



# Home:

*Something we seek and something we are called to build*

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. This year’s Advent theme Close to Home acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey

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Danville Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ*

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home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.



Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home.

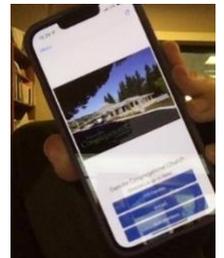
Our Advent journey takes us through the following themes, featuring a variety of voices and paired with beautiful music—beloved traditions and some surprises—carefully chosen by our Music Director John Kendall Bailey:

- **First Sunday of Advent (Hope), November 28**—Homesick
- **Second Sunday of Advent (Peace), December 5**—Laying the Foundation
- **Third Sunday of Advent (Joy), December 12**—A Home for All
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love), December 19**—Seeking Sanctuary
- **Longest Night Service, December 21, 7:00pm**
- **Christmas Eve**—Invited Home, 5:00pm
- **First Sunday after Christmas, December 26**—Chosen Home

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.

## Directory Update

We are updating the church directory. Be on the look out for an email from me or Kim Michaud. The email will have your current information and photo. Please send us an updated photo and any corrected information if relevant. We'd also love to have your birthday and anniversary date so we can celebrate you.



## From our Moderator

*Amy Furber-Dobson*

As we enter this Advent season, I am reminded of how grateful I am to be a part of this thriving community. We have so many opportunities to connect—our services, the Christmas party, and the party to honor Steve Paroli's ministry to name a few. It has been wonderful to see folks coming back to church in person and folks joining us on Zoom!

Just a couple of gentle reminders: if you are coming to church in person, please remember to create space between you and other folks in the pews. The ushers are there to remind us, but we can help them out by spacing ourselves. And when worship is over, please wait until your row is dismissed. These gestures will help us continue to maintain a space where everyone feels comfortable to come to church. I look forward to seeing you in person or on Zoom in the coming weeks!

# Emmaus Committee Update

*by Diane Stein  
Emmaus Committee Chair*

Greetings and warm wishes to all of you from your friends on the Emmaus Committee!

In recent weeks we have been hard at work making changes to our Emmaus team roster with the goal of enhancing how we provide Sunday worship service assistance.

We now have six teams instead of seven to offer better coverage each Sunday. Those on the former Team 7 have been reassigned to another team. If you were on Team 7, we thank you for your service and know you will be an asset to your new team. [The revised roster for all teams is available on our web site.](#)



If you are new to a team, you should have received an email by now from the leader.

We hope all of you will consider assisting when you get the announcement from your team leader once every six weeks. This includes our young people – children and youth are encouraged to serve— and sometimes a particular family will share a role. In addition to your team leader, Pastor Todd is the go-to person if you want ideas how this might work.

The team leaders are as listed here:

- Team 1, Sereen/Tahir Mahmood
- Team 2, Judi Weisgraber
- Team 3, Janis/Randy Jang
- Team 4, Kathie/Bruce Hixon
- Team 5, Carol Bassett
- Team 6, Richard Stein

Thank you for your patience as we have made changes to the task instructions during resumption of in-church worship. A page with updated instructions, including what to do in the event of rainy weather, can be found in the credenza in the narthex and [on our web site.](#) Your team leader has also received these revisions.

If you have questions or need additional information, you can also contact one of the members of the Emmaus Committee.

We wish you a beautiful and blessed Advent season.

Emmaus Committee

Nancy Dowell, Nan Karns, Caryl Krotz, Anne Seiler, Diane Stein (chair)

# Advent Poinsettias: Fresh & Alive

by Janis Jang

Did you know that poinsettias are “south of the border” flowers?

Or that poinsettias thrive in sunlight?

Here’s something else you should know: Advent Poinsettias will be displayed from November 28 to January 9 in the sanctuary. Traditionally they come down after Epiphany Sunday.

Come one, come all and help your Advent Flower Committee keep your Advent flowers fresh and alive! Our dark sanctuary makes it difficult for our poinsettias to keep their petals and leaves from drooping. Poinsettias need to be transferred from the sanctuary to rooms and hallways with sunny, south-facing windows.



Please join us when you see us move the flowers after church service.



