



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



LOVE
KNOWS NO
BORDERS



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Second Sunday after Christmas | Epiphany of the Lord
Communion Sunday

January 4, 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) 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

Wandering Through the Valley

Janis Jang

WELCOME

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

Alene Riley

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

One: Hemos comenzado a salir de las sombras;

All: We have begun to come out of the shadows;

One: Hemos comenzado a reventar rutina y costumbres opresivas;

All: We have begun to break with routines and oppressive customs;

One: Hemos comenzado a acarrear con orgullo la tarea
de deshelar corazones y cambiar conciencias.

**All: We have begun to carry with pride the task
of thawing hearts and changing consciousness.**

One: A no dejar que el peligro del viaje y la inmensidad del territorio nos asuste;

**All: Let's not let the danger of the journey and the
vastness of the territory scare us;**

One: A mirar hacia adelante y la abrir paso en el monte.

All: Let's look forward and open paths in these woods.

One: Caminante, no hay puentes se hace puentes al andar.

All: Voyager, there are no bridges; one builds them as one walks.

From This Bridge Called My Back, by Gloria Anzaldua

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Alene

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

Gentle Joseph heard a warning
from an angel in the night;
valiant Mary, maiden mother,
roused from sleep, prepared for flight:
thus the Christ-child's family lived out
what the prophet had foretold,
that he might be called from Egypt
as God's people were of old.

Targets of a tyrant's army,
seeking safety, fleeing strife,
leaving house and land and kindred,
spurred by dreams of peaceful life;
through the desert of unknowing
and the night of doubt they went,
guided by God's promised presence,
by that trust made confident.

Give us, God, such faith and courage
when we move from place to place,
and to those who come among us,
make us channels of your grace.
Let us see in every stranger
refugees from Bethlehem,
help us offer each one welcome
and receive the Christ in them.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Refugees by Ann Weems

Diane Stein

Into the wild and painful cold of the starless winter night
came the refugees, slowly making their way to the border.
The man, stooped from age or anxiety,
hurried his small family through the wind.
Bearded and dark, his skin rough and cracked from the cold,
his frame looming large in spite of the slumped shoulders;
He looked like a man who could take care of
whatever came at them from the dark.
Unless of course there were too many of them,
One man he could handle, two, even ... but a border patrol...
they wouldn't have a chance.
His eyes, black and alert,
darted from side to side, then over his shoulder,
then back again forward.

Had they been seen?
Had they been heard?
Every rustle of the wind, every sigh from the child,
sent terror through his chest.
Was this the way?
Even the stars had been unkind—
had hidden themselves in the ink of night
so that the man could not read their way,
Only the wind ... was it enough?

Only the wind and his innate sense of direction ...
What kind of cruel judgement that would be,
to wander in circles through the night?
Or to safely make their way to the border,
only to find the authorities waiting for them?
He glanced at the young woman, his bride.
No more than a child herself,
she nuzzled the newborn, kissing his neck.
she looked up caught his eye and smiled.
Oh how the homelessness had taken its toll on her!
Her eyes were red, her young face was lined,
her lovely hair matted from inattention.
her clothes stained from milk and baby,
her hands chapped from the raw wind of winter.
She'd hardly had time to recover from childbirth
when word had come that they were hunted,
and they fled with only a little bread,
and the remaining wine,
and a very small portion of cheese.
Suddenly, the child began to make small noises,
the man drew his breath in sharply:
the woman quietly put the child to breast.

Fear ... long dread-filled moments....
Huddled the family stood still in the long silence.
At last the man breathed deeply again,
reassured they had not been heard.
and into the night continued
Mary, Joseph and the Babe.

MODERN LESSON

Alene

The Holy Family is still among us here and now, in the faces of the refugee, the migrant, the oppressed, the stranger, the unhoused, the sick and poor. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

—Kelly Latimore, artist

SERMON

LOVE Knows No Borders
Migration as a Spiritual Journey

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

Would You Harbor Me?
Boston Gay Men's Chorus

Ysaye M. Barnwell

Would you harbor me? Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew?
A heretic, convict, or spy?
Would you harbor a runaway woman or child?
A poet, a prophet, a king?
Would you harbor an exile or a refugee?
A person living with AIDS?
Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garret, a Truth?
A fugitive or a slave?
Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean, or Czech?
Lesbian, trans, bi or gay?

