Spirit Let Us Travel* Chuck Bell

*In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.*
- Shirley Erena Murray

POSTLUDE *In a Landscape* John Cage

DURING THE SECOND HOUR



Members of the Finance Committee will be reviewing year to date financial results at **11AM** today in the Sanctuary.

All members and friends of DCC are encouraged to attend.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------|--|
| 8:30AM | - | 9:15AM | Choir Rehearsal |
| 9:30AM | - | 10:30AM | Godly Play |
| 9:15AM | - | 11:00AM | Childcare for children 4 & under in the Nursery |
| 9:30AM | - | 10:30AM | Worship |
| 10:30AM | - | 11:00AM | Time for Fellowship |
| 11:00AM | - | 12:15PM | Confirmation Class |
| 11:00AM | - | 12:00PM | Second Hour – Finance Committee Financials Review in Sanctuary |
| 12:00PM | - | 2:30PM | Celebration Bells Rehearsal |

THIS WEEK AT DCC

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|---------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 10:00AM | - | 12:00PM | Gift of Years: Women's Group |
| Wednesday | 12:45PM | - | 2:00PM | Pastor's Bible Study |
| Thursday | 11:00AM | - | 12:00PM | Spiritual Formation Group #3 |
| | 7:30PM | - | 9:00PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| Friday | 6:00PM | - | 9:00PM | TGIF (see announcements) |

EMMAUS TEAM 1

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Liturgist | Penny Atkin | Friendship Hosts | Nancy Dowell |
| | Sandra Leich | | Barb DeBarger |
| Ushers | Dottie & Bob Howell | Candle Lighter Greeters | Sereen Mahmood |
| | Tahir Mahmood | | Kimi DeBarger-Gestring |
| | | | Barb DeBarger |
| | | | Margaret Czajkowski |

Next week's team is **Emmaus Team 2**. Please call or email the office, with information by **noon** on **Wednesday, April 3**.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Godly Play Ministers: | Angie Ho Carolyn Courtright |
| Lock-Up Duty: | Brett Clark |
| Sound Technician: | Brett Clark |

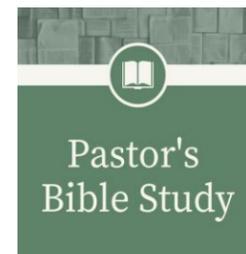
Flowers provided by:
The Emmaus Committee

Ministers The Entire Congregation

| | |
|--|--|
| The Rev. Eric Sherlock <i>Senior Pastor</i> | Pastor Todd Atkins-Whitley <i>Associate Pastor</i> |
| John Kendall Bailey <i>Music Director</i> | Mary-Marie Deauclaire <i>Handbell Director</i> |
| Elizabeth Setlak-von Thury <i>Operations Coordinator</i> | Blair Hansen <i>Office Administrator</i> |

Janice Inman
Dayspring Preschool Director
www.dayspringpreschool.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



All are welcome to join Rev. Eric for the **Pastor's Bible Study**. Beginning **Wednesday, April 3 from 12:45 PM-2:00 PM** we will begin a new series on the Old Testament.

If you are interested, please RSVP to Rev. Eric (eric@danvillechurch.org) so he can sign you up for the study and forward you the curriculum information. All questions, doubts and perspectives are welcome!

OUR PURPOSE

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

At Danville Congregational Church we welcome you to a progressive spiritual community that is open and affirming, celebrates differences, and encourages alternate views. We explore the Bible with curiosity and enthusiasm, taking it seriously but not literally. Taking Christ's call passionately to love our neighbor, we extend our faith into action for the betterment of all. Wherever you are on life's journey, we offer you a place of peace and hope.

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.

A NOTE TO WORSHIPERS

Please turn off your cell phone when you enter this sanctuary. Also, please move to the center of the row, so those who come in after you can more easily be seated. The left-hand section of pews as you enter the sanctuary has been designated for those who are free of scents and perfumes.

