

Those Who Dream

Beloved friends,

The psalmist writes, “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like *those who dream*.” This Advent and Christmas, we will ask the question: what does it look like to *live like those who dream*? Throughout scripture, especially during Advent and Christmas, we read stories of dreamers—prophets and psalmists; John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, and Anna; shepherds and Magi. Each of these characters found in scripture received, discovered, and responded to God’s dream for the world. In the season of Advent, we are invited to step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray they shape our reality—what is God’s dream for us in this moment in human history?

This Advent and Christmas season at DCC is for the dreamer in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a more just world for all. This season is for anyone who dreams of comfort and for anyone who has given up on their dreams. It’s for those of us whose dreams have been crushed in this past year—a year of disorientation, loss and grief. And this season is for those of us who know that dreams take time.

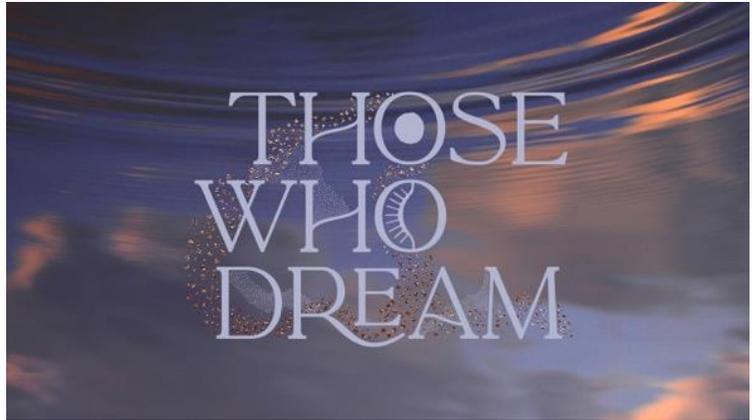
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I hope you will join us as we dream alongside the prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. We will continue to worship on Zoom every **Sunday morning throughout the Advent season at 9:30 a.m.** On **Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.** we will gather on Zoom for a **Longest Night Service**—a service of remembrance and grief, prayer and lament for those who find this year particularly difficult. Finally, on Christmas Eve, please join us at **5:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve service on Zoom.** The service will be recorded so that you can watch at a later time, if you so choose.



Church, my prayer for you this Advent and Christmas is that you will hear the invitation to join us, to step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams for us in this moment, to trust God's deep wisdom that will guide us from the disorientation we have felt this past year, and to pray and work for the dreams we dream to shape our reality.

See you online,
Pastor Eric

A word about Pastoral Care...

During this time of extended isolation and physical distancing, many of us are grieving, anxious, or filled with uncertainty. If you are in need of a listening ear, someone to pray with, or pastoral care, please reach out to Pastor Eric or Pastor Todd. While our pastors are not professional counselors or therapists, they are able to hold space for you and pray with you to process whatever is on your heart and mind during this season.

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have a need:

Pastor Eric: eric@danvillechurch.org

Pastor Todd: todd@danvillechurch.org



Advent and Christmas 2020 at DCC

This Advent and Christmas season, we invite you to collect items to make your own Advent wreath at home. We will be lighting a new candle each week in our time of worship and invite you to join us in lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy and love, while we await the arrival of the Christ child and the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. All you need is a simple wreath and 5 candles—four candles for around the perimeter of your wreath, with a single candle in the center of the wreath for the Christ candle. Within our tradition, the color blue is typically used for three of the candles, with a rose or pink candle for the fourth candle. The center candle is typically white.

Update from Pastor Todd

As we prepare to move into the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, my heart feels a little downcast. Maybe yours does too?

Gathering around the table with loved ones has been deemed unsafe and unwise.

Deeply meaningful traditions we once shared together in person will be missed: watching our children and teens lighting the candles on our Advent wreath, baking cookies (and getting sprinkles everywhere!), and our joy-full pageant filled with kids and adults dressed in costumes that harken back to that ancient manger scene

But then I perceive my heart start to smile—ever so slightly at first—as the warmth of my space heater reminds me of the warmth of our long summer and fall. Gathering multiple times at our “satellite location”—Sycamore Valley Park—our children and young people made new



memories together. Sure—we were masked and couldn't hug each other; but we made up for it with crafts, story-telling, games of tag with pool noodles (even Steve's pup Mia got in on the action!), scavenger hunts, and hide-and-seek. [We're actually



still looking for Craig—let us know if you see him!] And as I reflect more deeply, my heart's smile grows wider as I think about

our fun Halloween gatherings full of creative costumes, laughter, and an intention set by our young people to bless another family in the process. [Your generosity of spirit and financial resources encouraged not only our children but raised almost \$1000 to help a migrant family in our community!]