Your Advent Committee can also use some help during the week. If you happen to be free on Fridays at 1:30pm, drop by and help us to:

- Clean up the poinsettias
  - Water them
  - Transfer the poinsettias back to the sanctuary quietly so we don’t disturb Valley Oak in Koinonia Hall
- Hope you can join us. We would appreciate it!

Your Advent Flower Committee  
Karol Mead, Janis and Randy Jang, Kim and Dave Michaud

## Christmas Offering

*Doug Leich and Janis Jang, Outreach Commissioners*

Our Joy at Christmas is a response to God’s promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called on to share widely, as we can do through our Christmas offering. This year, the Outreach Commission has designated two recipients – the **United Church of Christ’s Christmas Fund, and Hope Solutions** – each will receive one half of our Christmas offering.



The [UCC Christmas Fund](#) has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever. Through our Christmas offering, we can participate in God’s promise of renewal to the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. Think of the ways in which your life has been touched by a

former pastor, a retired Sunday School teacher, a church secretary, a minister of music – and honor their ministries with a gift that will help others in times of need.



[Hope Solutions](#) heals the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals. Hope Solutions is a coalition of compassionate faith communities throughout Contra Costa County, including Danville Congregational Church, that act on our faith for the betterment of those in need. These faith communities have pooled our resources to support Hope Solutions in the mission to provide affordable permanent supportive housing to some of the most vulnerable families and individuals in Contra Costa. Amidst the pandemic, Hope Solutions has increased their 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. 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 are called upon to share the Joy of Christmas, through our witness and through our gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors. Please join us in sharing this joy by giving to those in need through our Christmas offering on or after Sunday, December 19. Please use a Christmas Offering envelope or write “Christmas offering” in the memo line of your check made out to DCC. To make your offering online, go to the [DCC Donations page](#) and select Outreach Donations / Christmas Offering.

# Anti-Racism Learning Series Debuts

*by Bette Felton*

On Wednesday, November 10, fifteen DCC friends met to learn with **Dr. Lori Watson**, in the first session of the DCC Anti-Racism Learning Series. Dr. Watson started the conversation with what she calls Participant Principles – guidelines and values used in this work. As they are valuable in any group, we list them here for your use in any group:

- Commit to the Cause – Even when others decommit. What is it that keeps us engaging in this work?
- Tell your Truth – Silence can be violence
- Lean in to Listen and Learn
- Don’t Dodge Discomfort – We’re here to work with it
- Resist Relying on a Rapid Resolution – Sometimes resolution isn’t the only good outcome.



Within that context/process, Dr. Watson made a powerful opening statement.

**Racism is a System, not an event.**

**Antiracism is not:** anti-white, teaching people to hate America, nor indoctrination.

**Antiracism is about:** actively working to dismantle structures and practices of racism in many systems.

Those systems are multi-faceted and include racist structures and practices: social systems, economic systems, health care systems, jobs and employment systems, criminal justice systems.

**Race is both positive and negative.** It is inclusive of White, and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) peoples. It is not a proxy for the other parts of you, only a part of your identity.

Our goal is to learn about how racism pervades these systems by developing color consciousness, rather than color blindness. “If you don’t see race, you don’t see me.” We all discussed a paradigm she calls “The Intersection,” where Heart, Body, Spirit and Mind intersect in each individual. Dr. Watson asked “Where do you enter this conversation – through your heart (feeling), your mind (your thinking), your physical body self, or your spiritual/moral self?” She used breakout groups/rooms for us to talk about this question.

Finally, and of great interest, was an exercise where Dr. Watson asked, “How much has race impacted your life, on a percent basis?” After discussing our estimates in small groups, we shared our estimates and talked excitedly about why and how we chose those numbers.

This discussion was enlightening, and each person learned their own truth.

The Anti-Racism team thanks the DCC Endowment for enabling this first important conversation. It was a valuable evening for all present. All are invited to Dr. Watson’s next Danville appearance on January 13, 7:00 PM, with the AAUW. The topic is Women Finding Solutions: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The Zoom link will be available by December 27 at <https://daw-ca.aauw.net>

# DCC Youth Ministry Update

by Hugh Klassen

What is the greatest feeling one can experience? Some may say it is the feeling of *belonging*. To be a part of something that makes you feel safe, comfortable, filled with purpose. For most of us, we have at one time in our life, felt alone, felt like we haven't belonged.

