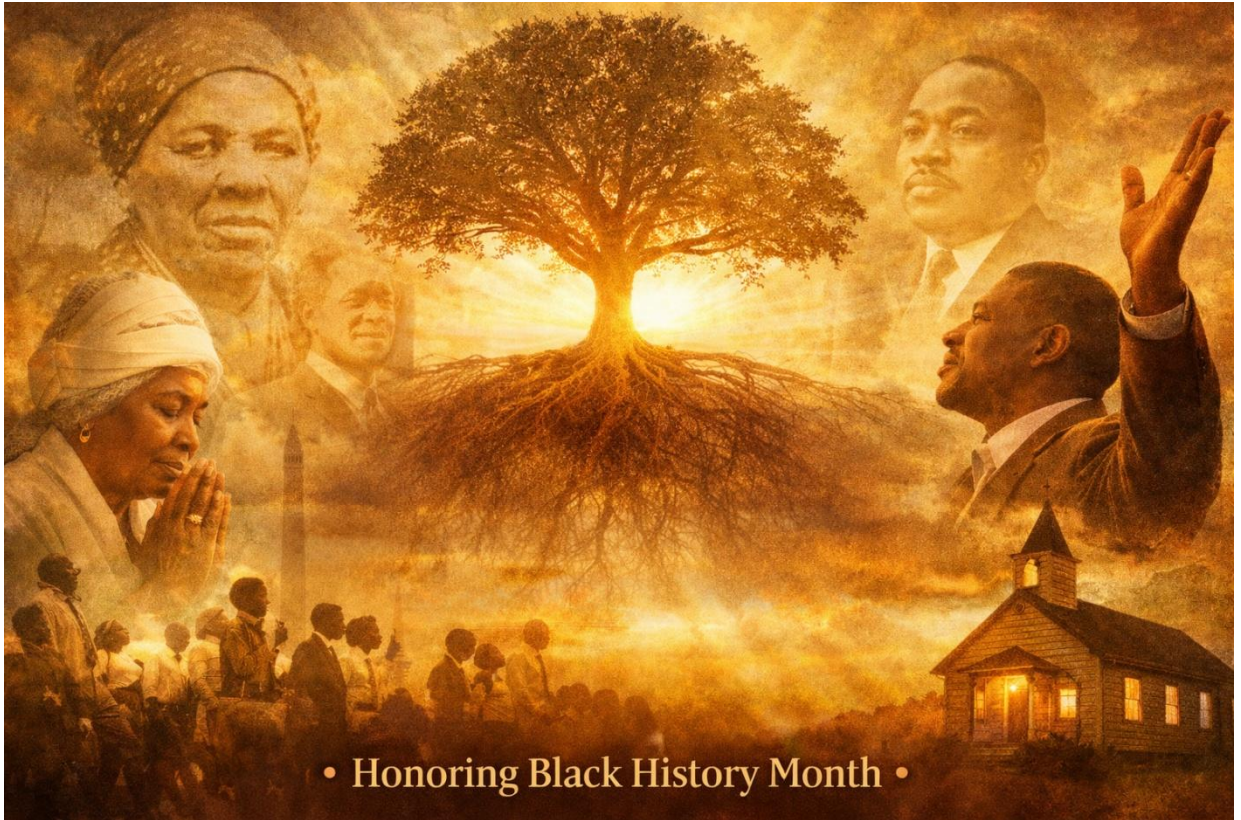




DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



• Honoring Black History Month •

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
First Sunday of Black History–Black Futures Month,
Communion Sunday

February 1, 2026

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

Adoration

Florence Price

WELCOME

Heidi Bridgeman

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: Friends, the God of hope is calling,
Offering refreshment to those who are weary and heavy laden.
Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.¹

All: Come, O Holy Spirit, Come.

One: Friends, the God of peace is calling,
Offering tender words of comfort to those in distress.
Come children, how often I have longed to gather you together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.²

All: Come, O Holy Spirit, Come.

One: Friends, the God of love is calling,
Offering friendship and communion to those who feel alone.
Come everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come buy and eat without money
and without cost.³

All: Come, O Holy Spirit, Come.

