



A Word from Pastor Eric

Dear Church,

The lectionary for Year A offers us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking. Nicodemus comes to Jesus in the veil of night. Jesus approaches a Samaritan woman at a well. Jesus heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often in these stories, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

This Lent, we are embracing a worship series founded on questions. Many of the weekly questions you will find are restorative—*"Can these bones live?"*. While others will feel more like a charge or challenge—*"Who will you listen to?"*. And some questions will be more hopeful and curious—*"How do we begin again?"*. It's important to note that our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

(Continued on page 2)

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A Word from Pastor Eric (continued)...

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things. Some of us seek clarity or connection, wonder or justice. Some of us seek balance or calling. Whatever you are seeking in your personal journey, know that there is space here for you with your questions and doubts.

Collectively, throughout the turbulence of the past few years from climate change to gun violence, police brutality to anti-Black/AAPI racism, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. If you are returning to church, you are probably returning with more questions and a critical lens. We hope this series will help us unpack some of those big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: *what am I seeking? What is God seeking?*

This Lenten season, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life and into the heart of God.

To join in our Lenten spiritual practices, please visit our [web site](#).

See you in church,
Pastor Eric



Update from Pastor Todd

At January's Church Council meeting, our Anti-Racism Team provided an update on our anti-racism efforts here at DCC. As we look toward opportunities for church-wide anti-racism education and faith formation, all our commissioners were invited to begin imagining how they could weave conversations about race, anti-racism, and faith into all our ministries.

The Youth Ministry commission has been engaged in these activities for a while now. We talk about Black History in Youth Group (not just in February) and have engaged in activities and conversations related to how race shapes us and how our faith informs us. Our young people already have a pretty strong IQ when it comes to race. For example, I invite you to ask them about the importance of the words and actions of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ... or about how our system of mass incarceration disproportionately impacts Black people and other people of color ... or about the importance of people who have a certain amount of privilege leveraging it on behalf of those who find themselves marginalized or struggling. They are a wise group of young people and do not shy away from these difficult conversations—even if they're also eager to get on to the next game of flashlight tag!

Within our Children's Ministry, we have woven conversations about God's love for everyone and how loving God and loving others are synonymous actions. We have discussed with them migration; the stories and rituals of other peoples around the world such as our friends in Guatemala; and how—as you may remember [from a recent Time with Children](#)—though we may be different on the outside and have different abilities, we are all the same on the inside, and God loves us all the same. What's fascinating to me is that kids already understand these concepts!

In our recent meeting with some of the parents of our youngest friends, we broached the topic of infusing our programs of faith formation for children with some deliberate anti-racism work. Parents expressed the difficulty—but also generally affirmed the importance of—talking to kids about race. Our CM commissioner Jen Faught relayed how at first, she thought not talking about race until her children were older might be the best approach; but she had learned that children are formed by race from a young age regardless and that developmentally appropriate conversations with them help stem off unhealthy and unhelpful notions about race—such as “color blindness” to name one example.



Update from Pastor Todd (continued)...

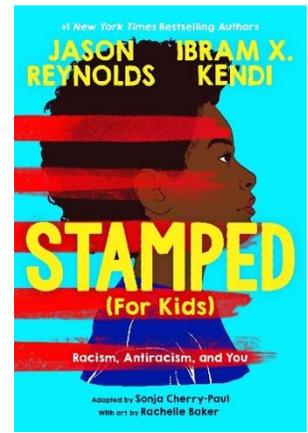
In fact, says Roger R. Harrison, PhD, a behavioral psychologist and researcher at Nemours Children's Health, if we "stay silent [about racism], kids can get the message that racism doesn't matter or that it's someone else's problem. To help put an end to racism, everyone has to take an active role, no matter who they are."

He goes on to say,

When we teach kids early on that it's OK to talk about race, we help them to understand, respect, and appreciate the differences between people. This builds empathy and compassion for others so that kids are better able to see when things in their world seem unjust or unfair—and can do something about it.

So we continue to have these conversations in our church, much as a family might. And we wonder....

- What would it be like for our older children to participate in a book study with Pastor T using the adaptation of *Stamped* by Dr. Ibram X Kendi as adapted for children by Jason Reynolds?
- And what might a Godly Play-style series on "[Tell Me the Truth About Racism](#)" look like for our 5–12-year-olds? Nothing is set in stone but Pastor Todd and others from our Children's Ministry are going to attend a 6-session training starting in April to understand the curriculum and then meet with our parents and Church Council to share what we've learned.
- We're also imagining a study group for parents on the urgency of raising anti-racist kids and how it connects to our faith.



To be sure, this is difficult work, yet it is important to talk about it, work through it together, and then implement in ways that are gentle, accessible, and faithful—so that we can continue to love our bodies, each other, and radiate that love to the world!