And so perhaps I will remember—perhaps our children and young people will remember—not what

we have lost during this season but what we gained.

Maybe they, too, will remember the fun of a Halloween Costume Runway that was all about helping children far away in Guatemala have food to eat.



Perhaps we will remember the sacredness of not only the acorns that fall from the trees but the ground they fall upon and the First Peoples who cared for the earth. Perhaps we will remember not that we were masked and physically distant but that we got to be together in the warmth of the sun.

Indeed, we miss being together in person; and the fatigue of Zoom is real. Yet through the benevolence of God's Holy Spirit and the

blessing of technology, we are still very much together. And we will continue to make new memories as we move together into a new year—dreaming not of what we've lost but where we are going and the new things God is going to do with and among and through us. *Even in a pandemic.*

Friends, I pray you are blessed with many opportunities that make your heart smile—and that you continue to be about making each others' hearts—and the hearts of our children and young people—smile, even as you have been doing all along.



Angie Ho Rubin
September 14 at 7:52 PM · 🌐
Like and Save got this care package from church today! If you're looking for a village for your kids, a place where everyone is accepted, no matter your race, religion, love preferences, sexual orientation, check out danville Congregational church, a place where all are accepted.



So much love to you all,
Pastor T

Church Council Update: Getting Back to Church

By Trish Moosbrugger, Moderator

As you can imagine, Eric and I converse on this topic frequently. We are working with our ministers and church leadership on the following priorities through the end of 2020:

- Continue to improve/expand/enrich our virtual offerings for worship for adults, youth and children. Select and present worship themes that reinforce the message of "Be the Church" no matter what or where that happens to be. Continue to upgrade technology and resources to support a successful long-term, permanent online presence for worship, eventually transitioning to a dynamic and engaging combination in-person/virtual offering.
- Continue to offer limited in-person, small group offerings including youth and children with their parents' permission, and adult offerings as interest leads these groups to arrange individually. If there is a particular activity you think would be valuable to consider for a small group of adults, such as a prayer group that meets outside or a bible study, we would be happy to support you in starting something like that up.
- Support the safe, healthy and successful reopening of Dayspring Preschool including a preparedness plan for recovering operations should a positive Covid case/outbreak occur on site and/or shelter-in-place orders be reinstated.
- Support the safe, healthy and successful reopening of the church office including its own preparedness plan.
- Ensure the financial health of the church, including exploring options for opening the building for tenant use, including janitorial/HVAC/security issues. This effort is being led by the Tenant Relations team, Finance chair and Treasurer.



The Church Council each month has been "taking the pulse" of the congregation to assess whether we are ready to consider returning to in-person worship in the sanctuary — both logistically and also as individual congregants. The takeaway from last month's council meeting was that it was too soon for us to consider this next step for in-person worship.

Again, I do appreciate the conversation around this important question. We're committed to moving forward with thoughtfulness and intention.

Dayspring Preschool Update

Charlie Hasselbrink, Dayspring Treasurer

Dayspring is happy to announce that our new Director, **Ms. Sonna Dhamrait**, started November 19. A resident of San Ramon, Sonna was previously Director at Imagination Academy in Antioch. Sonna brings a deep interest and understanding of research on curriculum and socialization; and at the same time has a professional background in HR that we think will help her shine as a developer of teaching talent. She is thrilled to be starting on this new adventure closer to home, and based on our parent interviewers on our panel, we are confident she will do great things for our children and our Dayspring community.

Many thanks to our Dayspring board for the many hours devoted to ensuring Dayspring's continued success during our transition. In particular Barb DeBarger, Nicole Noga, and Penny Davis spent many hours — in Barb's case, practically full-time — onsite at the preschool supporting its operations during these last few weeks. We are blessed to have so much expertise and devotion in our community!



DCC News & Notables

Winter Nights: Vital Support Needed

By Richard Stein



Year after year, as part of a program called **Winter Nights**, several congregations in Contra Costa County have opened their churches and synagogues for two-week periods to provide lodging and meals during the winter months for individuals and families that would otherwise be homeless. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many faith communities can't open their facilities, so a smaller number of them will provide lodging and meals for longer periods of time, with some meals being provided by the remaining congregations serving as co-hosts.

This year, the San Damiano Retreat Center has agreed to provide lodging between November 30 and December 27 if area churches can bring meals to their site. The Outreach Commission has committed DCC to serve as a co-host, providing meals -- hot dinners delivered to San Damiano along with supplies for breakfasts and lunches -- on **Thursday, December 10 and Friday, December 11.**

The dinners must be provided by a restaurant or commercial kitchen (meals prepared at home by church members cannot be accepted), so this year most of our Winter Nights participation will be provided through financial contributions. We will need a couple of shoppers for the breakfast and lunch supplies. This year, with our financial support, Carol Gilliland's *A Lovable Feast*, a commercial kitchen, will provide dinners on both nights.

