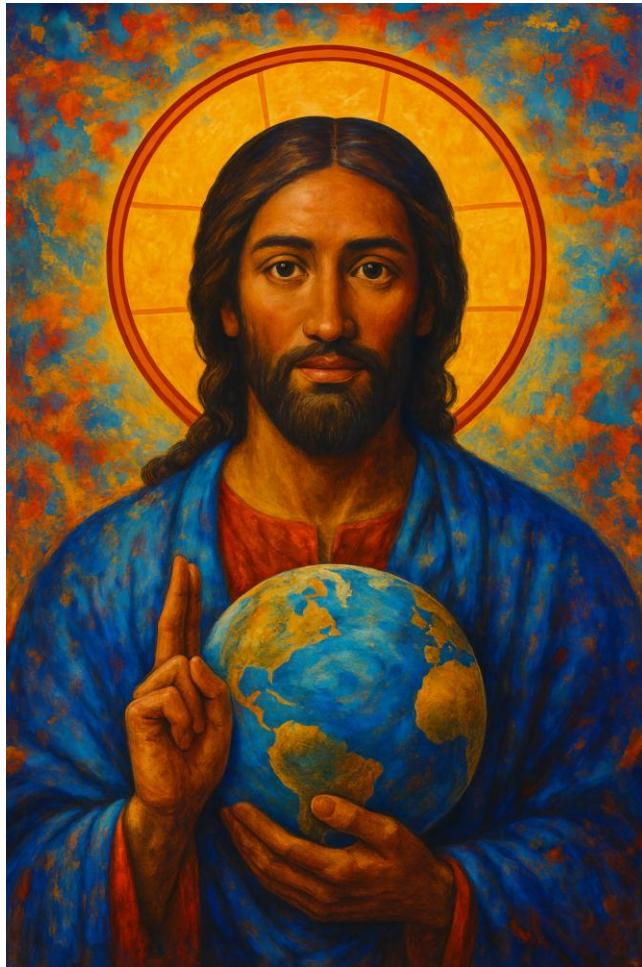




# DANVILLE

Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



**Reign of Christ  
Gratitude Sunday**

*November 23, 2025*

# OUR PURPOSE

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

Danville Congregational Church acknowledges that the land this house of worship sits upon is the traditional, unceded land of the Ohlone and Bay Miwok people. We offer this land acknowledgment as a sign of respect, with the knowledge that this land was sacred before we ever arrived.

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

Please take note of the emergency exits around you and locate the nearest one to you.

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 after worship in the narthex (lobby) or contact Joyce Klassen ([joyce.klassen@comcast.net](mailto:joyce.klassen@comcast.net)) our Community Life Commissioner. 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

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

arr. Jason W. Krug

WELCOME

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

***Please sign the sheet in the blue pad, pass it to another, and place it in the offering plate.***  
***To offer a special prayer, please fill out a Prayer Card, which will be collected during Prayer Time.***

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew Bassett

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

One: We are called to be the Church:

**All: to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope...**

One: We are not alone.

**All: We live in God's world.**

One: We believe in God:

**All: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

One: We trust in God.

**All: We trust in God!**

One: We are called to be the Church:

**All: to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

One: In life, in death, in life beyond death,

**All: God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

One: Thanks be to God.

*A New Creed (1968), United Church of Canada, adapted*

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Todd & Congregation

**All: Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God.**  
**It is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice**  
**and righteousness alone.**  
**Our minds are held captive by the worst images of**  
**human kings, rulers, and powers.**  
**When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making,**  
**correct and forgive us.**  
**Free the borders of our imaginations,**  
**that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of**  
**your Realm of Love on earth as in heaven. Amen.**

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the prophecy of Zechariah:

Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God.  
We are forgiven.  
Let the church say, Amen.

**All: Amen.**

Hans Holznagel, adapted

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Matthew

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

## \*OPENING HYMN

*In Nineteen Hundred Twenty Five*

See next page.