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren

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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos
ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

TIME OF GIVING

Alene

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.*

Lully, lulla; Lully, lulla
Lully, lulla; lully, lulla
By by, lully lullay
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child
By by, lully lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do? For to preserve this day
this poor youngling for whom we sing “By by, lully lullay.”
(Chorus)

Herod, the king in his raging chargèd he hath this day
his men of might in his own sight, all young children to slay.
(Chorus)

That woe is me, poor child for thee, and ever morn and day
for thy parting, neither say nor sing “By by, lully lullay.”
(Chorus)

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Adapted from Liturgy for Migrants and Refugees, European Methodist Council, 2019.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you!
All: And also with you!
One: Lift up your hearts!
All: We lift up our hearts to God!
One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: As we prepare to go out from this sanctuary to face the challenges of our existence and of the world, we invoke God's blessing on us:

All: May God bless us, giving the strength to seek justice.

May God bless us,

giving the wisdom to take care of every living being on earth.

May God bless us, giving the love that raises us to new life.

May we go in peace

giving witness to the sanctuary and hope we receive in Christ. Amen.

WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Lauren

*CLOSING HYMN

Away and in Danger

text by Shirley Erena Murray

Away and in danger, no hope of a bed,
the refugee children, no tears left to shed
look up at the night sky for someone to know
that refugee children have no place to go.

The babies are crying, their hunger awakes,
the boat is too loaded, it shudders and breaks;
humanity's wreckage is thrown out to die,
the refugee children will never know why.

Come close, little children, we hold out our hand
in rescue and welcome to shores of our land—
in healing, in touching your fear and your pain,
with dreams for your future when peace comes again.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd and Congregation

All: We thank you, Holy God,

for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives.

Help us now to open our arms in welcome,

and reach out our hands in support.

That the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ

who fled persecution at his birth and at his last triumphed over death. Amen.

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

*Special thanks to Sandra Lepley, Janis Jang, Randy Jang, ,and Karol Mead
for providing this morning’s inspired music.*

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
After worship	Youth Group
Noon	Monthly Lunch Bunch

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 and Donuts
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	1:00pm	Pastor’s Bible Study (through Lent) [via Zoom]
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 6.**

Greeters: Dianne Dorn and Anne Seiler

Ushers: Kyra Kennedy and Richard Stein

Liturgists: Alene Riley and Diane Stein

Flowers: Kristin Chambers

Candlelighter: Joy Davis

Friendship Hosts: Eileen Ackley and Jon McKinsey

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Ministers: Carol Bassett

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Nan Karns

Next Week's Emmaus Team is **Team 1.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



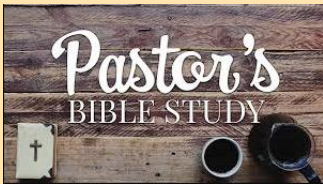
Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

All children are welcome to join us in Godly Play this Sunday as Nan shares the story of Epiphany. We will wonder together about the Magi and their gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold. Hope to see you there!

Today at noon

Monthly Lunch Bunch—Please Join Us!

Would you like to get to know some of your DCC colleagues better? Come join us for lunch after church on Sunday, December 7th. We'll be gathering at noon (or whenever you get there) at **Clementine's** in San Ramon and would love for you to join us! If you have joined us before, please come again! If you haven't been able to make it before, please join us. Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo. Thanks! Please RSVP to Wilson Jackson at 925-819-0222 or email him at wjrachev@netzero.com to let him know you'll be attending.



Wednesdays at 1:00pm **Pastor's Bible Study Resumes**

You are invited to join Pastor Todd from his office each Wednesday at 1:00pm—in person or via [Zoom](#). During January, we will focus on the topic of migration.



Monday, January 12th at 7:00pm via Zoom **A Conversation with Rev. Rhina Ramos**

from El Salvador.

Join us for an online interview and conversation about immigration and migration with our Associate Conference Minister the **Rev. Rhina Ramos**. At **7:00pm on January 12 via Zoom**, Rev. Rhina will discuss her new book *In My Heart A Volcano* about growing up in El Salvador and migrating to the United States. Rev. Rhina will be interviewed by the Rev. Alvaro Duran, pastor of Ministerio Latino at Congregational Church of San Mateo, and fellow immigrant

Rev. Rhina's memoir presents a timely and riveting account that you will enjoy reading—a perfect complement to our current series on Migration **Love Knows No Borders**. That said, you don't need to read the book to join the discussion but we do have a few copies of the book available for purchase; it is also available through [Amazon](#) and other sources.