The Outreach Commission has designated **Winter Nights** and **Hope Solutions** to split this year's **Thanksgiving Offering**. To contribute to the Winter Nights program, you can donate through the church's website, designating your contribution for either Winter Nights or Thanksgiving Offering. Another option is to send a check to the church designated as above. For more information about this critical program, see page 11.

Member's Corner

(In this new section, we highlight how DCC members have been making the best of the pandemic. For more stories, see page 12.)



Besides more board games at home and more walks outside, this pandemic got our family out of the house and into the garden. We cleaned up an old planter box, and planted tomatoes, radishes (from seed) and strawberries. Gilbert and the kids built a cage so the squirrels wouldn't get to them first. It was exciting to watch it all grow and eat the ripe produce. Our kids also planted moo fliers from seed, which are like a white morning glory. They have really enjoyed all the planting.

We have also tended a plot in the community garden at Heather Farms Park near our home in Walnut Creek. We have spent many hours there planting, watering, gardening, admiring the other plots, and observing the coming and going of lizards and birds. Serena loved the cherry tomatoes, and we are still eating carrots from a late harvest!

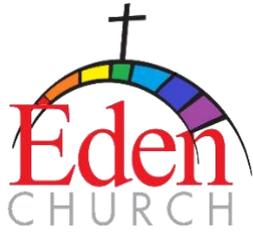
This plot belongs to my employer, RecycleSmart, and because of our involvement in composting classes, a lot of compost has been mixed into the soil. We discovered so many unexpected blooms that we hadn't planted, including giant sunflowers, lots of basil, and many tomato plants. There have also been two new additions to our home. First, there's the hand-me-down trampoline from Gilbert's uncle. That has been so much fun!

And we now have a laser printer. That's an essential item when your house is not just a home but also a workplace and school.

While we definitely need more farming experience, we have learned a lot and our family has really enjoyed it. I'm now working from an office, so I can't cook as much as when I was working from home. But I may get back to it soon, as everyone is clamoring for my Thai sticky rice!

Jen Faught

“Nonprofit of the Year” Seeks Volunteers



By Doug Leich

There are many opportunities for volunteers to assist people in our communities who have been impacted by COVID-19 and the resulting economic slow-down. Our friends at Eden UCC in Hayward –

recently named a “2020 California Nonprofit of the Year” – serve the Cherryland neighborhood, one of the lowest-income neighborhoods in Alameda County, through a number of community initiatives. Here are Eden’s descriptions of a few of the initiatives currently underway at Eden Church that are in need of compassionate volunteers:

Shelter-In-Place (SIP) Food Security:

Drivers/delivery persons are needed for weekly contactless food delivery to residents who should stay home for health reasons. We are currently delivering food around noon on Mondays and supertime on Thursdays. We also welcome [cash contributions](#) to [Comida para Cherryland](#), so that we can buy groceries, grocery bags, and equipment that aren't provided to us by our suppliers.

Isolation and Quarantine Support: Drivers/delivery persons needed for weekly contactless delivery of food, PPE, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene products to persons or families who are COVID+, and/or symptomatic for COVID-19. We also welcome drop-offs, in any amount, of cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products. Note: the most sought-after cleaning supply in Cherryland is Clorox wipes.

Eden Area Scholarship Fund: For graduates of Eden Area high schools who are pursuing higher education. Preference will be given to students who are undocumented, who live below the federal poverty line, and who have been active in Eden Church programs. We offer mentoring opportunities for young people who are applying for college and scholarships. Volunteers don't need adults who have mentored kids through these processes, would be great candidates for these roles to speak Spanish because the students are bilingual.

Joyce and John Klassen drove a weekly food-delivery route from May through August, picking up the meals to deliver at Eden Church and delivering to 40 or more homes in the Eden neighborhood. If you are interested in

volunteering and would like more information, you are welcome to contact Joyce and John about their experience. You can also contact **Rev. Arlene Nehring of Eden UCC** at 550-582-9533 to learn about specific volunteer opportunities, or send an email about your interest to office@edenucc.com.



PFLAG Monthly Meetings on Zoom

PFLAG Danville-San Ramon Valley monthly support meetings, now on Zoom, are held on the third Monday of every month from 7-9pm. This month, Dr John Malloy, new superintendent for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, will be the guest speaker. For more information, contact **Kathie Hixon**.