Since the start of August, we have been developing our youth group through a theme focus: *Belongingness*—what it is, how it works, why it is important for our youth to learn about it and seek it out in their own lives.

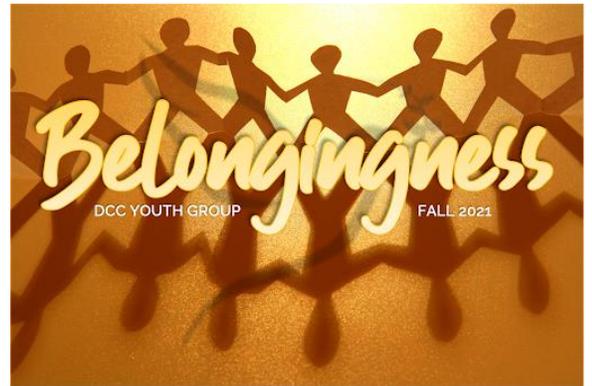
We started this by developing a solid foundation. We created a covenant—a promise to God, ourselves, and our group to respect and take care of one another every time we meet as a group. We wanted to deepen our sense of community (while having fun!) so we each made a pet rock to represent us even if we weren't going to be at youth group one night. We wanted to show how no one is forgotten and everyone are still a part of a group, even when you can't show up and especially if you may feel you don't belong.

Next, we started to look into our values. We looked at what the world depicts as high value versus low value. We started to see that value is not attached to money and fame, but more about each person's inherent value as beautiful creations of God *and* value in terms of what we mean to each other. We wanted to dive deeper into our values. We each wrote down affirmations about our mind, body, and spirit and then began the process of writing affirmations to each other.

And all along the way we played games and had fun. One particular experience where we really connected as a group was through ropes courses--one our new friend Chris Taddeo built for us at Sycamore Park and another when we went to Challenge Sonoma and did their ropes course in the redwoods. At Challenge Sonoma, we encouraged each other to overcome our fears and reach new heights. We came away with a feeling of belonging through having felt supported by the group, even in challenging times.

Overall the development of the youth group since August has been incredible. We have been able to have a consistent group each Sunday night. We continue to explore a variety of topics and have fun doing it.

We are in the process of creating the Spring 2022 program (available later this month) which will build on and expand what we've learned and who we are becoming.



## Youth Group Holiday Happenings

by Jennifer O'Neal



Six Hours.....*Six Hours*.....is all it took for our wonderful youth group families to snatch up the stockings for our Fred Finch Secret Santa Stocking Stuffing project!!! In fact, I had more families reach out than I had kiddos who will receive stockings. I am not surprised as DCC is such a loving and giving community. Thank you for your giving and generous hearts.

We are so excited to have a youth group Christmas Party again. Of course, Covid precautions will be honored. We will be gathering at Carol & Jenn's house in Alamo on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 for our annual all-family Christmas party! We will have a buffet style meal. ([Sign up here.](#)) Hand Washing and sanitizing will take place before entering the buffet line. Gloves will also be available. Masks will be required per DCC guidelines. We will have the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gingerbread house building contest, lots of festive cookies to decorate, holiday cards for our Fred Finch friends to sign, and Hot Cocoa on tap. We are looking forward to a safe and fun-filled time of laughter and holiday joy!

# OWL Cohort off to a Great Start



Seven of our youth in grades 7–10 are well into the Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality curriculum. Already, we have covered *What is Sexuality*, *Examining Values*, *The Language of Sexuality*, *Anatomy and Physiology*, *Personal Concerns about Puberty*, and *Gender Identity*. This cohort is made up of young people who are deep thinkers, already so wise and well informed, and super respectful of each other and their facilitators Lauren Jewett and Pastor Todd, making this a delightful learning experience for everyone. We are grateful for a church that foregrounds this kind of content in step with spiritual formation! OWL will continue through the end of March 2022.