If you would like to use one of our listening assistance devices, please see the sound technician in the back of the sanctuary.

Following worship, please gather in **Koinonia** for refreshments and time with old and new friends.

First time visitor? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! We are glad you are here with us today. If you are interested in getting additional information about Danville Congregational Church, after the worship service, in the narthex, you will find someone holding a **red bag**. In the bag you will find helpful information about the church. We look forward to meeting you!

Child care for 4 years and younger is available from **9:15 – 11:00** today. Please always sign your child in and out of our Nursery. For safety reasons, we request that no child be left on the playground without appropriate supervision. Thank you!

Activity bags are available for children to use in worship. Children can pick up a bag and/or a clipboard from the basket at the back of the sanctuary when they come into worship and sit with their families in the pews. Please return the bags and clipboards to the basket at the end of worship.

The DCC sanctuary is available for meditation and quiet prayer during the week during normal business hours. Please feel free to come by any time — enter through the office.



Danville Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville CA 94526-4020

Phone: (925) 837-6944

www.danvillechurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Meditation for Busy Folk

Join us for an hour of spiritual refreshment for heart, mind, body and soul. Listen for the voice of God. Discover what is ours to hear. We will provide an open door for anyone who wants to try meditation—drop-in and attend one, two, three, or all four offerings! This meditation group will meet throughout the season of Lent:

- Saturday, April 13, 9am - 10am
- Monday, April 22, 7pm - 8pm

For questions or more information, please email Bob Hardy-hardyarts@gmail.com or Cheryl Pierson-cherbnb@gmail.com 650-315-9057.



The DCC Spring Men's Lunch series begins Thursday, April 11, 2019 at noon at the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon, and continues weekly for 6 meetings through May 17, 2019. All men are welcome.

As usual, we will have lunch together, catch up on each other's lives, and discuss the scripture planned for the following Sunday. Expect a lively discussion; one does not have to be an expert in the Bible to participate.

If you have questions and/or want to be on the email list for more information, please contact **Dave Hill** at dghill@sbcglobal.net.



Come wind down the week with our DCC friends at a regular TGIF party on **April 5 at 6:00PM**.

Join us for warm fellowship at this intergenerational fun gathering. Come alone or with your family and friends— all are welcome. **Details:**

-**Location:** Klassen Family Home (information in the church directory)

-**Time:** Open house from 6:00 to 9pm – Drop by for however long works for you

-**No RSVP necessary**, just bring a pizza or dish you'd like to share, enough that covers you or your family only, plus BYO (wine, beer, soda). We'll have salad and dessert.

-If you have questions – email/call Joyce Klassen: joyce.klassen@comcast.net



Poor People's Hearing Bay Area. Against Racism, Poverty, War Economy, Climate Change

Saturday, April 6, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, 1188 12th St. West Oakland

This Bay Area hearing will focus on homelessness, mass incarceration, and the criminalization of poverty. It is the Oakland stop on a statewide Poor People's Bus Tour from the Yurok Indian Nation in the North down to the U.S.-Mexico border. The Bus Tour is organized by the California Poor People's Campaign which is part of the National Poor People's Campaign.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is organizing tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

