



*“Oh Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones.
Let me find you again. Amen.”*
—Henri Nouwen

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In the season of Lent, we enter into the forty-day fast that Jesus undertook in the wilderness. Through this dedicated period of self-examination, we allow God to further shape us into the image of Jesus. We also align our hearts with the suffering of Jesus as we move ever closer to Holy week, the crucifixion, and Easter Sunday.

From Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, we invite you to experience Lent this year through the lens of the suffering wrought by white supremacy. This journey invites us to consider the trauma white supremacy inflicts upon the human condition; no one is absent from it. Jesus’ journey to the cross, his path of suffering, is not unlike our own. Aware of the condition of the culture around him, the suffering he witnessed, and the grief that enveloped him, Jesus experienced fully the trauma and suffering of humanity and death. And so, like Jesus, we note with specificity the grief and trauma associated with the state of our own humanity; the conditions of the road we take; and the barriers that keep us from right relationship with others and with God. Longing always for resurrection—for new life beyond the powers of

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WHITE SUPREMACY



AND THE WAY OF SUFFERING

A LENTEN JOURNEY

(Continued from page 1)

white supremacy and death—we travel first along the way of suffering.

For many, Lent can be a difficult journey; so can grappling with the realities of white supremacy. **But it matters that we are on this journey, together.** Please be assured, there is no right way to “do” Lent. For many, it is a time of reflection and prayer. Others find fasting or the practice of giving up something helpful. Still others commit themselves to taking on a new spiritual practice or act of service. However it is you choose to observe this season, our prayer is that the resources in this bag and the knowledge that your church family journeys alongside you are an encouragement to your soul.

Therefore, holding onto resurrection hope, let us journey through the way of suffering, alongside our sibling Jesus, so that our bodies and spirits—that the body of Christ—may be free of the violence of white supremacy...and find healing.



A Word from Pastor Eric

Beloved friends,

At this moment, we stand on the threshold between the season after the Epiphany and Lent. This Lent, we will once again journey through the wilderness to do the hard work of introspection so that we may move forward as a renewed and better people. Our Lenten journey will require us to contemplate our benefit of and participation in systems of white supremacy that perpetuate structural racism throughout our society and world. Our Lenten journey will begin inward as we examine, confess, and repent. As the season progresses, we will gradually turn our attention outward. We will discern how we might be laborers in the movement to dismantle white supremacy, reform the personal self and collective systems we participate in, and experience resurrection.

As we move into this new season of our life together, I remember that it was during the 2020 Lenten season that our building closed due to the public health order. We made the transition to online church, and we began our journey through the COVID-19 pandemic. The past year has been challenging on both personal and collective levels. Many of us transitioned our 9 to 5s to a home office or dining room table. Our children, no longer able to learn in a classroom with a teacher, moved their learning online and had to learn Zoom and other remote learning platforms quickly. Parents were no longer *just* parents, but teachers, too. Some of us experienced COVID-19 first-hand through personal diagnosis or the experience of a loved one. Some of us even lost a loved one to this terrible virus. Many of us have struggled with feelings of hopelessness, despair, loneliness, and anxiety. To be sure, this has been a year of pandemic wilderness wandering.

Through the pandemic's wilderness wandering, we have turned inward as a community to reflect on what truly matters. In this period of reflection, we have found a renewed sense of *who we are* and God's call for us as a community of faith. This renewal will serve us well as we move into new life together. Within our church community, the renewal we have experienced can be found in our cultivated relationships that have deepened despite being physically distant. Every week since March 15, we have been given the gift of seeing the faces and hearing the choir of voices that make up our church community through our online worship experience. Sunday attendance has consistently been over 110 worshippers every week, with many people signing in every week, not missing a Sunday. Our commissions and ministry teams have been meeting throughout this time, too, doing the church's work. In those gathering moments, one-act I have witnessed is the "checking-in" you do with one another and how you hold one another in both grief and joy. From the weekly phone calls, cards, physically distant visits, care packages, to attending Sunday's service even when you are Zoomed out—these are how you show up for one another. This is how you care for one another. These acts are all manifestations of us moving from a program-centered church to a mission-driven church centered on relationship—our relationships with God and one another.

This Lent, may that be our intention and prayer. May we continue to deepen our relationships with God and one another, as we do the hard task of examining our privilege and collective suffering, finding hope and healing in Jesus Christ.

See you online,
Pastor Eric

**As we continue to remain physically distant and knowing that it has been a difficult year for many, if you would like one-on-one time with one of the pastors to pray and talk, please reach out to them directly. Pastor Eric, eric@danvillechurch.org; Pastor Todd, todd@danvillechurch.org*

DCC News & Notables

Mary Taylor Named “Local Hero for Peace”



The Mount Diablo Peace and Justice Center named **Mary Taylor** as its “Local Hero for Peace” in its annual recognition of individuals and organizations who are working toward social justice. As the founder of the Black Lives Matter Committee of the African

American and Friends Club in Rossmoor, Mary has taken an active lead in her community by organizing numerous rallies and educational guest speaker events that served to raise awareness around issues of racial and social justice. Mary was honored in a virtual ceremony on January 23. Mary was also featured in an article in Rossmoor News last month, where she recalled being notified of the recognition in an email from Andrew Kodama, executive director of the center. “That kind of blew me away,” she said.

The Magic of our Bell Tree Carillons

By Janis Jang



With the arrival of COVID-19, it was out of the question for *Celebration Bells* to gather for handbell practice. With Mary Marie Deauclaire as our handbell music director, some of us took courses and tried to find out nationally what other handbell groups did in response

to this all-encompassing situation.