DCC News & Notables

Dayspring Preschool Welcomes New Director-- Maria Arroyo!

By Barb DeBarger

As you know, our former Dayspring Director, Sonna Dhamrait, resigned from her position earlier in December. After a thorough search and interview process, which included individual interviews by the Board, a tour of the school, and a panel of parents and staff members, we are pleased to welcome our new Dayspring Director, Ms. Maria Arroyo! Maria comes to us as an experienced Director with 19 years of preschool experience--as an assistant, a classroom teacher, a Director and as an Education Director. Additionally, Maria has experience as both a teacher and Director mentor through First Five, both in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. We are very lucky to have found someone with her level of expertise in the middle of a school year, and I hope you will join me in welcoming her to our school.



Maria has jumped right into the work at Dayspring, supporting the new classroom flooring project, hiring staff, planning for upcoming programs, and managing the day to day operations. Stop by to say hi and introduce yourself if you are in the area!

Winter Nights Recap

By Richard Stein

As part of a program called **Winter Nights** several churches and other faith communities in Contra Costa County open their facilities for lodging and meals during the winter and spring months for families that would otherwise be homeless. San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo is one of those churches. On two of the days when the Winter Nights families were staying at the Methodist church, December 6th and December 9th, teams from DCC were blessed to be able to provide wonderful and complete dinners to those families.



All parts of the two meals ... the main courses, salads, and desserts, got great reviews from the client adults and children and from those of us who were blessed to be able to serve the meals and sit down with the clients.

DCC is a regular participant in the Winter Nights Program, so if you missed this most recent opportunity to serve, you'll get another chance later this year.

Many thanks to Dianne Dorn, Zora Kalinic, Chris Rauen, Nan Karns, Dee Brook, Kyra Kennedy, Pat McGrath, Barb DeBarger, and Rene Brucker who helped make this year's Winter Nights Program a success.

Pastoral Evaluation Committee Summary Findings

By the Pastoral Evaluation Committee

The Pastoral Evaluation Committee has finished its work and has conducted evaluations of our two pastors. During the process, we received good feedback from church council and leadership committees that have helped us recommend several next steps for our church as well as our pastors. The Pastoral Evaluation Committee was led by Kyra Kennedy, Heidi Bridgeman, Barb DeBarger, Shii Stickler, Deb Daily, Kim Michaud, and Jen O'Neal. Please see our findings on the following slides:

Summary of Findings

We LOVE our Pastors!

So much good happening at DCC

- Excellent worship services
- Top-notch preaching
- Thoughtful and meaningful messaging in sermons
- Wonderful children's and youth programming
- Awesome COVID-time support and creativity from pastors
- True teamwork in the partnership between Eric and Todd
- Sacred life services help support members during times of change
- Congregation has trust in our processes

► For pastors:

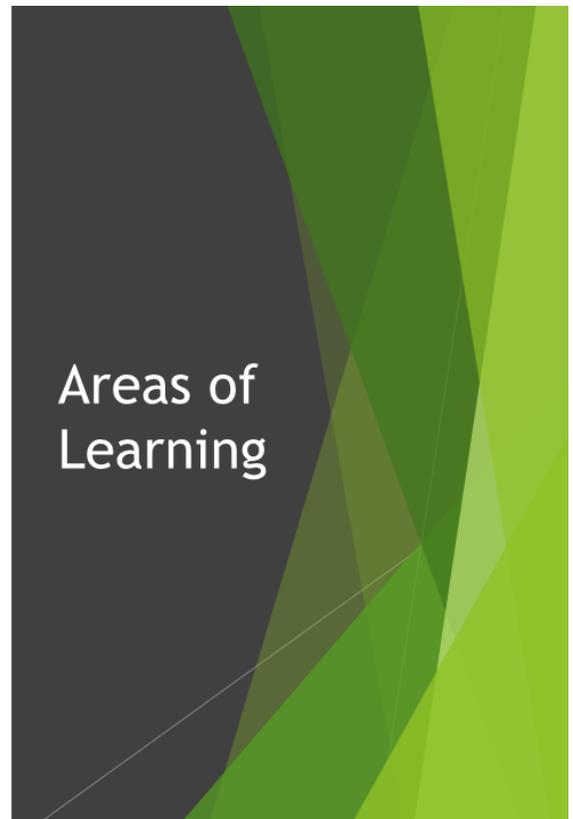
- Sharing ideas for making our Vision statement come alive
- Create a calendar of worship themes that can be shared with committees/commissions at church council so there can be integrated messaging in activities
- Create a contact plan for new members as well as current members so that all in the congregation get "touched" by the pastors and lay leaders beyond Sunday services
- Increased opportunities for learning—Bible studies, partnering with commissions/committees in second hour programming
- Posting office hours for the congregation for visits