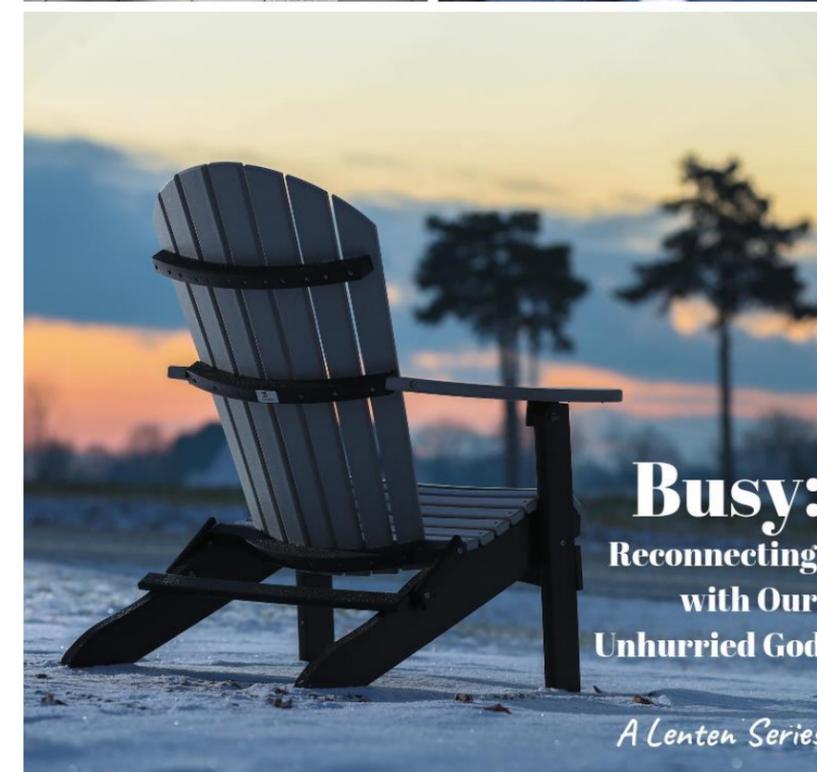


DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

March 31, 2019



Busy:
Reconnecting
with Our
Unhurried God

A Lenten Series

Lord, Prepare Me 701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

Chords: A7, D, A, G, Em7, D, A, A7, D, A, G, A7, D

Lord, Prepare Me 701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

Chords: A7, D, A, G, Em7, D, A, A7, D, A, G, A7, D

Lord, Prepare Me 701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

Chords: A7, D, A, G, Em7, D, A, A7, D, A, G, A7, D



More than we can imagine! This theme for the 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God’s children. For it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours!

You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone—neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger—for we are the church together
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence

And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. We can help—through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence to make this world ever more like the way God imagines it would be!

OGHS is administered by Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, in partnership with seven other Christian denominations, and provides support to people in over 100 countries. When you make a gift to the offering, you become a partner in refugee and disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally.

Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God’s! When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, your gifts do more than you can imagine!

Please write “OGHS” on your check made out to Danville Congregational Church or use a One Great Hour of Sharing envelope **TODAY Sunday, March 31** or when you are able.

**Imagining a better world,
Doug Leich, Outreach Commissioner**



More than we can imagine! This theme for the 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God’s children. For it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours!

You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone—neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger—for we are the church together
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence

And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. We can help—through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence to make this world ever more like the way God imagines it would be!

OGHS is administered by Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, in partnership with seven other Christian denominations, and provides support to people in over 100 countries. When you make a gift to the offering, you become a partner in refugee and disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally.

Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God’s! When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, your gifts do more than you can imagine!

Please write “OGHS” on your check made out to Danville Congregational Church or use a One Great Hour of Sharing envelope **TODAY Sunday, March 31** or when you are able.

**Imagining a better world,
Doug Leich, Outreach Commissioner**



More than we can imagine! This theme for the 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God’s children. For it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours!

You see, God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone—neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger—for we are the church together
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect
- Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence

And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. We can help—through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence to make this world ever more like the way God imagines it would be!

OGHS is administered by Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, in partnership with seven other Christian denominations, and provides support to people in over 100 countries. When you make a gift to the offering, you become a partner in refugee and disaster relief, and community development efforts of the UCC in the United States and internationally.

Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God’s! When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, your gifts do more than you can imagine!

Please write “OGHS” on your check made out to Danville Congregational Church or use a One Great Hour of Sharing envelope **TODAY Sunday, March 31**, or when you are able.