The bell tree courses intrigued Mary Marie. She had us attend a Zoom demonstration to explore the possibility of playing for worship services. We made paper handbells and practiced the music at home with chopsticks, kitchen utensils, or pens for mallets.

We observed what other handbell groups did for outdoor practice. Temperature scanner, six feet apart, electric fans, tree shade, and water for those hot summers. By the time we got organized and brave enough to try it, the cold weather and masses of leaves descended upon us. *Celebration Bells* ended up inventing its own frosty autumn rehearsal methods.

Arranging to record us playing the bell tree was quite a feat for Mary Marie. She and one other person were the only ones allowed to enter the church building to carry all the equipment out and back into the Music Room. If it was your assigned day to record, you waited with anticipation in the parking lot, mentally practicing in your car with your mask, wondering what it would be like. Would our “paper bell tree” practice do the trick? We each had 20-minute individual sessions. In other words, what you witnessed each Sunday morning were handbell players who never played the bell tree before! Can I get an AMEN?

Dayspring Preschool Update

*By Penny Davis
Dayspring Preschool Board Chair*

January was an action-packed month of activities, learning and fun for the children at Dayspring. We are so fortunate to have our **new Director**

Sonna Dhamrait working hard to improve all aspects of

Dayspring. She has weekly Zoom parent meetings and has launched our new Brightwheel app. We had a Dayspring Kindergarten Night and will offer full day kindergarten in the fall! We are busy planning for spring activities, summer school and fall registration.

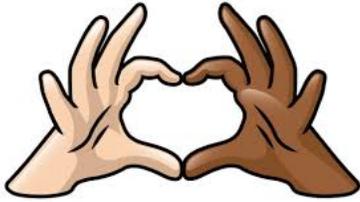
Brightwheel is our new family engagement and information app. It gives teacher the ability to directly send notes, videos and messages, health updates and photos to parents. Families will also be able to view their accounts and pay tuition through the app. Once we have licensing approval, we will be using the app exclusively for check in and out, tuition payments and many operational functions. This is a major technology upgrade to Dayspring with improved parent communications and streamlined financial and administrative abilities. It’s a wonderful tool to promote to parents touring Dayspring.

February is Black History Month. Dayspring will celebrate the month with books by black authors and the children will learn about people who have contributed to American culture and progress. Our classrooms will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Thursday, February 11, and Valentine’s Day, too.



Anti-Racism Team Offers Book Study, Learning Series

By Fiona Klassen, Anti-Racism Team Lead



Chats and have planned to continue transforming together.

As we celebrate Black History Month and enter the season of Lent excited to take part in the **Lenten Anti-Racism calendar**, we are also taking time to reflect on where we started in our learning and action. In the past seven months, we (the congregation and team) have learned about the history and significance of Thanksgiving, thought about the impact of our vote on all our community members, raised questions and reflected together in our Coffee

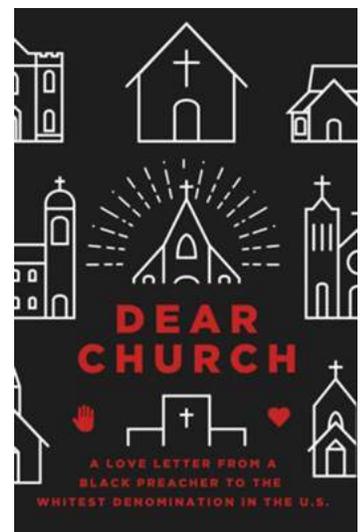
On February 2, an orientation Zoom call kicked off our **book study** for [Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US](#) by Lenny Duncan. If you could not attend the orientation, you are still welcome to join the book study. Please email Barb DeBarger at bdebarger@gmail.com for the orientation materials. This book study is a way to connect our anti-racism work to our church family and faith through small group reflection during the three sessions taking place on March 2, 16, and 30. We look forward to inviting you to further book studies throughout this year.

We are planning on alternating book studies with bi-monthly events in our **Learning Series**. Here, we discuss and reflect on various topics delivered through a variety of media (articles/podcasts/videos/speakers) as a way of learning together about different elements of anti-racism. Each of these sessions will be stand-alone, so you are welcome to join whichever and however many sessions you choose.

We will kick off our first session on Sunday, March 21 from 11am to 12:30pm, which will include a quick orientation, then time for participants to help co-create our curriculum. During this session, our goal is to hear from you about the media through which you learn best (audio, video, written) and specific topics you have wanted support in learning more about. Some ideas for our Learning Series include: listening to and reflecting on the podcast “Nice White Parents,” a workshop that joyfully envisions the racially just future we want to live in, and brainstorm concrete action we can take now to build towards that future.

Check out the **DCC website Anti-Racism Resources page!** Our team regularly updates it with upcoming events, calls to action and learning materials. Please reach out with what you think is important to add to the website.

Our next scheduled **Coffee Chat** will take place on February 21. We will continue to schedule Coffee Chats throughout the year. As our work continues in time, the membership of this team will transform so that all of us who feel called to assist our congregation in becoming anti-racist can take part in this work. If you feel that call or have any questions, please reach out now or in the future. We look forward to connecting with you!



Special Lenten Offering

By Doug Leich
Outreach Co-Commissioner



The **Black Homeownership Reparations Fund (BHRF)** is a project launched by Arlington Community Church (UCC), to help repair a small portion of the financial damage of racism and white supremacist policies—in particular, longstanding barriers to black homeownership that have existed in our East Bay communities. Partner congregations include First Congregational Church, Berkeley; First Congregational Church, Alameda; Good Table UCC, El Cerrito; and DCC.