Areas of Learning

- ▶ For Commissions
 - ▶ Work together with pastors and other groups at DCC to implement ideas from worship
 - ▶ Supporting more congregational educational events, such as Bible studies, commission/committee presentations, during second hour
 - ▶ Explore possible activities with other churches/congregations for our youth as well as commissions
 - ▶ Document all Commission activities and prepare to share the “how to” with new Commissioners as they join the team



- ▶ For Church Council:
 - ▶ Explore various leadership models for churches of our size and leadership capacity; our current model may be outdated
 - ▶ Reinststate a Moderator Team or Leadership group to help with planning that includes both pastors and lay leaders
 - ▶ Seek opportunities to support our pastors with detailed information and knowledge of the budgeting and HR processes
 - ▶ Update both pastors’ letters of call
 - ▶ Recommend changes in the PRC bylaws
 - ▶ Update and codify into the DCC bylaws about the evaluation process of the pastors
 - ▶ Create an annual “training” or “pass it on” session for old/new commissioners to provide for smooth transitions
 - ▶ Create annual goals that provide the foundation of positive change for DCC



Easter Flower Donations

By Alene Riley
Worship Commissioner

Lent is about to begin, and the Worship Commission extends the opportunity for you to honor or commemorate the memory of someone by donating Easter flowers to fill our sanctuary.

To make a donation, use the form on the right, look for this form in upcoming bulletins, or fill out [the form online](#) and print. Take the completed form along with your check (made payable to Danville Congregational Church and designated “Easter Flowers” in the memo) or money and do one of the following:

- Give it directly to **Alene Riley**.
- Place it in the offering plate.
- Drop it by or mail it to the church office.

You can also make your donation and designation using our web site. Please enter amount in “**Easter Flowers**” and specify In Honor or Memory of _____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don’t receive an email within the week, contact Alene Riley (aleneriley04@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Alene at above email address. Thank you!



Easter Flower Donations

Donations are now being collected for our Easter Flowers. Fill out this form and give your check/money to **Alene Riley**, place it in the offering plate, or deliver it to the office.

Name(s) gift given by

Name (Circle One) in honor of / in memory of

You may also donate online on the church website: please enter amount in “Easter Flowers” and specify In Honor or Memory of ____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don’t receive an email within the week, contact **Alene Riley** at aleneriley04@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to Danville Congregational Church. and note on the check that it is for “**EASTER FLOWERS.**” Thank you!

Handbell Corner

*By Janis Jang
Handbell Choir Coordinator*

"There are eleven ways to play 4-in-hand."

When I heard that, I almost fell off my chair.

The things you learn when you take the three day Virtual Winter Workshop! That wasn't the only statement that stunned me.

These workshops started during the COVID pandemic when the Handbell Musicians of America canceled the annual National Seminar. It granted people like me a chance to see the newest trends the handbell world was using without traveling to another state. Composing with the latest computer software, proper ways to choose a mallet, programing worship services, increasing dexterity, teaching handbells in schools... the list goes on.



Another eye-opening statement came from a composer. He advised us to just contact the composer if we had a question about the music. We've done that...twice. The handbell world is young and most of the composers are still living.

The 4-in-hand instructor continued, "I only use six (methods) of them." That was supposed to make us feel better. Then she went on to 6-in-hand.

At DCC, we have been known to use two of them. That's because we only knew that two methods existed.

During Advent, six of our eight handbell ringers used the 4-i-H technique with one hand (two bells on one hand) when we rang "Ukrainian Bell Carol." The other two ringers rang handbells that were too large. That piece gave us the opportunity to expand our horizons.

Celebration Bells has been (slowly) expanding their repertoire of skills through music. We learn wherever the music takes us.

Come and take this musical journey with us. You can contact Janis Jang or any member of Celebrating Bells if you're interested.

Children's Ministry

*By Jen Faught
Children's Ministry Commissioner*

Good news! Our children, and by extension, the Children's Ministry, are growing and thriving. Our kids had a great time preparing the sanctuary for Christmas. The highlight was opening and closing the beautiful wood box that Tom Sonnemann made that holds the Advent candles. The Christmas pageant was so much fun! Stars, shepherds, sheep, angels, wise people, Mary, Joseph—and even a curious cow—all came together to entertain and delight, reminding us of the ancient story of Jesus' birth and the joy it brings. From choosing their costumes and parts, to singing wonderful songs (Let's go! Let's go! Let's go!) led by conductor Pastor T and accompanied by Karol Mead, John Kendall Bailey, and our friends from the choir, everyone got into the spirit of the season. There was even a friendly old donkey who carried Mary to the stable. (hee-hee)

Shortly after Christmas, some of our children participated in the MLK day of service, helping to plant daffodil bulbs in pots to give away for Valentine's Day, and to remove some of those billions(!) of seed pods on the trees that line our parking lot.

