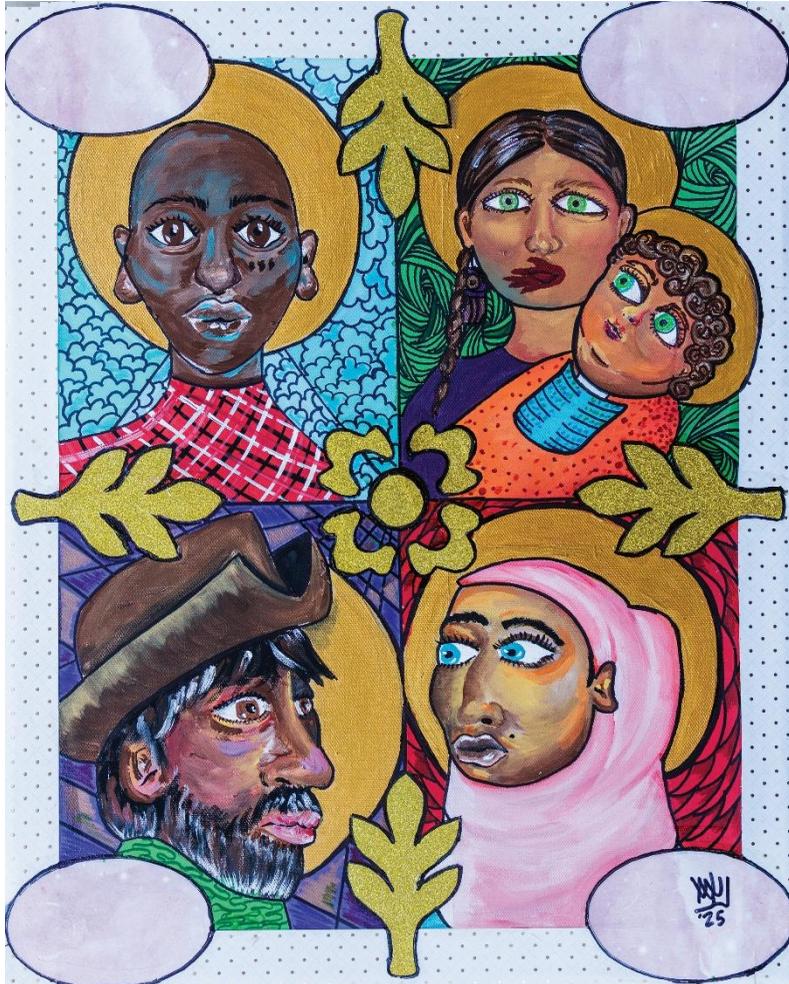




DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Fuera ICE by Rev. Nicolette Faison

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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 guest? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church!

We are glad you have joined us today. We would love to share with you what is happening here. Please leave your information – name, email/phone in the Blue Pew Pad that is passed around early in the service. 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 Welcome Commissioner.

We look forward to connecting with 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

PRELUDE *Strong Gentle Children* Daniel Charles Damon

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Kyra Kennedy

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 Kyra

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

One: In this season of Lent, we pause to remember who we are.

All: Dust of the earth, breath of God, part of a story larger than ourselves.

One: We come carrying the faith of generations.

All: The courage of ancestors who endured, resisted, and hoped.

One: In Lent we tell the truth about our lives and our communities.

All: We examine the legacies we inherit and the futures we are shaping.

One: God has been faithful through generations—
through struggle, exile, and renewal.

All: Let us worship the One who calls us to repentance, community, and hope.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Kyra

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN *See the Precious Children* See next page.

