



# Weary, yet Joyful

Within the Christian story, we know Jesus' birth unfolded in a world weary from hardship. King Herod imposed a harsh reign and the Roman Empire's disdain towards the people of Israel burdened them with cruel taxes and land seizures that plunged many into poverty and hardship. Yet, amid this pervasive destitution, Jesus' arrival heralded good news and great joy for all.

With Advent's return to our own weary world, we ask the question: How does a world so fatigued find joy? Luke's Gospel offers a few insights: acknowledge our weariness, discover joy through human connection, embrace wonder, sing tales of hope, create space, embrace tradition, and, most significantly, trust our cherished worth as beloved of God.

(Continued on page 2)

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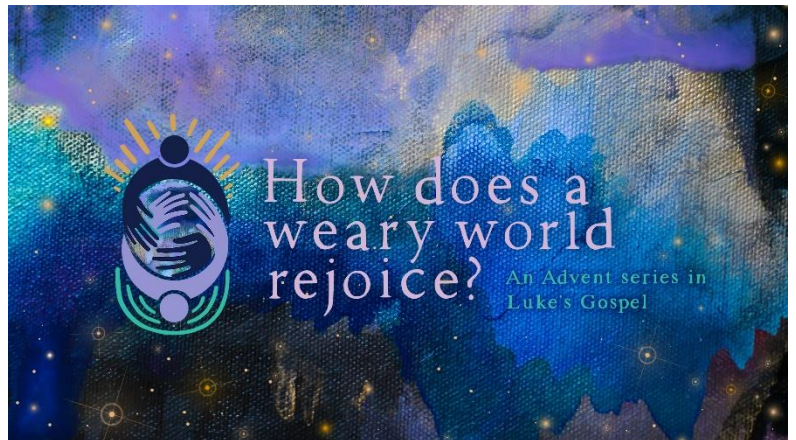
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## Weary, yet Joyful (continued)...

This Advent, we will discover that through the intertwined narratives of Jesus and John's births, joy can blossom despite apprehension, fear, or sorrow, offering us a roadmap for celebrating amid adversity. Through our journey this Advent season, we aim to carve out room for acknowledging weariness while celebrating God's profound proximity with immense joy.

Friends, no matter where you find yourself this Advent, we'll hold space for both weariness and joy. Amid our world's pain, we'll seek a "thrill of hope" and welcome joy, even as we echo Isaiah's plea for solace (Isaiah 40:1). In this tired world, and in this season of anticipation and preparation, may we discover joy once again.



Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Eric



# Wonder All Around Us

*"It's the most wonderful time ... of the year...!"*

...goes the old familiar refrain celebrating the Christmas season. The [Andy Williams classic](#) is one of my most favorite holiday songs; but if I'm being honest: amid all the turmoil in the world right now, it sure doesn't feel very wonderful. And yet...

It occurs to me that Jesus was born into a world of conflict and strife, not really any different than our current context. God's love was born in the midst of all that! And the beauty of a season like Advent is that we get to be reminded about the same time every year about the wonder of such a love as God's. Our senses are invited into the experience—we get to smell, taste, see, feel, and hear the wonder all around us. And oh, don't we need some of that Christmas magic right now?!

So you know what? I'm gonna continue to sing along with this song each time I hear it! [I love the original but [Amy Grant's cover](#) is my sentimental favorite.] And to the lyrical list of wonderful things of the season, I would add:

- putting out the Advent wreath and candles on the altar
- watching the kids unbox and carefully handle our Guatemalan nativity.
- seeing families all together in church (especially on Christmas Eve!)
- blessing the hand-made hats and scarves that will keep folx on the street warm
- watching kids over-sprinkle the cookies they're decorating and will deliver to DCC friends
- after weeks of anticipation, finally lighting the Christ candle on Christmas Eve
- learning fun songs for the Christmas pageant that get stuck in your head on a loop
- singing *Silent Night* as we raise our candles illuminating our dimly lit sanctuary
- watching graduated youth-groupers reunite after Christmas Eve service...

Advent and Christmas—they invite us to behold the wonder of the season—to take it all in and really experience it. These rituals and traditions really become part of us—who we are and what we are about. They get planted deeply in the hearts of our children whose sense of wonder is far less desensitized than most of us adults. And Advent reminds us that in a world full of strife and through times of grief and struggle, God is in the midst of it all, inspiring us toward hope, peace, joy, and love.

Our challenge then, after the Magi go home and the wreaths get packed away for another year, is to hold onto that sense of wonder and joy the other 48 weeks of the year. So let's indulge our senses and fill our hearts this holiday season—savoring some for ourselves, sharing a bunch with others, and tucking a little bit away to encourage us through the days ahead!

