



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



*We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep* by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Fourth Sunday of Black History-Black Futures Month**  
*February 22, 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](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



Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## GATHERING SONG

Elana Bolds, vocals

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Heidi Bridgeman

## 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

Heidi

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

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: manna in the desert, water turned into wine,  
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

One: The good news of the gospel is:

**All: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,  
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

**All: Let us worship this good-news God.**

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Heidi

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

## \*OPENING HYMN

*We Plant A Grain Of Mustard Seed*

See next page.

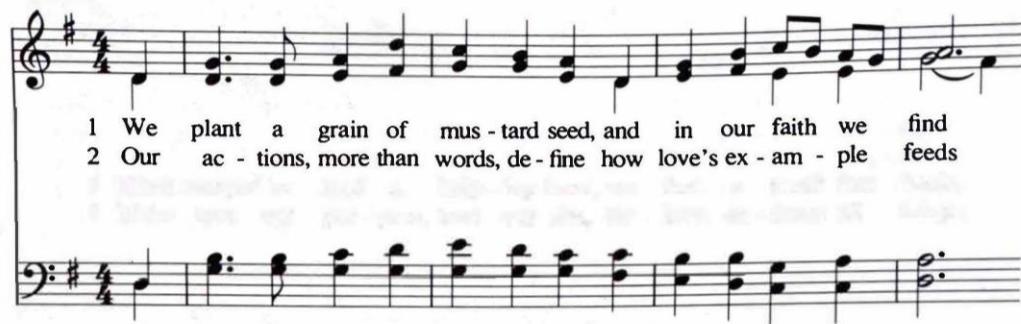
## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

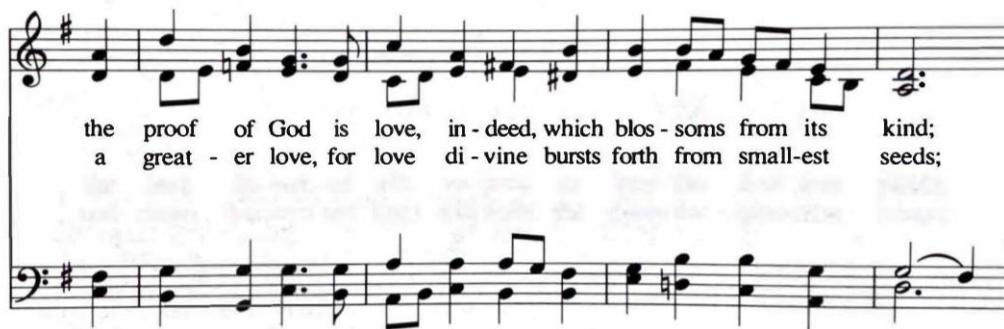
## We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Matt. 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19;  
John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

Mary Bryan Matney, 1990



1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find  
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds



the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;



the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.

5 So may our new be - gin - nings prove,  
like liv - ing bread and wine,  
that through our com - mon hu - man love  
we taste what is di - vine;  
that through our com - mon hu - man love  
we taste what is di - vine.

6 Our lives will be ful - filled and blessed  
if through the seeds we've sown  
and by the love that we pro - fess  
the love of Christ is known;  
and by the love that we pro - fess  
the love of Christ is known.

Tune: NEW BEGINNINGS 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
Sally Ann Morris, 1990

Mary Bryan Matney and Sally Ann Morris wrote this hymn in 1990 for the marriage of friends. In 1992, it won first prize in its category in a hymnwriting competition sponsored by the Charlotte, North Carolina, chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed— unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Lauren

One: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

**All: of course, of course, of course.**

One: This is the good news of the gospel.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## 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.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 2:1-11](#)

Heidi

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

SERMON

*The Good News is...So Good It Catches Us By Surprise*

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

*Ain'-a That Good News*African-American Spiritual  
arr. William Dawson*I got a crown up in-a the kingdom, ain'-a that good news!**I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross.**Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'-a that good news!**I got a harp up in-a the kingdom, ain'-a that good news!...**I got a robe up in-a the kingdom, ain'-a that good news!...**I got a Savior up in-a the kingdom, ain'-a that good news!...*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

**All: Hear our prayer**

Prayers of the People

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

Heidi

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, using the QR Code on the back cover.*

I was born by the river in a little tent  
 Oh and just like the river I've been running ever since  
 It's been a long, a long time coming  
 But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will.

It's been too hard living but I'm afraid to die  
 Cause I don't know what's up there beyond the sky  
 It's been a long, a long time coming  
 But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will.

I go to the movie and I go downtown  
 Somebody keep telling me don't hang around  
 It's been a long, a long time coming  
 But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will.

Then I go to my brother  
 And I say brother help me please  
 But he winds up knockin' me  
 Back down on my knees.