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

*Blessing of hats and scarves*

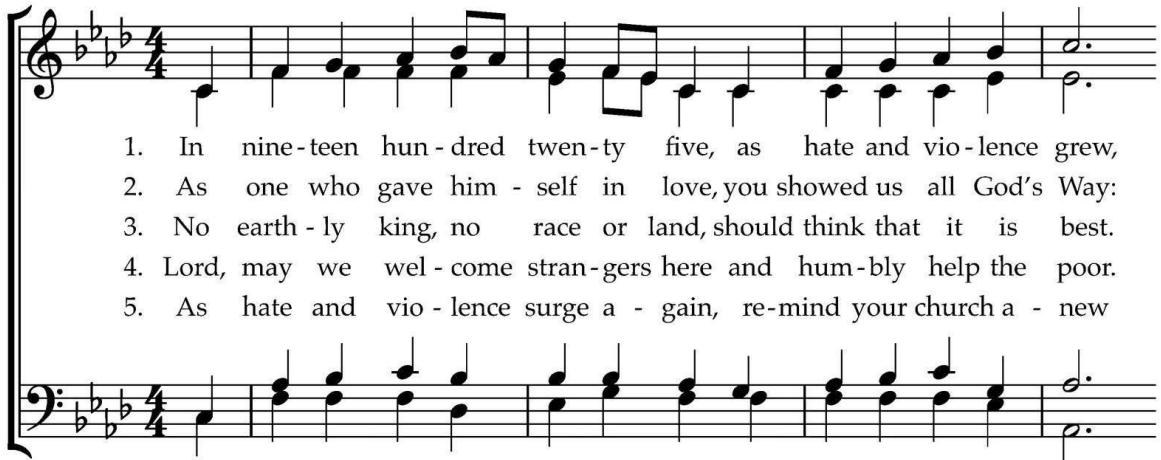
Pastor Todd

*We will be blessing the hats & scarves made by the Prayer Shawl ministry. Following this blessing, children are invited to meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Godly Play.*

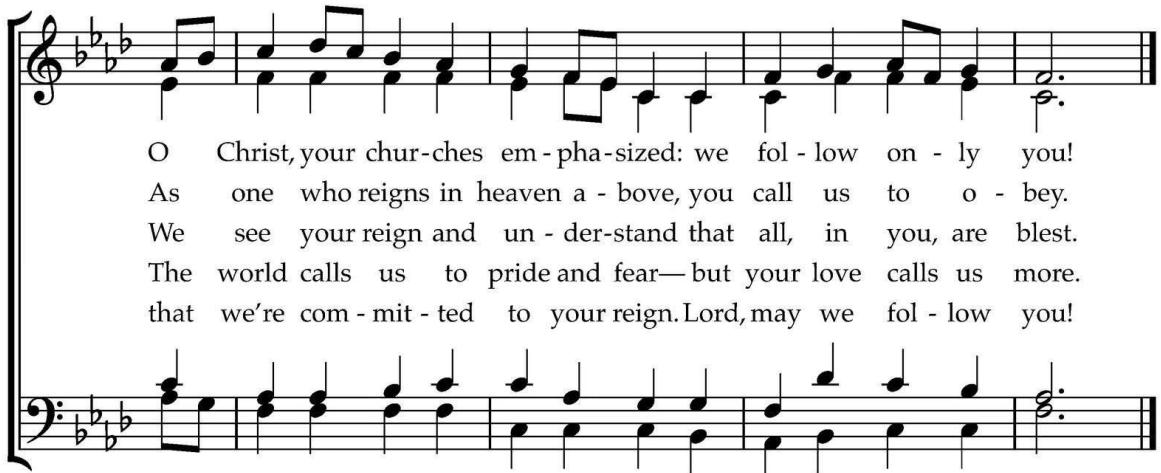
# In Nineteen Hundred Twenty-Five

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2025

*Morning Song*  
*Kentucky Harmony, 1813*



1. In nine-teen hun-dred twen-ty five, as hate and vio-lence grew,  
2. As one who gave him-self in love, you showed us all God's Way:  
3. No earth-ly king, no race or land, should think that it is best.  
4. Lord, may we wel-come stran-gers here and hum-bly help the poor.  
5. As hate and vio-lence surge a-gain, re-mind your church a-new



O Christ, your chur-ches em-pha-sized: we fol-low on-ly you!  
As one who reigns in heaven a-bove, you call us to o-bey.  
We see your reign and un-der-stand that all, in you, are blest.  
The world calls us to pride and fear—but your love calls us more.  
that we're com-mit-ted to your reign. Lord, may we fol-low you!