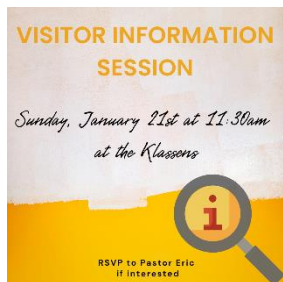
*There'll be much mistltoeing  
And hearts will be glowing  
When loved ones are near  
It's the most wonderful time  
Yes the most wonderful time  
Oh the most wonderful time  
Of the year!*

With great joy,

Pastor T

# DCC Happenings

## Visitor Information Event



Are you new or feel new to DCC? Have you been attending DCC for some time and wonder what the next step might be in your faith journey? You are invited to join Pastors Eric and

Todd for a Visitor Information Session Sunday, January, 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30am at the Klassen's home to learn more about the DCC community and membership at DCC. Within the DCC community, we have three groups of people that make up our community: Visitors, Friends of DCC (regular attendees), and Members. If you consider yourself a "visitor" or "friend of DCC" and are interested in learning more about committing to DCC through membership, we hope you'll join us!

## CARE Group

In November the CARE group was launched at DCC. CARE stands for:

Compassionate  
Acceptance  
Resilience  
Encouragement

This group will address various challenges, such as aging, life transitions, caregiving, and grief, offering a compassionate space for you to find solace and share your journey. Connect with fellow sojourners, exchange insights, and receive emotional support as we navigate these challenges together. Let's find strength, guidance, and a sense of community in this important group, facilitated by Pastor Eric. The next couple CARE group meetings will be on December 13<sup>th</sup> and January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30–3:30pm. All are welcome to join.

## Christmas Lunch and Cookie Exchange

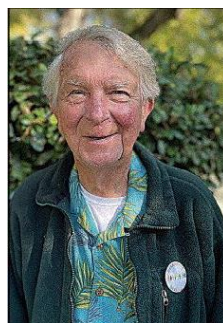


Please join us in Kairos Hall after worship on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas Lunch and Cookie Exchange.

- lunch will be provided by the Community Life Commission
- bring 1-2 dozen of your favorite cookies - we will eat them, pack some up for our homebound friends, and you can take a box home, too
- enjoy holiday music, crafts, cookie decorating and more!
- invite your friends and family

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Kim Michaud ([kcmichaud@yahoo.com](mailto:kcmichaud@yahoo.com)).

## Bob Howell in Rossmoor News



DCC member Bob Howell was featured in the November issue of the *Rossmoor News*. This article highlighted his love of the outdoors and adventures in the Trails Club. To read more, please visit the November 1<sup>st</sup>

issue of the [Rossmoor News](#).



# Advent Flower and Endowment Fund Donations

*By Alene Riley  
Worship Commissioner*

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

To make a donation, fill out the form in your bulletin or fill out [this form online](#) and print. Take the completed form along with your check 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 designation and make your donation using our web site.

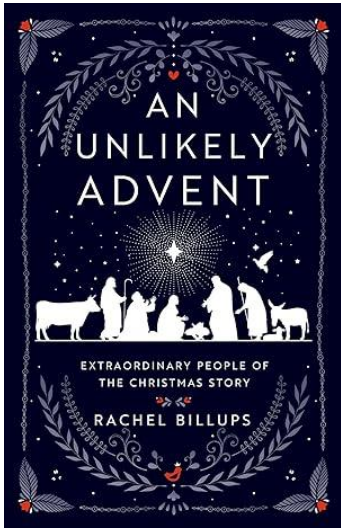
Please enter amount in “Advent Flowers” and specify In Honor or Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ in comment field.

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](mailto:aleneriley04@gmail.com)). Please note on your check that it is for “Advent Flowers.” Thank you!

In addition, the Endowment Committee invites you to remember a loved one during Advent by making a donation. You may do so by filling out the same form and designating that it is for the Endowment Fund. Please fill out the form and place your check in the offering plate or deliver it to the office.



# Advent Book Study Series



As we approach the season of Advent, we are excited to invite you to participate in a special Advent Book Study that will deepen our understanding of Christmas and its profound significance.

This year, we will explore the book "An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People and the Christmas Story" by Rachel Billups. You can purchase the book on [Amazon](#).

In this inspiring book, Billups takes us on a journey through the lives of extraordinary individuals who played a crucial role in the unfolding of the Christmas story. Their stories remind us that the Christmas narrative is filled with unexpected twists and turns, showcasing the miraculous nature of the birth of Jesus.

## Details of the Advent Book Study:

- **Book:** "An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People and the Christmas Story"
- **Author:** Rachel Billups
- **Meeting Schedule:** Tuesdays, Dec 5th, 12th, 19th from 2:00-3:15 pm
- **Location:** Music Room
- **How to Join:** Purchase the book on [Amazon](#) and RSVP to Pastor Eric

This Advent Book Study provides a unique opportunity for us to come together as a community, reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and deepen our spiritual connection during this sacred season.

# Celebration Bells Gets a Boost

*By Janis Jang  
Handbell Choir Coordinator*

Celebration Bells is getting ready for the December 10<sup>th</sup> worship service. This time, we are preparing in a different way.



Wait. Is that John Kendall Bailey conducting the handbells? During our November 19<sup>th</sup> rehearsal, John gave up some of his valuable time in his busy schedule to give Celebration Bells some pointers.

This isn't the first time that Celebration Bells was under the baton of our Music Director. You might recall John rescuing us on Music Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Suddenly without someone to conduct us, John volunteered to step in last minute. He had less than 12 hours to look at the music (including sleep at night!)