Why choose black home ownership as a reparation project?

For most Americans, a home is their major source of wealth. A home appreciates over time and can be passed down to the next generation. But because of segregation, redlining, adverse (or nonexistent) mortgage terms, and loan application rejection, the black community has been shut out from this major wealth-building tool. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the rate of black homeownership is 44 percent, the lowest of all groups. In contrast, 74 percent of white families in the U.S. own a home.

Addressing Black homeownership is a way to make long-lasting, systemic change in how black communities can build wealth and pass it along to their heirs.

How does the fund assist potential Black homeowners?

A major barrier to homeownership, especially in the high-priced Bay Area, is lack of a down payment. This is especially true for black homebuyers, who may have good incomes but no access to the additional capital they need for a down payment.

The BHRF would:

- Create a zero-percent-interest loan fund, to be paid back only when the home is refinanced or sold;
- Work through local organizations to identify potential black homebuyers who are on the journey to home ownership but who lack a down payment.

Because the BHRF is a loan fund, money from home refinance or sale flows back into the fund, ready to assist other homebuyers. In addition, there may be other avenues by which we can support black homeownership through our fund.

How will the BHRF operate?

The BHRF will be housed at the Richmond Community Foundation through a donor-advised fund. This foundation has an outstanding track record for funding housing projects in the East Bay. For example, the foundation recently turned 20 abandoned, single-family homes into affordable housing, with more projects planned (Richmond has several hundred such homes).

How can special Lenten offerings to the fund be made?

To make your offering online, go to the [DCC Donations page](#), select Outreach Donations / Other, and type in “Lenten Offering” or “Reparations Fund”. Or you may write “Lenten Offering” or “Reparations Fund” on your check made out to DCC and mail it to Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, CA 94526.

“An America that asks what it owes its most vulnerable citizens is improved and humane. An America that looks away is ignoring not just the sins of the past but the sins of the present and the certain sins of the future. More important than any single check cut to any African American, the payment of reparations would represent America’s maturation out of the childhood myth of its innocence into a wisdom worthy of its founders.”

Ta-Nehisi Coates, [The Atlantic, June 2014](#)

“The price of privilege is the moral duty to act when one sees another person treated unfairly.”

Isabel Wilkerson, *Caste*, 2020

Looking Back: A Lifetime of Memories at DCC

(Peggy Gierke, one of DCC's lifetime deacons, has been a life force at DCC since she was invited to sing for the choir back in 1962. Here, we chronicle some of her experiences and involvement with the church over these many years.)



Who would have thought that Danville Congregational Church would become such an integral part of Peggy Gierke's life when she began singing in the choir nearly 60 years ago?

Growing up two blocks from the ocean on the New Jersey shore, Peggy's first church was the big stone Methodist Episcopal church on the corner of Atlantic Ave and, how appropriate, Church Street. The primary school was adjacent to the church, her piano teacher (who played the church organ for 50+ years) lived across the street, one grandmother lived on Atlantic Ave. diagonally across from the church and the other lived two blocks away at the end of Church Street. "It

was a small, tightly knit community, where everyone looked out for each other," said Peggy.

Life for her revolved around that church, from worship services Sunday morning AND evening, Epworth League youth group, and Thursday night prayer meetings. One early memory involved serving as the maid of honor at a children's wedding pageant where, for some reason, the best man jilted her. Heartbroken, Peggy had to walk down the aisle alone. "Fortunately, there were happier days ahead," she said.

Those days included Sunday school pageants, teaching Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, youth camp, helping in the church library, and singing in both the junior and later adult choir. "That big stone church nurtured and nourished my love of music and singing ability," she said.

Coincidentally, it was singing that brought Peggy to DCC (then known as San Ramon Valley Congregational Church) in 1962. Choir Director Edith Pendergast coaxed Peggy into singing with the choir. She was singing at another Danville church and later was soloist for the Danville Christian Science Church; however, Peggy needed a church that she could call her own spiritual home. At DCC, Michel Vallon was the minister, the church was new, the people were friendly, and the theology spoke to her. "I was hooked," she said.

In 1972, then Pastor Ron Barton married husband Glen and Peggy in what we now call the chapel. "In those days, we decorated the chapel every Christmas with a swag of greens hung high against the wooden wall, then hauled poinsettias and other decorations from the San Francisco flower mart to complete the scene," she recalled.

Over all these years, Peggy has been involved in just about all aspects of church life, serving on many committees and commissions. These include Worship, Outreach, Church Family, Interim Minister Search, Pastoral Relations, Long-range Planning, Nursery and the Diaconate. She's volunteered with Loaves and Fishes and Vacation Bible School. She also embroidered paraments for the chapel, and helped coordinate the cutting, piecing, and quilting of the quilt that hangs in the sanctuary.

Peggy has also served as a wedding hostess and helped plan Mystery Dinners. These were among the many social events that she helped to organize, including potlucks, Advent workshops, hoedowns, the Chocolate Fest, Christmas Teas, and more. Peggy still has her "Queen of the Kitchen" mug, which brings back fond memories of those joyous occasions.

(Continued on page 9.)

Member's Corner

(Here we highlight how DCC members are managing during the pandemic.)

I'm not expert on coping during a pandemic. Feelings of isolation and hopelessness do creep in, along with a lot of anxiety and stress. I can't escape the fact that there is so much to worry about.



