



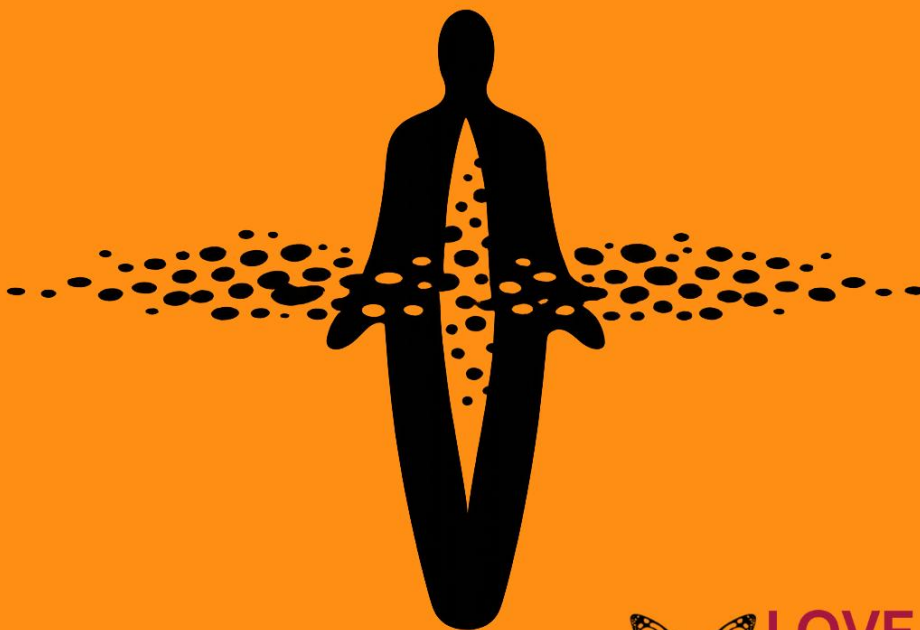
# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

# JESUS

## KNOWS NO BORDERS



[danvillechurch.org/migration](http://danvillechurch.org/migration)



**LOVE**  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

*January 25, 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

*Same Boat Now*

Betsy Rose

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

Miguel Atkins-Whitley

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

One: We are a community of faith who have been created by the love of God.

**All: We are the people who have been set free by the grace of God and are, therefore, a people called to reach out to the sojourners in our midst and in other lands—people whose lives cry out for the warm embrace of kinship.**

One: We have come not to exalt our own goodness,  
but to praise the holiness of God.

**All: We have come not to boast of what we have done, but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus by extending our hands to people experiencing migration—refugees, displaced persons, and asylum seekers.**

**With all our being, we will praise God and tell of God's goodness  
in our acts of kindness and love toward the "least" among us in our time.**

—Adapted, United Methodist Committee on Relief

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Miguel

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*Stranger Standing At My Door*

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Todd

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


SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 28:16–20](#)


Miguel

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."


# 43 Stranger, Standing at My Door




1 Strang - er, stand - ing at my door, you dis - turb me  
 2 You are strange in speech and dress, you have chil - dren  
 3 I am fear - ful of your claim, yet I can - not




in the night: you have needs I can't ig - nore,  
 at your side, you are not like one of us—  
 turn a - way. Strang - er with the for - eign name,



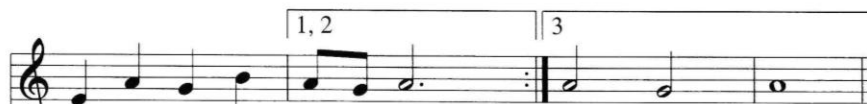
you have eyes that speak your plight. Do I know you,  
 you have begged a - way your pride. If you passed a -  
 are you an - gel come to stay? You are mes - sen -



name - less face, bat - tered wom - an, de - tain - ee,  
 cross my screen I might switch you out of sight,  
 ger and guest, you the Christ I can't ig - nore,



hun - gry youth or sick - ness case, job - less par - ent, ref - u - gee—  
 worlds a - way you might have been, yet you stand here in the night.  
 you my own com - pas - sion's test, strang - er, stand - ing at my door.



Do I know you, name-less face?  
 Do I know you, name-less face?  
 You, the Christ I can't ig - nore.