Also, a big *Thank You* to the parents who met with us on January 29 to provide feedback on Children's Ministry. We are actively working to think through and implement your suggestions. If you didn't get to attend but want to share your feedback and ideas with us, please reach out to me! (ifaught@gmail.com)



Youth Ministry

*By Carrie Hrousis
Youth Ministry Commissioner*

As I write this, I am reminded of the wise words of Dr. Martin Luther King:

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

Many of our youth participated in MLK's Day of Service at our church. They led us in worship during the Intergenerational Racial Justice service. Our youth may still have a lot of questions, but they definitely can answer Dr King's call with their volunteering efforts.

Studying about others, interacting with people with different backgrounds, and learning how to help is important work for all of us. The youth are doing this by attending events with other churches like Feb Camp and A Confirmations Retreat. On February 19, the YG is welcoming **Sanjev DeSilva** who is the director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice at Athenian School. On March 12, we'll be heading back to San Francisco for Celebration at Glide Church, a tour of the Tenderloin Museum, and an afternoon of service.

We are also looking forward to a Graduates Brunch on May 7th to honor our seniors:

Katie Beaver, Dylan Bretschneider, Athan Hrousis, Bobby Hrousis, and Elora Huerta

We are always looking for help with Donuts and Devotions and Youth Group dinners. Come join us as we explore faith questions and find new ways to help others.



The Days of the Week

*By Anne W. Seiler
Emmaus Team Chair*

If you haven't heard it before, another good reason to go to church on Sundays is to help keep track of what day of the week it is!

Going to church shouldn't feel like an obligation, but now that we've experienced social isolation due to the Covid 19 lockdowns, we should exercise our right to gather in worship as often as we can. And if you're not feeling your best or are not able to make it to church, you can still watch our magnificent worship services via Zoom.

I enjoy going to church to see so many of my Church Friends, whether sitting in the same pew as them or seeing them fulfilling their Emmaus Team duty, acting as Greeter, Candle Lighters, Liturgist or bringing snacks for Social Time. Each team does such a great job working together to make our church run smoothly.



As sung in the musical *Grease*, let's remember that "we go together."

Anti-Racism Team Resolutions

*By Barb DeBarger
Anti-Racism Team Member*

The Anti-Racism Team is pleased to announce that the Church Council has passed a set of Resolutions that put Anti-Racism at the forefront of our work at DCC. These Resolutions were originally adopted by the Northern California-Nevada Conference of the UCC, and individual congregations are being asked to participate in their implementation. In the spirit of our church mission to "Be God's Love in the World," these activities will help bring us closer to realizing our prayers. These Resolutions are:

- I. **Making Amends for a Colonizing Past:** *Learning and acknowledging our inherited history, praying for repair and right relationship, and taking courageous and humble action for land protection and justice.*

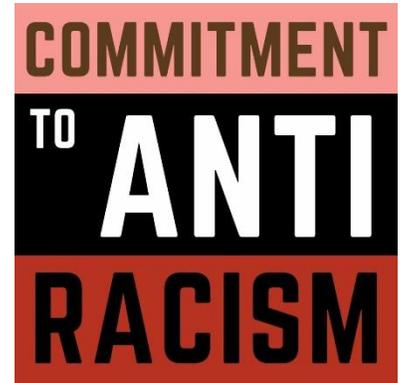
Action Steps:

- **Adopting and utilizing Land Acknowledgements**
- **Participating in the Shuumi Land Tax program**
- **Participating in educational activities highlighting the Indigenous people of our area**

- II. **Standing in Solidarity:** *Antiracism and Racial Justice Formation in Local Churches*

Action Steps:

- **Supporting Commissions and Committees to create activities that support Anti-Racism**
- **Selecting and supporting the entire congregation in learning about Anti-Racism through the selection and adoption of an Anti-Racism curriculum**



Throughout the winter and spring, please watch the weekly Thursday emails and Sunday bulletin for opportunities to participate in learning more about these important, congregation-wide action steps.