One: Friends, come, God is calling us to worship.

All: It is an offer too irresistible to refuse.

¹Matthew 11:28 ²Matthew 23:37, alt. ³Isaiah 55:1, alt.

*OPENING PRAYER

All: Loving Creator, we gather to celebrate Black History–Black Futures Month in thanksgiving and reverence.

As we meet today, we pray that our hearts be opened to hearing the stories—current and past—of our Black siblings.

We celebrate and honor them for all they have contributed to our world, our communities, and personally to us.

Bless our time this day, in the reading of scripture, the prayers of our hearts, and the joy of meeting each other in this house of worship where you have made your presence known, Amen.

*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

Beams of Heaven as I Go

See pages 5–6.

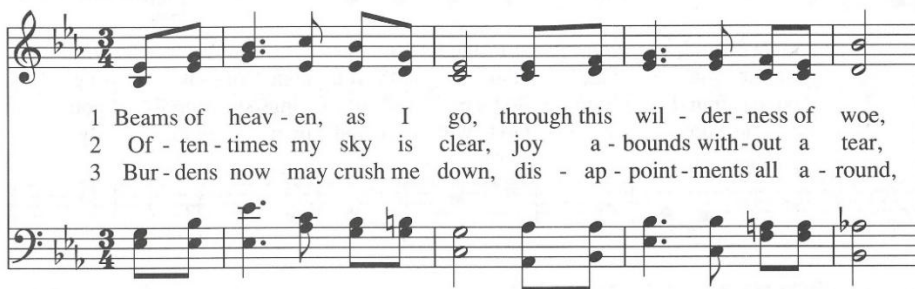
TIME WITH CHILDREN

Nancy Halseth

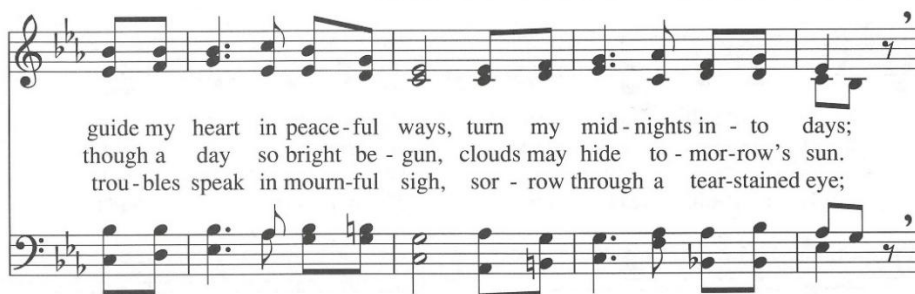
Following the Time With Children, children are invited to meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Godly Play.

Beams of Heaven as I Go

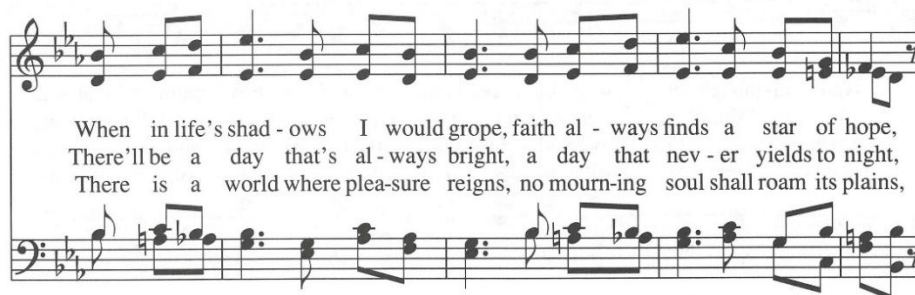
Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906; alt.