Until we are clouds that tear like bread but mend like bones. Until we weave each other like silk sheets shrouding mountains, or bear gales that shear us. Until we soften our hard edges, free to become any shape imaginable: a rose or an angel crafted by the breeze like papier-maché or a lion or dragon like marble chiseled by gusts. Until we scatter ourselves—pebbles of grey puffs, but then band together like stringed pearls. Until we learn to listen to each other, as thunderous as opera or as soft as a showered lullaby. Until we truly treasure the sunset, lavish it in mauve, rust, and rose. Until we have the courage to vanish like sails into the horizon, or be at peace, anchored still. Until we move without any measure, as vast as continents or as petite as islands, floating in an abyss of virtual blue we belong to. Until we dance tango with the moon and comfort the jealous stars, falling. Until we care enough for the earth to bless it as morning fog. Until we realize we're muddy as puddles, pristine as lakes not yet clouds. Until we remember we're born from rivers and dewdrops. Until we are at ease to dissolve as wispy showers, not always needing to clash like godly yells of thunder. Until we believe lightning roots are not our right to the ground. Though we collude into storms that ravage, we can also sprinkle ourselves like memories. Until we tame the riot of our tornadoes, settle down into a soft drizzle, into a daydream. Though we may curse with hail, we can absolve with snowflakes. We can die valiant as rainbows, and hold light in our lucid bodies like blood. We can decide to move boundlessly, without creed or desire. Until we are clouds meshed within clouds sharing a kingdom with no king, a city with no walls, a country with no name, a nation without any borders or claim. Until we abide as one together in one single sky.

*From How to Love a Country: Poems by Richard Blanco*

ANTHEM

*God, How Can We Comprehend*

*God, how can we comprehend—  
Though we've seen them times before—  
Lines of people without end  
Fleeing danger, want, and war?  
They seek safety anywhere,  
Hoping for a welcome hand!  
Can we know the pain they bear?  
Help us, Lord, to understand!*

*You put music in their souls;  
Now they struggle to survive.  
You gave each one gifts and goals;  
Now they flee to stay alive.  
God of outcasts, may we see  
How you value everyone,  
For each homeless refugee  
Is your daughter or your son.*

*Lord, your loving knows no bounds;  
You have conquered death for all.  
May we hear beyond our towns  
To our distant neighbors' call.  
Spirit, may our love increase;  
May we reach to all your earth,  
Till your whole world lives in peace;  
Till we see each person's worth.*

TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Lauren Jewett

**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

Sandra

### 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

*Deportee* (Plane Crash at Los Gatos Canyon

Woody Guthrie,

Joan Baez with Mary Chapin Carpenter and Indigo Girls

Martin Hoffman

### \*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 Lauren

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*O Star of Truth, Down Shining*

See next page.

Immigrant Apostles' Creed, Rev. Jose Luis Casal

**All: I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus,  
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,  
the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,  
who was born away from his people  
and his home, who fled his country with his parents  
when his life was in danger.**

**When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of  
Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten,  
tortured and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose  
from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's  
kingdom.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,  
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the Church is the secure home for  
foreigners and for all believers.**

**I believe that the communion of saints begins  
when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity.**

POSTLUDE

*City of Immigrants*

Steve Earle

Steve Earle, with Emmylou Harris, Christ Masterson, and Eleanor Whitmore

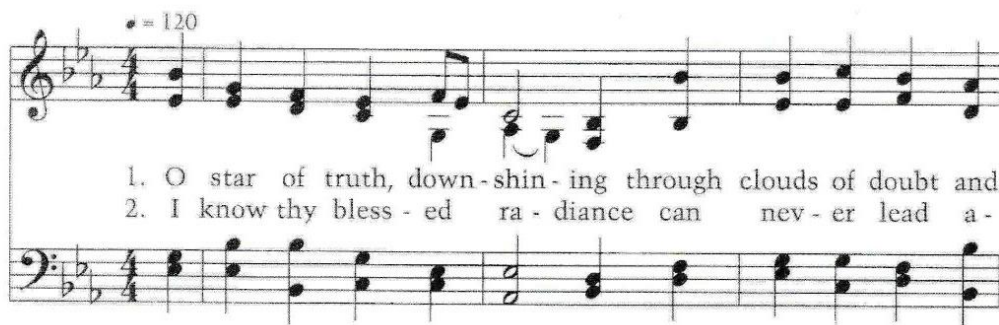
Please remain in your pews until the light has been taken out of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