There been times that I thought I couldn't last for long  
 But now I think I'm able to carry on  
 It's been a long, a long time coming  
 But I know a change gonna come, oh yes it will.

\*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

BLESSING OF GODSPEED

Pastor Todd & Pastor Lauren

The Facini-Sands Family

Congregational Response:

**We offer you our encouragement and prayers as you embark upon this new journey.  
 We give thanks for your witness among us.  
 May the God of grace accompany you and bless you 'til we meet again. Amen.**

WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Lauren

\*CLOSING HYMN

*In a Neat and Tidy Garden*

See pages 8–9.

# In a Neat & Tidy Garden

ALL THE WAY 8.7.8.7 D

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Robert Lowry (1875)

In a neat and ti - dy gar - den grows a se - cret ti - ny seed  
Green and ten - der leaves I har - vest from the mus - tard grow - ing wild  
O - ther gar - den - ers may strug - gle and pre - tend they have con - trol

[4]  
There a - mong the plan - ted bar - ley will e - merge a shock - ing weed  
To en - rich and spice my dish - es that were un - til now too mild  
O - ver land that God cre - a - ted but I'll tell you what I know:

[8]  
Grow - ing quick - ly through the so - il to break forth in va - cant spot  
Un - ex - pec - ted and sur - pris - ing, un - con - trolled by hu - man hand  
I am not the Mas - ter Gar - dener, just a stew - ard of this place

©Anna Strickland, 2025. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

[12]

What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!  
 See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!  
 God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!

[16]

What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!  
 See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!  
 God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!

\* BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

*The Wedding at Cana*

Stephen DeCesare

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*

## WORSHIP NOTES



### **We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep** by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 13:31-32 | 11"x14" Acrylic, mustard seed on paper

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

"They tried to bury us; they didn't know we were seeds," a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos, has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: "You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep."

From the Corn Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith.

—Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell



**Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell** (she/her) is a Haitian-American multidisciplinary artist whose visual lexicon fuses gestural abstraction and theology to explore themes of diaspora, faith, and cultural memory. Borrowing her use of color from the vibrancy of Haitian artistic traditions, Carmelle's art pulses with movement and mysticism. Beyond her studio practice, Carmelle serves as Associate Director of the Missing Voices Project at Flagler College's Center for Religion and Culture and serves on the board of Artworks Trenton.

## 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
After worship–1:00pm	Youth Group
At noon	Farewell Lunch for Facini/Sands Family at Luna Loca
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>Tuesday</b>	4:00pm–6:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:00pm	Pastor Bible Study
<b>Thursday</b>	10:00am–noon	OWL Adults

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeter: Wilson Jackson

Ushers: Steve Bridgeman, Bruce Hixon, Kathie Hixon, and Wilson Jackson

Candlelighter: Steve Bridgeman

Liturgist: Heidi Bridgeman

Flowers: Nan Karns

Fellowship Hosts: Anne Elliott and Nan Karns

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

**Godly Play:** Trish Moosbrugger

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **BLACK HISTORY | BLACK FUTURES MOMENT**

Gospel music was at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, lifting the spirits of those fighting for racial equality. Listen to this PBS special, "The Black Church | Gospel Music and the Civil Rights Movement" narrated by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Rutha Mae Harris, a founding member of The Freedom Singers, talks with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. about the role music from the Black church played.

[https://youtu.be/dGxiQMLVYss?si=UsaG558IHRr\\_gc\\_A](https://youtu.be/dGxiQMLVYss?si=UsaG558IHRr_gc_A)



## Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

Join us in Godly Play for the season of Lent. We will journey through Jesus' life and the children will help us tell the story. This Sunday we begin at the beginning and remember Jesus as a baby. All children are welcome!



*Today at noon*

### Special lunch gathering to say “Arrivederci amore, ciao”–

Following a special Godspeed blessing for Leo, Allison, and Izzy Facini during worship today, come join us for lunch to bid them farewell as they will be moving to the Detroit area for work. We'll be gathering at noon at Luna Loca's in the Livery 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! Please RSVP to Wilson

Jackson at 925-819-0222 or email him at [wrjachev@netzero.com](mailto:wrjachev@netzero.com) to let him know you'll be attending. If you haven't let us know ahead of time, come anyway.

### *Wednesday, February 25th at 4:00pm via Zoom* **Anti-Racism Team Meeting**

The Anti Racism Team will be meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, February 25th at 4pm. We'll be discussing our upcoming March/April workshops with Rev. Riana Shaw-Robinson, field trip opportunities and legislative updates. All DCC members are invited to attend! Zoom link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89216163521?pwd=QUp0MWdmMkZyM080cHB1YjBVeDV2QT09>

Meeting ID: 892 1616 3521

Passcode: Justice



### *Sunday, March 1st at noon* **Monthly Lunch Bunch**

Would you like to get to know some of your DCC colleagues better? Come join us for lunch on Sunday, March 1st. We'll be gathering at noon (or whenever you get there) at the Peasant and the Pear 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!