Christmas



Pageant



Report on 2022 Outreach Offerings

June -December 2022

*By Doug Leich and Dianne Dorn
Outreach Commissioners*

Thank you for your continued generosity through DCC's Special Offerings and other giving opportunities. Here's a report by the numbers on our outreach giving during the second half of 2022:

- Thanksgiving Offering: \$2,225 to [Sogorea Te' Land Trust \(Shuumi Land Tax\)](#), acknowledging that DCC is located on unceded territory of the indigenous Ohlone people.
- Christmas Offering: \$3,022, split evenly between [Shelter Inc.](#) (to assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness) and the UCC Christmas Fund (for emergency assistance to retired UCC clergy and employees).
- United Church of Christ Special Offerings:
 - UCC [Strengthen the Church offering](#) (June): \$820
 - UCC [Neighbors in Need offering](#) (October): \$740
- Other Donations:
 - Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano (Ingathering Sundays): \$1,250
 - Sister Parish: \$490
 - Wildfire disaster relief: \$140
 - Back to School gift cards for Shelter Inc. (July): \$150
 - Interfaith Council of CCC for ICHANGE Mentoring Program (October): \$110
 - Christmas for Others grocery gift cards for Hope Solutions (November): \$375

In addition to this financial giving, you also provided 21 new backpacks stuffed with school supplies for children of homeless, formerly-homeless and at-risk families now living in Hope Solutions and Shelter, Inc. housing, as well as an assortment of school supplies for children in Eden UCC's Cherryland neighborhood. And you provided 32 Christmas gifts for family members in Hope Solutions' Spirit of Giving program, plus two nights of hot dinners for the homeless families in the Winter Nights Shelter Program. All of these families are grateful for your kindness and generosity.



Christmas in San Antonio

By Carrie Stengel
Executive Director Sister Parish

Families in San Antonio were happy to openly celebrate the *posadas* last December for the first time since the pandemic started. Although some families participated in *posadas* in 2021, there were still health restrictions, and some people were still afraid of the risks.

The *posadas* are a special holiday tradition, during which communities across the Americas reenact Joseph and Mary's search for an inn over a period of nine days leading up to Christmas Eve. During the *posadas*, people visit homes, share food like *tamales* and sweet bread, and reflect on the meaning of the season. At midnight on Christmas Eve, people light fireworks. In rural areas, one can see the small fireworks lighting up the mountainsides. In San Antonio, the families of María & Tomás and Pedro & Guadalupe each hosted one night of the *posadas* in their homes. Pedro sent a short [video of the final night of the *posadas* in San Antonio](#) to share with you.

Last November, [Sister Parish organized a virtual *posada*](#) to share the tradition across the Sister Parish family and friends virtually welcomed us in to their celebrations.

Below are the links referenced above:

[Video – Final night of the *posada* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8lc_svU_bc

Video – How Sister Parish members celebrate the *posadas* https://youtu.be/b_owESrs_Vk

Video – Sister Parish virtual *posada* <https://youtu.be/mzQlaqdxctw>]



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 November 2022. They have been updated as we receive additional information.



Prayers of Healing and Strength for...

- Healing prayers for **many tests**, that I come to be healthy. *(From Irene Brucker)*
- Pray for my **Grandma Dobson** to continue to heal from her heart problem. *(From Hazel Furber-Dobson)*
- Prayers for my **friend Barbara** who is severely challenged by her husband's acute Alzheimer's. *(From Carol Gerich)*
- Prayers of healing for a family member, **Steve**, who had his esophagus replaced on Friday due to cancer. May he be well and whole. *(From Dave and Nancy Halseth)*
- Prayers for family and continued healing for **Tak** who has been hospitalized since September 1. *(From Rene Brucker)*
- Prayers for an extended family member, **Eugenia Ramirez**, who is recovering from a stroke and faces other health problems. *(From Sally Baca)*
- Prayers of healing for **Norm Palmer** as he recovers from Covid.
- Prayers for all our loyal and loving **congregants suffering from ailments**. May you be blessed with better health and comfort. *(From Larry Berlin)*
- Prayers for **Julie Grenley's** sister, **Lisa**, who has transitioned to hospice care. Prayers of comfort for Lisa and peace to her family.
- Prayers for **Heidi Bridgeman** who is in the hospital undergoing tests.
- Prayers for my friend **Kristina** whose family is struggling with the mental health of her daughter-in-law. *(From Dianne Dorn)*
- Prayers for healing and comfort for our brother-in-law **Ian Shearer** who is facing a cancer diagnosis. *(From Jim & Shii Stickler)*
- Please pray that my **co-workers** will have the spirit to hear me regarding the needs of a student. Please pray that this **student—and all of the students I counsel**—may soon feel hope, peace, joy, and love unconditionally. *(From Megan Luther)*
- Prayers for healing for **Kathy Inclan** to be well enough to return home for the hospital before Christmas. *(From Jim Stickler)*
- Prayers for healing for my sister **Kathleen**, hospitalized with bacterial pneumonia with fluid around the lungs and heart issues. *(From Joan Dobson)*
- Please pray for our friend **Tom**, who is in the hospital. May he gain strength and be able to come home. *(From Nancy and Wayne Snyder)*
- Prayers of healing for our daughter's father-in-law, **Brian**. He is in the hospital with a serious stomach infection. *(From Brett and Gail Clark)*
- Prayers for my **Mother-in-law**, who just suffered a stroke last Sunday. *(From Vickie Lanini)*

Prayers of Healing and Strength (continued)...