Celebration Bells Are Ringing



The Celebration Bells have been zooming on Mondays since April. We attend virtual workshops with handbell ringers from around the country, learning how they prepare music and virtually perform during the pandemic. We have started playing Bell Tree solos and recording individual ringers outdoors on the patio next to Kairos Hall, following strict safety protocols. We hope to move indoors when DCC can allow us to spread out and rehearse in Koinonia Hall.

Mary Marie Deauclaire

Members Corner

Here’s a highlight for our family from the pandemic: we get to attend worship with my mother-in-law and my mom! They love another opportunity to see us and we love seeing them. It's hard being away from parents/grandparents who live far away, but this is one bright spot that DCC offers us every week!



Amy Furber Dobson

DCC Virtual Choir on Zoom

What we see and hear for a few minutes on a Sunday takes John Kendall Bailey about 40 hours to pull together. Here, John explains what it takes to bring our wonderful choir to life on Zoom.



It all starts with the choice of the right music, one that reflects the scriptures and themes of the service, but that is also feasible for our choir's size and abilities. Under these unique and challenging circumstances, one thing that can't be overlooked is this: the choir doesn't have the opportunity to rehearse together!

I send the choir a professional recording of the piece, so they can start to familiarize themselves with the music. Then Gabrielle and I make audio recordings of ourselves separately singing each of the individual choral parts. Gabrielle records the soprano and alto parts, and I record the tenor and bass parts. I then mix these four audio parts together to create recordings for the choir members to sing along to, with their part balanced louder in the mix to help them learn and sing their part correctly.

I also make four separate recordings of me conducting along with the piece, one for each voice part, giving cues and mouthing words to help them sing correctly and in the right places. I synchronize the audio and video recordings together, so choir members have a complete audio/visual tool to help them record their own voices.

Each choir member takes their video recording and practices singing along with it until they feel confident to record it. While watching the video of me conducting, and using headphones or earbuds to listen to the audio of the piece with their part sung prominently, they sing along with their part while recording themselves on their iPhone. When they are satisfied with their recording, they upload it to Google Drive and share it with me.

Once I have all individual choir members' videos, I separate the audio portion of their recordings and synchronize them by lining up all of the waveforms so that they begin at the same time. I also adjust the volume of all of the voices to create a sense of vocal blend -- something they could do themselves in person, but can't when they have no connection to the other voices in their sections. I can also clean up the sound quality of their recordings by reducing background and other noise. I do all this first with each voice part (synchronizing and balancing all the sopranos' recordings, then the altos, the tenors, and the basses). Once I have a great mix of each separate section, I then mix and balance all four parts together to create a rich choral sound.

That's just the audio - then I have to create the video portion. For our first two videos, I used iMovie - not generally an app that anyone had thought to use for this purpose, but I found a way around the limitations of the software. (For future videos, DCC has approved the purchase of professional software that should make this part a lot easier.)

Most virtual ensemble videos you see are created with software that takes all the individual videos and instantly slots them into a grid, looking like The Brady Bunch or Hollywood Squares. Unfortunately, iMovie can't do that. The most it can do is to take an initial video ('A') and allow you to add a second video ('B') inside of it - as a smaller "picture within a picture."



I use a picture of the choir area of the sanctuary as the backdrop, and insert my first singer's video in the top left corner of the video. I synchronize their singing and mouth to the soprano-alto-tenor-bass (SATB) recording I had made of Gabrielle and I singing all four voice parts, but I mute the audio, as I will later add the final beautiful audio mix I had already created. I also create other video effects, like fading their video in as they appear at the beginning and fade out at end of the piece. That's as far as iMovie allows... for one singer!

The workaround I discovered was to export that video of 'A' with inserted 'B' as a finished file (call it 'C'). Then I start a new video project, importing that first final video ('C') to use as the initial video (the new 'A'), and insert the next singer's video (a new 'B') as a picture within a picture, next to the one singer already there. Then that video, now with two singers, is exported, and used for the next new video, where I insert the third singer. This process continues until all the singers are present - up to 20 iterations of that process. Once all the videos are incorporated and synchronized, I add the balanced audio mix back in and synchronize it with the finished video. after about 40 hours of work, the final video is complete!

It is quite an epic process—but the results make it all worth the effort.

[You can re-experience the DCC Choir's virtual performance of Agnus Dei from Mass in G Major here.](#)

DCC Diaconate: Adapting to a Changing Time

"Friends, select from among yourselves seven...of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task [of taking food to the widows]." — Excerpt from Acts 6:1-6

This quote, taken from a 2013 article "Deacons Doing Dishes," appears on the United Church of Christ website. It talks about the early work performed by church deacons.