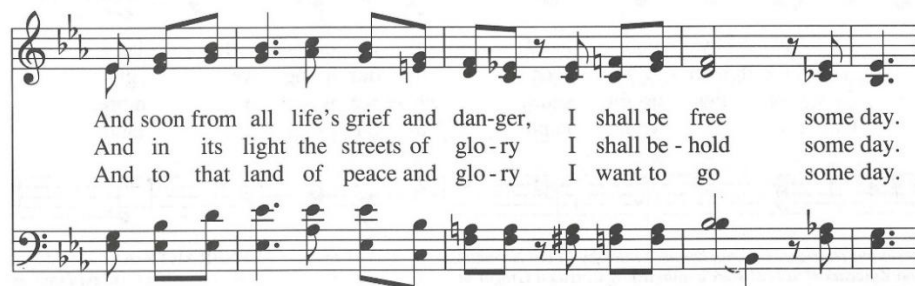
1 Beams of heav - en, as I go, through this wil - der - ness of woe,
 2 Of - ten - times my sky is clear, joy a - bounds with - out a tear,
 3 Bur - dens now may crush me down, dis - ap - point - ments all a - round,



guide my heart in peace - ful ways, turn my mid - nights in - to days;
 though a day so bright be - gun, clouds may hide to - mor - row's sun.
 trou - bles speak in mourn - ful sigh, sor - row through a tear - stained eye;



When in life's shad - ows I would grope, faith al - ways finds a star of hope,
 There'll be a day that's al - ways bright, a day that nev - er yields to night,
 There is a world where plea - sure reigns, no mourn - ing soul shall roam its plains,



And soon from all life's grief and dan - ger, I shall be free some day.
 And in its light the streets of glo - ry I shall be - hold some day.
 And to that land of peace and glo - ry I want to go some day.

Tune: SOME DAY 7.7.7.8.8.9.6, with refrain
 Charles Albert Tindley, c. 1906
 Transcribed by F. A. Clark, 1906

Composer Charles A. Tindley, a prolific writer of gospel hymns, was a highly respected African-American Methodist minister in Philadelphia. It is Rev. Tindley whom Thomas Dorsey, perhaps the most famous gospel songwriter, credited as his influential predecessor.



SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-13
From *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God.

By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith, Abel offered a better sacrifice to God than Cain, and for that was declared to be just; God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

By faith, Enoch was taken up and didn't have to experience death — "he was seen no more because God took him." Even before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must believe that God exists, rewarding those who earnestly seek the divine glory.

By faith, Noah — warned about things not yet seen — revered God and built an ark in order to save his household. By faith, Noah condemned the world and inherited the justice which comes through faith.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise — for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the one who had made the promise was worthy of trust.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

MODERN LESSON

Freedom by Langston Hughes

Sandra Lepley

Freedom will not come
Today, this year
Nor ever
Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right
As the other fellow has
To stand
On my two feet
And own the land.

I tire so of hearing people say,
Let things take their course.
Tomorrow is another day.
I do not need my freedom when I'm dead.
I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

Freedom
Is a strong seed
Planted
In a great need.
I live here, too.
I want my freedom
Just as you.

SERMON

Faith That Refused to Die

Rev. Carmarion D. Anderson

ANTHEM

Hymn To Freedom

Oscar Peterson

When every heart joins every heart and together yearns for liberty,
That's when we'll be free.
When every hand joins every hand and together moulds our destiny,
That's when we'll be free.
Any hour any day, the time soon will come when men will live in dignity,
That's when we'll be free.
When every one joins in our song and together singing harmony,
That's when we'll be free.

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Carmarion

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

Melody

Florence Price

*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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Carmarion

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

**All: Gracious God, we thank you for your abundant love,
for this table of grace, and for the faith of those who came before us.
Thank you for seeing us, hearing us, and calling us to your service.
May we be nourished, strengthened, and sent forth to live boldly,
love freely, and work for justice in your name.
Amen.**

WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Heidi

*CLOSING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

See pages 10–11.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Carmarion

POSTLUDE

Hymn To Freedom

Oscar Peterson
arr. Simon Westman

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

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Lift Every Voice and Sing

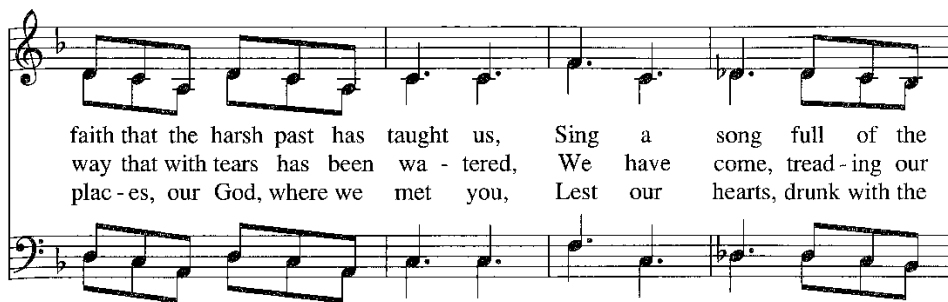
James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

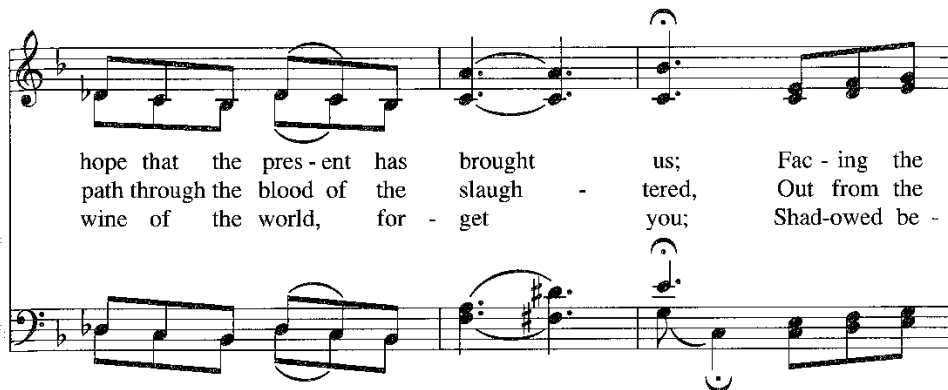
har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

Tune: **LIFT EVERY VOICE** Irr.
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER



Rev. Elder Carmarion D. Anderson-Harvey is an ordained minister, pioneering leader, and passionate advocate for marginalized communities. She previously served as the Alabama State Director for the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC, making history as the first transgender person of color to hold a senior leadership role in the organization's history.

A steadfast champion for equality, Rev. Carmarion has helped shape local, state, and national policy through direct engagement with the White House. Her nationally recognized work promotes justice, inclusion, and culturally competent outcomes across diverse communities.

As a dynamic public educator and speaker, she has been featured in documentaries, national publications, and major media outlets to raise awareness and inspire transformative change. Her lived experience and ministry calling have been highlighted on CNN's *United Shades of America* with W. Kamau Bell and in an Emmy Award-winning interview with Dyllon Burnside featured in the *Prideland* documentary.

Rev. Carmarion is ordained through The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM) and is a Committee on Ministry (COM) Privilege-of-Call candidate with the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). She is an Associate Pastor (remotely) at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Birmingham, Alabama. She recently became a staff member in a called position as the Minister for Congregational Leadership with the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio.

Her academic background includes Human Services and Ministry/Theology studies at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Originally from Dallas, Texas, with deep family roots in Natchez, Mississippi, Rev. Carmarion is a proud mother and grandmother. Her unwavering commitment to inclusion and social justice reflects her divine calling to help build a more just, loving, and equitable world for all.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:45am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:45am–11:15am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
During Fellowship	Baby Shower for Paula and Michael Chan
12:00pm	Monthly Lunch Bunch
1:30pm–3:30pm	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 and Donuts
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	1:00pm	Pastor Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5.**

Greeter: Joyce Klassen

Ushers: Carol Bassett, John Klassen, and Michiyo Laing

Liturgists: Matthew Bassett and Sandra Lepley

Flowers: Michiyo Laing

Fellowship Hosts: Carol Bassett, and Barbara Carillo

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Ministers: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

Godly Play: Kim Michaud

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 6.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

Children are invited to join Ms. Kim in Godly Play this Sunday to hear about Bishop Barbara Harris, a modern-day saint who fought tirelessly for "the least, the lost, and the left out." Then we'll rejoin our families for communion. Hope to see you there!

