



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



First Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025

OUR PURPOSE

Love God • Love Each Other • Be God's Love in the World

Danville Congregational Church acknowledges that the land this house of worship sits upon is the traditional, unceded land of the Ohlone and Bay Miwok people. We offer this land acknowledgment as a sign of respect, with the knowledge that this land was sacred before we ever arrived.

At Danville Congregational Church, we welcome you to a progressive spiritual community that is open and affirming, celebrates differences, and encourages alternate views. We explore the Bible with curiosity and enthusiasm, taking it seriously but not literally. Taking Christ's call passionately to love our neighbor, we extend our faith into action for the betterment of all. Wherever you are on life's journey, we offer you a place of peace and hope.

Danville Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming church, welcoming all of God's people—of diverse race, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental, and emotional ability.

A NOTE TO WORSHIPERS

Please take note of the emergency exits around you and locate the nearest one to you.

At DCC, wearing a mask during worship or inside the building is optional; please do whatever is comfortable for you. Please be aware of others' personal space and space yourselves out in the sanctuary accordingly. Please invite consent before shaking hands and hugging. The left-hand section of pews as you enter the sanctuary has been designated for those who are free of scents and perfumes.

Please silence your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary.

If you would like to use one of our listening assistance devices, please see the sound technician in the back of the sanctuary.

First-time visitor? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! We are glad you are here with us today. Please register your attendance in the Blue Pew Book located in the pew and share whatever information you would like us to have about you. If you are interested in learning more about DCC, please see one of the pastors after worship in the narthex (lobby) or contact Joyce Klassen (joyce.klassen@comcast.net) 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

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

Matthew Bassett

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

One: In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,

All: "What did God do long ago?"

One: In worship, we hear God's story, so we ask,

All: "What is God doing, here and now?"

One: In worship, we hear God's story, then we ask,

All: "What can I do to respond to it all?"

One: Listen, God is speaking.

All: Listen, it may be time to act.

One: Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God.

All: 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

O Come, All Ye Faithful

¹O come, all ye faithful, joyful and
triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of
angels! **[Refrain]**

²God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; **[Refrain]**

³Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
[Refrain]

⁴Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy
morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
[Refrain]

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

BLESSING & MEAL

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 2:1-23](#)

Matthew

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- When you hear the story of the Holy Family fleeing political persecution, how does it make you feel? Does it make you think of any current or historical events?
- We often skip the story of Herod’s persecution and the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt. Why do you think that is? What do we lose if we don’t read and know about this text?
- There is so much suffering in the world. What is one organization, non-profit, or grassroots movement that inspires you?
- Where and how do you see our congregation making a difference in the world? Where can we grow in this next year and the years to come?
- The scripture of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt is a story that stirs up compassion for refugees. When it comes to the work of justice, compassion, and peace, what other causes or movements are you invested in?
- The theme for this morning is, “Let fear fire a fuel for justice.” How can we move from fear to action? How do we not let fear stop us in our tracks?

VIDEO AND SHARING

“Is Justice Worth It” by Micah Bournes

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren

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

Pastor Todd

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

*Doxology **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Offertory Prayer

WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Lauren

*CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

¹Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

²Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

³Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

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

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am Worship (In-person and Zoom)

10:30am–11:00am Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout 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.

There is no **Godly Play** today.

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday 9:00am Men's Coffee and Donuts

Wednesday 10:00am Wednesday Morning Prayer

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**. Next Week's Emmaus Team is **Team 1**.

Greeter: Joyce Klassen

Ushers: Carol Bassett, Judy Halden, and John Klassen

Liturgist: Matthew Bassett

Fellowship Hosts: Team 5

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Ministers: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church office is closed and will resume regular office hours on Monday, January 5th. If you have a need for pastoral care during this time, please reach out to the pastors directly.

Sunday, January 4th 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 on Sunday, December 7th. We'll be gathering at noon (or whenever you get there) at **Clementine's** in San Ramon. 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 wriachev@netzero.com to let him know you'll be attending.



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.



LOVE KNOWS NO BORDERS

A Migration-Focused Worship Series for Epiphany

Migration—the movement of humans from one place to another—is a deeply complex, often divisive, and significantly misunderstood state of being. At any given time, almost 4% of the world's population (304 million people!) is in a state of migration, for a variety of reasons and needs. [Source: Migration Policy Institute, 2024] For some, migration may be the difference between life and death. It is also true some of us have migrated from the places we grew up or migrated because of work. Others have migrated from one career or faith tradition to another. In the process, we have made new homes, gained new friends, and learned new languages or cultures. In fact, it is likely we all have encountered others engaged in this movement.

The Biblical stories of the journey of “sages from the East” to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem—known as “the Epiphany”—and Jesus’ family’s subsequent flight to Egypt to find safety and refuge—these are migration stories. So during the month of January in the season after the Epiphany, we will take a deeper look at the state of migration—historically, religiously, and spiritually—to see what we can observe and maybe learn about this beautifully human and spiritual state.

Join us for worship at 9:30am, fellowship and conversation afterward, and a special Zoom presentation by the Rev. Rhina Mercedes Ramos discussing her new book *In My Heart, A Volcano: A Memoir of Vignettes*. Visit our website for details.

Sundays at 9:30am

January 4

LOVE

Knows No Borders

January 11

GOD

Knows No Borders

[Baptism Sunday]

January 18

BELOVED

COMMUNITY

Knows No Borders

[MLK Sunday featuring the Rev. Rhina Ramos, preaching, and special musical guest Marvin Matthews]

January 25

JESUS

Knows No Borders





Saturday, January 17, 2026 • 5:00pm

Danville Congregational Church UCC
989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville

LOVE
over fear

A Community Concert
Celebrating the Life and Legacy of the
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

featuring Gospel-Christian Vocalist Marvin Matthews

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. boldly stated, *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: Only love can do that."* With these words as inspiration, contemporary Christian and Gospel artist Marvin Matthews brings his exuberant personality, unique vocal talent, and compassionate spirit to Danville Congregational Church for a night of music designed to celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. King—to inspire us to **love over fear** for a time such as this.



This concert is offered to the San Ramon Valley community at no charge.
A love-offering will be taken to bless Marvin's ongoing ministry of love over fear.



DANVILLE
Congregational Church

danvillechurch.org/MLK26

NCNC UCC
PRESENTS

FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6-8

MID-WINTER CAMP 2026

11 AM JAN 17TH
-
NOON JAN 18TH

HOSTED BY:
DANVILLE CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

Register at:
[nencucc.org/
camp](http://nencucc.org/camp)

Awesome people!
Flashlight Tag!
Outside activities!
Inside activities!



NCNC UCC X
NORCAL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PRESENT:

For youth in grades 9-12 FEB CAMP 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!

REGISTRATION
COMING
SOON!



3 PM FEB 14
-
11 AM FEB 16

COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT
COMMISSION CAMP
FORESTHILL, CA

SPARK THE FIRE ✨ SHARE THE LIGHT

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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United Church of Christ

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