**Imagining a better world,
Doug Leich, Outreach Commissioner**



Easter Donations

The Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved one during Easter by making a donation. You may

do so by submitting a check to *Danville Congregational Church* and designating that it is for the Endowment Fund. Please place your check in the offering plate or give it to the office. In addition, please provide the following information for subsequent acknowledgment of your donation and return it to Bruce Hixon.

Name _____

In honor/memory of _____
(Please circle one)



Easter Donations

The Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved one during Easter by making a donation. You

may do so by submitting a check to *Danville Congregational Church* and designating that it is for the Endowment Fund. Please place your check in the offering plate or give it to the office. In addition, please provide the following information for subsequent acknowledgment of your donation and return it to Bruce Hixon.

Name _____

In honor/memory of _____
(Please circle one)



Easter Donations

The Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved one during Easter by making a donation. You may

do so by submitting a check to *Danville Congregational Church* and designating that it is for the Endowment Fund. Please place your check in the offering plate or give it to the office. In addition, please provide the following information for subsequent acknowledgment of your donation and return it to Bruce Hixon.

Name _____

In honor/memory of _____
(Please circle one)



Spring flowers grace our sanctuary with contributions from our congregation on Easter Day. Donations can be given to Kim Michaud, Randy, or Janis Jang. You can also place it in the offering plate or give it to the office. For checks, please write "Easter Flower." An email will be sent to you to acknowledge your gift.

Your Name: _____

Please circle one: in honor of _____ in memory of _____ Amount: _____

Name of Loved One: _____



Spring flowers grace our sanctuary with contributions from our congregation on Easter Day. Donations can be given to Kim Michaud, Randy, or Janis Jang. You can also place it in the offering plate or give it to the office. For checks, please write "Easter Flower." An email will be sent to you to acknowledge your gift.

Your Name: _____

Please circle one: in honor of _____ in memory of _____ Amount: _____

Name of Loved One: _____



Spring flowers grace our sanctuary with contributions from our congregation on Easter Day. Donations can be given to Kim Michaud, Randy, or Janis Jang. You can also place it in the offering plate or give it to the office. For checks, please write "Easter Flower." An email will be sent to you to acknowledge your gift.

Your Name: _____

Please circle one: in honor of _____ in memory of _____ Amount: _____

Name of Loved One: _____



Easter Baskets for HIV Patients
Sign-up began March 17
Baskets due April 18

This will be 31 years in which we provide Easter Baskets for people in our community who have HIV. Staff, at agencies we have served in the past, have told us how very much they and their clients appreciate our generosity and efforts to help someone with HIV have a pleasant Easter dinner. Perhaps more important has been the expression of compassion and love to those afflicted by this terrible disease. This year we are coordinating with the Rainbow Community Center in Concord to share our baskets with HIV patients and other LGBTQ persons who need assistance and some sunshine in their lives.

If you wish to prepare a family basket, please provide a sturdy basket, plastic tub, laundry basket, or decorated box containing the following for a family of 2 to 4 people. (Nice baskets can be found at your local thrift stores!)

- Cooked ham or turkey (not too big, please!)
- Canned green vegetable
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Dinner rolls and butter or margarine (please package items for the refrigerator in a bag with a tag to match your basket)
- Fresh fruit
- Cookies/cake for dessert
- Sparkling cider, apple juice, and/or mineral water (NO wine or alcoholic beverages)

Optional:

- Easter candy (chocolate is ok!)
- Easter eggs (hard boiled in a crush-proof container)
- Book
- Cheese & crackers
- A card or note

To participate, sign up on the sheet that will be posted in Koinonia Hall, and plan to drop off your baskets at the church no later than **Thursday, April 18 at 10AM**. If you have items for your basket that require refrigeration, place those items in the church kitchen refrigerator with your name attached and leave a message attached to your basket listing the items and your name so that we can get everything back together properly before delivering the baskets. Thank you for your caring spirit and wonderful generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Hixon at **(KathieHixon@comcast.net)**.