This year is the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the celebration of Christ the King Sunday. The feast day was started to emphasize the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a world of growing ultra-nationalism.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for God has looked favorably on their people and redeemed them.  
God has raised up a mighty savior for us  
    in the house of his child David,  
as God spoke through the mouth of God's holy prophets from of old,  
    that we would be saved from our enemies and from the  
hand of all who hate us.

Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors  
    and has remembered their holy covenant,  
the oath that God swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us  
    that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
    in his presence all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare God's ways,  
to give his people knowledge of salvation  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
    the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to shine upon those who sit in [bleakness] and in the shadow of death,  
    to guide our feet into the way of peace."

ANTHEM

*Thank You*  
Elana Bolds, vocals

Walter Hawkins

*Tragedies are common place  
All kinds of diseases, people are slipping away  
Economies down, people can't get enough pay  
As for me all I can say is thank you Lord for all you've done for me*

*Folks without homes living out in the streets  
and the drug habit some say they just can't beat  
Muggers and robbers, no place seems to be safe  
But You've been my protection every step of the way  
I wanna say, thank you Lord for all You've done for me*

*It could have been me, outdoors, no food, no clothes  
Or left alone, without a friend  
Or just another number with a tragic end  
But you didn't see fit to let none of these things be  
'Cause everyday by your power you keep on keeping me  
And I wanna say thank you for all you've done for me*

*I want to thank you for your love, thank you for your power,  
Thank you for protection, every hour.*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

**All: Hear our prayer**

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

## TIME OF GIVING

Matthew

### Invitation to Giving

*For those of you who have already made a gift by check or automated giving, we are grateful. If you would like to make a gift today, please place it in the offering plate or [give using our web site](#) or donate using your mobile device, text the word give to 855-940-3756.*

Offertory

*Meditation: Giving Thanks*

Tim Neumark

\*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

## WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Todd

\*CLOSING HYMN

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

See next page.

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

Please remain in your pews until the light has been taken out of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

*Special music presented today made possible by a gift from the Betty Leicing Memorial Fund*

*Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-717493. All rights reserved.*

# For the Fruit of All Creation

425

*Fred Pratt Green, 1970*

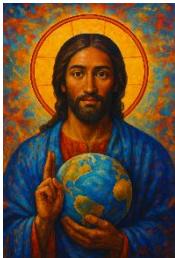
1 For the fruit of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re-ward of la-bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev-ery na-tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in-her-it, thanks be to God.

For the plow-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,  
 In our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun-gry and de-spair-ing,  
 For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,

Fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.  
 In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.  
 Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

# WORSHIP NOTES



This week's image, created using chatGPT, is based on the idea of Jesus as *Pantocrator*—a Greek word meaning “Ruler of All”—a specific type of religious image depicting Christ as the all-powerful judge of heaven and earth, common in Byzantine and Eastern Orthodox art. These icons typically show Christ holding a Gospel book and raising his right hand in blessing, with a commanding, often stern, gaze that can simultaneously judge and offer redemption. The term and iconography also appear in various forms across other art traditions, with some later Western works substituting a globe for the book, calling the theme *Salvator Mundi*.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
After worship	Greening the Church
After worship–1:00pm	Youth Group
After worship	Council Meeting
1:00pm–3:00pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal

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.

**Godly Play** (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following the Opening Hymn. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play.

## THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	9:00am	Men's Coffee
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**. Next Week's Emmaus Team is **Team 6**.

Greeter: Joyce Klassen

Ushers: Carol Bassett, Judy Halden and John Klassen

Liturgist: Matthew Bassett

Fellowship Hosts: Carol Bassett and Barbara Carillo

Flowers: Carol Bassett

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Doug Leich

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

### **Children's Ministers**

Godly Play: Kim Michaud and Anne Seiler

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, announcements for next week will be due tomorrow.**



### **Children - Join us for Godly Play today**

Children are invited to join Ms. Kim and Ms. Anne in Godly Play this Sunday for a special story that prepares our hearts for Advent—the story of the Holy Family. As we get ready for this sacred season of waiting and hope, we'll also be changing the underlay in our Godly Play room from green to blue—the special color of Advent. Come be part of this meaningful transition as we begin to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth!



