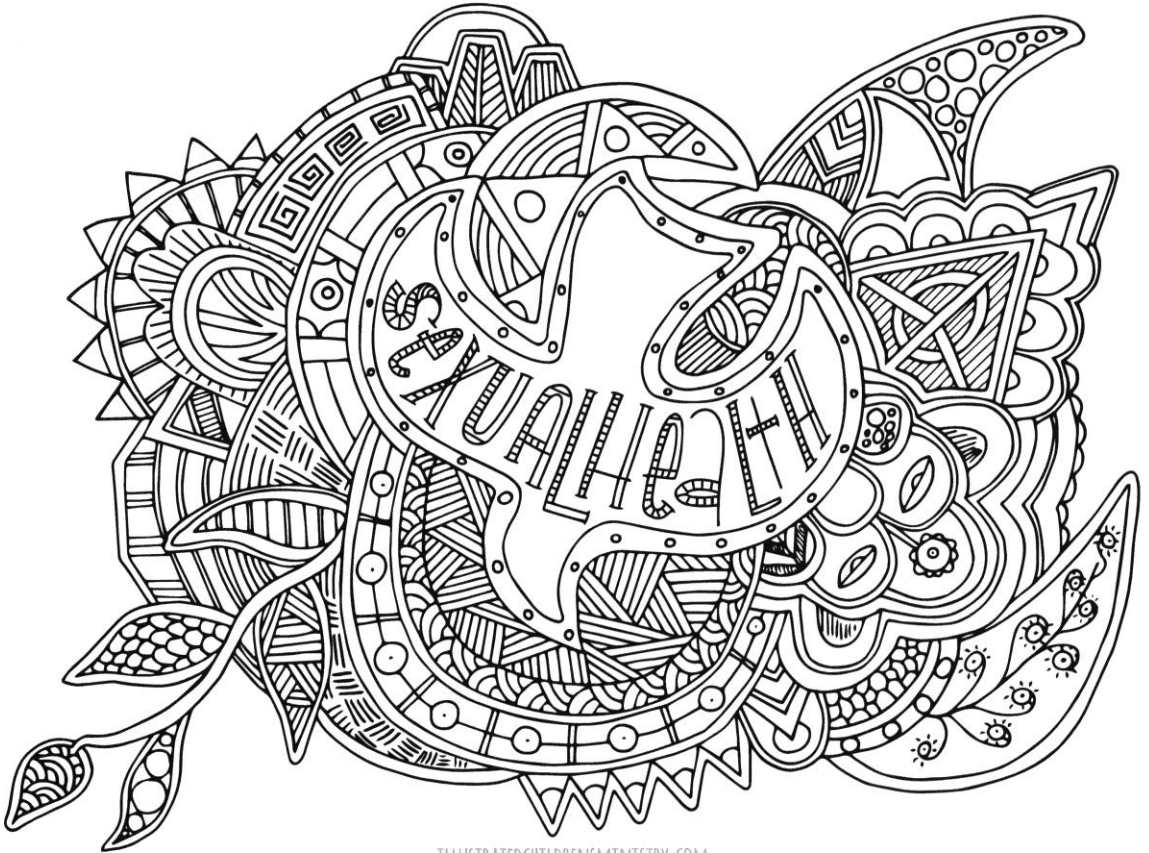




# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



ILLUSTRATEDCHILDRENSMINISTRY.COM

**Trinity Sunday**  
**Fourth OWL Sunday**

*May 31, 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](mailto: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

PRELUDE

*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

Sally Ann Morris

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

Heidi Bridgeman

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

One: We are holy sexual beings!

**All: Created in the very image of God!**

One: Divinely and precisely made.

**All: Knit together in our mothers' wombs.**

**Each with an exquisite pattern of our very own.**

One: Jesus was incarnate, human, and whole.

And so are we. Intricately and divinely made. Head and heart. Penis and vulva.  
Ovaries and testicles. Breasts and nipples. Large and small.

**All: And God said, "It is good!"**

**We reclaim our God-given bodies and the incredible gift of our sexuality.**

One: We delight in what it means to be whole.

**All: We reclaim holy language for our bodies.**

**Holy words which embrace the values of justice, wholeness, respect,  
and inclusivity.**

One: We celebrate God's creation of each cell, each hair, each inch of skin,  
each breath.

**All: We mix and stir sexuality and spirituality together.**

**We blend together our bodies, minds, and spirits,  
reuniting every part of our God-  
given selves so that we might once again become whole.**

One: We have not fallen from the garden.