- Prayers for my brother **Richard** who is in the hospital in Detroit for internal bleeding issues, from a previous procedure done a while ago. Pray that the physicians resolve this issue. *(From Larry Berlin)*
- Prayers for my sister **Kathleen** who is awaiting heart surgery once she is stable. *(From Joan Dobson)*
- Prayers for my dear friend **BM** who is now on hospice. *(From Melissa)*
- Prayers for my friend **Marie Noelle** who is recovering from a very serious car accident in November and has months yet to go in her rehabilitation. *(From Eric Stein)*
- Prayers for my dad **Keith**. He is 86 and has had problems lately with dizziness and has been hospitalized twice. *(From Alene Riley)*
- Prayers for **Cheryl Pierson** as she undergoes hip replacement surgery this week.
- Prayers as **Dave** has been diagnosed with Renal Cell Cancer which has spread to his hip and spine and as he undergoes more testing and pain management. Dave and Nancy are with family this weekend and ask for our prayers as they discern next steps, for Dave's comfort, and for **Nancy's** strength as she accompanies him. Nancy asks us to remember that as "Dave often forgets, it would be kindest just to ask how he's doing rather than want to discuss his diagnosis." *(Dave and Nancy Halseth)*
- Please pray for **my family** as we recover from a virus. My kids will start school on February 20. For the first time in 3 years, the kids will have in-person classes every day. Please pray for my husband who had an accident at work and had to have an operation on his arm. He will be unable to work for 7 months. His boss said he could only pay him for 1 month of his recovery. *(From Pancha Hernández Oxlaj-San Antonio Parish)*
- I ask for prayers for **my son Gabriel** who is in the hospital. May God help him and may he recover soon. Please pray for the **health of my whole family**, especially those who are in the U.S. (Federico, Rolando and Javier). I also ask for prayers for the Catholic Church in San Antonio. May we experience spiritual unity and prosperity and may God deliver us from evil. *(From Pedro Sica Chicaj-San Antonio Parish)*

Prayers of Sympathy for...

- Prayers of comfort and healing for **Nancy Lozak** whose sister died unexpectedly last Friday. And Nancy is also concerned about **her niece** who is grieving the loss of her mother. *(From Eileen Ackley)*
- Prayers for the **students and family of Dr. Clint Culp**. Clint was the director of Wilderness Education and Outdoor Learning program that Hugh attends. Clint died unexpectedly two days before the Avalanche Awareness class he was teaching and that Hugh was attending. Dr. Culp was involved in every aspect of the program and so everyone knew him. It's not clear yet how they will fill the void. May the family, students, and peers of Clint find peace. *(From John & Joyce Klassen)*
- My **101-year old mother-in-law** who was cognitively intact passed away and her prayers were answered. She is at peace. May healing prayers be with **our family**. *(From Irene Brucker)*
- Our prayers for **Chelsey and Cameron Beck** on yesterday's loss of their loving mother, Cheryl. Cheryl was a proud and devoted mother and grandmother of three precious grandchildren. *(From Kathie and Bruce Hixon)*
- Grateful for the life of **Glenda Eloy**—a woman who brought beautiful music and joy. *(From Amy Furber-Dobson)*
- Please pray for **my friend Gladys** whose mother-in-law died in the Philippines. *(From Melissa Tumaneng)*
- Prayers of gratitude and joy. I am so **happy to have my family here** today. *(From Mary Courtenay)*
- Prayers of gratitude for the **prayers of concern, answers, healing, and love** this past week. It is truly a miraculous thing to feel cradled by this DCC family. *(From Heidi Bridgeman)*

Prayers of Sympathy (continued)...

- Our beloved sister, **Barbara**, died Monday night. We ask for prayers for **her family and friends**. She is now reunited with Mom and Dad. *(From Chris Sonnemann and Sally Baca)*
- Prayers for **Cathy** whose brother died yesterday. Cathy worships by zoom with us every Sunday. May she find strength, comfort and peace, one difficult day at a time. *(From Nancy Hill)*
- Prayers for **Lucas (Luke) Emmett**, age 24, who passed away January 2, 2023. Please pray for him and his family. *(From Roger)*
- Prayers for **Patrisse Cullors**, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, and her family. Her cousin **Keenan Anderson**, a 31 year-old high school teacher and father, was trying to get help after a traffic collision and died after being held down and tased by Los Angeles Police. *(From John Klassen)*

Prayers for the World...