See the Precious Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D (“As We Gather at Your Table”)

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: B. F. White (1844)



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat-ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo-men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for-eign stran-gers as they car-ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis-poss-essed ones ask-ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im-pov-erished by our ma-lice and our greed



Called the great-est in the king-dom, held so gent-ly and a-dored They
Then re-turn-ing to their kit-chen to pre-pare their dai-ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan-gers for the pow-er-less and prone They
Sleep-ing un-der star-ry heav-ens, dai-ly liv-ing on the streets They
Hu-mans, a-ni-mals, and pla-net cry-ing out for some re-lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti-ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro-ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho-ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor-row they're held by love that re-deems each fra-gile part
jour-ney they're held by love as they start each day a-new
hun-ger they're held by love as they guard their hu-man pride
liv-ing we're held by love as we care for ev-ery being

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God,

In this season of reflection, we confess that we have not always honored the responsibility of the legacy we leave behind.

We have accepted systems that harm others.

We have chosen silence when truth was needed.

We have benefited from injustice while telling ourselves that nothing could change.

We confess that we have sometimes inherited broken patterns and passed them forward unchanged.

Forgive us.

Give us humility to tell the truth about the past.

Give us courage to repair what has been broken.

Give us imagination to live differently so that future generations may inherit something better.

Create in us renewed hearts and a steadfast spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear this good news:

The God who has been faithful across generations is faithful still.

**All: Through every season of struggle and survival,
God has sustained communities, raised up truth tellers,
and guided people toward justice and renewal.
God's mercy is not limited by our failures.
God's grace invites us to begin again.**

One: The past does not have the final word over our lives.

**All: With humility and courage, we are invited to turn toward a different way—
one marked by compassion, truth, and community. Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

Refrain:

Who will speak if we don't, who will speak if we don't?

Who will speak so their voice will be heard? Oh who will speak if we don't?

Who will speak for the poor and the broken?

Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?

Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless?

Speak the truth in the places of power?

Who will speak for the children of violence?

Who will speak for the women abused?

Who will work for the thousands of homeless?

Who will work in the ghettos and streets?

Who will care for the weak and the aged?

Who will care for the ones with no hope?

Who will speak for the shunned and the outcast?

Who will speak for all people with AIDS?

Who will speak for the plants and the creatures?

Who will speak for the land and the sea?

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

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

Alene

Invitation to Giving

For those of you who have already made a gift by check or automated giving, we are grateful. If you would like to make a gift today, please place it in the offering plate or [give using our web site](#) or donate using your mobile device, using the QR Code on the back cover.

Offertory

Not One Sparrow Is Forgotten
Chora Nova

Shaker Hymn
arr. William Hawley

Not one sparrow is forgotten, e'en the raven God will feed;
And the lily of the valley from His bounty hath its need.
Then shall I not trust Thee, Father, in Thy mercy have a share?
And through faith and prayer, my Mother, merit Thy protecting care?

*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

If the War Goes On

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Riana

POSTLUDE

God, Through All the Generations

Henry Brinley Richard

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

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TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER



Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson is a preacher, pastor, and spiritual director whose work sits at the intersection of faith, justice, and communal healing. She serves as the Executive Director of Faith Matters Network, a national organization equipping faith leaders to build spiritually grounded movements for justice.

Riana is also the Birthing Pastor of Miriam's Song Church, a bold spiritual community that centers the healing, wholeness, and flourishing of women and non-binary people of color, rooted in the liberative way of Jesus.

Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she brings more than a decade of leadership in nonprofit and faith-based spaces advancing racial, economic, gender, and environmental justice. She holds a Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion, a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from Mills College, and is a graduate of the Liberated Together Spiritual Direction School. She regularly preaches throughout the Bay Area, inviting communities into deeper love of God, self, and neighbor.

If the War Goes On

THE ROAD TO BASRAH 5.8.5.7.5.8.5



1 If the war goes on, and the chil - dren die of hun - ger,
 2 If the war goes on, and the truth is tak - en hos - tage,
 3 If the war goes on, and the dai - ly bread is ter - ror,
 4 If the war goes on, and the rich in - crease their for - tunes,
 5 If the war goes on, will we close the doors to heav - en?



and the old men weep, for the young men are no more,
 and new hor - rors lead to the need to eu - phe - mize;
 and the voice - less poor take the road as ref - u - gees;
 and the arms sales soar as new weap - ons are dis - played;
 If the war goes on, will we breach the gates of hell?



and the wom - en learn how to dance with - out a part - ner,
 when the calls for peace are de - clared un - pa - tri - ot - ic,
 when a na - tion's pride des - tines mil - lions to be home - less,
 when a fer - tile field turns to no - man's - land to - mor - row,
 If the war goes on, will we ev - er be for - giv - en?



who will keep the score?
 who'll ex - pose the lies?
 who will heed their pleas?
 who'll ap - prove such trade?
 If the war goes on...