**All: We are the garden. We are the fruit.**

**We are called to a true invitation to taste, eat, be, and become.  
What a wondrous gift!**

– *We are Holy Sexual Beings*

from *Sexuality and Our Faith for Young Adults*, 1st edition

\*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 SONG

*The Gospel in One Word Is Love*



TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Steve Bridgeman

“God rewarded the midwives, and the people increased in number and power.”<sup>1</sup>

Their unbelieving minds have been blinded by the god of the present age, so that they do not see the splendor of the Gospel showing forth the glory of Christ, the image of God.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Exodus 1:20 The Inclusive Bible, <sup>2</sup>2 Corinthians 4:4

MODERN LESSON

Donna Lenhardt

This may be hard for anyone to understand. For many of us (i.e. transgender) it's not cut and dried. That we are sure of who we are is not the question, but how to be who we are, has never been okay in our lives—with anyone. It's the reason we have such a huge trench to climb out of. We never had peer support, teaching or coaching. There wasn't a class in high school that teaches how to change the world's current perception of you to the one you are just now brave enough to declare. We watch those before us get cut down, shut down, and we think, “How can I endure that?” And, “There's got to be a better way.”

What the world (naively) says over and over again... is that this is a choice for us, and a bad one at that. Hello. It's not a choice. Not a choice. Who would ever choose deri-sion, discrimination or any other negative word...?

—Scottie Jeanette Madden

SERMON

*Wholeness*

Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren

ANTHEM

*Good Day*

Flamy Grant

*It's been awhile since I sat with you without a knot in my chest, oh  
It's been awhile since I wanted to, I always felt a little oppressed, oh  
It's been awhile.*

*It's been awhile since I went ahead and let down my guard  
'Cause I carry the weight of the words you said  
And that makes it just a little bit hard  
To reject the lies you perpetuate  
But you're not the keeper of the pearly gate  
It's been awhile, but I'm coming back to fight for my place*

*Chorus:*

*A good day to come back home  
You sent me away, but I was never alone  
You were afraid that there was not enough  
But you can't run out of love  
So I'm here to stay and I'm sitting in the front row  
'Cause it's a good day to come out of the shadow  
God made me good in every way  
So I'll raise my voice to celebrate a good day*

*It's been awhile since I could admit that there was something missing  
But I've seen enough to know what love is, yeah, and what love isn't  
I'm not content to fade into the crowd and let you decide who's in or out  
So I'm coming back, 'cause I'm living proof that it all belongs, without a doubt (Chorus)*

*It's a good day, nothing's gonna keep me out of the light, I'm not gonna hide  
I've got a heart in the right place covered in the good graces of  
An endless love. (Chorus)*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd, Pastor Lauren, and Paloma

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

Steve

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

*Heal*

*Gary Girouard*

\*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

*Bring Many Names*

See next page.

