



DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



View along Highway 24, 8:35am on January 12, 2023

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 22, 2023

OUR PURPOSE

Love God • Love Each Other • Be God's Love in the World

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

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

A NOTE TO WORSHIPERS

At DCC, wearing a mask during worship or inside the building is optional; please do whatever is comfortable for you. Please be aware of others' personal space and space yourselves out in the sanctuary accordingly. Please invite consent before shaking hands and hugging. The left-hand section of pews as you enter the sanctuary has been designated for those who are free of scents and perfumes.

Please silence your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary.

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

First-time visitor? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! We are glad you are here with us today. Please register your attendance in the Blue Pew Book located in the pew and share whatever information you would like us to have about you. If you are interested in learning more about DCC, please see one of the pastors or designated greeters after worship in the narthex (lobby). We look forward to meeting you!

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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Looking For Light in the Darkness

Shoshana Michel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

To offer a joy or concern, please fill out a Prayer Card, which will be collected during Prayer Time.

If you are joining us online, type your prayer request using the chat feature.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Max Posadas

**All are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit.*

One: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned!

**All: Though we have dwelled in bleakness
and sat still in the quiet of the long night,
we rejoice that God's glorious presence has appeared.**

One: God is indeed our light and our salvation.

**All: In darkness, and in the light,
we will follow where God and Jesus lead us.**

One: Let us worship our God of light and promise.

All: Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Max

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN

Joyful Is the Dark

(See insert.)

¹Joyful is the dark, holy, hidden God,
rolling cloud of night beyond all naming:
majesty in darkness, energy of love,
Word-in-flesh, the mystery proclaiming.

³Joyful is the dark, shadowed stable floor;
angels flicker, God on earth confessing,
as with exultation, Mary, giving birth,
hails the infant cry of need and blessing.

²Joyful is the dark, Spirit of the deep,
winging wildly o'er the world's creation,
silken sheen of midnight plumage
black and bright,
swooping with the beauty of a raven.

⁴Joyful is the dark coolness of the tomb,
waiting for the wonder of the morning;
never was that midnight touched by
dread and gloom:
darkness was the cradle of the dawning.

⁵Joyful is the dark depth of love divine,
roaring, looming thundercloud of glory,
holy, haunting beauty, living, loving God.
Hallelujah! Sing and tell the story!

Following the Time with Children, children are invited to meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Godly Play.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 4:12–23](#)

Mariah

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

MODERN LESSON

“Expanding the Dream”
Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Mariah

“I only dream of us. That’s not the hard part. The hard part is not forgetting in the morning....The hard part is the showing up to tell you. Knowing that what I know is less than what we all forgot. The hard part is practicing in the light, what can only be learned in the dark....”

Excerpted from “Expanding the Dream” by Alexis Pauline Gumbs featured in [MLK 51: 5 Black Poets Reflect on Expanding the Dream](#)

SERMON

The People Who Sat in Darkness

Pastor Todd

*For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

(Isaiah 60:2-3)

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.*

(Isaiah 9:2)

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Loving God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

Hope Solutions

Pat McGrath

TIME OF GIVING

Mariah

Invitation to Giving

To give online, [visit our web site](#) and click "Donate" in the upper right of the screen.

To donate using your mobile device, text the word give to 855-940-3756.

We remain grateful for your generosity.

Offertory

Sure On This Shining Night

Samuel Barber

Sure on this shining night of star made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me this side the ground.

The late year lies down the north. All is healed, all is health.

High summer holds the earth. hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder

Wand'ring far alone of shadows on the stars.

—James Agee

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

*Offertory Prayer

*CLOSING HYMN

God of Day and God of Darkness

¹God of day and God of darkness,
Now we stand before the night;
As the shadows stretch and deepen,
Come and make our darkness bright.
All creation still is groaning
For the dawning of your might,
When the Sun of peace and justice
Fills the earth with radiant light.

²Still the nations curse the darkness,
Still the rich oppress the poor;
Still the earth is bruised and broken
By the ones who still want more.
Come and wake us from our sleeping,
So our hearts cannot ignore
All your people lost and broken,
All your children at our door.

⁵Praise to you in day and darkness,
You our source and you our end;
Praise to you who love and nurture us
As a father, mother, friend.
Grant us all a peaceful resting,
Let each mind and body mend,
So we rise refreshed tomorrow,
Hearts renewed to Kingdom tend.

³Show us Christ in one another,
Make us servants strong and true.
Give us all your love of justice
So we do what you would do.
Let us call all people holy,
Let us pledge our lives anew,
Make us one with all the lowly,
Let us all be one in you.

⁴You shall be the path that guides us,
You the light that in us burns;
Shining deep within all people,
Yours the love that we must learn,
For our hearts shall wander restless
'Til they safe to you return;
Finding you in one another,
We shall all your face discern.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

Out of Darkness

Johannes Bornlöf

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
9:35am–10:30am	Godly Play
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
11:00am–12:00pm	Gender 101 Second Hour Presentation

Our unattended nursery is open for anyone who would like to make use of it during worship. For safety reasons, we request that no child be left on the playground without appropriate supervision. Thank you!

Godly Play (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following Time With Children. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play

There is no **Donuts & Devotions** today.