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

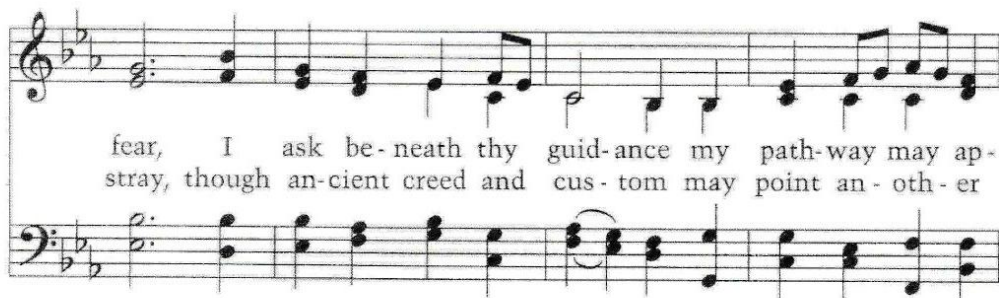


## O Star of Truth

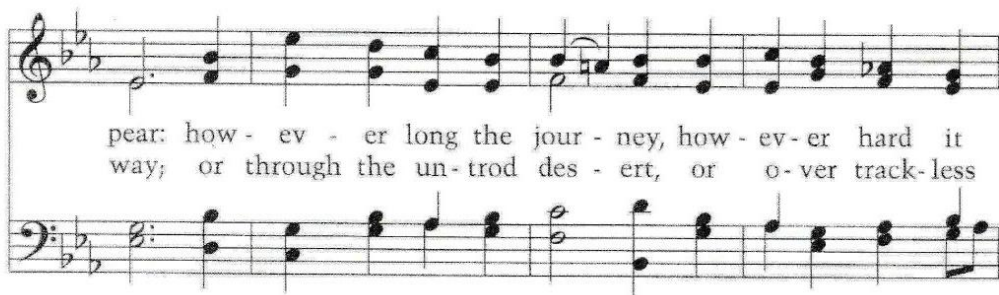
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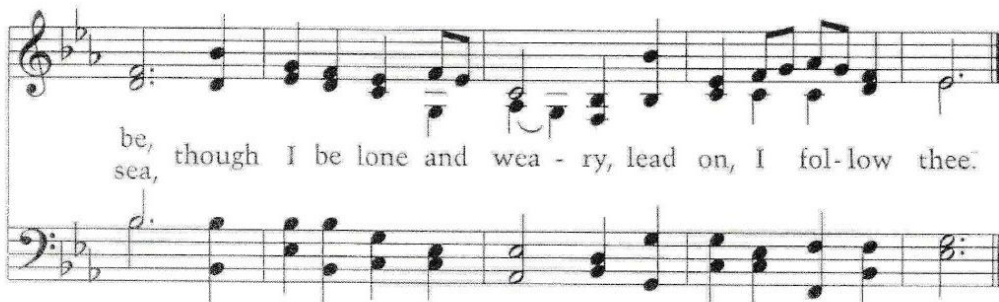
1. O star of truth, down-shin-ing through clouds of doubt and  
2. I know thy bless-ed ra-diance can nev-er lead a-



fear, I ask be-neath thy guid-ance my path-way may ap-  
stray, though an-cient creed and cus-tom may point an-oth-er



pear: how-ev-er long the jour-ney, how-ev-er hard it  
way, or through the un-trod des-ert, or o-ver track-less



be, though I be lone and wea-ry, lead on, I fol-low thee.

Words: Minor Judson Savage, 1841-1918  
Music: Finnish melody, adapt. by David Evans, 1874-1948, arr.

NYLAND  
7.6.7.6.D.

## WORSHIP NOTES



**Richard Blanco** is an acclaimed Cuban-American poet, author, and civil engineer known for his poignant explorations of identity, home, and belonging, notably serving as the youngest, first Latino, immigrant, and openly gay U.S. [Presidential Inaugural Poet](#) in 2013, reading "One Today" for [Barack Obama](#)'s second inauguration, and recently awarded the [National Humanities Medal](#). Born in Spain to Cuban exiles and raised in Miami, his work bridges cultures, blending his engineering background with lyrical storytelling in collections like *City of a Hundred Fires* and his memoir *The Prince of Los Cocuyos*.

**The Apostles' Creed** originated from early Christian baptismal formulas in Rome around the 2nd century, evolving from the Old Roman Creed, not written by the apostles themselves, though its core beliefs reflect their teachings. It developed through additions and refinements, with its present form emerging by the 8th century. The United Church of Christ honors the Apostles' Creed as part of its shared Christian heritage—not as mandatory 'tests' of faith but as important "testimonies" or historical expressions of faith.