- Greetings and blessings to all our siblings at DCC. We ask for prayers for the members of the **Catholic Church in San Antonio**. Thank you all for your support for our prayers. *(From Julia Sarat Ajanel-San Antonio Parish)*
- For understanding and love to **all who are in trouble, hurt, and bewildered**. *(From Bruce Hixon)*
- **Prayers for the family of Tyree Nichols** in the wake of his violent murder in Memphis. Prayers for **that community** and for **all who live in fear of the same thing happening to them**.
- Prayers that this nation, and other free nations, continue to **support the Ukrainian people** in their valiant fight against their oppressors. *(From Richard Stein)*
- Prayers for the **victims and families of the senseless shooting** last night (Saturday) in the mostly Asian-American Pacific Islander community **of Monterey Park**, a suburb of Los Angeles. *(From Tahir & Sereen Mahmoud)*
- A prayer for **peace**.
- Prayers for all **victims** who were shot and killed, wounded, and traumatized in the **Colorado Springs mass shooting at Club Q LGBTQ bar** in Colorado Springs, CO. *(From Larry Berlin)*
- We remember the victims of the massacre at Club Q in Colorado Springs, CO) **Daniel Aston, Derrick Rump, Ashley Paugh, Raymond Green Vance, and Kelly Loving**. And we pray for their families and the LGBTQ community in the wake of this act of murderous violence.
- We remember the victims of the massacre in Chesapeake, VA **Lorenzo Gamble, Brian Pendleton, Kellie Pyle, Randall Blevins, Tyneka Johnson, and a 16 year old** whose name has not been released. And we pray for their families in the wake of this act of murderous violence.
- Prayers for **peace and justice in Iran**.
- Prayers for all those **suffering at the hands, words, and weapons of others** who have power over their lives; let there be peace. *(From Bruce Lohmann)*
- Please also pray for the **Anti-Racism Team** at DCC as they meet today to continue their important work to interrupt, disrupt, and dismantle racism in ourselves and across our broader community.

Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude for...

- A prayer of gratitude for the **Second Hour session** resuming today—those help me ‘see the light’.
(From John Klassen)
- Prayers of gratitude for the **love and support** of our beloved church as Dave and I face difficult times.
(From Nancy Halseth)
- Prayers of thanksgiving for the long life of **Phyllis Sutton**, Bette's sister of many years. She is a free and generous spirit who has moved to her next adventure. *(From Bette Felton)*
- I am so grateful for all the **people who dedicate their time, money, and talents to our amazing church**. Thank you for your service! I love our church and the people in it! *(From Jenn O'Neal)*
- Grateful that **my mother** is recovering well from her mild stroke. Prayers that her eyes will align with the exercises prescribed for her. *(From Janis Jang)*
- Prayers of Joy and Happy Birthday to **Nanci Luczak**, who is celebrating with her kids and grandkids today! *(From Eileen Ackley)*
- Prayers of thanks that **Chris**, who fell last Sunday, has mostly fully recovered. *(From Tom Sonnemann)*
- Prayers of joy to be able to **share worship service** here in the sanctuary with all these good friends.
(From Eileen Ackley (a “zoomee”))
- Prayers of joy and blessing. Some of you may remember that the very day I was extended a call to ministry by this church, I was outside the Neonatal ICU at a hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, waiting to understand the extent of damage to our new **grandson Dawson’s** little brain, experienced during a traumatic birth. Well, that little boy **turns 4** tomorrow and every day he continues to recover and grow past that damage and is thriving! We are so grateful. *(Miguel and Pastor Todd)*

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



Lent Season Activities

- Choir Rehearsal..... February 16
- February Camp (High School) February 16–19
- Choir Rehearsal..... February 19
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal February 19
- Youth Group February 19
- Finance Committee Meeting..... February 21
- Ash Wednesday February 22
- Tenant Relations Committee..... February 22
- Choir Rehearsal..... February 23
- Choir Rehearsal..... February 26
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal February 26
- Council Meeting..... February 28
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 2
- Youth Group Confirmation Retreat March 5
- Communion Sunday March 5
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 5
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal March 5
- Youth Group March 5
- Diaconate Meeting March 9
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 9
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 12
- Commission Sunday March 12
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal March 12
- Youth Group March 12
- Prayer Shawl Ministry..... March 15
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 16
- Ingathering Sunday..... March 19
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 19
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal March 19
- Youth Group March 19
- Finance Committee Meeting..... March 21
- Tenant Relations Committee..... March 22
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 23
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 26
- Council Meeting..... March 26
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal March 26
- Youth Group Easter Eggs March 26
- Choir Rehearsal..... March 30
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal April 1
- Communion Sunday April 2
- Palm Sunday April 2
- Maundy Thursday April 6
- Easter Egg Hunt..... April 8
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal April 8
- Choir Rehearsal April 9
- Easter Sunday..... April 9
- Diaconate Meeting April 13
- Choir Rehearsal April 13
- Ingathering Sunday April 16
- Youth Group..... April 16
- Finance Committee Meeting April 18
- Prayer Shawl Ministry April 19
- Choir Rehearsal April 20
- Choir Rehearsal April 23
- Council Meeting April 23
- Youth Group..... April 23
- Tenant Relations Committee April 26
- Choir Rehearsal April 27
- Choir Rehearsal April 30
- Youth Group..... April 30
- Choir Rehearsal May 4
- Communion Sunday..... May 7
- Diaconate Meeting May 11
- Choir Rehearsal May 11
- Mother’s Day May 14
- Choir Rehearsal May 14
- Youth Group..... May 14
- Finance Committee..... May 16
- Prayer Shawl Ministry May 17
- Choir Rehearsal May 18
- Ingathering Sunday May 21
- Choir Rehearsal May 21
- Council Meeting..... May 21
- Youth Group..... May 21
- Tenant Relations Committee May 24
- Choir Rehearsal May 25
- Choir Rehearsal May 28
- Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost May 28
- Youth Group Game Night May 28
- Memorial Day May 29