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	7:00pm–9:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday	1:00pm–2:00pm	Tenant Relations Meeting
Thursday	7:00pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 1.**

Greeter: Sereen Mahmood

Ushers: Chris Callison, Barb DeBarger, and Tahir Mahmood

Candlelighter: Mathew Bassett

Liturgists: Max Posadas & Mariah Callison

Fellowship Hosts: Dee Brook, Nancy Dowell, and Sereen Mahmood

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: John Klassen

Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Trish Moosbrugger & Kyra Kennedy

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 2.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: Announcements for the e-News and bulletin are due **Wednesday** by noon.



Cheryl Lynn Beck

February 20, 1953 – November 19, 2022

Please join us for the loving farewell to celebrate Cheryl's life at a memorial service on

Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 11am

Danville Congregational Church
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd,
Danville, CA 94526

Reception to follow directly after service at the church.

Regrets only to cameron.d.beck@gmail.com



Today at 11:00am

Gender 101 Second Hour Presentation

PFLAG is offering a Gender 101 presentation at DCC today during the second hour at 11:00am. The speakers Elisa Tinker and Taylor denBroeder will focus on terminology, challenges, laws, and how to be inclusive and supportive. This presentation has been offered to staff at SRVUSD, PTA, parents, healthcare providers, small businesses, places of worship, and other schools outside of SRVUSD. This presentation is useful for both training and general information. Any questions email Brucehixon@comcast.net or call (925)-683-1728.

Next Sunday at 11:00am

Children's Ministry Meeting for Families and Volunteers

Following worship at 11:00am on Sunday, January 29th, we are hosting a meeting with all the families of children through grade 5 here at DCC and all of our friends who minister in this area.



As we plan for the current semester and the summer ahead, Jen Faught (our CM commissioner) and Pastor Todd would like to hear from you about DCC's ministry to children—what's worked well, how else we can support you, and your thoughts about some of our ideas for the next few months. We also want to get input from our children's ministers and invite folks new to DCC into this ministry.

We will meet in Kairos Hall; childcare will be provided by teens in our youth group using the Agape Lounge and Dayspring playground.

If you're unable to make it, let us know; we'd still love a chance to check-in with you.

Lent 2023 Good News Article Submission Deadline is February 3rd

We are gearing up for the production of the Lent 2023 Good News. **The deadline for article submissions for the Lent 2023 Good News is Friday, February 3rd.** Please submit any articles or information for the Good News to [Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam](mailto:Anne-Marie.Vanniasinkam). Thank you!



Pastors' Availability



Pastor Eric keeps regular office hours on Sundays and Tuesday through Thursday. He reserves Fridays for sermon preparation and Mondays and Saturdays as his days off. If you want to meet with Pastor Eric during office hours, please schedule your appointment in advance on his calendar by going to <https://calendly.com/reveric>.

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours Tuesday through Thursday and is available Sunday afternoons and on Fridays by appointment. He is off on Mondays and Saturdays and otherwise reserves Fridays for sermon preparation and professional development. Reach out to him directly to schedule a meeting in person at DCC, off-site, or virtual/phone.



Worship Assistants Needed

Now that the holidays are behind us, I would like to recruit some church members to join our team of Worship Assistants. Important duties are handled once a week in the church sanctuary and office, including: straightening and refilling items in pews, organizing name tags, arranging for pick-up of food bank items, and other tasks. Anne Seiler has faithfully completed this job weekly and I so appreciate her service. We need a few more people to learn the job and share it on a rotational basis. It can be done at a time that is convenient for you during open office hours at church. Please chat with me after church or contact me at aleneriley04@gmail.com if you would like to support the church in this role.



-Alene Riley



MLK Day of Service Recap

“Everybody can be great
because everybody can serve....
You only need a heart full of grace,
a soul generated by love.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

A spirit of community and goodwill was in the air this past Monday as around 45 people across a variety of ages showed up at DCC to honor the life of the

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and support the work of Hope Solutions by assembling furniture. Our young friends also planted daffodil bulbs which will make their way to some special DCC folk early next month while others engaged in a bit of landscaping on the DCC campus. Several others joined the effort to help provide around 40 bags of groceries to bless families on whom the brunt of inflation has been particularly rough. What a joy to be a part of such a generous and active community—on special days like this and all throughout the year!

Thursdays at 12:30pm Thursdays for the Soul

- Thursday, January 26
[Visions of Truth Telling, Reparation, and Forgiveness](#)





Danville Congregational Church

MARDI GRAS

PARTY FOR A PURPOSE

Saturday, February 11, 2023

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Danville Congregational Church
989 San Ramon Valley Blvd, Danville

Entertainment by

COOLTONES BIG BAND

New Orleans Style Food & Drink

Kids activities & free babysitting!



SCAN ME

Tickets via EventBrite
<https://DCCMardiGras.eventbrite.com>
\$20 in advance -- \$30 at the door

Generously sponsored by:

Bette & Jim
Felton



Kyra Kennedy &
Pat McGrath

100% of all proceeds benefit families and
individuals experiencing homelessness

HOPE SOLUTIONS

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://danvillechurch.org/mardigras/>

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Associate Pastor

John Kendall Bailey, Music Director

Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam, Communications Specialist

The **DCC Prayer Team** prays daily for those in need of prayers. If you would like to submit a prayer request for yourself or someone else, contact a pastor or send an email to **prayers@danvillechurch.org**. All requests are kept confidential unless specified otherwise.

Maria Arroyo, Dayspring Preschool Director

www.dayspringpreschool.org



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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