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means servant. DCC bylaws guide the Diaconate work "to aid and advise the Ministers and the Council, to stand with and listen to persons in the congregation, and to provide special ministries of reconciliation, comfort and inspiration."



At Danville Congregational Church, our deacons support the work of Pastors Eric and Todd to provide needed care and service to DCC members and our larger community. Activities and services that your deacons provide include:

- Serving communion on communion Sunday;
- Visiting homebound members in their homes, hospitals or care homes, and sharing communion by prearrangement;
- Assembling spring and fall care packages for college students;
- Delivering Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias to house-bound members;
- Assisting clergy during worship with Godspeed service;
- Assisting families and pastors with the planning of memorial services and receptions;
- Supporting pastors in the coordination of church member weddings;
- Supporting prayer shawl ministry with funds and deliveries;
- Meeting quarterly with and supporting members who consider a call to ordained ministry;
- Sending cards of appreciation to members for acts of kindness, encouragement, acknowledgement of special achievements, and special birthdays or anniversaries;
- Acknowledging and tracking incoming and outgoing memorial funds;
- Receiving and sharing confidential prayer requests and emails with the prayer team;
- Contributing articles and announcements to the "Good News" newsletter;
- Identifying opportunities to connect the wider congregation with the Diaconate;
- Reviewing member attendance, managing the active member list, and reaching out to inactive members;
- Maintaining historic list of deacons with years of service.

In this age of the Covid-19 pandemic, those tasks have been adapted to meet the current restrictions on engagement. As just one example, in normal times, DCC deacons meet monthly in-person. Now, these meetings, like Sunday service, have moved to Zoom.

DCC deacons are also reaching out in new ways to provide care and support. Each week, deacons contact DCC members who may be living alone, suffering from an injury or illness, grieving from the loss of a loved one, or just not able to meet with friends and family. Deacons check on members' well-being and ask about prayer



needs. A deacon monitors Sunday service attendance on Zoom and reaches out to "missing" individuals and families as appropriate. For our college students, in place of care packages, deacons are sending cards of encouragement along with Starbucks gift cards. (The card design was painted by Nancy Snyder.)

All new deacon candidates are reviewed and approved by Council and elected at the Annual Meeting. Deacon terms are for three years. Each year in June, three deacons complete their commitment, and three new ones take their place. DCC is fortunate to have three life deacons (LD). Each has been a member of DCC for 15 years or more and has served as an active deacon for a minimum of six years.

What does it take to be a deacon? Some qualities include empathy, being active in church activities, and frequent attendance at worship. Deacons also should be good listeners, maintain confidentiality of sensitive information, and be able to devote sufficient time to diaconate activity.

If you are interested in learning more about the Diaconate and/or would like to serve, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to Pastors Eric or Todd, or to any of the current DCC deacons: Carol Bassett, Dee Brook (life deacon), Steve Bridgeman, Mary Marie Deauclaure, Peggy Gierke (life deacon), Nancy Hill (life deacon), Karen Kawaguchi, John Klassen, Cheryl Pierson, Chris Rauen, Judy Schreib, and Nancy Snyder.

Virtual Camp Caz Campfire

We had a great time this Fall at our Virtual Camp Caz campfire! It was a fun hour that included dancing (our favorite Chicken Dance!), TNT (skits & music), and an awesome slide-show of DCC Camp Caz memories. [You can \[re-\]experience the fun here.](#)



Thanksgiving Offering to Support Homeless Family Programs

By Doug Leich and Laura Beaver, Outreach Commissioners



Each year our **Thanksgiving offering** is a chance for us to express our gratitude for the blessings we have received throughout the year by making a special gift to people who are less fortunate. This year, the Outreach Commission has designated our Thanksgiving offering to be **equally split between the Winter Nights Family Shelter and Hope Solutions**, two of the key providers of assistance to homeless families and individuals in Contra Costa County.

November is Homelessness Awareness Month in Contra Costa County, where we will join national efforts to increase

awareness and promote solutions to ending homelessness during this time of pandemic. Last year, nearly 9,000 homeless men, women, and children in Contra Costa County used homeless services. For more information, check out Contra Costa's [Homelessness Awareness Month Toolkit](#) and [Thank-You to Frontline Service Workers Video](#).

[Winter Nights Family Shelter](#) has reimagined its seasonal emergency family shelter program due to COVID social-distancing and safety requirements. Formerly a volunteer-intensive rotating shelter located for two weeks at a time at 18 different congregations, the 2020-2021 season opens November 2 with a schedule of four-week stays at eight different facilities, with volunteers excluded from the facilities – shelter guests and staff only. This redesigned program still intends to provide emergency shelter and meals for six to eight homeless families at a time through May. Our Thanksgiving offerings will fund DCC's commitment to provide meals – breakfast, lunch and dinner – for two days while the shelter is located at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville during December, and provide an additional donation to help support the Winter Nights program for the rest of the season.