I had the privilege to be the “fly on the wall.” With God’s Way in the sanctuary, Celebration Bells squeezed in the Music Room. I was actually observing in the handbell closet. It was a privilege to watch a real conductor work with the group. Not only was John natural and full of grace, but the group responded to him well.

I would say John advanced the group by three weeks. That’s great because COVID canceled three rehearsals!



Flute and bell tree on Dec. 10th



# DCC Members Join Community Rally for Police Accountability in Antioch

On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Doug Leich and Bob Howell, both members of our Anti-Racism and Justice Ministries Committee, joined residents of Antioch in a protest against the racism and violent actions of members of that city's Police Department. The following quote from a poem read during the rally reports the concerns expressed by residents and parents of victimized family members.

*Don't let the "men in blue" take this life away.  
Don't let the politicians help them get away.  
They make the laws so they can kill with impunity,  
while we pay for them to "protect our community."  
What kind of law let's them gun down our youth?  
It's not justice without truth.  
It's not justice without truth.*



Presenters from other nearby cities with large African-American populations expressed similar concerns.

Bob expressed that participating in the protest helped him better understand the lived experience of black neighbors facing systemic racism in America.





# Upcoming Performances by John Kendall Bailey



DCC's Music Director, John Kendall Bailey, will be performing around the Bay Area in the upcoming weeks. These concerts are a great opportunity to see his many talents outside of DCC.

## **CONCERT WITH PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE**

- Dido & Aeneas – Saturday December 2nd at 2:30pm and 7:30pm at the First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. You can buy tickets [here](#).

## **TWO CONCERTS WITH AMERICAN BACH SOLOISTS**

1. A Baroque Christmas – Wednesday, December 13th. You can buy tickets [here](#).
2. Handel's Messiah in Grace Cathedral – Thursday, December 14th and Friday, December 15th. You can buy tickets [here](#).

**FUTURE MOZART TO MENDELSSOHN CONCERTS IN 2024** –at the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave, SF. Admission is free.

1. Sunday, February 4th at 3:00pm - Neoclassical Jokes (Haydn, Penderecki, Shostakovich)
2. Sunday, April 21st at 3:00 pm - Classical Classics (Mozart Sym. #40; Beethoven Sym. #5)
3. Sunday, June 23rd at 3:00 pm - Child Prodigies (Mozart, Mendelssohn, Deutscher, Korngold)

# Children's Ministry is Thriving

By Jen Faught  
Children's Ministry Commissioner

After a wonderful Halloween party and Thanksgiving break, we are excited for the Advent season!

The children helped green the sanctuary last Sunday, bringing out the blue banner, our candles, and the gorgeous nativity figures from Guatemala. We are also getting ready for our music Sunday / pageant combo extravaganza on December 17th, followed by lunch and cookie decorating party afterward!

Children's ministry also has been preparing to introduce the *Tell The Truth About Racism* curriculum during Godly Play time. We had a helpful meeting with some Godly play teachers and parents on November 12th, and more information on the program will be coming.

Deep thanks for everything you do to support our wonderful kids.





# Youth Ministry Looks Ahead

*By Carrie Hrousis  
Youth Commissioner*

Monster Mash was so much fun for those of us who could attend. The coloring sheet started by the youth in Donuts and Devotions gave us something fun to do when we weren't dancing.

Many thanks to Kim Michaud and the Community Life Commission for helping our church throw an intergenerational party for all to enjoy. The youth tell me that if we do this again next year, we should plan it for early October. That way we can all enjoy dressing up and it won't interfere with their other Halloween opportunities.

We have a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

- Donuts and Devotions will return in January on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month.
- The youth group will be doing a service project on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and attending a multi-church advent retreat on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Christmas Party/ Christmas for Others will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Check-in with our youth and ask them about all they are doing together. 'Tis the season for us all to spread love, joy, and all those other fruits of the spirit.





# Life at DEC





# Many Hands Make Light Work

*By Anne W. Seiler  
Emmaus Teams Chair*

Two men in our church family share October 25<sup>th</sup> as their birthdays (Tim Seiler and Ben Beaver). Working in the retail world, do you know what that means to me? Two more months until Christmas!! It also reminds me that it's time to harvest the pomegranates.

There is a familiar Christmas Holiday song that I'm sure you are all familiar with:

“He’s making a list,  
checking it twice,  
gonna find out who is naughty or nice”.



I, too, keep such a list, but mine is titled: Pomegranate Jelly List. At the top of that list are two dear ladies who always collect and recycle their jelly jars for me to use. I also add kind people who share their pomegranate harvest with me like our neighbor Pat, those who help cut and squeeze pomegranates, the Mock family who stores the jugs of pomegranate juice in their freezer, and all others involved in this holiday season production. My Ferncroft Court neighbors are on the list, as they resist the temptation of picking the fruit before it's ripe; Crystal the Greenbrook Elementary crossing guard has a spot too, for she always has sweet treats for our dog, Bailey; my workmates who are like my family; and the kids' teachers, as that is who my brothers and I would always give jelly jars to before we left school for our long-anticipated Winter Break.

