



DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

BELOVED COMMUNITY KNOWS NO BORDERS



danvillechurch.org/migration



Second Sunday after the Epiphany
MLK Sunday
January 18, 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

Beams of Heaven (Some Day)

Charles Albert Tindley

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

Lily Sonnemann

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

One: God sees us, each of us, radiant with original blessing.

All: We are the seeds of God's Dream—embodiments of incarnate Belovedness.

One: Jesus, our earthly teacher, Christ, our eternal guide,

All: call us, collectively, to awaken to our truest identity:
We are The Beloved Community. Amen.

—Rev. Kathryn M. Schreiber

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Lily

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN

When I Needed A Neighbor

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Lauren

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

600

When I Needed a Neighbour

Unison

Em

Bm

1 When I need - ed a neigh - bour, were you there, were you there?
 2 I was hun - gry and thirs - ty, were you there, were you there?
 3 I was cold, I was nak - ed, were you there, were you there?
 4 When I need - ed a heal - er, were you there, were you there?
 5 Wher - ev - er you trav - el I'll be there, I'll be there,

B

C

Am7

Em

When I need - ed a neigh - bour, were you there?
 I was hun - gry and thirs - ty, were you there?
 I was cold, I was nak - ed, were you there?
 When I need - ed a heal - er, were you there?
 where - ev - er you trav - el I'll be there.

D

G

Em

G

C

Em

B7

Em

(Refrain: vv. 1-4)

And the creed and the col - our and the name won't mat - ter, were you there?

(Refrain: v. 5)

And the creed and the col - our and the name won't mat - ter, I'll be there.

Words: Sydney Carter 1962

Music: Sydney Carter, harm. Cantate Domino, full-music edition

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I waited patiently for God;
God inclined to me and heard my cry.

God drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.

God put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our GOD.

Many will see and fear
and put their trust in God.

Happy are those who make
God their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.

You have multiplied, O my GOD,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.

Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

I delight to do your will, O my GOD;
your law is within my heart."

I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O God.

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

Do not, O God, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.

"The aftermath of nonviolence is the creation of the beloved community, so that when the battle's over, a new relationship comes into being between the oppressed and the oppressor....The way of violence leads to bitterness in the survivors and brutality in the destroyers. But, the way of non-violence leads to redemption and the creation of the beloved community."

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sermon on Gandhi, March 22, 1959, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL

SERMON

BELOVED COMMUNITY Knows No Borders

Rev. Rhina Ramos

ANTHEM

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Marvin Matthews, guest vocalist

Thomas O. Chisholm

TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

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.

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

It's Gonna Be Alright

Curtis Mayfield

Marvin Matthews, guest vocalist

*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

*Help Us Accept Each Other***Help Us Accept Each Other***Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.*

1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.

3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.

4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

*Words Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company*Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rhina

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

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WORSHIP NOTES

Although the idea behind the ***Beloved Community*** is timeless, the phrase was first used by philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce (1855–1916) who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. It was then popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) and the Civil Rights movement. Rev. Dr. King used this phrase in his “Sermon on Gandhi” preached to Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL on March 22, 1959.

TODAY'S SPECIAL GUESTS



Today's guest preacher is **Rev. Rhina Ramos**. Rev. Rhina was born in El Salvador and grew up a bold, playful, and curious kid, always asking big questions and stirring up fun with her brother. At 14, she made the treacherous journey north with her aunt and brother to reunite with her mother in New York. The trip was dangerous, but Rhina held onto her faith, promising God she'd go back to church if she made it safely. She kept that promise.

Landing in Long Island brought culture shock. To overcome it, she found community in her Salvadoran neighbors and a welcoming Baptist church where her love of faith deepened and her passion for justice began to grow. Over the years, Rhina navigated law school, activism, counseling, divorce, coming out, and confronting the kind of religious rejection too many queer people face. In law school, she volunteered for an openly queer woman whose work in public interest was often dedicated to helping immigrants, further forcing Rhina to challenge her own perspectives on religion, sexuality, and community.

Her lifelong search for meaning and community led her to seminary and, eventually, to her true calling: founding Ministerio Latino in 2011. Since then, she's become known as the "pastor of the queers," offering spiritual care, mutual aid, and holy mischief wherever it's needed. Another fun nickname is "Holy Troublemaker," an accolade she was awarded in 2025 by the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network.

In 2024, she published her first book *In My Heart, A Volcano: A Memoir in Vignettes*. The book contains the extraordinary stories of ordinary people. People who survived violence and war, women who liberated themselves from abuse, and the memories of a Salvadoran girl that inspire hope and triumph. The book was originally written in Spanish and is now available in English as well.

With her wife Shinobu cheering her on, she continues to build the kind of community she wishes she had growing up: one where queer, trans, and immigrant folks can be fully themselves and fully loved, *con pelos, señales, y todo*.