Easter Baskets for HIV Patients
Sign-up began March 17
Baskets due April 18

This will be 31 years in which we provide Easter Baskets for people in our community who have HIV. Staff, at agencies we have served in the past, have told us how very much they and their clients appreciate our generosity and efforts to help someone with HIV have a pleasant Easter dinner. Perhaps more important has been the expression of compassion and love to those afflicted by this terrible disease. This year we are coordinating with the Rainbow Community Center in Concord to share our baskets with HIV patients and other LGBTQ persons who need assistance and some sunshine in their lives.

If you wish to prepare a family basket, please provide a sturdy basket, plastic tub, laundry basket, or decorated box containing the following for a family of 2 to 4 people. (Nice baskets can be found at your local thrift stores!)

- Cooked ham or turkey (not too big, please!)
- Canned green vegetable
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Dinner rolls and butter or margarine (please package items for the refrigerator in a bag with a tag to match your basket)
- Fresh fruit
- Cookies/cake for dessert
- Sparkling cider, apple juice, and/or mineral water (NO wine or alcoholic beverages)

Optional:

- Easter candy (chocolate is ok!)
- Easter eggs (hard boiled in a crush-proof container)
- Book
- Cheese & crackers
- A card or note

To participate, sign up on the sheet that will be posted in Koinonia Hall, and plan to drop off your baskets at the church no later than **Thursday, April 18 at 10AM**. If you have items for your basket that require refrigeration, place those items in the church kitchen refrigerator with your name attached and leave a message attached to your basket listing the items and your name so that we can get everything back together properly before delivering the baskets. Thank you for your caring spirit and wonderful generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Hixon at **(KathieHixon@comcast.net)**.



Easter Baskets for HIV Patients
Sign-up began March 17
Baskets due April 18

This will be 31 years in which we provide Easter Baskets for people in our community who have HIV. Staff, at agencies we have served in the past, have told us how very much they and their clients appreciate our generosity and efforts to help someone with HIV have a pleasant Easter dinner. Perhaps more important has been the expression of compassion and love to those afflicted by this terrible disease. This year we are coordinating with the Rainbow Community Center in Concord to share our baskets with HIV patients and other LGBTQ persons who need assistance and some sunshine in their lives.

If you wish to prepare a family basket, please provide a sturdy basket, plastic tub, laundry basket, or decorated box containing the following for a family of 2 to 4 people. (Nice baskets can be found at your local thrift stores!)

- Cooked ham or turkey (not too big, please!)
- Canned green vegetable
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Dinner rolls and butter or margarine (please package items for the refrigerator in a bag with a tag to match your basket)
- Fresh fruit
- Cookies/cake for dessert
- Sparkling cider, apple juice, and/or mineral water (NO wine or alcoholic beverages)

Optional:

- Easter candy (chocolate is ok!)
- Easter eggs (hard boiled in a crush-proof container)
- Book
- Cheese & crackers
- A card or note

To participate, sign up on the sheet that will be posted in Koinonia Hall, and plan to drop off your baskets at the church no later than **Thursday, April 18 at 10AM**. If you have items for your basket that require refrigeration, place those items in the church kitchen refrigerator with your name attached and leave a message attached to your basket listing the items and your name so that we can get everything back together properly before delivering the baskets. Thank you for your caring spirit and wonderful generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Hixon at **(KathieHixon@comcast.net)**.



Helping to Accomplish the Sister Parish Program Vision through Prayer



A joint prayer ministry of San Antonio Catholic Church in San Antonio, Guatemala and Danville Congregational United Church of Christ in Danville, California, U.S.A.

Our sisters and brothers in Guatemala are facing some serious issues, especially this spring as they hold a presidential election. Included in the prayer concerns on the next page is a statement about these issues. Please reflect on the vision of the Sister Parish Program as you lift up the prayer concerns.