Making Pomegranate jelly has been a family tradition of the Wadsworth family since the early 1970's when we moved into our Diablo home upon which grew several Pomegranate trees. Curious Connie researched, possibly out of her classic Betty Crocker cookbook, what to do with such a fruit, and from her research the jelly-making began! Jelly-making has continued to be a part of our holiday rituals, as my family planted pomegranate trees on our Danville property in 2018. We must pick the fruit before Halloween, so any rebellious trick-or-treaters don't snatch and smash them! It takes quite a lot of manual labor to pick the fruit, cut it up (remembering not to wear white clothes as the juice stains easily) and squeeze the juice out using classic, manual orange juice squeezers. Having many friends to enthusiastically help do these activities is a blessing, as “many hands make light work”.

I believe the same quote is true with our church. Pastors Eric & Todd are our pastors, but they don't do **everything**. We all work together; we are a part of 6 different Emmaus teams that enable the Sunday services to run smoothly. Additionally, there are lots of committees that do other activities behind the scenes like Buildings & Grounds, Outreach, Sound and Tech Team, Children & Youth Ministry, Tenant Relations, and Sister Parish, (see Good News, Fall 2023 for more examples). “The more you put into it, the more you get out of it” is another quote that I believe supports our church family and success.

Happy Holiday blessings to you all!



# Weddings and Events at DCC

Our new Weddings and Events team has been working hard to make DCC a destination where people come to host their weddings and events to generate additional revenue. We have listed DCC on the Knot and Wedding Wire.

The wedding team also worked hard to stage the various spaces as it could look for events. The pictures below, taken by Dave Michaud, showcase these efforts. You can also view the 360° virtual tour on [WeddingWire](#) and [The Knot](#).

Now we need you. If you have held an event, memorial, or wedding here at DCC, we would appreciate it if you could write a positive review of your experience to increase our exposure on these sites.

For weddings, use this link to review.

<https://www.weddingwire.com/shared/rate/new?vid=4a9b475cbbf704ab>

For events or memorials, use this link to review. <https://www.theknot.com/review-wedding-vendors/2077359>



# Anti-Racism Team Updates

*By Barbara DeBarger  
Anti-Racism Team*



Last year, the DCC Council approved several goals that the Anti Racism Team adopted as recommended in 2020 by the Annual Meeting of the wider Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. One of those goals was to "select and offer an antiracism curriculum, with guest speakers, to the congregation and take measures to encourage broad congregational participation in the chosen curriculum.

The Team will explore available curricula, provide Council with a recommendation, and help coordinate the presentation of the chosen curriculum." While a formal curriculum has not been adopted, the Anti Racism Team has been putting together a variety of

opportunities for the congregation to support broad participation and learning in this area, including a sermon series (November 2023), learning opportunities for children/youth, and through second hour discussions, beginning with the second hour sermon reflections, and the December 3<sup>rd</sup> information session on the California Reparations Task Force's Final Report.

Be on the lookout for more opportunities this winter and spring to learn more about how anti-racism is a reflection of our roles as Christians, and about opportunities to support this work! Our team is always open to new members--our meetings are announced in the Thursday e-news and Sunday bulletins. Hope to see you there!



# Tenant Relations Committee Needs Your Help

*By Penny Atkin  
Tenant Relations Committee Chair*

Are you looking for a way to help DCC with ongoing operations but have limited time? There could be a spot for you on Tenant Relations. This committee is charged with setting rules and rates for those who use our space and general liaison with all of them to make certain everything goes well.

We are looking for a couple of people to join the committee. No auditions necessary. Meetings are often on Zoom, occasionally in person and usually once every month or two. Right now we are scheduled for the end of October and January, and may add additional meetings if circumstances dictate.

Please consider this option. If you have questions, contact any member.

Penny Atkin, chair

Bette Felton

Judy Halden

Carol Bassett

Randy Jang



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*By Dee Brook & Judy Scheib*



The Prayer Shawl Ministry was established in 2007 by Anne Moulds. During the peak years there were nine members. At this time, three women are doing all the knitting: Judy Schreib, Gail Clark and Elke Torgersen. Each Dayspring family receives a baby blanket when new babies are born, about 4-6 a year. This year, nine blankets have been given out to the happy mothers. Hats and scarves are made for the homeless and given out at Christmas time while prayer shawls are given to members/friends

of the church when needed. The knitters purchase the yarn for baby blankets and hats/scarves and devote many hours making these lovely gifts of love.

# All Church Luncheon Meetings

*By Barbara DeBarger  
DCC Co-Moderator*

One of the Council Goals for the 23-24 church year is to increase opportunities for church communication and create connection and fellowship amongst members. Towards this end, we will be holding four all-church luncheon meetings to provide information and updates on church activities. Our first one was held on October 29<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting we shared our 2023-2024 goals and church members shared updates on church programs.