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

- 3.....Sandy Leich
- 6..... Justin Jang
- 6..... Jim Conning
- 9..... Bruce Lohmann
- 14..... Anne Seiler
- 16..... Jen Faught
- 16..... Ken Daily
- 19..... Chris Sonnemann
- 21..... Bode Lawrence
- 24..... Jasmine Conning
- 27..... Linda Chandlee
- 28..... Gilbert Posadas
- 31..... Kim Lawrence

April

- 1..... Brett & Kim Lawrence
- 8..... Brett Clark
- 10..... Barb DeBarger & Judy Gestring
- 12..... Dave & Nancy Halseth
- 15..... Spencer Daily
- 18..... Peggy Gierke
- 23..... Pastor Eric
- 27..... Bob Howell
- 30..... Luci Beaver

May

- 1..... Pastor Todd
- 1..... Penny Atkins
- 1..... Marge Czajkowski
- 2..... Kim Michaud
- 2..... Emily Luther
- 4..... Anne & Tim Seiler
- 4..... Amy & Jim Furber-Dobson
- 5..... Wayne Shupe
- 5..... Donna Lenhardt
- 6..... Caryl Krotz
- 6..... Tahir Mahmood
- 10..... Camara Rauen
- 13..... Gail Clark
- 14..... Luke Ruhlin
- 16..... Allison Seiler
- 17..... Aram Boyd
- 17..... Daniel Lahini
- 18..... Will Kovach
- 25..... Jim & Pae Conning
- 29..... Charlie & Alex Hasselbrink
- 30..... Marianne Clark & Donny Woo
- 30..... Carol Gerich

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

Preaching Schedule

- February 19 Pastor Todd
- February 22(Ash Wednesday) Pastor Eric & Pastor Todd
- February 26(1st Sunday of Lent) Pastor Eric
- March 5 Pastor Todd
- March 12 Pastor Eric
- March 19 Pastor Eric
- March 26 Pastor Eric
- April 2(Palm Sunday) Pastor Todd
- April 6(Maundy Thursday) Pastor Eric & Pastor Todd
- April 9(Easter Sunday) Pastor Eric
- April 16..... Pastor Eric
- April 23..... TBD
- April 30..... Pastor Eric
- May 7 Pastor Todd
- May 14(Mother’s Day)..... Pastor Eric
- May 21 Pastor Todd
- May 28(Confirmation Sunday/Pentecost)

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 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
 Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam
 Communications Specialist &
 Office Administrator
 Maria Arroyo, Preschool Director

Church Officers

Amy Furber-Dobson, Moderator
 Shil Stickler, Vice Moderator
 Deborah Daily, Treasurer
 Heidi Bridgeman, Financial Secretary
 Sandra Lepley, Clerk

Commissioners

Team led, Buildings and Grounds
 Jen Faight, Children's Ministries
 Kim Michaud, Community Life Ministry
 Dianne Dorn, Outreach
 Bette Felton, Stewardship
 Alene Riley, Worship
 Carrie Hrousis, Youth Ministries

Preschool Board

Jim Conning, Barb DeBarger, Kyra Kennedy, John Klassen, Emily & Megan Luther, Nicole Noga
 Maria Arroyo, Preschool Director

Rev. Eric's

Pastoral Relations Committee

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

Rev. Todd's

Pastoral Relations Committee

Mariah Callison, Barb DeBarger, Mary-Marie Deaucaire, Jennifer O'Neal, Cheryl Pierson, Richard Stein



MLK
Day of Service 2023

Did you know you can go back and watch or listen to our sermons, special music performances, and other special events on our [website](http://www.danvillechurch.org) and our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)? Check it out!