WORSHIP NOTES



Fuera ICE by Rev. Nicolette Faison | Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22

They keep taking my neighbors. Chicago and other cities associated with the Democratic party are going through a humanitarian crisis under a fascist regime. Cars are being left vacant on random blocks and parking lots. People are being disappeared while their children are being zip-tied at 3 a.m. We clergy and religious leaders have been shot with pepper spray and rubber bullets while demanding the freedom of our neighbors. No one deserves to live like this. This piece does not truly capture the pain I hold every day, between keeping track of what is happening in Gaza, resisting fascism, and dealing with yet another economic collapse under capitalism. But let me tell you something good, I still believe in humanity. When I watched people in Gaza prepare basic meals to break their fast during Ramadan during a genocide, I saw something good. When local neighbors saw our public vigil for disappeared people and chose to join us for a time of lament, I saw something good. When Colin Kaepernick paid for the independent autopsy of one of the Black men recently lynched, I saw something good. The good is people still choosing to be empathetic and compassionate in times of crisis. That is what Christ calls us to be.

The stranger who enters foreign land is often forced to flee their own home. It is rare for people to risk their entire livelihood and their family for anything other than necessity. For that reason, each portrait has a halo deeming them holy, sacred, and divine. I used sparkling gold paper to break up each distinct image. Look deeply at these portraits. The top left is inspired by the Maasai people, a nomadic group that dwells across borders. The top right image is an indigenous woman and her child, a nod to Mary and Jesus. She has a red palm across her mouth which is a tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and “Two-Spirit” people. The bottom left is a slightly aging man from Mesoamerica. The bottom right is a woman in hijab, which is commonly targeted in Islamophobic spaces. Look at the people some consider to be a threat. Look at our neighbors. Migrants are sacred. Fuera ICE.



Rev. Nicolette “Nic” Faison (she/her) is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving as the Illinois Outreach Director for Faith in Place. Nic is the creator of MONadvocacy, a racial justice resource grounded in play, as well as the “Talks at the Desk” series which celebrates the voices of leaders in the ELCA African descent community. She is passionate about queer Black liberation, cultivating diverse leadership in faith spaces, and the art of creation.

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
11:15am–12:15pm	Ethnic Storytelling Workshop
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

Tuesday	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
Tuesday	4:00pm–6:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10:00am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursday	10:00am–noon	OWL Adults
Thursday	2:00pm–3:30pm	Spirited Sisters
Thursday	2:30pm–5:00pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 6**. Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 1**.

Greeters: Dianne Dorn and Anne Seiler

Ushers: Kristin Chambers, Nancy Halseth, and Richard Stein

Candlelighter: Kristin Chambers

Liturgists: Kyra Kennedy and Alene Riley

Fellowship Host: Eileen Ackley

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Minister: Carol Bassett

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Godly Play: Trish Moosbrugger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Todd will be on vacation Monday, March 16th–Wednesday, March 18th and will be available online on Thursday, March 19th. **Pastor Lauren** is on vacation and will be back in worship on Sunday, March 22nd. For any pastoral concerns during this time, reach out to Pastor Todd.



Come Join Godly Play Today!

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 remember when Jesus went into the desert to discover more about who he was and what his work was going to be. All children are welcome!

Care Packages for College Students

The DCC Diaconate is continuing in the "tried and true" tradition of sending care packages to our college students. This year is no exception. Spring gift boxes will include snacks, notes from the congregation, and the always popular Starbucks cards. Won't you take the time to write a quick "hi," make a much-appreciated donation, or both after church? Look for Chris Sonnemann and Donna Lenhardt in Koinonia Hall after the service. Thank you.