At the same time, it's only fair to acknowledge the positive. Here's a list:

- Scientists are now in charge. I just received my first dose of the Moderna vaccine.
- I still have a job.
- My grandkids are just around the corner.
- Trump's tweets are gone.

I've also discovered that a regular routine can help keep me centered in this new reality.

My daily routine includes:

Exercise. I try to walk a mile around my complex loop, followed by some floor work, and occasionally some weights, yoga, stretching, and/or meditation. It's certainly not the gym with its elliptical machines and socializing, but it's better than nothing.

Eating right. Simple maintenance is my goal here.

Avoiding Trump-centric TV. I try to stick to lighthearted fare.

Work. What I do is boring but it beats sitting around stewing and fretting.

Cherishing family. I am so thankful to have my beloved daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters nearby.

Finally, every day I try to stay upbeat and, dare I say, hopeful – if only for a short while at a time.

We are entering a new phase, closer to the end. If we just take it easy, one step at a time, we'll get there.

And, much as I take comfort in our Zoom services, and much as I appreciate all the hard work it takes to create those services, I am so looking forward to our first celebratory service in church. – *Mary Courtenay*



My New Year's Homage to DCC

Each year when I sit down to write my annual Christmas letter, I reflect on events and memories. It has always been a happy time to remember trips, celebrations, connections, and more. Reflections for 2020 were pretty upsetting to say the least. It was a stinker! The year felt like I had been dumped on a trampoline with no one to spot me. Time and time

again, some disturbing caution (TP shortage), BLM, fires, smoke, or the elections tossed me about. Talk about stress and anxiety!

Thank goodness the constancy and joy of our weekly DCC Zooms were and are exactly the kind of spotting I needed. My sense of relief each Sunday was palpable. The way that Eric and Todd provide worship services that always hold hope and faith out in front of us is magical. Their skill and ease of linking text to relevant faith and action in their sermons is remarkable.

The way that Children's Time brings a charming foundation to the application of scripture is a joy. I never dreamed having communion at home would be so meaningful. John and Gabrielle's musical selections are so calming and uplifting at the same time. Each and every breakout discussion remarked on "what a wonderful service that was."

On we go into 2021 with our hearts uplifted and new paths to follow. Fingers crossed and spirits intact.

– *Mary Kay McClure*

Seiler Family Making Jelly, Planting Crops, Puzzled by Puzzles

Not even Covid-19 could stop us from a family tradition: making pomegranate jelly. It has been more challenging without help from the Brays, Fetherstonhaughs and other family friends. Still, we managed, starting with the seven jugs of pomegranate juice that our family (including my older brother Graham) helped to produce.

Who knew puzzles could be a dangerous activity? It sent Tim to the emergency room complaining of tingling in his hands and a lack of sensation in one hand and arm. The diagnosis? He'd been leaning on one of his arms as he concentrated on finding the right pieces to complete different puzzle parts! We've taken a break from the puzzles, and are considering an e-commerce web site for the pomegranate jelly to cover the tab for the huge medical bill.



Another family project has been gardening. It began when Allison came home from Chapman last year just when the stay-at-home order kicked in. Since then, everyone has joined in to add compost to the soil. It's a healthy mix of used tea bags, coffee grounds, asparagus ends, and corn husks, among other things. The result was a bounty of tomatoes, zucchini, and strawberries.

I'm still working at McCaulou's, and love my job. I was eager to return to work when the store re-opened last June. My area is the men's department, where I've received compliments and appreciation from shoppers who just need a place to go; if not to shop, to have a conversation with someone outside their homes.

On my days off, I go grocery shopping for my mom and deliver groceries to her home at Stoneridge Creek. When I arrive there, I'll meet the shuttle driver and unload my delivery onto a golf cart. Unfortunately, I can't visit with my mom in person during these visits. But Tim picks her up from time to time so she can visit with us on our back porch. And we've taught her how to use Zoom, so she can join us for virtual family gatherings. — Anne Seiler

(Looking Back: A Lifetime of Memories at DCC, continued from page 7)