# DCC Children's Ministry Update

*by Jen Faught*

Following worship on Sunday, November 21, our DCC children (including some new friends) learned about some of the traditions and symbols of Advent during the annual "greening of the sanctuary" to prepare for the season. Our friends **Judi** and **Karl Weisgraber**, who have been setting up the Advent wreath here at DCC for many years, shared about the wreath and oversaw the placement of the candles in the Advent wreath and generally supervised, while Pastor Todd quizzed the youth on the meanings of the Advent wreath and other Advent traditions. Our friends **Randy Jang** and **Tom Sonnemann** got the children's help with finding the correct banner to hang and took turns raising the Advent banner into its place. We also carefully opened the individual pieces of our beautiful Nativity from Guatemala--and even got to visit with some of our friends from there on a video call!

It was so wonderful for the children to get to be involved in this meaningful tradition that in past years had always been an grown-ups job! We love our kids and thank our friends for sharing these special traditions with us!

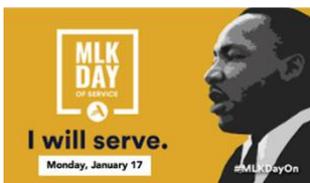


# Godspeed to Steve Paroli

The Youth Group along with several young-at-heart DCC members held a special Godspeed service complete with games (thanks Syd!), pizza (of course!), a video presentation featuring the voice of former DCC youth-groupers, and an open mic for people to express their gratitude to Steve for his many years of service to the young people of DCC. Steve and his husband Mark have relocated to Novato and promise to visit us from time to time! Godspeed, Steve!



# MLK Day of Service: January 17



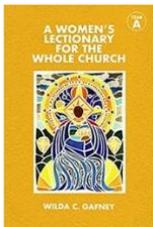
Observed each year on the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off,” MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. DCC will be partnering local organizations to be of service to our communities. Plan on gathering at DCC at 9:30am on Monday, January 17 for coffee & donuts and we’ll go from there. We should be done by lunch. Contact [Pastor Todd](#) if you need more info.





# Epiphany 2022

The season between Advent/Christmas and Lent—known as the *Season after the Epiphany*—traditionally invites us to focus on the calling of the disciples and the early ministry of Jesus and consider the ways we are led into discipleship in our own generation. We at DCC might think of Epiphany as a season to reflect on our mission to love God, love each other, and be God's love to the world. This year, Epiphany spans eight weeks beginning on January 11 with the baptism of Christ and continuing through his transfiguration on February 27. During this season, our worship together will feature a multitude of voices.



First, we will hear the good news through the perspectives and experiences of **women**. This series is rooted in [The Woman's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year W](#) by Rev. Wilda Gafney, PhD, a Womanist biblical Scholar and Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. This more expansive, more inclusive lectionary (released this past November) introduces us to the "stories of women who are often on the margins of scripture" and asserts feminine and expansive language for God. We will be using Dr. Gafney's translations of the gospel text each week and pairing them with a modern voice on each week's theme.



And second, we have invited folx of a diversity of social locations to share the pulpit while Pastor Eric is away on sabbatical. Some of our guests include [Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy](#), president of Pacific School of Religion; [Rev. Riana Shaw-Robinson](#), most recently the Public Theologian in Residence at First Church Berkeley; and [Rev. Rhina Ramos](#), pastor of Ministerio Latino, Oakland and National Coordinator of Proyecto Encuentros Bienvenida y Gracia for the national setting of the United Church of Christ. Our own youth group will provide their leadership and share their voices on February 27.

We invite you to experience a deepening of your individual and our collective sense of discipleship by listening to these unique and diverse voices.

## DCC: Best Place to Worship?

We might be a little biased. But for the past three years, [Danville Congregational Church has been recognized as "Best Place of Worship" by the East Bay Times](#). Once again, the *East Bay Times* is publishing its latest "Best of the East Bay" issue, and this presents an opportunity for us to participate.



If you feel so moved, feel free to click on this link: [Best in East Bay](#).

Type in "Danville Congregational Church" in the "Best Place of Worship" category. To gain recognition for Dayspring Preschool, feel free to select "Dayspring Preschool" as best private school.