- Church Financials: Our treasurer, Steve Bridgeman, gave an update on church financials—we are doing well during our first few months of the church year, with income and expenditures on track.
- Honoring Indigenous Peoples Month: Bette Felton, from the Anti-Racism Team acknowledged the local Indigenous people who have stewarded the land and the decision to designate the creation of an annual offering in honor of Indigenous people. We also looked at the Muwekma Ohlone Preservation Foundation website, our church's recipient of outreach funds for Indigenous People's Month (October).  
<https://www.muwekma.org/muwekma-ohlone-preservation-foundation.html>  
Funds can still be donated by check or at the DCC donations webpage; please list "Muwekma Foundation Donation" as the recipient under the Outreach section.
- Painting of our buildings: Judy Halden, Buildings and Grounds, announced the completion of the painting our building.
- Wedding/Events Project: Kyra Kennedy, co-moderator, shared exciting marketing plan for the Wedding/Event Project.
- By-laws: Barb DeBarger, co-moderator, shared the work the council is doing to update the church By-laws.

Luncheon participants were encouraged to complete a feedback form, sharing ideas of how to improve communication and topics of interest for future meetings. Future luncheon meetings will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>.



The survey results are below. There were 31 forms returned.

1. I feel more informed about church goals after today's meeting (check one).

- Not at All 0
- Somewhat 0
- Mostly 4
- Absolutely Yes 27

**Comments:**

- Steve did a great and informative financial report (2 respondents)
- Meeting provided connection & communication (2 respondents)
- Love the meetings, could we attract young families if we had child care?

2. I get most of my information about what is happening at church by (check all that apply):

- a. Weekly e-newsletter 24
- b. Sunday bulletins/church services 26
- c. Quarterly newsletter 18
- d. Website 6
- e. Word of mouth/church friends 16
- f. Participation in committees and activities. 4

3. I would like more information on:

- a. Our presence in the community
- b. Wedding/special events and progress toward our goals
- c. Activities to attract visitors, and grow membership, we are not sustainable
- d. Build intergenerational relationships
- e. Sister Parish/Guatemala/Guatemala politics

4. Future topics of interest for congregational meetings

- a. What are the commissions doing?
- b. Hands-on opportunities to help local indigenous people
- c. Long Term Planning
- d. Endowment
- e. Youth/Owl
- f. Progress on LGBTQ and new committee
- g. Dayspring
- h. Conservation of land, wildlife and resources
- i. Outreach for non-English speakers and sign languages
- j. How does our church voice and act to support?
  - i. Anti gun
  - ii. Gay Rights
  - iii. Anti book ban
  - iv. Anti racism

# Dayspring Preschool News

*By Barbara DeBarger*



Dayspring Preschool is thriving under the leadership of our director, Maria Arroyo! She celebrates one full year of work with us in December, and the school is doing an outstanding job of educating our youngest students. Our toddler program is bursting at the seams, with two full classrooms of students, and a large waiting list. Parents have been participating in school activities more and more as the threat of COVID has subsided, and the school hosted a huge Halloween party and "Trunk or Treat" sponsored by their active parent team. The loving and dedicated teaching staff is also on board with new professional learning opportunities sponsored by Quality Matters, including

training on the "Teaching Pyramid" and their new student assessment tool, the DRDP (Desired Results Developmental Profile). Additionally, the Friends of Dayspring (DCC members who support school events) has been active in providing meals and baked goods--the next opportunity is baking cookies for their Winter Concerts! Contact Jim Conning [jconning@yahoo.com](mailto:jconning@yahoo.com) if you are available to help.

Our three- and four-year-old program is smaller--now that public schools are accepting all four-year-olds into their Transitional Kindergarten classes, we are in stiff competition with those age levels. If you know of new families in the area looking for an excellent school with a loving staff, state of the art facilities and well-organized leadership, please steer them towards Dayspring!



# Rakestraw Event at DCC

By Bette Felton  
Tenant Relations Committee



Jim and I wanted to report on the very successful event in the sanctuary on the afternoon of Saturday, October 14.

Michael Barnard, proprietor of Rakestraw Books, and the artist/authors, Mac Barnett, and Sean Miller arrived at 4 o'clock to set up what we thought was going to be a book signing. It turned out that it was a full performance with music videos, and reading of

the graphic novel entitled ***The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza***. Their second book, ***The Soup of Doom***, was also read from and promoted with song, skits and participation from kids. A third graphic novel is coming soon

There were at least 150 people at the event, mostly kids. Many kids came in costume dressed as pizzas and queens in great imaginative outfits. Kids, and adults, gave rapt attention to these blog stars, who were discovered during the pandemic. It was clear that these books had been read by many age groups in the family, often together, with several people taking different parts. Parents were as excited as the kids to see these artists in person, and a photo booth they set up in the narthex was used by many.

These two young men were YouTube sensations during Covid. Their show attracted a full following of these two young artists and composers, who made a great show for all of us.

Many thanks to Michael at Rakestraw for showing our sanctuary to a whole new group of people!

# Sister Parish Updates

*By Carrie Stengel  
Executive Director Sister Parish*

The following was sent to DCC from our partner community, the San Antonio Catholic Community in Guatemala, through conversations with Carrie Stengel from Sister Parish.

## **From Pancha:**

- Please pray for the health of my grandmother Pancha Juana Itzep, who has been ill.
- Please hold Marcela Itzep Itzep in your prayers. She has been ill for a long time now and she is in a lot of pain. We visit her to pray with her.
- Please pray for my brother, who is in jail in the U.S. He has been suffering.
- Thank you for your prayers for my son and my husband - they are doing a little better.