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Lauren

POSTLUDE

*Sacred The Body*

George Peter Tingley

*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.*

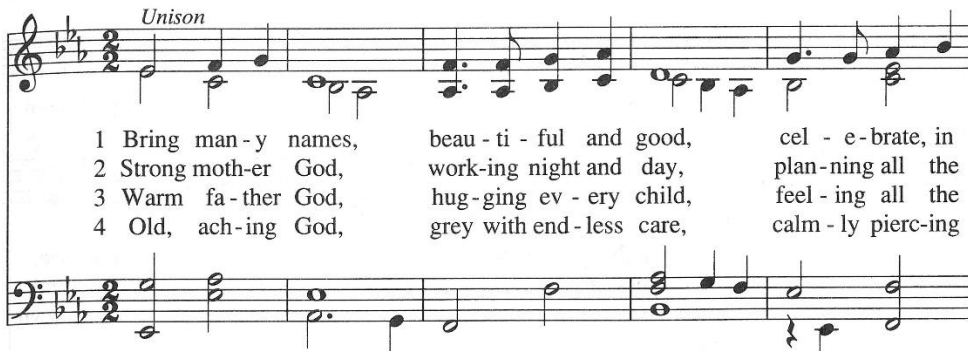
# Bring Many Names

11

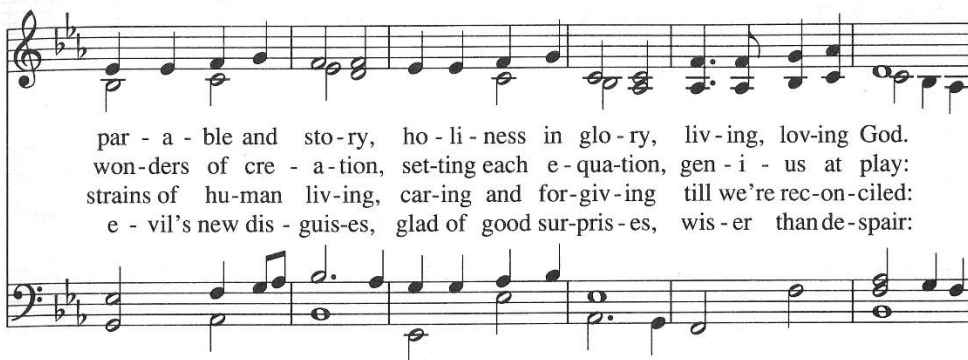
Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

*Unison*



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in  
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the  
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the  
4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing



par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:  
strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!  
Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,  
on the move,  
say - ing no to false - hood and  
un - kind - ness,  
cry - ing out for jus - tice,  
giv - ing all you have:  
Hail and Ho - san - na,  
young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,  
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,  
clos - er yet than breath - ing,  
ev - er - last - ing home:  
Hail and Ho - san - na,  
great, liv - ing God!

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9  
Carlton Young, 1989

*The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our  
madness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing  
matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed  
especially for this text.*

Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

## 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	Council and Finance Committee Meeting in Kairos
1:00pm–3:00pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal in Music Room

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	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	2:30pm–5:00pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal in Sanctuary
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00am–4:00pm	Valley Pride 2026

# TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 1.**

Greeters: Barb DeBarger and Dottie Howell

Ushers: Bob Howell, Doug Leich, and Sandy Leich

Liturgists: Heidi Bridgeman, Steve Bridgeman, and Donna Lenhardt

Fellowship Host: Dee Brook

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: John Klassen

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

**Godly Play:** Kim Michaud

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 2.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Meal Train Support for the Steins

DCC would like to show caring support for the Steins with meals for Richard while he cares for Diane. If you are able to help, click [here](#). Please contact [Carol Bassett](#) if you have any questions.



## Come Join Godly Play Today!

All children are welcome to join us in Godly Play this Sunday as we hear about St. Julian of Norwich who thought and wrote about God hundreds of years ago. Her book was the first ever written in English by a woman, and in it she refers to God as both our father and our mother. We hope you can come and wonder with us about this special person who came close to God.

## *Sunday, June 7th 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, June 7th 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).



## *Sunday, June 7th at noon* **Monthly Lunch-Bunch –Please join us!**

Come join the after-church-lunch-bunch on Sunday, June 7th. We'll be gathering at noon at Melo's in Danville, just south of Lucky's on the Boulevard. 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.



## *Tuesday, June 9th at 11:30am* **Men's Luncheon at Melo's**

There will be a Men's Luncheon on Tuesday, June 9th at 11:30am at Melo's in Danville. Come join the group for good conversation and food. Please contact Tahir Mahmood if you have any questions. ([mahmoods200@hotmail.com](mailto:mahmoods200@hotmail.com) or 925-719-7778)

## Proposed Change to By-laws

This notice serves as the required two-week notification of a congregational meeting. The 2026 DCC Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 14, at 11:15am** (immediately following the service) in **Kairos Hall**. During this meeting, the **slate of 2026–27 officers and commissioners** will be presented for a congregational vote. Please bring a dish to share (main, side, salad)—dessert will be provided by the Emmaus Team on duty.

A proposed change to the church by-laws will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting on June 14th. The new language being added appears in the highlighted section of the document; all other wording remains unchanged.

This update comes as a joint recommendation from the Moderator Team and the Church Council. To support transparency and discussion, Pastor Todd hosted a Second Hour conversation on May 17th for the congregation to review and ask questions about the proposed change.

### Article V - Membership

#### 1. Qualifications:

We welcome into membership any who wish to take part in the church's worship, seek its increase and live a Christian life, sharing its work in faith, hope and love.