Today during Fellowship Time **Baby Shower for Paula and Michael Chan**

Please join us today during Fellowship Time for a baby shower in support of **Paula and Michael Chan** 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.



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 today. We'll be gathering at noon at **Bridges in Danville** and would love for you to join us! Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo. Thanks!

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 **Soup-er Bowl Sunday**

"You can make a difference, if you try, We can make a difference, you & I". In support of Neighbors in Need, please bring canned soup to donate to our Alameda/Contra Costa Food barrel in the Narthex on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8th.

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.

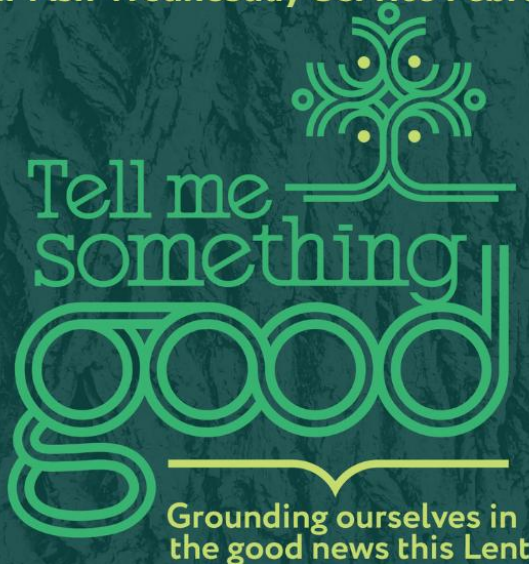


Sunday, February 15th after worship
Pancake Breakfast/Congregational Meeting

Save the date for our next congregational meeting, which will take place during a pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 15th.

Immediately after worship, we'll gather for a delicious breakfast, provided by our Community Life commission. This will also be a time to hear church news, connect with one another, and maybe get better acquainted with someone you haven't had the chance to chat with yet, all while enjoying a terrific feast before Lent begins. All are welcome: church members, friends, friends of friends ... See you there!

Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service February 18th @ 7:00pm



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](#).

MOZART TO MENDELSSOHN

JOHN KENDALL BAILEY, music director

RESISTANCE

Sinfonia grande

SIBELIUS
FINLANDIA

BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO. 3 "EROICA"

*804 im Beginn
del. Sige*

SAEVERUD

THE BALLAD OF REVOLT

Louis van Beethoven



SAN FRANCISCO
CIVIC MUSIC
ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 3:00 PM

HERBST THEATER 401 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco

FREE ADMISSION (Donations accepted)

www.sfcivictimusic.org

RSVP early to guarantee entry:

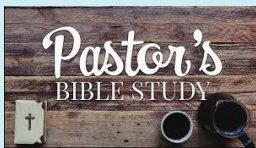
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sanfranciscocivictimusicassociation/1882382>



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. Tickets and details: Click [here](#). Questions? Contact Kyra Kennedy.



Pastor's Bible Study Wednesdays at 1:00pm

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. Meeting ID 885 6171 8426 and password 783855.

Picture of the Week



Last Sunday's worship started with a special candle lighting ritual in which prayers were offered up, those out loud and those kept in our hearts.

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.

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.



A Lenten Practice

Our Whole Lives

For Older Adults (Ages 60ish+)

facilitated by Pastor Lauren and Pastor Todd

Meeting Dates:

Thursday, Feb 19: 10am-noon

Saturday Feb 21: 10am-4pm

Thursday, Feb 26: 10am-noon

Thursday, March 5: 10am-noon

Thursday, March 12: 10am-noon

Thursday, March 19: 10am-noon

Thursday, March 26: 10am-noon

Thursday, April 2: 10am-noon

Register here:



All meetings will be held in-person at DCC.

Please reach out to Pastor Lauren with any questions: lauren@danvillechurch.org

The Saturday meeting time is mandatory and we ask that you miss no more than two Thursday sessions, though preference is full attendance of all sessions.

About Our Whole Lives:

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health, and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, developmentally appropriate information in human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. The program provides facts about anatomy and human development, and helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality.

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

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

Phone: (925) 837-6944

www.danvillechurch.org