### *Today* **Blessing of Hats and Scarves**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has knit a multitude of hat/scarf sets in addition to prayer shawls over the past year. The sets will be donated prior to Christmas to the Good Shepherd Peace Lutheran Church in Concord for the homeless. We will bless the hat/scarf sets during worship.

## *Today after Worship* **Greening the Sanctuary**

We will gather together after worship to “Green the Sanctuary.” We will have hot cider to help get us in the festive spirit. Our children will also be helping with the changing of the season by being a part of bringing out the Advent wreath and changing the banner.



### **Thanksgiving Offering today**

Each year our **Thanksgiving offering** is a chance for us to express our gratitude for the blessings we have received throughout the year by making a special gift to people who are less fortunate. This year, the Outreach Commission has designated the offering **to be shared equally between the Alameda County Community Food Bank and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano**, two of the key providers of food assistance in our region.

Please join us in thanking God for the many blessings we have received by making a Thanksgiving offering to help our neighbors who are food insecure. Please write “Thanksgiving Offering” on your check made out to DCC and place it in the offering basket, using a Thanksgiving Offering envelope from the pew rack if you wish. To make your offering online, go to the [DCC Donations page](#). Or text give to 855-940-3756 and select Thanksgiving offering. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Chris Sonnemann **Outreach Commissioner**

### **Journeys in Faith Surveys**

If you haven’t filled out a Journeys in Faith survey, please grab one from the table in the Narthex and return it to the wooden box. We would like all surveys completed today. You can also fill out the online Google Form: <https://forms.gle/Vt9D2HvAkkPvfj6n8>.

### **DCC Endowment Looks to Put Funds to Work**

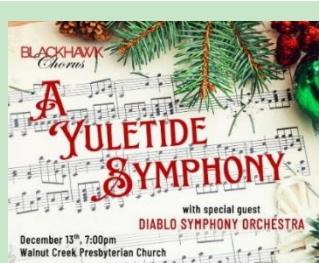
If you have an idea for a program or activity that you’d like to see at DCC, the DCC Endowment Fund could be a source of funding to make it happen. Fill out the [Endowment Fund Request for Program Support](#) and send your idea or proposal to the DCC office or to DCC Endowment Committee Chair Pat McGrath. **Please submit your proposal no later than November 24, 2025 for consideration**



## Thank You from Rev. David Vásquez-Levy

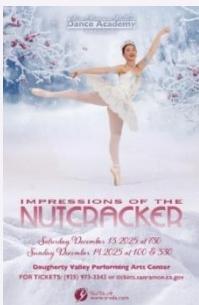
Dear Danville UCC:

Thank you for the opportunity to be in worship with you and share reflection on how our “covenantal communities” can be key to rising to the challenges faced by the church and the broader society. I was inspired to see and experience the ways you are seeking to pursue and revitalized your ministry. I also appreciated the chance to share with you ways in which PSR, which prepared outstanding leaders like Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren, is also committed to helping prepare you as you live out our calling in your daily life and through the work of the church. To learn more about our programs and to support the next generation of leaders visit us at [www.psr.edu](http://www.psr.edu) or reach out to [development@psr.edu](mailto:development@psr.edu). Thank you!



### *Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm* **Blackhawk Chorus presents "A Yuletide Symphony"**

The Blackhawk Chorus will be performing "A Yuletide Symphony" on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. Three of DCC's Choir members, **Alene Riley, Karol Mead, and Heidi Bridgeman** are members of this 100-voice choir and promise a delightful evening on Dec 13th!! For more information and the ticket link, visit [www.blackhawkchorus.com/events](http://www.blackhawkchorus.com/events).