To complete your submission, you will need to make a minimum of 5 total choices among the many categories listed, so have fun with it. It should only take a minute or two. Deadline to submit is January 9, 2022.

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**Best Place of Worship**  
**Winner: Danville Congregational Church**  
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville  
(925) 837-6944  
[danvillechurch.org](http://danvillechurch.org)  
Runner Up: Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish  
41933 Blacow Rd., Fremont  
(510) 657-4043  
[olog.church](mailto:olog.church)

(925) 556-9888  
7764 Dublin Blvd., Dublin  
(925) 261-8988  
[kumon.com](http://kumon.com)

Runner Up: Lafayette Academy  
3400 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
(925) 284-1644  
760 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville  
(925) 855-3700  
1400 Moraga Way  
(925) 376-0747  
[lafayetteacademy.com](http://lafayetteacademy.com)

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



## Prayers of Healing for...

- Dave's sister **Laurie**, who went to New Hampshire for a funeral but fell and broke both shoulder and knee. She had surgery Friday. Hopefully she'll return home to LA before Christmas. *(From Dave & Nancy Halseth)*
- We are grateful for the continued prayers for my mother-in-law **Joan Dobson**, who is healing well. *(From the Furber-Dobsons)*
- I have **three dear friends now suffering from cancer**. Please God give them HOPE and strength. May I learn to provide what they most need during their difficult times ahead. *(From Carol Gerich)*
- Please pray for **Marcella** who has been very sick in bed. *(From our friends in San Antonio, Guatemala)*
- My dear friend, **Nancy**, that she soon finds relief from debilitating seizures. *(From Cathy)*
- May **Mark** (formerly known as Maddie) feel God's presence and Love. My God give me the hope that Mark will come home and be with his family who loves him so much. May God give me hope that I can hold fast to in my heart when I feel hopeless. May my family experience Mark's homecoming someday! *(From Jennifer O'Neal)*
- Please help my grandma, whose dog recently died, find the perfect dog. *(From Hazel Furber-Dobson)*
- **My sons and grandson who are in the United States**. Some of them are struggling with addiction. Please pray to God for their health and stability. *(From Tomas, Maria, and family)*
- **Our family, our fellow parishioners in San Antonio**, and all of the people who are sick right now. *(From Yoselin and family)*
- The **health of my family**, both here and my sons in the United States. Please pray for God's mercy, that God has compassion for us and delivers us from COVID-19, which is killing so many people in our communities. *(Pedro, Guadalupe, and family)*
- Sonya's mom, **Elora, and Emilio's Nana** who was just diagnosed with breast cancer, and will be undergoing surgery and treatment in the coming weeks. *(Sonya Schuh)*
- **My friend's uncle** who is terminally ill and on life support. State law does not allow his family to remove the life support. *(Mary-Marie Deauclaire)*
- **Gail Clark** who returned home from the hospital after experiencing some medical issues. Continued prayers for her recovery.
- **Barbara Scott's** first post-radiation check-up that we see no return of her cancer. *(From Barbara & Scott Reed)*
- Our sister-in-law **Tami**, in her recovery from cancer surgery. *(From the Snyders)*
- **Matt Kind** who is recovering from brain surgery. Matt is the son of my longtime neighbors. *(From Nancy Dowell)*
- Prayers for **two pregnancies** of safe and healthy births. *(From Zora Kalinic)*
- Healing and comfort for my sister **Zia**, as she recovers from a broken leg. Prayers she will get all the support and care she needs through what might be a long recovery. *(From Richard Stein)*