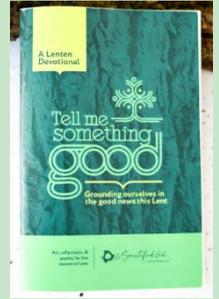
Please RSVP to Wilson Jackson at 925-819-0222 or email him at [wrjachev@netzero.com](mailto:wrjachev@netzero.com) to let him know you'll be attending. If you haven't let us know ahead of time, come anyway.

## Lenten Devotional Available

For an additional way to engage in spiritual practice this Lent, refer to this weekly Lenten devotional that follows the scriptures of our *Tell Me Something Good* series.

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771/>

Pastor Todd will be engaging this devotional series for our weekly Bible studies. If you would like a printed copy, email the church office.



## Safety Training

An important topic for any organization is safety training and preparedness. We plan to conduct in-person training to key individuals (employees, church members frequently at worship/onsite), as well as brief training for the entire congregation on a few Sundays in the future (immediately following worship).

In advance of conducting any training, we are asking for any individuals who have training/experience in the following areas (police/fire/paramedic training, security, medical training) if they would be willing to submit their names as possible contacts, participants in on-site training:

Please call or email the church office so Anne-Marie can add you to our list and thank you in advance for helping us with this important topic.



## Saturday, March 14th at 1:00pm Visions of Hope—Homeless Outreach Event!

Our partner congregation, Visions of Hope, is holding an outreach event for unhoused people in Oakland on March 14th, beginning at 1:00pm on MLK Drive near the 27th St. Exit. They are creating 100 “blessing bags” for distribution, including snacks and toiletries. They are also collecting clean and useable clothing and shoes for adults, which they will distribute at the same time. If you are able to assist with this project, either by donating supplies/clothing and/or by helping distribute the bags, please sign up on the clipboard after church, or send an email to Barb DeBarger, [bdebarger@gmail.com](mailto:bdebarger@gmail.com). Here are the specific items needed—please bring items to the church office or to Koinonia during coffee hour by March 7th:

- Donations of adult-sized clothing and shoes (used okay, but clean and good condition)
- Donations of suitable food-- crackers, canned meat/sausages, snacks, small juice boxes and small bottled water—items able to fit into gallon Ziploc bags
- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- \$\$ to pay for a U-Haul van to transport items to the park and for lunch (collection envelope at church or give online to DCC's Visions of Hope Sponsorship Fund <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCT3/campaign/C-15G87>.)
- Distribution volunteers—we will organize a carpool from DCC for those interested in helping at the event and also announce parking arrangements soon.

## ETHNIC STORYTELLING

Everyone has a story...

A DCC Anti-Racism Spring Workshop

*Beginning in March*

### All-Church Spring Workshop Series –Ethnic Storytelling

For many years, now, DCC has demonstrated a sincere commitment to justice, racial equity, and faithful public witness. We all are now witnessing the level of racism in society that is happening on a daily basis that is causing many of us to question our stories of what is real and true and long for

practices that are spiritually grounding, relationally meaningful, and sustainable.

To revitalize and extend our commitment to Anti-Racism, DCC is offering a new workshop series—*Ethnic Storytelling*—that offers a refreshing entry point into this work. Rather than beginning with what people should “do” or should “know,” this process—facilitated by DCC friend **the Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson**—begins with who we already are: our families, migration stories, losses, values, faith traditions, and survival stories.

*Workshops will be held on the following Sundays during Second Hour (lunch will be provided):*

**March 15, March 22, March 29, April 12, April 26**

For white Christians, this deep work is especially valuable. Whiteness often goes unnamed and unexamined, leaving justice work feeling external, intellectual, or burdensome. Naming one’s own ethnic story restores particularity, responsibility, and agency—without centering guilt or defensiveness. By connecting this way with ourselves and others, we can more readily see and identify areas of need and attention in our own world experience.

This process is designed to help us:

- Re-ground justice commitments in faith, relationship, and story
- Reduce burnout by shifting from performative antiracism to formative practices
- Build the spiritual and relational capacity needed for long-term justice engagement

Sign-ups will be held during coffee time in February/March and online.

Participation in each session is suggested but all are welcome no matter how many sessions they can attend. Visitors, friends, and neighbors are always welcome!

For more information, reach out to [Barb DeBarger](#) or [Pastor Todd](#).

### 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.

## Pictures of the Week



On Saturday, members of DCC participated in the Love Your Neighbor event in Concord and Sunday's Pancake Breakfast & Congregational Meeting was a great gathering.

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).

## 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](#).



## 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.

**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)**



Scan QR Code to Give



**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)**