The Sister Parish Vision

We believe the Kingdom of God is already present but not complete, and the liberating Gospel calls us to work together to build this Kingdom through:

- **Consciousness-Raising** ~ We will seek to transform the world by sharing each other's experiences so that we can better understand and overcome the sources of injustice and oppression.
- **Solidarity** ~ By putting ourselves in the reality of others and by building an interdependent community of brothers and sisters within and among countries, we will promote mutual respect and dignity for all people, advocate for human rights, and work for social and economic justice.

Joint Prayer Ministry Goals

- 1) To lift up the Sister Parish Vision before the members of both congregations, thereby helping them become more aware of and committed to this important ministry of the two churches.
- 2) To help members become more aware of the sources of injustice and oppression of concern to the members of the two churches.
- 3) To help invoke the power of God in resolving the concerns raised by members of the two congregations.
- 4) To further stimulate commitments of each congregation's members to become engaged in actions focused on building the Kingdom of God.



Helping to Accomplish the Sister Parish Program Vision through Prayer



A joint prayer ministry of San Antonio Catholic Church in San Antonio, Guatemala and Danville Congregational United Church of Christ in Danville, California, U.S.A.

Our sisters and brothers in Guatemala are facing some serious issues, especially this spring as they hold a presidential election. Included in the prayer concerns on the next page is a statement about these issues. Please reflect on the vision of the Sister Parish Program as you lift up the prayer concerns.

The Sister Parish Vision

We believe the Kingdom of God is already present but not complete, and the liberating Gospel calls us to work together to build this Kingdom through:

- **Consciousness-Raising** ~ We will seek to transform the world by sharing each other's experiences so that we can better understand and overcome the sources of injustice and oppression.
- **Solidarity** ~ By putting ourselves in the reality of others and by building an interdependent community of brothers and sisters within and among countries, we will promote mutual respect and dignity for all people, advocate for human rights, and work for social and economic justice.

Joint Prayer Ministry Goals

1. To lift up the Sister Parish Vision before the members of both congregations, thereby helping them become more aware of and committed to this important ministry of the two churches.
2. To help members become more aware of the sources of injustice and oppression of concern to the members of the two churches.
3. To help invoke the power of God in resolving the concerns raised by members of the two congregations.
4. To further stimulate commitments of each congregation's members to become engaged in actions focused on building the Kingdom of God.



Helping to Accomplish the Sister Parish Program Vision through Prayer



A joint prayer ministry of San Antonio Catholic Church in San Antonio, Guatemala and Danville Congregational United Church of Christ in Danville, California, U.S.A.

Our sisters and brothers in Guatemala are facing some serious issues, especially this spring as they hold a presidential election. Included in the prayer concerns on the next page is a statement about these issues. Please reflect on the vision of the Sister Parish Program as you lift up the prayer concerns.

The Sister Parish Vision

We believe the Kingdom of God is already present but not complete, and the liberating Gospel calls us to work together to build this Kingdom through:

- **Consciousness-Raising** ~ We will seek to transform the world by sharing each other's experiences so that we can better understand and overcome the sources of injustice and oppression.
- **Solidarity** ~ By putting ourselves in the reality of others and by building an interdependent community of brothers and sisters within and among countries, we will promote mutual respect and dignity for all people, advocate for human rights, and work for social and economic justice.

Joint Prayer Ministry Goals

1. To lift up the Sister Parish Vision before the members of both congregations, thereby helping them become more aware of and committed to this important ministry of the two churches.
2. To help members become more aware of the sources of injustice and oppression of concern to the members of the two churches.
3. To help invoke the power of God in resolving the concerns raised by members of the two congregations.
4. To further stimulate commitments of each congregation's members to become engaged in actions focused on building the Kingdom of God.