[Hope Solutions](#) (formerly Contra Costa Interfaith Housing) heals the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals. Winter Nights Family Shelter guests often find stable housing with Hope Solutions. Amidst the pandemic, Hope Solutions has increased outreach services and continued their essential work of helping homeless households move into safe, affordable housing because, especially during a pandemic, everyone is safer in homes than on streets. From March to May, Hope Solutions helped move more than 60 homeless households into permanent housing. Their evidence-based supportive housing model provides formerly homeless families with healthy, at-home structure to foster long-term success: 96% of families remain in permanent housing and 90% improve parenting skills. We honor DCC's Carol Gilliland for her commitment. Carol just completed a three-year term as chair of Hope Solutions' Board of Directors and continues to serve on the board.

Please join us in thanking God for the many blessings we have received by making a Thanksgiving offering to help our neighbors who are less fortunate. **We will be receiving our Thanksgiving offering during worship on Sunday, November 22**, but of course your offering will be welcome at any time. To make your offering online, go to the [DCC Donations page](#) and select Outreach Donations / Thanksgiving Offering. Or you may write "Thanksgiving Offering" on your check made out to DCC and mail it to DCC.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Members Corner: Surviving the Pandemic



When the shelter in place first began, I went through drawers, closets and storage areas, preparing to discard many things and feeling a sense of accomplishment. At the same time, I desperately missed seeing my granddaughter, whom I babysat every Friday. As the

restrictions opened up, I was able to donate many bags of items and occasionally see my loved ones, although outside and masked.

Looking back now, three things have sustained me:

1. Although previously not an activist, after the death of George Floyd, I began developing and participating in social justice work;

2. I have used the time to be reflective and delving into a sense of self, spending more time outside in nature and taking time to appreciate God's amazing creation. I am practicing my faith through prayer and meditation, and now joining this amazing, affirming church where not only Jesus Christ is worshipped, but where both service and joy are celebrated!; and lastly,
3. Thanks to Zoom technology, I have redefined "seeing" family, with Zoom play dates and family Zoom calls. I no longer take for granted time with family and friends. When the restrictions are lifted, we will all cherish even more the time we spend together.

Mary Taylor



The pandemic has certainly affected our lives by restricting our engagement with friends and family, colleagues and strangers. I haven't let that stop me, however, and have relied on technology to stay connected with some people who mean a lot to me. But that's not all. I've actually made some new friends over Zoom.

This has come about in several ways. I'm taking an online class in music theory and improv, with group practices that meet four days a week. I join a Zoom session with an international group on Sundays before church. I have also started German language classes, hoping to some day visit JS Bach's homes and churches. I host weekly handbell sessions over Zoom, and a happy hour on Sunday afternoons for my family back in Ohio.

Mary Marie Deauclaire



We have been staying at our lake cabin in Northern Idaho since late June. When we first arrived, we had dinner at the marina nearby, and the student servers were not wearing masks. Two days later, the place closed as two of the waiters tested positive for the coronavirus. We were lucky and did not.

We are pleased to find that all of our neighbors are taking good care to avoid the virus. There have been none of the usual visits. Everyone has been living like hermits. Dottie and I really enjoy just being together, taking long walks, experiencing beautiful views from the hills behind our place, and reading books. I am a sailor and have enjoyed my usual early morning sails that become a special time of prayer and meditation, while most often being the only boat on the lake. Both of us keep in contact with peace and justice-related organizations, including attending webinars conducted by the Democrats of Rossmoor and our community Black Lives Matter group. Overall, this has been a very special time that is enriched

by weekly Zoom worship services with our DCC family.

Bob and Dottie Howell

We Pray for...

At DCC we believe in the power of prayer and in a God who hears us. The prayers below have been collected from our prayer time each Sunday and made available to the church office going back through July 2020. They have been updated as we receive additional information.

Prayers of Healing for...

- The **people of Central America** suffering from the recent hurricane that damaged homes and land of two families in San Antonio. The home and land of **Don Gaspar** (where Bill and Linda stayed during a DCC visit) was affected.
- **Fran**, a dear friend of **Liz** in our DCC office. Fran is quite ill with leukemia and recently had a stem cell transplant. Prayers for Fran's recovery and may she feel God's healing and loving support during this difficult time.
- **Carol Gerich** as she continues her recovery from a broken hip
- **Bill Armstrong** in his recovery from abdomen pain.
- A speedy recovery for the **sister-in-law of Brett Clark**, who had a rod put in her femur and a bone removed from her foot, and who had fallen and broken her arm.
- The sister of Dan and Lisa Chevez, **Deb**, who is wracked with chronic pain.
- The **most vulnerable in our society**. May those with health and mental issues, poverty, abuse, homelessness, and discrimination be afforded a better life free of pain. Let them feel the life, inclusion, and love of others.
- My cousin **Chris Sauer** and his wife **Michelle**. Michelle was diagnosed with inoperable metastatic pancreatic cancer. Give them the strength to endure this trial. *(From Kurt Sauer)*
- A **friend of Kristin Chambers**, in recovery from a broken pelvis.