- My dear sister **Elizabeth** in her recovery from hip replacement surgery. Trooper that she is, she says it's no biggie. May the operation be a success and may she have a speedy, speedy, speedy recovery. *(From Mary Courtenay)*
- A smooth recovery for our **niece's husband**, who is recovering from triple bypass surgery. *(From Brett & Gail Clark)*
- Traveling mercies for my friend **Eppie Encabo** as she flew east to be with her brother **Patricio** who is very ill in the hospital. Healing prayers for Patricio and peace in his journey. *(From Joy Davis)*
- **Maria Oxlaj Itzep** from our Sister Parish in San Antonio Guatemala. Maria had been very ill with a fever, body aches, and a cough. She is hesitant to seek out medical care, since it is not very accessible. Please pray that she recovers and is able to get what she needs. *(From Trish Moosbrugger)*
- **Antonio's sister** and her **husband**, who both had COVID-19. She suffers from asthma and is having a difficult time. Prayers for their recovery and care for their **daughter**, just under a year old. *(From Anne Bremer and Antonio Moran)*
- Prayers of hope and patience for **Syd's mother** as she faces the challenges of age. *(From Syd and Leslie Dent)*
- Prayers of hope and strength for my friend **Linda**, who will undergo surgery and treatment for breast cancer. *(From Carol Gerich)*
- Prayers please for my friend **Joy**, who has gone to Prescott, AZ to join her mother **Lois**. Together they are facing a very difficult situation that needs all the prayers we can muster. *(From Cheryl Pierson)*
- Prayers for my sister **Anne** and her daughter **Julie**, who's dealing with addiction issues. *(From Karen Judd)*

### Prayers of Sympathy for...

- My dear friend and yoga teacher **Eva**, who turned 99 on November 5. She is now in the care of hospice and nearing the time when she will depart this earth. May her transition be peaceful. *(From Cheryl Pierson)*
- My nephew **Stephen**, who passed away too soon, too young. Prayers for his father Ed and his family. *(From Alene Riley)*
- Please pray for the soul of **Bill Nichol** and his family. Bill died in September from complications of Covid 19. *(From Chris & Stephanie Taddeo)*

### Prayers for the World...

- Pray for **peace in the world and at home**. Let's let go of divisiveness, political and other, and help restore human compassion.
- **My family**, especially my husband and son who are in the United States. Please pray that we will be able to build a new house so that we no longer need to live in fear of rain and landslides. *(From Pancha)*

### Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude for...

- Thanks & hugs of appreciation to all who have visited, sent **Connie Wadsworth** notes and/or phone calls. It brightens her days to see and hear from so many of her dear church friends. *(From the Wadsworth's & Seilers)*
- Prayers of joy and love celebrating 29 years of marriage! *(From Mariah & Chris Callison)*
- Please make "Chewy" Grandma Pat's forever dog. *(From Hazel Furber-Dobson)*
- Gratitude for the opportunity to gather virtually with **members of our Sister Parish** in Guatemala last month. *(From Bob Howell)*
- Grateful for a phone conversation last week with **our friends in San Antonio, Guatemala**. The whole community had been too skeptical of their government to get vaccinated. By the close of the conversation, because our experience shared with them—shared between people who know one another and love one another—they said "You've almost convinced us to get vaccinated." And so for the hope that we have been able to share with them through our experience and partnership, thank God. *(From Bill Williams)*

- We are thankful for **John Kendall-Bailey** and all his gifts. He is our beloved musician, teacher, and friend. *(From Bette & Jim Felton)*
- Prayers of blessing upon **our seven young people** who make up this year's Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality (OWL) cohort and **gratitude for a congregation** who supports this type of education in step with their spiritual formation.
- Prayers of joy knowing **Pastors Eric and Todd**. Thank you for today's powerful and most memorable sermon. Pastor Eric: Godspeed to you. May you return refreshed and renewed to join us again. *(From Cheryl Pierson)*
- Gratitude to the folks, many of whom are DCC members, who showed up in **support of Laudemer's family** and in solidarity with the families who have lost children to this kind of violence. *(From the Klassen Family)*
- Prayers of joy: **Castro Valley High School theater department** got to perform Clue in front of a live audience. It's so awesome to see the joy it brings to the students and their audience! *(Amy and Hazel Furber Dobson)*
- Joy and Happiness that **Matthew turned 30** years old on November 11! *(Carol Bassett)*
- Soaring **thanks to God** that church can be the place where messages of discernment and spirit can continue to refresh our understanding and energy toward living a good life. *(From Bill Williams)*
- With many, many thanks to the many of you who have **donated to Sister Parish**. Your generosity has provided more than \$3000 to San Antonio, Cunen stewarded by Carrie Stengel at Sister Parish. *(From Bette & Jim Felton)*
- Prayers for **the team running the online aspect of our service** and who make it possible for us to be present, here at home. What a gift for us all! *(From Joyce Klassen)*
- Prayers of congratulations to **Dr. Derek Jackson Kimball**, professor at Cal State EB, who was recently named the recipient of the American Physical Society's 2022 Prize for a Faculty Member for Research in an Undergraduate Institution.
- Joy for the **hybrid model of these DCC services**, for folks who feel safer at home, and for folks like myself joining from hundreds of miles away who wouldn't be able to be a part of these amazing times otherwise. *(From Eric Stein)*