Prayer Concerns

The Situation:

Please keep the people of Guatemala in your prayers as tensions run high leading up to the national elections in June. At risk are recent gains in prosecuting government corruption, violent crime, and human rights abuses, as well as efforts to protect the environment. In 2018, 28 human rights workers were assassinated. The President, Jimmy Morales, who cannot run for a second term, has repeatedly tried to expel the Colombian prosecutor who led the highly successful International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala and his international staff whose investigations helped successfully prosecute corrupt government officials, members of organized crime, and businessmen in recent years. President Morales has sought to protect himself and others close to him from similar prosecution and has threatened to release those who have been found guilty. The Guatemalan Congress has also proposed amnesty for crimes committed during the war in an attempt to free former members of the military now in jail for their participation in massacres and other crimes against humanity.

In the Quiche highlands, where our sister parish is located, the Guatemalan government continues its practice of allowing transnational corporations to mine for precious minerals and construct hydro-power dams. These unregulated projects risk polluting the environment and threatening the water sources needed for sustaining life. At great risk, Pedro, one of the lay leaders of our San Antonio congregation, is a member of the self-determination movement of indigenous people who are actively advocating for indigenous rights to information and consultation about projects that affect them. Despite difficulties, Guatemalans continue to fight for the well-being of their families, their communities, and their precious natural resources.

The dire situation is reflected in Pedro's 2017 appeal for prayer that we need to continue to lift up before God.

Pedro wrote, “Some of you at DCC know about our struggle here in Cunen. I ask for prayers for myself and my family. We are at the front of the struggle for the communities and our people. The issue of water is being raised in proposed legislation in Congress. We are fighting for our people. Please pray that one day there will be justice when it comes to water. Water is life and it should be recognized as a human right. We are also working to protect the environment in general. This work has its risks and there are times when suddenly I am very motivated and others when I lose hope.... Sometimes because of the risks involved in the struggle one thinks about looking for someplace to rest or about leaving for a while. I've thought about it, but my family is here and I can't. But I ask God to help me and that I find what I need with my friends and family.”

Other appeals:

Pedro and Guadalupe are asking for prayers for their young granddaughter, Maria Dalila Chic Sica, who had complicated brain surgery this March. Please pray that the surgery goes well and pray for the family, especially the little girl's mother Miriam.

Please pray for Olga's continued efforts to attend university. She is taking a year off and, as of now, plans to re-take the remaining entrance exams at the public university in April.

Let us keep Carrie Stengel, the executive director of the Sister Parish Program in Guatemala, in our prayers at this time. Thankfully, Carrie reports, “My family and I are doing well - just trying to keep up with little Emilio, who is almost 2 years old and in constant motion.”

Prayer Concerns

The Situation:

Please keep the people of Guatemala in your prayers as tensions run high leading up to the national elections in June. At risk are recent gains in prosecuting government corruption, violent crime, and human rights abuses, as well as efforts to protect the environment. In 2018, 28 human rights workers were assassinated. The President, Jimmy Morales, who cannot run for a second term, has repeatedly tried to expel the Colombian prosecutor who led the highly successful International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala and his international staff whose investigations helped successfully prosecute corrupt government officials, members of organized crime, and businessmen in recent years. President Morales has sought to protect himself and others close to him from similar prosecution and has threatened to release those who have been found guilty. The Guatemalan Congress has also proposed amnesty for crimes committed during the war in an attempt to free former members of the military now in jail for their participation in massacres and other crimes against humanity.

In the Quiche highlands, where our sister parish is located, the Guatemalan government continues its practice of allowing transnational corporations to mine for precious minerals and construct hydro-power dams. These unregulated projects risk polluting the environment and threatening the water sources needed for sustaining life. At great risk, Pedro, one of the lay leaders of our San Antonio congregation, is a member of the self-determination movement of indigenous people who are actively advocating for indigenous rights to information and consultation about projects that affect them. Despite difficulties, Guatemalans continue to fight for the well-being of their families, their communities, and their precious natural resources.

The dire situation is reflected in Pedro's 2017 appeal for prayer that we need to continue to lift up before God.