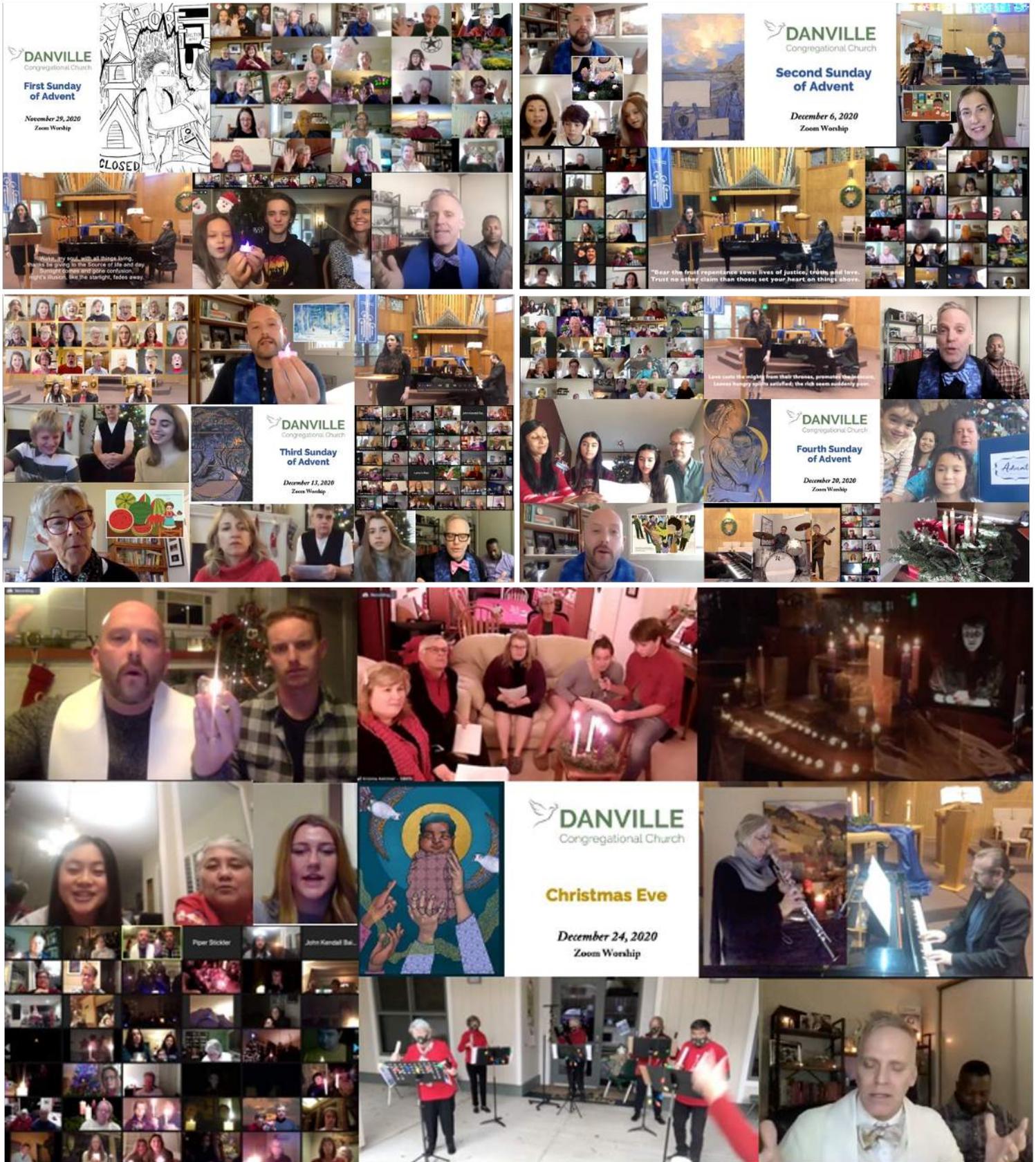
At the 2006 annual church meeting, Peggy was honored as a life deacon, at that time joining her husband Glen, Tom McGovern and Bob Wilkens in that role. Today, Nancy Hill and Dee Brook have also been recognized as life deacons for their dedication and commitment to DCC.

As Peggy sees it, the Diaconate remains a vital group for our church. "It's so inspiring to see how people chosen as deacons have grown in their roles," she said. "All have done a superb job in supporting the life of DCC, and I commend them for that."

While it's sometimes hard for Peggy to believe that so much time has passed since she accepted that invite to join the choir here, one thing has always been clear. "DCC is more than just a church," she said. "It's been a way of life for me, and I'm still hooked!"

Advent 2020

Although we could not be together in-person this year for Advent, the season was full of hope, peace, joy, and love as we worshipped together each Sunday and on Christmas Eve.





The Conning family with their Advent box. The Children's Ministry held a "Happy Birthday Jesus Party and dressed up as their favorite characters from the Nativity. (Can you guess who we are?). Above, our Advent wreath lit on Christmas Eve and Pastor Eric and Pastor Todd with the beautiful wreath the congregation made during our Longest Night service.

DCC Mid-Year Finance Update

*By Tabir Mahmood
Finance Committee Chair
and Trish Moosbrugger, Moderator*

The projections made in the 2020-21 fiscal year budget are being revised to reflect current forecasts. On the bright side, as of December, the commitment and plate collection income stood at \$190,000 ahead of the YTD budgeted income of \$179,000.

In October of 2020, Dayspring began making allocation payments to the church, making two installments totaling \$32,000. Due to changing conditions, the school's enrollment took a hit, and they have not been able to make further payments. Dayspring has reviewed its financial outlook and, based on current projections, are likely to break-even but may be unable to make any more allocation payments to the church. This will result in a shortfall of \$113,000 from the original budgeted income. Building rental will add \$35,000 to the income shortfall as tenants will not return before the end of the current financial year in May.

DCC had resumed making the mortgage payments to Cornerstone Fund in October and will continue to do so. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan that we obtained is expected to be fully forgiven. There is an opportunity for us to apply for a second PPP loan, which is being considered. Our overall financial strength has helped tackle these short-term challenges. We continue to closely monitor income/expenses and will provide regular updates of significant changes.



The DCC Church Council at the January meeting.