Prayers of Sympathy for...

- The memory of former DCC member **Silvia Martino**, who passed away one year ago. May she rest in peace and love surrounded by dear ones that passed before her. *(From Larry Berlin)*

Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude for...



- The daughter of Nancy Halseth's cousin, **Mikayla**, who was killed last month in a car accident. Mikayla was 26 and married just over a year ago. Prayers of comfort and love for her husband, mom, sister and all the family.
- The **Steffy** family, who lost their mother **Jackquie**, in a car accident last month. Their dad, **Dave**, is now in ICU at Davis. *(From Polly Smith)*
- The memory of **Marsh Mak**, who passed away last month. We pray for her family, particularly her daughter **Rachel**, during this time of grief and loss.
- My cousin, **Chris Johnston**, who died in a motorcycle accident and leaves behind his 16-year-old daughter Maleyah, his siblings, and mom. *(from Amy Furber-Dobson)*
- My **Aunt Floring** who died in Canada. Family was unable to be bedside due to COVID-19. May she rest in eternal peace. *(From Melissa & Glenyse)*

Prayers for the World...

- Prayers of joy and thanksgiving **for our country, and for democracy**, however flawed. The people have spoken. Hallelujah! *(From Mary Courtenay)*
- As we begin to prepare **for the holidays**, help us all to stay safe and healthy. *(From Joy Davis)*
- To be patient as **children** go back into their classrooms and **business** opens up more, and that we continue taking good care of each other.
- Prayers that **our indigenous neighbors** are still here today! Working to revitalize culture, language, and traditional stewardship of the earth. *(From Anne Bremer)*

- **Rick Blair**, who was released from the hospital after his heart transplant and a difficult few weeks of recovery.
- All the **poll workers** who worked so hard to have this election go so smoothly.
- Joy in **grandkid's visits** and prayers for those missing their grandkids who are far away. *(From Nancy Halseth)*
- For **those working to keep Camp Caz alive** for future generations. *(From Amy Furber-Dobson)*
- For the birthdays of my 94-year-young mother, **Jean Chew**, and dear friend 101-year-old **Auntie May Louie**. Auntie May broke her hip last month. Grateful that she has a roommate who shouts to the nurses when active Auntie May tries to get out of bed. Prayers that Auntie May will be patient as she heals. *(From Janis Jang)*
- Prayers of celebration and congratulations to **Jack Stickler**, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and to **Craig Seiler**, who achieved Life Scout.
- Seeing **my friends** at the younger youth group Halloween event. *(From Hazel Furber-Dobson)*
- **Joy Davis**, who was recognized virtually at the UCC Conference Annual Gathering for many years of outstanding service as the conference

administrator. Special to have Joy in fellowship with us at DCC. *(From Bob and Dottie Howell)*

- **Rev. Melissa Tumaneng**, our Northern California Nevada Conference Moderator, for a job well done at last month's meeting.
- Prayers of joy! Last month our son, **Andy**, and the love of his life, **Jessica**, were married in Arizona. Our hearts are so full of love at this great blessing. *(From Nancy Halseth)*
- Prayers of joy—**Hazel Furber-Dobson** competed in her first speech competition last month with her speech on pinecones :) Loved seeing her calm confidence. *(From a proud mom)*
- Many **get well wishes from my DCC friends** as I recover from my broken hip. With gratitude to all of you! *(From Carol Gerich)*
- **Dayspring and the Board** as they work to provide a safe, and loving preschool *(From Kyra Kennedy)*
- Continued improvement of former Sister Parish staff member Brian Tyler's wife, **Ana**. Dialysis will be long term for her, but she has been able to manage at home with self-dialysis and is adjusting. Prayers for Brian, Ana, and baby daughter Luna. *(From Bob Howell)*

Continued Prayers for...

- Ken Boehmert
- Mary Anne Prickett
- Barbara and Tom Olwin
- Our Sister Parish friends in Guatemala



Erosion from tropical storm Eta hit the highlands of Guatemala where our sister parish is located. This is land from one man's home. He will have to relocate.