#### 2. Transfer and Reception:

Members may be received by letter of transfer from another church, **or by reaffirmation of faith, or by making a commitment to join the church as a part of one's spiritual journey and take part in the life and mission of the church, sharing its work in faith, hope, and love.**



## Exciting Pride Events in June!

The LGBTQIA Action Team at DCC are excited to share that we have TWO community Pride events that we will directly be involved with this year in addition to our own Pride Weekend offerings! Built on the great success of the last two years of hosting the Pride event on our campus, we are thrilled to be taking this to a much wider community. The Town of Danville is sponsoring us by providing the Community Center and lawn area for the event! We feel this will give much greater visibility to the event and make it more approachable to people who may not feel comfortable coming on a church campus.

We have been working in partnership with PFLAG, Discovery Counseling, The San Ramon Diversity Coalition, and both the Town of Danville and the City of San Ramon to put together these activities and want everyone at DCC to get involved. Here's what's planned:

**June 1st, 5:00pm–6:00pm--Pride Flag-Raising in San Ramon**--speeches, tabling and an opportunity for picnicking on the lawn

**June 6th, 10:00am–4:00pm--Valley Pride 2026!** This is our big, day-long event with the Town of Danville--this year being held in the Town Community Center on Front Street (next to the library). 25+ organizations tabling, flag-raising, speeches, kids' activities, music, picnicking on the lawn, keynote speeches and educational workshops. Check out our new website at [www.srvalleypride.org](http://www.srvalleypride.org) for more details and information!

While everyone is invited to participate and attend our event, our Valley Pride Celebration this year relies on volunteers from DCC and other organizations to help with the set up, operation and clean up of our event. If you can spare an hour or two (or more!) to help, please use this Sign Up Genius Link to see what the opportunities are and sign up! Click on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0548ACA72D6-64163372-valley>

**June 1st–30th--DIVINE IDENTITY Exhibit in the sanctuary**

Inspired by religious iconography references and other artist’s images of modern-day saints, this exhibit, DIVINE IDENTITY by photographer and artist Salgu Wissmath (they/them), celebrates the sacredness of queer folx of faith by transforming their portraits into icons. These subversive art forms are prayers reminding us to honor the living saints among us-bringing to light those who are both queer and spiritual and encouraging the viewer to recognize their own sacredness. This exhibit is on display in the sanctuary of Danville Congregational Church. See the flyer in the bulletin for exhibit times.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm–8:00pm--DIVINE IDENTITY Artist Talk and Reception**

**June 21st -- Pride Sunday at DCC** featuring the Rev. Derek Terry, Executive Director of the UCC’s ONA Coalition as our guest preacher along with other special guests.

# Valley PRIDE

## Pride Flag Raising and Community Event

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### Events Schedule:

**Community Resource Fair** 10:00am-1:00pm  
**Family-Friendly Activities & Picnic** 11:00am-12:00pm  
**Flag Raising & Speeches** 12:00-1:00pm  
**Keynote Speaker & Kids Activities** 1:00-2:00pm  
**Presenters & Workshops** 2:00-4:00pm





For more details, scan me!

**When:**  
June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 10am-4pm  
**Where:**  
Danville Community Center (Front St.)

# SAN RAMON PRIDE FLAG-RAISING

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Bring a Picnic Blanket and Food!



**When:**  
June 1, 2026, 5 - 6pm  
**Where:**  
Central Park Meadow (Bollinger Canyon Rd. and Alcosta Blvd.)





## Friday, June 12th SF Giants Pride Night



On Friday, June 12th, join your DCC friends for a trip to see the Giants on Pride Night and celebrate love, inclusion, and the belief that baseball is for everyone. Stick around after the final out for a spectacular fireworks show set to music by queer artists. Partial proceeds from each Special Event ticket will benefit local LGBTQ+ organizations. A few of us have already purchased tickets for section 324 (row 4). To purchase tickets in this section (\$59 each), go to <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Pridenight566> and select *View Reserve OUTFIELD, Section 324*. Please email the office to let us know you're joining the party!

### Pictures of the Week



Rev. Amy Johnson brought her voice to the DCC pulpit and led Time With Children;  
Lily Sonnemann shared her OWL testimonial;  
and a variety of voices presented our worship liturgy.

*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)*

# DIVINE IDENTITY

BY SALGU WISSMATH



Artist Reception  
Saturday June 20  
5 - 8 pm

Danville  
Congregational  
Church UCC

989 San Ramon  
Valley Blvd  
Danville, CA

## Exhibit Dates & Hours

JUNE 1 - 30, 2026

TUE • WED • THUR @ 10am - 2pm

SUNDAYS • During worship until 12pm



@SALGUWISSMATH



***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)**



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**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)**