Youth Group: At Home for the Holidays

By Jenn O'Neal, Youth Ministries



The DCC elves were very busy this holiday season. Each of our youth received a hand delivered bag full of “goodies” to celebrate the joy of the season. **Each bag contained candy, hot cocoa, chocolate kisses, a tree and a house.**

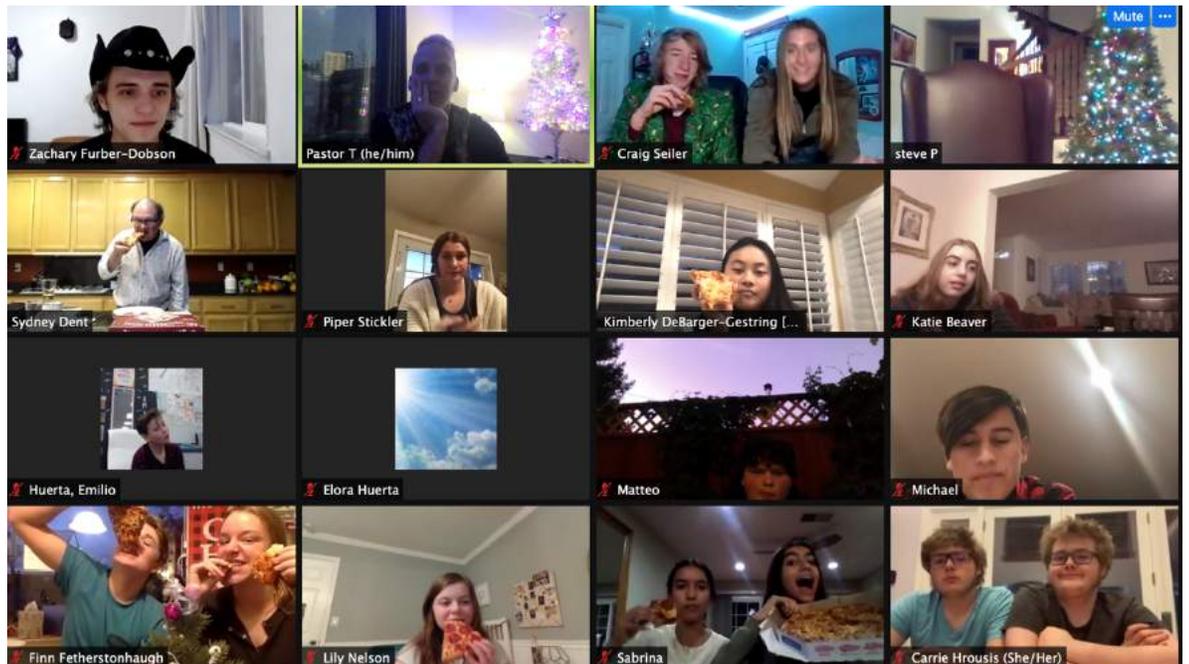
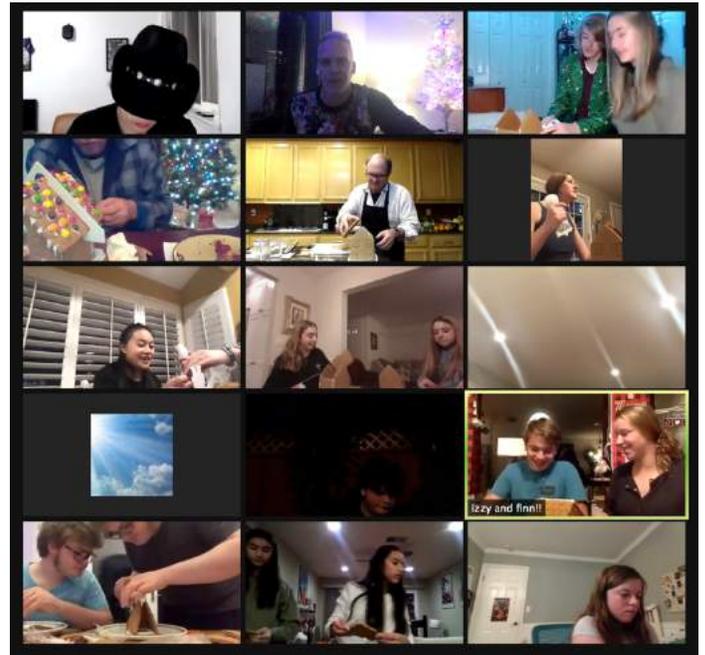
Yes, I said a tree and a house. A handmade Christmas tree was created for each youth with positive affirmations and cute ornaments. Each tree was unique and amazing just like our youth. The house was a gingerbread house kit that was assembled during a youth group Christmas Party via Zoom.

Pastor Todd coordinated individual pizza deliveries for each youth to munch on while creating their house! It was heartwarming to see so much laughter and delight in a rather

challenging year.

2021 Youth Group continues on Zoom until it is safe for us to gather in person. Pastor Todd and I are working hard to create new games and ministries to carry out over Zoom. We realize Zoom burnout is real for everyone including our youth. Please help support our ministry by encouraging your teens to show up for Zoom Youth Group. I know they may be tired of looking at a computer but their participation and connection is so important during Shelter in Place. Not only are the youth showing up for spiritual growth but showing up for each other. When they take that hour on a Sunday night and log in they are essentially saying, “I care enough about you to show up!” That is a very powerful message. Please encourage your youth to show up. It is our collective mission here at *Youth Ministries* to

make sure each and every family feels supported and is in our prayers. Pastor Todd, Steve, Syd and I are grateful to minister not only to the youth but to parents and caregivers alike. Please reach out if we can specifically support or pray with/for you. May you be safe and well.