The adaptation of the Apostles' Creed used in worship today was written by the **Rev. Jose Luis Casal**, an immigrant to the USA from Cuba and director of Presbyterian World Mission. Rev. Casal's version reframes the traditional Apostles' Creed through the lived experience of an immigrant, highlighting themes of displacement, foreignness, and finding home in faith, inspired by his own journey from Communist Cuba and his commitment to welcoming strangers, making faith relevant to contemporary issues of immigration and belonging. The Immigrant Apostles' Creed is offered as a prayer of solidarity with people experiencing migration and is designed to sharpen the mission of the institutional church with respect to immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees.

## 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
After worship until 1	Youth Group
11:45am	New Member Interest Lunch
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

<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 3**.

Greeters: Linda Elsdon and Judy Schreib

Ushers: Ron Elsdon, Bob Kovach, and Judy Schreib

Candlelighter: Judy Schreib

Liturgists: Miguel Atkins-Whitley and Sandra Lepley

Flowers: Bette Felton

Fellowship Hosts: Linda Elsdon, Ron Elsdon, and Sandra Lepley

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Ministers: Doug Leich

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Todd will be on vacation January 26th through February 1st, resuming office hours on February 2nd. During this time, please reach out directly to Pastor Lauren for pastoral care needs or to the moderators for church matters.



## Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

Children are invited to hear the story of the Good Shepherd who knows each sheep by name. We'll wonder together about what it might mean when the shepherd guides the sheep to green grass and protects them in times of danger.

## *Today 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](mailto:joyce.klassen@comcast.net).

## *Next Sunday during Fellowship Time* **Baby Shower for Paula and Michael Chan**

Please join us on **Sunday, February 1st**, during **Fellowship Time at 10:45am**, for a baby shower in support of **Paula Chan and her husband, Michael** as they ready for the arrival of their baby boy in March! This will be a joyful time to celebrate new life and offer a warm welcome to Paula and Michael as part of our church community. Paula has shared a wish list—<https://my.babylist.com/baby-paula-chan> (gifts are optional).



*Journeys in Faith*  
Join us for Second Hour  
February 8th  
*Faith in Action East Bay*  
Presenter: Kira Lee  
*Learn what this worthy*  
*Organization is doing*  
*To encourage love, equality and anti- racism*

*Sunday, February 8th*  
**Pastor Todd's PSC Meeting**

Pastor Todd's Pastoral Support Committee (PSC) will be meeting on February 8th following the Second Hour. PSC members include Dee Brook, Jen Faught, John Klassen, Dave Michaud, and Jenn O'Neal.



**Homemade Minestrone in Kairos Freezer Available**

**We're trying something new!** You'll now find homemade minestrone soup in the bottom drawers of the Kairos freezer—both vegetarian and with beef. Each bag is labeled with its weight. Please choose one based on the number of people you're feeding (1 cup = 8 oz). The soup is meant to be shared—whether you're delivering a meal to someone in need or taking some for yourself.

Please help yourself as needed and let Kyra Kennedy know if you take the last bag. If this experiment is successful, the Community Life Commission may continue by refilling the freezer.



**Spirited Sisters**

"When Women Are the Storytellers the Human Story Changes" is the subtitle of the book that Spirited Sisters is now exploring – ***Cassandra Speaks***, by Elizabeth Lesser. This provocative read asks us to consider the over-arching influence of the stories of human-kind told through the ages, from origin stories of mythology and Scripture through the continuation of human history to modern times.

To all women who might like to join us, we offer a warm welcome and a safe space for discussion of our shared experiences. We meet the third Thursday of each month from 2:00-3:30 pm. For more information, contact Diane Stein or Donna Lenhardt.



*Saturday, March 14th from 5:30pm–10:00pm*

**Ruby Slippers Gala**

DCC has long supported Hope Solutions as volunteers, builders, tutors, board members, and funders. We're excited to invite you to their joyful annual Ruby Slippers Gala on Saturday, March 14th from 5:30pm–10:00pm at The Club at Castlewood. Kyra & Pat McGrath, Jim & Bette Felton, and Carol Gilliland will be hosting DCC tables, and you're invited to join us. Simply purchase a ticket and let Hope Solutions know you'd like to sit at the McGrath table. Early Bird pricing ends January 29. Tickets and details: Click [here](#). Questions? Contact Kyra Kennedy.



## 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](http://danvillechurch.org/migration)

## Pictures of the Week



DCC members gathered at TGIF; MLK Service Day with Hope Solutions; Marvin Matthews delighted the audience with his musical stylings; Rev. Rhina Ramos served as our guest preacher; Ron Elsdon presented a Journeys in Faith second hour.

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

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



**Danville Congregational Church**

***United Church of Christ***

**989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville, CA 94526-4020**

**Phone: (925) 837-6944**

**[www.danvillechurch.org](http://www.danvillechurch.org)**