This event is open to the public and is sponsored by DCC and Congregational Church of the Peninsula in Belmont. Registration is required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6ZbzNXwoSEiuXDxENSzjBA>

Sunday, January 25th at 11:45am

New Member Interest Lunch

Curious about joining the DCC family? If so, a time of fellowship for potential new members is planned for Sunday, January 25th at 11:45am. We'll gather at the home of John & Joyce Klassen in San Ramon for lunch and the opportunity to get to know DCC and each other a little better. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Joyce Klassen, Welcome Commissioner at joyce.klassen@comcast.net.

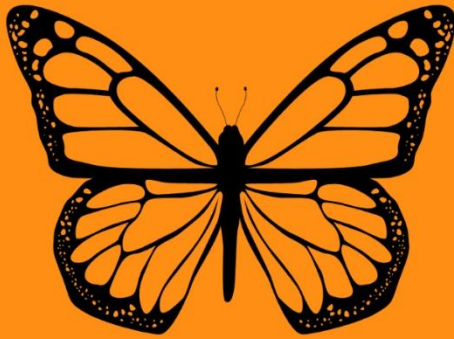
Wednesday Morning Prayer

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](#).

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](#).

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



LOVE KNOWS NO BORDERS

A Migration-Focused Worship Series for Epiphany

Migration—the movement of humans from one place to another—is a deeply complex, often divisive, and significantly misunderstood state of being. Referencing Biblical stories of migration, including the journey of “sages from the East” to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem—also known as “the Epiphany”—and Jesus’ family’s subsequent flight to Egypt to find safety and refuge, we will take a deeper look at the state of migration—historically, religiously, and spiritually—to see what we can observe and maybe learn about this beautifully human and spiritual state.

Join us for worship at 10:30am, fellowship and conversation afterward, and, on January 12 at 7:00pm, a special Zoom presentation by the **Rev. Rhina Mercedes Ramos** (Ministerio Latino) discussing her new book *In My Heart, A Volcano: A Memoir of Vignettes*.

Sundays at 9:30am

January 4

LOVE

Knows No Borders

January 11

GOD

Knows No Borders

[Baptism Sunday]

January 18

BELOVED

COMMUNITY

Knows No Borders

[MLK Sunday featuring

the Rev. Rhina Ramos,
preaching, and special

musical guest

Marvin Matthews]

January 25

JESUS

Knows No Borders



Saturday, January 17, 2026 • 5:00pm

Danville Congregational Church UCC
989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville

LOVE
over fear

A Community Concert
Celebrating the Life and Legacy of the
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

featuring Gospel-Christian Vocalist Marvin Matthews

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. boldly stated, *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: Only love can do that."* With these words as inspiration, contemporary Christian and Gospel artist Marvin Matthews brings his exuberant personality, unique vocal talent, and compassionate spirit to Danville Congregational Church for a night of music designed to celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. King—to inspire us to **love over fear** for a time such as this.



This concert is offered to the San Ramon Valley community at no charge.
A love-offering will be taken to bless Marvin's ongoing ministry of love over fear.



DANVILLE
Congregational Church

danvillechurch.org/MLK26

NCNC UCC
PRESENTS

FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6-8

MID-WINTER CAMP 2026

11 AM JAN 17TH
-
NOON JAN 18TH

HOSTED BY:
DANVILLE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

Register at:
[nencucc.org/
camp](http://nencucc.org/camp)

Awesome people!
Flashlight Tag!
Outside activities!
Inside activities!



NCNC UCC X
NORCAL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PRESENT:

For youth in grades 9-12 FEB CAMP 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!

REGISTRATION
COMING
SOON!



3 PM FEB 14
-
11 AM FEB 16

COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT
COMMISSION CAMP
FORESTHILL, CA

SPARK THE FIRE ✨ SHARE THE LIGHT

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

Stacey Perez, Administrative Assistant

www.dayspringpreschool.org



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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