Pedro wrote, “Some of you at DCC know about our struggle here in Cunen. I ask for prayers for myself and my family. We are at the front of the struggle for the communities and our people. The issue of water is being raised in proposed legislation in Congress. We are fighting for our people. Please pray that one day there will be justice when it comes to water. Water is life and it should be recognized as a human right. We are also working to protect the environment in general. This work has its risks and there are times when suddenly I am very motivated and others when I lose hope.... Sometimes because of the risks involved in the struggle one thinks about looking for someplace to rest or about leaving for a while. I've thought about it, but my family is here and I can't. But I ask God to help me and that I find what I need with my friends and family.”

Other appeals:

Pedro and Guadalupe are asking for prayers for their young granddaughter, Maria Dalila Chic Sica, who had complicated brain surgery this March. Please pray that the surgery goes well and pray for the family, especially the little girl's mother Miriam.

Please pray for Olga's continued efforts to attend university. She is taking a year off and, as of now, plans to re-take the remaining entrance exams at the public university in April.

Let us keep Carrie Stengel, the executive director of the Sister Parish Program in Guatemala, in our prayers at this time. Thankfully, Carrie reports, “My family and I are doing well - just trying to keep up with little Emilio, who is almost 2 years old and in constant motion.”

Prayer Concerns

The Situation:

Please keep the people of Guatemala in your prayers as tensions run high leading up to the national elections in June. At risk are recent gains in prosecuting government corruption, violent crime, and human rights abuses, as well as efforts to protect the environment. In 2018, 28 human rights workers were assassinated. The President, Jimmy Morales, who cannot run for a second term, has repeatedly tried to expel the Colombian prosecutor who led the highly successful International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala and his international staff whose investigations helped successfully prosecute corrupt government officials, members of organized crime, and businessmen in recent years. President Morales has sought to protect himself and others close to him from similar prosecution and has threatened to release those who have been found guilty. The Guatemalan Congress has also proposed amnesty for crimes committed during the war in an attempt to free former members of the military now in jail for their participation in massacres and other crimes against humanity.

In the Quiche highlands, where our sister parish is located, the Guatemalan government continues its practice of allowing transnational corporations to mine for precious minerals and construct hydro-power dams. These unregulated projects risk polluting the environment and threatening the water sources needed for sustaining life. At great risk, Pedro, one of the lay leaders of our San Antonio congregation, is a member of the self-determination movement of indigenous people who are actively advocating for indigenous rights to information and consultation about projects that affect them. Despite difficulties, Guatemalans continue to fight for the well-being of their families, their communities, and their precious natural resources.

The dire situation is reflected in Pedro's 2017 appeal for prayer that we need to continue to lift up before God.

Pedro wrote, “Some of you at DCC know about our struggle here in Cunen. I ask for prayers for myself and my family. We are at the front of the struggle for the communities and our people. The issue of water is being raised in proposed legislation in Congress. We are fighting for our people. Please pray that one day there will be justice when it comes to water. Water is life and it should be recognized as a human right. We are also working to protect the environment in general. This work has its risks and there are times when suddenly I am very motivated and others when I lose hope.... Sometimes because of the risks involved in the struggle one thinks about looking for someplace to rest or about leaving for a while. I've thought about it, but my family is here and I can't. But I ask God to help me and that I find what I need with my friends and family.”

Other appeals:

Pedro and Guadalupe are asking for prayers for their young granddaughter, Maria Dalila Chic Sica, who had complicated brain surgery this March. Please pray that the surgery goes well and pray for the family, especially the little girl's mother Miriam.

Please pray for Olga's continued efforts to attend university. She is taking a year off and, as of now, plans to re-take the remaining entrance exams at the public university in April.

Let us keep Carrie Stengel, the executive director of the Sister Parish Program in Guatemala, in our prayers at this time. Thankfully, Carrie reports, “My family and I are doing well - just trying to keep up with little Emilio, who is almost 2 years old and in constant motion.”