### *Saturday, December 13th at 7:30pm and* *Sunday December 14th at 1:00pm and 3:30pm* **SRVDA's "Impressions of the Nutcracker"**

"Impressions of the Nutcracker", featuring DCC's own **Sabrina Jackson-Kimball**, brings the holiday spirit to life with an exciting fast-paced production that incorporates multiple styles of dance while following the traditional storyline of the Nutcracker! In just over an hour, this beloved story ballet performance will delight and entertain the whole family! Tickets can be purchased through the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center Box Office [tickets.sanramon.ca.gov/](http://tickets.sanramon.ca.gov/)

## Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am via Zoom and in the Sanctuary. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. To join via Zoom use this [link](#).

**ABOLITION ADVENT & APOCALYPSE:**  
*The New Old Story of Freedom,  
 Practicing New Worlds into Life*

Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> | 3:30 PM Eastern

**REV. DR. VELDA LOVE**  
 Minister for Racial Justice & Lead  
 for the Movement, UCC

**DR. SHARON FENNEMA**  
 Curator & Storyteller, Join the  
 Movement, UCC

**REV. DR. CHERYL LINDSAY**  
 Minister for Worship and Theology, UCC

**REV. TRACY HOWE**  
 Team Leader & Minister for Faith  
 Education, Innovation & Formation  
 (mtnH2O), UCC

values to ground us, and practices to empower us to bring love to birth in this world. Come hear from contributors to this year's Abolition Advent Calendar about their work to help us reach back to the wisdom of our scriptural and abolitionist pasts and make a way out of no way into hope.

[Abolition, Advent, and Apocalypse: The New Old Story of Freedom and Practicing New Worlds into Life](#)

## Friendsgiving Gathering

We Choose LOVE!



Date: 11/23/2025 (Sun)

Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Beth Chaim Congregation

1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94526

The I-SRV (Interfaith - San Ramon Valley) invites you to a family friendly gathering solidarity, compassion, healing and gratitude. This will be a moment for mutual support, reflection, and nourishing harmony among us.

Potluck! Please bring a sweet or savory finger food to share, and your favorite beverage.

Sign Up: [ISRV.love/Friends](http://ISRV.love/Friends)

Call for compassion: Nonperishable food donations will be collected for the

Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. For full information, including requested food items, please visit [ISRV.love/Food](http://ISRV.love/Food)

I-SRV is a community of diverse spiritual traditions and congregations who are committed to learning, sharing, listening, and acting together.

interfaithsrv.org email: [ISRV.events@gmail.com](mailto:ISRV.events@gmail.com)

Monday, November 24th at 12:30pm

### UCC Nurture the Soul

As we approach the season of Advent this year, many of us find ourselves vacillating between feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, faced with rapidly changing political and social landscapes, with violence and repression on the rise. Yet, Advent's stories of awaking and preparing, waiting and longing, expecting and dreaming offer us visions to move us,

**BRIGHTEN THE SEASON FOR AN INDIVIDUAL IN NEED.**



**Support Hope Solutions  
 Spirit of Giving Program**

Your generosity can light up the holidays for an individual adult or senior.

Scan the QR code to sign up and help someone feel remembered and cherished.



For questions, please  
 contact Sandibel Arnold at  
[sarnold@hopesolutions.org](mailto:sarnold@hopesolutions.org)



SCAN ME

## Pictures of the Week



TGIF at the Felton's; Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy was our guest preacher on Sunday; Carol Gerich brushes off snow off her car in Michigan, brrr!

*If you'd like to submit a picture to be considered for the pic of the week,  
email [anne-marie@danvillechurch.org](mailto:anne-marie@danvillechurch.org).*

## Pastoral Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. If you would like to meet with Pastor Todd, please reach out to him directly via phone or [email](mailto:email).

Pastor Lauren is available by appointment. You can reach her via [email](mailto:email) or phone.

***Ministers—The Entire Congregation***

***Church Staff***

**The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Senior Pastor**

**The Rev. Lauren Jewett, Minister of Youth & Community Engagement**

**John Kendall Bailey, Music Director**

**Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam, Office & Communications Manager**

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](http://www.dayspringpreschool.org)**



**Danville Congregational Church**  
*United Church of Christ*  
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Phone: (925) 837-6944  
**[www.danvillechurch.org](http://www.danvillechurch.org)**