ETHNIC STORYTELLING

Everyone has a story...

A DCC Anti-Racism Spring Workshop

Beginning Today

All-Church Spring Workshop Series –Ethnic Storytelling

Join us today as we revitalize and extend our commitment to Anti-Racism with our *Ethnic Storytelling* workshop series. 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, and April 26

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

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](#).

Saturday, April 4th Annual Egg Hunt and Brunch

The Community Life Commission is delighted to invite DCC families, singles, and staff to join us for our 36th annual DCC Egg Hunt and Brunch on Sky Terrace tradition.

When: Saturday, April 4th at 9:00am sharp (arrive close to 8:30 am to prepare to hunt)

Where: Backyard/vineyard of Bette and Jim Felton– 6 Sky Terrace in Danville

What to Bring: An optional contribution for brunch (fruit, pastries, casserole, or juice), a container for your eggs, and sturdy shoes for hunting.

If driveways are full, park face down the hill, on the opposite side of the street from the house only.

Questions regarding the event or food contributions? Call/text Bette at 510-220-0489. In the event of rain, the event will be held inside at DCC.



Easter Flower Donations

The season of Lent has begun, and the Worship Commission extends the opportunity for you to honor or commemorate the memory of someone by donating Easter flowers to fill our sanctuary.

To make a donation, fill out the form in the bulletin. Take the completed form along with your check (made payable to Danville Congregational Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo) or cash and do one of the following:

- Give it directly to **Carol Bassett**.
- Place it in the offering plate.
- Drop it by or mail it to the church office.

You can also make your donation and designation using our web site. Please enter amount in "Easter Flowers" and specify In Honor or Memory of _____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don't receive an email within the week, contact [Carol](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol. Thank you



Sign Up for Easter Baskets for Hope Solutions

Baskets due April 3rd

This will be the 38th year in which we provide Easter Baskets for people in our community. Once again, we are coordinating with **Hope Solutions**, whose mission is to heal the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.

If you wish to prepare a family basket, please provide a sturdy basket, plastic tub, laundry basket, or decorated box containing the following for a family of 2 to 4 people. (Nice baskets can be found at your local thrift stores!)

- Cooked ham or turkey (not too big, please!)
- Canned green vegetable
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Dinner rolls and butter/margarine (please package items for the refrigerator in a bag with a tag to match your basket)
- Fresh fruit
- Cookies/cake for dessert
- Sparkling cider, apple juice, and/or mineral water (NO wine or alcoholic beverages)

Optional items: Easter candy (chocolate is ok!), Easter eggs (hard boiled in a crush-proof container), Book, Cheese & crackers, A card or note

To participate, sign up in person after Sunday worship or directly contact Kathie Hixon (kathiehixon@comcast.net, 925-683-1728), and plan to drop off your baskets at the church on **April 3rd between 10:00am–11:00am**. Baskets will be delivered immediately, so there is no need for refrigeration. Thank you for your caring spirit and wonderful generosity! If you have any questions, please contact [Kathie](#).

Pictures of the Week



Scenes from last Sunday's worship, clockwise from top: Dan and Sophia Morris served as candlelighters; a few of our Time with Children participants; Pastor Todd preached on *how together, the impossible is possible*.

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.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am via Zoom and in the Sanctuary. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. To join via Zoom use this [link](#).

Pastoral Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. If you would like to meet with Pastor Todd, please reach out to him directly via phone or [email](#).

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



Easter Flower Donations

Donations are now being collected for our Easter Flowers. Fill out this form and give your check/money to **Carol Bassett**, place it in the offering plate, or deliver it to the office.

Name(s) gift given by

Name (Circle One) in honor of / in memory of

You may also donate online on the church website: please enter amount in "Easter Flowers" and specify In Honor or Memory of ____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don't receive an email within the week, contact Carol at greenplanner@yahoo.com.

Please make checks payable to Danville Congregational Church. and note on the check that it is for **"EASTER FLOWERS."** Thank you!

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



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Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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