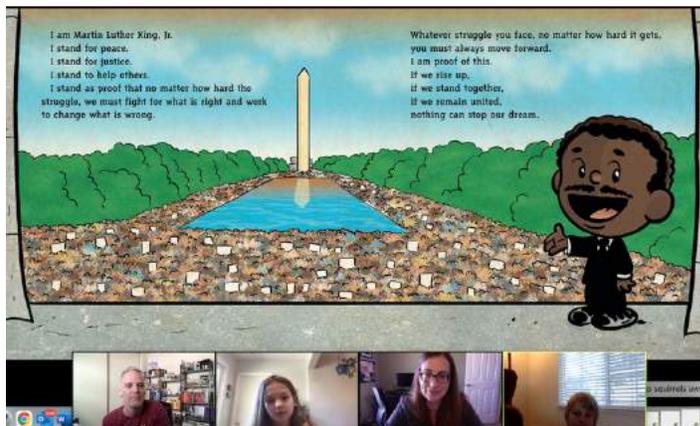


Children's Ministries

By Kim Michaud
Children's Ministry Commissioner

In January, Pastor Todd and I met with the children via Zoom to talk about activism. We chatted about what it means to be an activist, read aloud together the book "I Am Martin Luther King, Jr." (Ordinary People Change the World), and made signs to hang in our windows.

I got to share the story of Holy Baptism in January. We also purchased a beautiful new Godly Play story about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which Barb DeBarger shared during our *Time for Children* in worship.



In February, our children and their families made almost 50 valentines (wow!!). We sent them to special friends at DCC and to teens in residential treatment at the Avalon Program - Fred Finch in Oakland. We hope everyone who received a hand-crafted card knows that they are loved.

With Lent starting on February 17, we invite our families to participate in the weekly spiritual practices found in their Lent-In-A-Bag.

Even though we can't be together in person right now, I am grateful for the ways we have connected with the children. Pastor Todd and I look forward to the day (maybe soon?!) that we can meet at the park again!



Hazel and Zac make valentine's outside, Ms. Kim, Pastor T, and the Wongs make them on Zoom, while the Lawrence family and Luci and Oliver (inset) make them at home. Michiyo and Mary Kay show off the valentines they received.

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 January 2021. They have been updated as we receive additional information.



Prayers of Healing for...

- **Matt Bradley**, cousin of Trish Moosbrugger, for recovery from complex pneumonia.
- **Kathy**, sister of Caryl Krotz, who is in the hospital with pneumonia and Covid-19.
- **Mother of Syd Dent**, who faces new life challenges and for Syd, that he can support her needs.
- **Chuck, son of Norm Palmer**, for his upcoming back surgery.
- **A dear young relative** battling bladder cancer. *(From Carol Gerich)*
- **Jay Shockley and his family**. He has only 20% of his heart working and has Covid. He is now home on hospice care. Thank you all for your love and support following the passing of **my dad David** on Dec. 31. Our DCC community is truly remarkable. *(From Cheryl Pierson)*
- **My friend Nancy**, already facing serious heart issues, who has been diagnosed with cancer. *(From Sandra Lepley)*
- My **friend Michael's dad** who has Covid and is not doing well. *(From Bryan Nelson)*
- **Gail Clark** in her recovery from a kidney stone. Thanks and gratitude for the hospital staff for their care and dedication, especially in these challenging times.
- For my stepmom, **Eunice Phillips**, who was in the hospital battling Covid. *(From Nancy Halseth)*
- For my friend, **Mercedes**, and her unborn child. Mercedes has Covid and her father is hospitalized with Covid. *(From Tim Booher)*

Prayers of Sympathy for...

- **Megan**, a good friend of Pastor Eric and Matt. Megan's Mom, **Dorothy**, had been in the ICU since January with Covid-19. After several weeks on a ventilator, the doctors' have determined that there was not anything more that they can do for her—Dorothy's lungs were too damaged. She passed on February 13. She was 61 years old. Prayers of peace for Dorothy and prayers of comfort for Megan.
- The family of **Tom Olwin** upon his passing last month. We pray especially for his beloved wife, **Barbara, and their children**. The family gathered this month for a graveside service at Alamo Cemetery to relinquish Tom's ashes back to Earth. Tom and Barbara celebrated 66 years together.
- Cheryl Pierson, whose father **David McConnell** transitioned from this life on Dec.31.

Prayers for the World...

- For the **Rohingya refugees**, who are fleeing the persecution in Myanmar and facing rejection in Bangladesh. Peace dear Lord for all people who share Mother Earth and call it home.
- For **Camp Caz** and all **those working to keep it alive** for a future time when it can be a place for youth and adults to enjoy again.
- For peace, healing and **unification of loving souls** to combat division and hatred in this country and the world.

Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude for...

- **Edward Jang**, who received the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the Chinese Americans who served in World War II.
- **Sereen and Tahir Mahmood** for 32 years of married life this February 16.
- **Anna Elaine** on her first birthday. She was born 9 weeks early one year ago. Today she is a happy healthy little girl doing very well. *(From Gail and Brett Clark)*
- **Pastor Eric**, so proud and grateful to witness him naming white supremacy from the pulpit. What a call to action; a call to be brave and vulnerable. *(From Fiona Klassen)*
- For **my grandchildren**. *(From Dave Halseth)*
- For the life and seven-decade career of **Cicely Tyson**, who transitioned from this life at age 96.
- The inspirational presentation made by **Mary Taylor** last month when receiving the Local Hero for Peace Award from the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center.
- Warmest appreciation for all the **prayers and good wishes from my DCC friends** for my latest surgery to repair my hip. I have been touched by your concern and comfort. I am feeling renewed and confident that this time I will truly resume walking. Thanks for joining me on this discouraging and uneven path—and keeping me steady and hopeful. Already I am truly healing this time! *(From Carol Gerich)*
- Heartfelt thanks for all the cards, notes, and **loving support shown by this dear church** upon the passing of my dad. My stepmom is now home from the hospital and doing better. Your prayers are such a blessing. *(From Nancy Halseth)*
- **Kim Michaud's** beautiful telling of the Godly Play *Holy Baptism* story. From Joyce Klassen: "I love the idea of the light going out into the world and that we may bump into these lights everywhere."
- For the recovery of our daughter **Amber** from Covid, and for the healing of our son **Daniel** from Covid. *(From Miguel and Todd)*

Continued Prayers for...