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



## Advent and Epiphany Activities

- All-Church Christmas Party ..... December 4
- Communion Sunday ..... December 5
- OWL ..... December 5
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... December 5
- Diaconate ..... December 9
- OWL (215–430) ..... December 12
- Youth Group Christmas Party ..... December 12
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... December 15
- Ingathering ..... December 19
- PFLAG ..... December 20
- Finance Committee ..... December 21
- Longest Night Service ..... December 21
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... December 22
- Christmas Eve Service ..... December 24
- Communion Sunday ..... January 2
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... January 9
- Diaconate ..... January 13
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... January 16
- PFLAG ..... January 17
- MLK Day of Service ..... January 17
- Finance Committee ..... January 18
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... January 19
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... January 23
- Church Council ..... January 25
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... January 26
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... January 30
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... February 6
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... February 13
- Finance Committee ..... February 15
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... February 16
- Youth Group (5–7) ..... February 20
- PFLAG ..... February 21
- Church Council ..... February 22
- Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... February 23
- YG 5-7 ..... February 27
- Pastor Eric returns from sabbatical ..... March 1
- Ash Wednesday ..... March 2

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### *December*

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

### *January*

- 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
- 16 ..... Tahir & Sereen Mahmood
- 20 ..... Cheryl Beck, Emma Grace Luther, Finn Fetherstonhaugh
- 21 ..... Judy Leach, Karol Mead, Judy Halden
- 22 ..... Oliver Beaver

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office.

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!

## Preaching Schedule

- December 5.....Pastor Todd
- December 12.....John Kendall Bailey
- December 19.....Dr. Sharon Fennema
- December 21.....Pastor Todd
- December 24.....Pastor Todd
- December 26.....Pastor Todd
- January 2.....Pastor Todd
- January 9..... Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy
- January 16..... Rev. Riana Shaw-Robinson
- January 23.....Pastor Todd
- January 30.....TBA
- February 6..... Rev. Rhina Ramos
- February 13.....Pastor Todd
- February 20.....TBA
- February 27.....Pastor Todd

## Out of Office

Pastor Eric is currently on sabbatical until February 28, 2022.

Liz will be out of the office from December 7–14.

Pastor Todd will away December 28— January 1.

The DCC office will be closed from December 24 –31 and will re-open on January 4.





989 San Ramon Valley Blvd  
Danville, CA 94526  
[www.danvillechurch.org](http://www.danvillechurch.org)  
[www.dayspringpreschool.org](http://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 in person & via 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

Hugh Klassen, Youth Intern

Liz Setlak-von Thury,  
Office Manager

Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam

Communications Specialist

Sonna Dhamrait, Preschool Director

#### **Church Officers**

Amy Furber-Dobson, Moderator

Shii Stickler, Vice Moderator

Christopher Callison, Treasurer

Deborah Daily, Financial Secretary

Heidi Bridgeman, Clerk

#### **Commissioners**

Open, Buildings and Grounds

Jen Faught, Children's Ministries

Joyce Klassen and Karen Kawaguchi,  
Community Life Ministry

Janis Jang and Doug Leich, Outreach

Open, Stewardship

Karol Mead, Worship

Jennifer O'Neal, Youth Ministries

#### **Preschool Board**

Jim Conning, Barb DeBarger, Kyra  
Kennedy, John Klassen, Nicole Noga,  
Sonna Dhamrait, Director

#### **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, Barb DeBarger,  
Jenn O'Neal, Richard Stein

## LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



December 21 • 7:00pm

*In-Person and Online*

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 • 5:00pm

*In-Person and Online*