## **From Gabriel:**

At the beginning of November, it rained for weeks straight with hurricanes and tropical storms passing over. Some people in our community were scared and wondered if it would ever end. It never used to rain in November. It was very hard for those few weeks, but it finally cleared.

Despite the weather, we marked All Saints Day and the Day of the Dead as we always do by honoring our ancestors, decorating their graves in the cemetery, and sharing traditional music and food, like squash and sweet corn. [Watch Gabriel's video: <https://youtu.be/XyZASZeEgwc>]

We ask for prayers for peace and prayers that our government governs justly, with no more corruption. [Read more about [the political situation in Guatemala](#) and the [protests to protect democracy led by the Indigenous Authorities](#).]

We ask for prayers for our community members temporarily working out of the country. Without the support they send us, we would be living in extreme poverty. Here it is hard to find work. There are political problems and environmental problems, our crops are affected. We place ourselves into God's hands, praying for harmony and peace. May we one day have equality, more connections, more ways to expand our ideas and grow as siblings in Christ.



I am a teacher but there is no work, there are so many teachers. We have to see what else we can find to survive and put food on the table for our families. I am working in construction, but it is not a long-term job. We still depend on the money people send from abroad. We hope there will not be more crises. We heard about the governor who wanted to deport all the immigrants and we panicked. It really impacted us. Thankfully that didn't happen. We ask God to protect our family members, to safeguard their health, as they work to support our community. We pray for you all. You are like family to us. We thank you. It is sad that we cannot be together in person, but we are certain that one day we will once again have the opportunity to share and spend time together as we have done in the past. We hope you will come here to breathe in this air here with us.



# 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 September 2023. They have been updated as we receive additional information.

## Prayers of Healing and Strength for...



- Prayers for neighbor **Paul Schneider**, who is having surgery tomorrow, a setback during his treatment for pancreatic cancer. *(From Nancy Dowell)*
- Prayers of healing and health for the **Walth family** after a devastating accident. *(From Joy Davis)*
- Please pray for our friend, **Vic**. *(From Amy Furber Dobson)*
- Prayers for **Eleanor** for patience, comfort, and peace as she deals with back pain. *(From Syd Dent)*
- Please pray for **my husband** who hurt his back. *(From Barbara Carillo)*
- Please continue to pray for **Marigold** and her parents. The heart surgery is not currently needed AND she is now 3 pounds! *(From Nancy Halseth)*
- Prayers of comfort and resilience for my friend **Jason** who's going through a tough time. *(From Kristin Chambers)*
- We continue to pray for baby **Jamie Rose**, daughter of **Emily** and **Megan Luther** and little sister of **Emma Grace**, who is still in the NICU.
- We continue to pray for the recovery of **Donny Woo** who is at home.
- Prayers for my dear friend **Linda** who anticipates difficult surgery on her spine in early November. May she find relief from her constant pain. *(From Carol Gerich)*
- For my dear friend **Pam** whose cancer has metastasized, prayers of strength and comfort for her, her family, and her friends. *(From Carol Gilliland)*
- Prayers of support and love for **Linda** and **Morrie** as he faces the challenges of lung cancer in both lungs and was taken to the ER on Saturday. *(From Sandra Lepley)*
- A prayer for **Walter and his family** who are visiting their homeland in Israel this week. *(From Norm Palmer)*
- A prayer for **Wilson Jackson** as he recovers at home from hip replacement surgery. *(From Eileen Ackley)*
- Prayers for **Lore** who is experiencing back pain and is in the hospital at Valley Care in Pleasanton. *(From Carrie Hrousis)*
- Prayers of rest and recovery for our fearless leader **Janis Jang**, who is ill with covid-19. Prayers also that her husband **Randy** stays healthy and well. *(From Celebration Bells)*

## Prayers of Healing and Strength for...(continued)

- Prayers of respite and healing for **Michiyo Laing** after seven days in the hospital for treatments of multiple pulmonary abnormalities. *(From Mary Kay McClure)*
- Prayers for my friend from high school **Matt** who just had a heart attack. He is starting his 25th year of teaching. He has 3 daughters and is a great man. *(From Charlie N.)*
- Prayers for the steadiness of **Sandra Lepley's** great heart. *(From Bill Williams)*
- Prayers of health and healing for **Dianne Dorn** who is recovering from Covid. *(From Joy Davis)*
- Please pray for my **LGBTQ+ friends** who are not lovingly supported by their parents. *(From Bobby Hrousis)*

## Prayers of Sympathy for...

- Prayers for a friend, **Kristin**, whose college-age son passed away. *(From Alene Riley)*
- Prayers of comfort and love upon the passing of Tim's father, **Rodney**, on Thursday, November 16 at the age of 88. *(From Anne Seiler)*
- With care and in resurrection hope, we remember the members of the DCC community who in the past year joined that great cloud of witnesses: **Cathy Anne Hatter, Cheryl Beck, Bob Powers, Connie Wadsworth, and Dave Halseth.**
- Prayers of comfort for the family and friend of **JoAnn Cornelius**, who passed away last night. JoAnn was one of the kindest women I have ever known. *(From Dianne Dorn)*
- Prayers of support and care for my friend **Mary** whose husband Nicky passed away on Friday from complications with Alzheimer's. *(From Sandra Lepley)*
- Prayers of comfort for **Dave's family** on the passing of his sister Kathy's wife, Kimm, of thyroid cancer. We were lucky to have her in our life and will miss her. *(From Dave & Kim Michaud)*