If you have a request for prayer, please contact the pastoral staff, members of the Diaconate, or the church office.

Coming Up

- Thanksgiving Sunday.....November 22
- Council Meeting.....November 24
- First Sunday of Advent.....November 29
- Pastor Todd's PRC.....December 3
- [Bay Association 'Fall' Meeting](#).....December 5
- Virtual Christmas Party.....December 5
- Second Sunday of Advent.....December 6
- Diaconate Meeting.....December 10
- Children's Ministry Party.....December 12
- Third Sunday of Advent.....December 13
- Outreach Commission Meeting..December 13
- Finance Committee.....December 15
- Pastor Eric's PRC.....December 16
- Fourth Sunday of Advent.....December 20
- Ingathering Sunday.....December 20
- Longest Night Service.....December 21
- Christmas Eve Service.....December 24
- Christmas Day Office Closed.....December 25
- First Sunday after Christmas.....December 27
- New Year's Day Office Closed.....January 1
- Second Sunday after Christmas.....January 3
- Epiphany/Star Sunday.....January 10
- Outreach Commission.....January 10
- Diaconate Meeting.....January 14
- Ingathering Sunday.....January 17
- MLK Day.....January 18
- Finance Committee.....January 19
- Council Meeting.....January 26

Preaching Schedule

- November 22.....Pastor Eric
- November 29.....Pastor Todd
- December 6.....Pastor Eric
- December 13.....Pastor Eric
- December 20.....Pastor Todd
- December 21.....Pastor Eric and Pastor Todd
- December 24.....Pastor Eric
- December 27.....Pastor Todd
- January 3.....Pastor Eric
- January 10.....Pastor Todd
- January 17.....Pastor Eric
- January 24.....Pastor Eric
- January 31.....Youth Sunday

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December

- 18.....Doug Leach
- 19.....Randy Jang
- 21.....Kimi DeBarger-Gestring
- 27.....Michiyo Laing
- 28.....Bonnie Powers
- 30.....Bob Britt
- 31.....Caitlin Kawaguchi

January

- 4.....Pat Denton
- 7.....Lucy Hasselbrink
- 19.....Greg Leach
- 21.....Tom Sonnemann
- 25.....Deborah Daily
- 26.....Doug Leach
- 29.....Norm Palmer
- 31.....Eric Michaud

February

- 1.....Cheryl Pierson
- 5.....Annalise Northway, Kiko DeBarger-Gestring
- 10.....Barbara Carrillo
- 20.....Cheryl Beck, Finn Fetherstonhaugh
- 21.....Judy Leach, Karol Mead, Judy Halden
- 22.....Oliver Beaver

Out of Office

Pastor Eric will be out-of-office and on vacation December 27–January 2, and again for continuing education leave January 5–10.

Pastor Todd will be out of the office December 28—January 4.

Did you know you can go back and watch or listen to our sermons, special music performances, and other special events on our [website](#) and our [YouTube channel](#)? Check it out!

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 on Zoom
Sunday at 9:30 AM
Everyone is welcome!

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock,
 Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley,
 Associate Pastor
 John Kendall Bailey, Music Director
 Mary-Marie Deauclaire,
 Handbell Director
 Liz Setlak-von Thury,
 Office Manager
 Sonna Dhamrait, Preschool Director

Church Officers

Trish Moosbrugger, Moderator
 Amy Furber-Dobson, Vice Moderator
 Christopher Callison, Treasurer
 Syd & Leslie Dent, Financial Secretaries
 Heidi Bridgeman, Clerk

Commissioners

Open, Buildings and Grounds
 Kim Michaud, Children's Ministries
 Joyce Klassen and Karen Kawaguchi,
 Community Life Ministry
 Laura Beaver and Doug Leich, Outreach
 Open, Stewardship
 Karol Mead, Worship
 Jennifer O'Neal, Youth Ministries

Preschool Board

Penny Davis (chair), Barb DeBarger,
 Charlie Hasselbrink, Kyra Kennedy,
 Nicole Noga, Tim Seiler

Rev. Eric's

Pastoral Relations Committee

Carol Gilliland (chair), Bette Felton, Kim
 Michaud, Kristina Kelchner, Steve
 Paroli

Rev. Todd's

Pastoral Relations Committee

Mariah Callison, Mary Marie
 Deauclaire, Barb DeBarger, Jenn
 O'Neal, Cheryl Pierson, Richard Stein



Seasons of DCC: Youth Groupers Elora, Michael, and Lily test their Jenga skills; Oliver's leaf art; Celebration Bells record on the courtyard; Hazel creates acorn art; Ben, Angie, and Charles mask-up at the Halloween Party; Luke's paper-bag buddy