Today's guest vocalist is **Marvin Matthews**. Growing up in inner-city Washington, DC, Marvin recalls his mother singing hymns to herself when he was very young. He began studying music at age eight and would later start the first gospel choir at his junior high school there. He has performed at churches and with symphonies around the world; entertained athletes at three Summer Olympic Games; and performed on television. His exuberant personality, combined with his unique vocal talent and compassionate spirit, cross all socio-economic and racial lines. Marvin truly perceives his ministry of music as a way to express his love for Jesus and the body of Christ to which he ministers. His enthusiasm envelops the listener; hearing him, one can't help but feel the presence of the Divine.

Pastor Todd and Miguel became friends with Marvin during their time as members of Cathedral of Hope UCC in Dallas. In awe of his musical talents—which he very clearly understood and proclaimed were a gift from God to honor God—they invited him to sing the Lord's Prayer at their wedding. Since then, they have stayed in touch with Marvin and last year had the opportunity to visit a San Francisco faith community who had invited Marvin to share his ministry of music with them. It was that occasion that birthed the idea of inviting him to DCC to share his gifts with DCC and our community.

Marvin's desire is to use music to effect change and provide a place of joy where hopelessness has prevailed. Referencing the hymn *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, Marvin truly "sings because he is happy" and "sings because he is free."

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:15am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
11:15am–12:15pm	Journeys in Faith Second Hour in Sanctuary

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
Tuesday	4:00pm–6:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	1:00pm	Pastor's Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	6:00pm–8:00pm	Council Meeting

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2**.

Greeters: Anne Elliott and Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Steve Bridgeman, Bruce Hixon, Kathie Hixon, and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighters: Finn Sonnemann

Liturgists: Lily Sonnemann, Miguel Atkins-Whitley, and Wilson Jackson

Flowers: Julie Grenley

Fellowship Hosts: Sally Baca, Julie Grenley, and Tom Sonnemann

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Ministers: John Klassen

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Godly Play: Barb DeBarger

Next Week's Emmaus Team is **Team 3**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, January 19th.



Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

Children are invited to join Barb this Sunday to hear the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will remember together about his dream that Black Americans would be treated the same as everyone else and how he worked to make that dream come true.

Today at 11:15am in the Sanctuary **Journeys in Faith Second Hour – Graceful Merit**

Equality of opportunity guarantees a just society. Or does it? How do grace and faith inform our thinking about merit and a just society? In this session we will explore these questions and how they relate to meaningful work. This will build on the book “The Tyranny of Merit” by Michael Sandel.

Ron Elsdon will facilitate this session. Ron is the author or editor of several books, one of which is about business social responsibility.



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.



Nursery Volunteer(s) Needed

As you've probably noticed, we have gained several church babies over the past few years. As such, we feel it is an important show of hospitality and care to start staffing the nursery on Sundays.

We'd like to see if there are folk who would volunteer one Sunday a month (or less if we have more volunteers) with a youth grouper.

Before we can offer this to folk attending worship and begin scheduling, all volunteers will need to complete a livescan background check (simple process) and complete CPR+First Aid training. [The church will cover the costs of both of these.]

Please reach out to Pastor Todd if you would be interested in serving our families in this way. [And we're working on getting the speaker in the nursery fixed 😊]

Welcoming the Immigrants in Our Communities

Would you like to know how people in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties are responding to the on-going vilification and dehumanization of immigrants in our local communities? A great place to start is the [Immigrant Support Volunteer Opportunities and Resources](#) guide put together by Indivisible ReSisters of Contra Costa. It describes over a dozen volunteer opportunities and provides resources for immigrants and for community members who want to help immigrants. Some of these volunteer opportunities involve expressions of solidarity with immigrants who have cases in the Federal Immigration Court in Concord and some address basic needs like food and transportation. There are several non-profit organizations that are leading the way in standing with our immigrant neighbors. Among them are:

- Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity – <https://www.im4humanintegrity.org/>
- Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance – <https://www.facebook.com/ContraCostaImmigrantRightsAlliance/>
- Immigrant Action Network –<https://www.immigrantactionnetwork.org/>

In Alameda County, the ICE Out of Dublin campaign is working to stop the reopening of the shuttered FCI Dublin Prison as a new ICE Detention Center.

(<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/iceoutofdublin>).

This information is provided by DCC's Anti-Racism Team.



Come Join Celebration Bells!

Come and join the fun with Celebration Bells! If interested in learning how to ring bells and chimes, please let us know. Our first rehearsal is January 25 at 1pm in the music room. Contact Janis Jang.

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](#).



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 9:30am, 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




danvillechurch.org/migration

Presented by



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Honoree:



Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek
and San Ramon branches

Monday, January 19, 2026
San Ramon City Hall Rotunda
Program 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Reception 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Supported by:

- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Supervisor Candace Andersen
- Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich and Vice Mayor Robert Storer
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association-Tri-Valley Chapter (APAPA-TVC)
- Diablo Black Men's Group
- Discovery Counseling Center
- Narika
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Contra Costa
- PFLAG Danville-San Ramon Valley
- Rewire Community
- San Ramon Chamber of Commerce
- San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs

NCNC UCC X
NORCAL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PRESENT:

For youth in grades 9-12

FEB CAMP
2026

REGISTRATION
COMING
SOON!

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!



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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