- Ken Boehmert
- Mary Anne Prickett
- Our Sister Parish friends in Guatemala

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

Holy One,
In your image
You have created humankind,
in great diversity.
We give thanks for the
differences—
Holy One,
In your image
You have created humankind,
in great diversity.
We give thanks for the
differences—
of cultures and ethnicities,
of histories and life-stories,
of skin colour and language and
hearts that love the world.
We watch in horror as Power
desecrates Black and Brown bodies;
walks on their sacredness,
kills and subjugates,
in thousands of ways,

hidden and overt.
We must not stop at watching—
held back from right action by our
horror
or seeming powerlessness.
Grant us hearts that listen and learn;
egos that are willing to accept
when our own racism is called out.
Grant us courage,
to disassemble the systems,
the stories, the mythos,
that privilege whiteness over all
others.
Give us your Holy Spirit's wind
to call out racism in all its forms—
inside our hearts,
inside the church,
and in your world,
give us the strength,
the wisdom and the will
to root out White Fragility,

and White Supremacy,
so that they would
never again do harm,
never again take away,
never again kill.
Help us to be anti-racist,
in all that we say,
in all that we do,
in all that we are.
It is time. It is well past time.
God of all creation,
bless us all with what we need,
to march on.
To live this work of anti-racism.
Today.
Every day.
Always.
In Jesus' name.
May it be.

—Prayer by the
Right Rev. Richard Bott.

Coming Up

- Ash Wednesday February 17
- Pastor’s Community Hours February 18
- Anti-Racism Coffee Chat February 21
- Council February 23
- Pastor’s Community Hours February 25
- Anti-Racism Book Group March 2
- Pastor’s Community Hours March 4
- Diaconate March 11
- Pastor’s Community Hours March 11
- Daylight Saving Time Begins March 14
- Outreach March 14
- Anti-Racism Book Group March 16
- Finance Committee March 16
- Pastor’s Community Hours March 18
- Ingathering March 21
- Anti-Racism Learning Series March 21
- Council March 23
- Pastor’s Community Hours March 25
- Palm Sunday March 28
- Anti-Racism Book Group March 30
- Pastor’s Community Hours April 1
- Maundy Thursday April 1
- Good Friday April 2
- Easter Celebration April 4
- Diaconate April 8
- Outreach April 11
- Pastor’s Community Hours April 15
- Ingathering April 18
- Finance April 20
- Pastor’s Community Hours April 22
- Council April 27

Preaching Schedule

- February 21 Pastor Eric
- February 28 Pastor Todd
- March 7 Pastor Eric
- March 14 Pastor Todd
- March 21 Pastor Eric
- March 28 Pastor Todd
- April 4 (Easter) Pastor Eric
- April 11 Pastor Todd
- April 18 Pastor Eric
- April 25 Pastor Todd

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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, Zac Furber-Dobson

March

- 3 Sandy Leich
- 6 Justin Jang
- 9 Bruce Lohmann
- 14 Anne Seiler
- 16 Ken Daily
- 19 Chris Sonnemann

April

- 6 Hal Leach
- 8 Brett Clark
- 10 Barb DeBarger-Judy Gestring anniversary
- 15 Spencer Daily
- 18 Peggy Gierke
- 23 Eric Sherlock
- 25 Joan Brandt
- 29 Jon Heinson
- 30 Luci Beaver

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



After our Advent boxes turned out to be so meaningful to our families, Kim Michaud thought, "well we should do something for Lent!" So she and Jenn brainstormed with Pastor Todd and with the help of Barb DeBarger, about 150 bags were assembled. On February 11, Pastor Eric and Pastor Todd handed out about 40 of them to members able to beat the rain—and what a joy it was to see many folks we haven't seen in over 11 months! The rest of the bags were delivered or mailed by our "Lenten elves." If you did not get yours, please contact the church office.

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

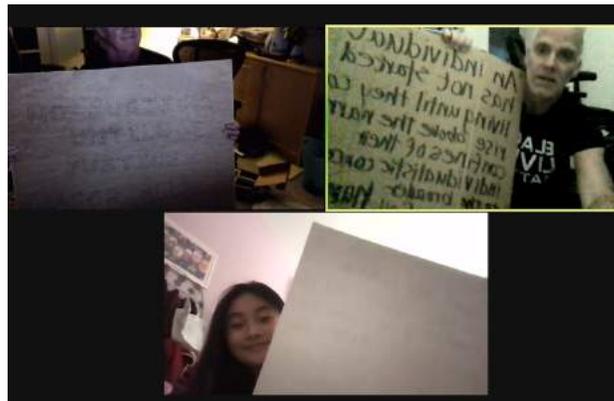
Rev. Todd's

Pastoral Relations Committee

Mariah Callison, Mary Marie

Deauclaire, Barb DeBarger, Jenn

O'Neal, Cheryl Pierson, Richard Stein



Above: DCC members were able to greet our Sister Parish siblings from San Antonio in a recent Google Hangout thanks to Sister Parish Executive Director Carrie Stengel.

In the photo to the left, Youth Groupers display the signs of MLK quotes they made for MLK Dav.