## Prayers for the World...

- Prayers of strength for our **sisters and brothers in San Antonio and all of Guatemala**. They need strength to hold their fragile democracy in place. *(From Bette and Jim Felton)*
- Prayers for those **grieving in Acapulco, Mexico** after a hurricane killed at least 39 people, leaving thousands displaced by flooding and damage.
- Prayers for strength, resilience, and hope for the survivors of natural disasters in **Morocco, Libya, Maui**, and around the world. *(From Kristin Chambers)*
- A prayer for our **friends that we know in the indigenous community in Guatemala** who are in struggle now because although they managed to elect a president with a platform of anti-corruption, the entrenched forces of power in that country are keeping him from being seated. I pray that they know that those here who know them will share their story and that we will be in prayer for their success. *(From Bill Williams)*
- Prayer for a young man, **Miguel**, in Nicaragua, who worked the fields and cut firewood in a forest that is now a desert, to raise money to go to school but needed glasses. He spent the money on the glasses and now there is no money for school. *(From Bill Williams)*



## Prayers of Thanks and Gratitude for...

- Congratulations to our daughter, **Kiko**, who has been accepted into a doctoral program at Alliant University to earn her degree in clinical psychology. She hopes to work with kids and teens! *(From Barb DeBarger and Judy Gestring)*
- A prayer of thanks to **Karol Mead** for sharing her nutritional counsel for my sister, Bonnie. *(From Bette Felton)*
- Happy birthday to my **Grandma Pat**. *(From Hazel Furber Dobson)*
- Prayers of joy and celebration on yesterday's election of our newly settled Conference Minister, **Reverend Davena Jones**. *(From Joy Davis)*.
- Thank you to the **Community Life Commission and all the volunteers** who create events and opportunities for us to connect and "Love Each Other." *(From Anonymous)*
- Thanks to the **choir** for the beautiful and inspiring music. *(From Anonymous)*
- Prayers of gratitude for the **teachers—Godly Play, OWL, Holy Moly, and adult education**. We all need teachers and are teachers. Thank you **Rev. Robinson**—a teacher.
- Grateful for **Rev Robinson's message**. May we all flourish together. God is stronger than pain! *(From Carrie Hrousis)*
- Prayers of Thankfulness for all **those who have stood between us and those who would do us harm**; and for those who continue to stand as heroes among us. *(From Eileen Ackley)*
- Prayers of celebration and joy for the birthdays of **Nancy Snyder, Miguel Atkins-Whitley, and Dee Brook** this week. May God bless you with many days ahead of joy and belatedness!
- Gratitude for all the prayers for baby **Marigold**. She has gained 10 ounces and is doing well in her cozy nest in the hospital. They are watching small hole in her heart. Please continue praying. *(From Nancy Halseth)*
- Prayers of gratitude for steady surgeons' hands that cleared out our 3-year old great niece's lungs while removing her tonsils. **Wren Riley** is loved by so many. *(From Heidi Bridgeman)*
- Grateful prayers for the harvest of grapes from precious land—and for the human helpers: **Judy Halden, Carol Garich, Dee Brook**, who harvested a half-ton at Sky Terrace Vineyards. *(From Bette & Jim Felton)*
- Prayers of joy for my new great-nephew **Wyatt James**, born yesterday morning to parents **Kyrene and Halseth**. *(From Dianne Dorn)*
- Prayers of joy for my **son and daughter-in-law** celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary today. *(From Norman Palmer)*
- Prayers of gratitude for **Elana Bolds** and her anti-gun violence work in Oakland and Richmond.
- Many grateful thanks to **Joy Davis** for the visit yesterday and for the apple pie. Such a kind and loving gesture while I am recovering. *(From Dianne Dorn)*

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

## Advent/Winter Activities

- Choir Rehearsal.....December 3
- Anti-Racism Second Hour ..... December3
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal .....December 3
- Youth Group.....December 3
- Advent Book Study .....December 5
- Choir Rehearsal.....December 7
- Celebration Bells Rehearsal .....December 9
- Choir Rehearsal.....December 10
- Commission Sunday.....December 10
- OWL .....December 10
- Youth Group Christmas Party .....December 10
- Buildings and Grounds Meeting .....December 12
- Advent Book Study .....December 12
- CARE Group.....December 13
- Diaconate Meeting .....December 14
- Choir Rehearsal.....December 17
- Music Sunday.....December 17
- Ingathering Sunday .....December 17
- Lunch and Cookie Party .....December 17
- Advent Book Study .....December 19
- Finance Committee Meeting .....December 19
- Prayer Shawl Ministry.....December 20
- Choir Rehearsal.....December 21
- Choir Rehearsal.....December 24
- Christmas Pageant.....December 24
- Christmas Eve Service @ 5pm .....December 24
- Tenant Relations Committee.....December 27
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 4
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 7
- Pastor Eric's PRC .....January 7
- Youth Group.....January 7
- Endowment Committee .....January 10
- Diaconate Meeting .....January 11
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 11
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 14
- Commission Sunday.....January 14
- OWL .....January 14
- Youth Group .....January 14
- MLK Day of Service .....January 15
- Finance Committee.....January 16
- Prayer Shawl Ministry .....January 17
- CARE Group.....January 17
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 18
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 21
- Ingathering Sunday .....January 21
- Youth Group.....January 21
- Youth Group Parents Meeting.....January 21
- Council Meeting .....January 23
- Tenant Relations Committee .....January 24
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 25
- Choir Rehearsal.....January 28
- All Church Luncheon .....January 28
- OWL.....January 28
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 1
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 4
- Youth Group.....February 4
- Diaconate Meeting .....February 8
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 8
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 11
- Commission Sunday .....February 11
- Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm .....February 14
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 15
- UCC Feb Camp.....February 16-18
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 18
- Ingathering Sunday .....February 18
- Youth Group.....February 18
- Youth Group Parents Meeting.....February 18
- Finance Committee.....February 20
- Prayer Shawl Ministry.....February 21
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 22
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 25
- Council Meeting .....February 25
- OWL.....February 25
- Tenant Relations Committee .....February 28
- Choir Rehearsal.....February 29



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### *December*

- 15 .....Carol Bassett
- 18 ..... Doug Leich
- 19 .....Randy Jang
- 21 .....Kimi DeBarger-Gestring
- 25 ..... Cole Lawrence
- 27 ..... Michiyo Laing
- 28 .....Bonnie Powers
- 31 ..... Caitlin Kawaguchi

### *January*

- 13 .....Chris Chandlee
- 21 ..... Tom Sonnemann
- 25 .....Deborah Daily
- 26 ..... Doug Leich
- 29 ..... Norm Palmer
- 31 .....Eric Michaud
- 31 ..... Jim Felton

### *February*

- 5 .....Annalise Northway
- 5 ..... Kiko DeBarger-Gestring
- 9 ..... Pae Conning
- 10 ..... Barbara Carillo
- 16 ..... Tahir & Sereen Mahmood
- 20 .....Emma Luther
- 20 .....Finn Fetherstonhaugh
- 21 .....Aram & Paula Boyd
- 21 .....Karol Mead
- 21 .....Judy Halden
- 22 .....Oliver Beaver
- 22 ..... Zac-Furber Dobson
- 25 ..... Mary Taylor

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

## Preaching Schedule

- December 3, Advent 1 .....Pastor Eric
- December 10, Advent 2 .....Pastor Eric
- December 17, Advent 3 ..... Music Sunday
- December 24 AM, Advent 4 ..... Pastor Todd
- December 24 PM, X-mas Eve.....Pastor Eric
- December 31.....Poems and Carols
- January 7 ..... Pastor Todd

- January 14..... Pastor Eric
- January 21..... Pastor Eric
- January 28..... Pastor Todd
- February 4..... Pastor Eric
- February 11..... Pastor Eric
- February 18..... Pastor Todd
- February 25..... Pastor Eric

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  
 Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm

**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

Barb DeBarger, Moderator  
 Kyra Kennedy, Moderator  
 Steve Bridgeman, Treasurer  
 Heidi Bridgeman, Financial Secretary  
 Sandra Lepley, Clerk

#### Commissioners

Dee Brook, Buildings and Grounds  
 Jen Fought, Children's Ministries  
 Kim Michaud, Community Life Ministry  
 Dianne Dorn, Outreach  
 Joyce Klassen & Nicole Noga,  
 Stewardship  
 Alene Riley, Worship  
 Carrie Hrousis, Youth Ministries

#### Preschool Board

Jim Conning, Penny Davis, John Klassen, Emily & Megan Luther, Nicole Noga, Shii Stickler,  
 Maria Arroyo, Preschool Director

#### Rev. Eric's

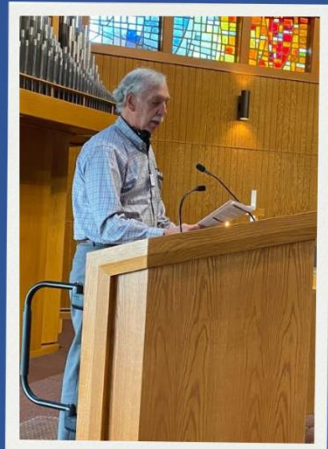
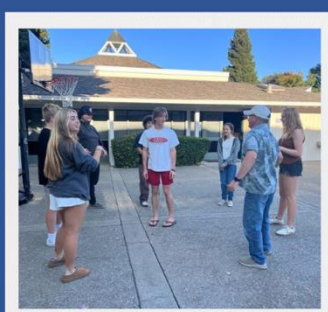
##### Pastoral Relations Committee

Carol Gilliland (chair), Bette Felton, Kim Michaud, Trish Moosbrugger

#### Rev. Todd's

##### Pastoral Relations Committee

Dee Brook, Jen Fought, John Klassen, Dave Michaud, Jenn O'Neal, and Richard Stein



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!