



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Photo by Nick Fewings

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Graduates Sunday

May 22, 2022

OUR PURPOSE

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

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

It is our preference that you wear a mask inside the building to protect the most vulnerable in our community. Please sit in designated pews as directed by the ushers and move to the center of the row, so those who come in after you can more easily be seated. 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. If you are interested in getting additional information about Danville Congregational Church, after the worship service, in the narthex, you will find someone holding a **red bag**. In the bag you will find helpful information about the church. 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

The Way of Peace

Anthony Giamanco

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Eric Sherlock

*To offer a joy or concern, please fill out a Prayer Card, which will be collected during Prayer Time.
If you are joining us online, type your prayer request using the chat feature.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Courtenay

One: Those who love Jesus keep his words;

All: Those who love Christ will make their home with God.

One: Those who know Jesus will know his peace;

All: Those who know Jesus will be taught in the ways of peace.

One: Come, follow and love Jesus our sibling,
and find comfort in the Advocate who dwells near.

**All: Come, worship God, who lives among us, loves us,
and calls us home. Amen.**

– by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, adapted

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Mary

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you

One: Those of you worshipping via Zoom, pass the peace of Christ with waves and smiles and by using the chat feature. And those of you in the sanctuary, let us greet one another and pass the peace of Christ as you are comfortable doing so.

*OPENING HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

I Wish You More

Kim Michaud

SCRIPTURE

[John 14:23–29](#)

Mary

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Abba will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from my Abba who sent me. “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom my Abba will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to my Abba, because my Abba is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.”

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

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Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Isa. 38:14; Rom. 8:26; 12:4-5; John 15:1-5



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:



SERMON

An Advocate for Troubled Times

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

ANTHEM

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

David Ashley White

*Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to her midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the pow'r to love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

– Carl P. Daw, Jr.

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Eric

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

Dee Brook

Stewardship Moment

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 leave it in the basket in the back of the sanctuary as you leave or [give using our web site](#).

*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

**All: God bless you and keep you;
God make her face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
God lift up their countenance upon you and give you peace.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)

Canon ①

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

②

Do - na no - bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

③

Do - na no - bis pa-cem. Do-na no-bis pa - cem.

*BENEDICTION

Community and Pastor Todd

**All: Come, Holy Spirit.
Overwhelm us and fulfill us,
inspire us and guide us in Your ways of love, justice, and mercy.
Renew our hearts, open our minds,
re-energize our spirits to seek You around us
and to know You are within us.
The terrible news of the world continues to drag us down,
but You lift us up on the wings of eagles.
Your Holy Spirit catches us at the first breath of dawn
and does not let us go.
Help us, Holy Movement, when we feel stagnant and stuck in despair,
drowning in the losses of this world.
Breathe new life in us and remind us
that You are the One who truly makes all things new. Amen.**

By Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, adapted

O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.

– Carl P. Daw, Jr.

WORSHIP NOTES

For over a half-millennium, the colloquial language for Palestinian Jews was Aramaic, stemming from the Babylonian captivity and the invasion of the Assyrian empire. It is well known that Jesus was born as a Jew, and grew up in a Jewish family in Israel. Most scholars believe that the historical Jesus primarily spoke Aramaic, with some Hebrew and Greek. The towns of Nazareth and Capernaum where Jesus lived were likely Aramaic-speaking communities, and Jesus, accordingly, likely addressed primarily Aramaic-speaking audiences, albeit he also knew some Hebrew and Greek.

The word *Abba* is an Aramaic word that means “father.” In Jesus’ time, *Abba* was a common term that expressed affection and confidence and trust. *Abba* appears three times in the New Testament (Mark 14:36; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6), in each case followed by its Greek equivalent, which is translated “father.” In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus speaks yearningly, deferentially, and tenderly to God by using the word “Abba”: Jesus said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want. (Mark 14:36)

If the word “father” is found in an authentic saying of Jesus, it can be safely assumed that it has been translated from an original Aramaic *Abba*. [Source: [New World Encyclopedia](#)] *Abba* signifies the close, intimate relationship of a father and his child, as well as the childlike trust that a young child puts in their “daddy.” Regarding its substitution in today’s text, Rev. Wil Gafney, PhD, wrote, “My broad practice with Father is a use *Abba* where it makes sense with regard to God as the parent of Jesus. I’ve made a few other contextual choices like Provider.”

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In Person and Zoom)
9:30am–10:30am	Godly Play
10:30am–11:00am	Coffee Hour in Kairos Hall
11:00am–1:00pm	Graduates Brunch in Kairos Hall
5:00pm–7:00pm	Youth Group

Our nursery is open for anyone who would like to make use of it during worship.

Godly Play (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following Announcements. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play time in the Hope Center, or they are welcome to stay in worship with their families. Children in Godly Play will return to their families before the Blessing of the Graduates.

For safety reasons, we request that no child be left on the playground without appropriate supervision. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Monday	4:00pm–6:00 pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00pm–9:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday	7:00pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

Today: Emmaus Team 1

Greeter: Dee Brook
Candlelighter: Finn Sonnemann
Ushers: Nancy Dowell & Tahir Mahmood
Liturgist: Mary Courtenay
Flowers: Sereen & Tahir Mahmood
Friendship Host: Sereen Mahmood
Children's Ministers: Trish Moosbrugger & Kim Michaud
Sound Tech: Brett Clark
Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: Announcements for the e-News and bulletin are due **Wednesday** by noon.



Stewardship 2022

For the last few weeks, we have heard from DCC members about why they contribute to the work of DCC with their time, talent, and treasure. This week Dee Brook will be sharing the final Stewardship Moment and why she chooses to give to DCC.

As we journey through this season in the life of the church, we invite you to think about your gifts and *recover*, *reconnect*, and *recommit* in support of our community.

You should have received your Stewardship packets in the mail.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Bette Felton](#), [Amy Furber-Dobson](#), or [Pastor Eric](#).



Join us at 11:00 am Graduates Sunday Brunch

Following worship, we will honor our three young people who are transitioning from high school this year: **Kimi DeBarger-Gestring, Zac Furber-Dobson, and Piper Stickler**. These young people have been such a vital part of our church family and the youth group. As a community, we want to commemorate their achievements, affirm our love for them, and encourage them toward their bright futures.

Please join us for brunch—even if you didn't RSVP—and enjoy this special time of affirmation and fellowship



DCC and Pastor Todd Recognized by the NAMI Contra Costa with "Faith Community Change Agent" Award

On Thursday evening, DCC and Pastor Todd were recognized NAMI CC's *Faith Community Change Agent Award* for "its efforts to ensure all those living in this county honor the lives of those most impacted by mental illness. For many years you have demonstrated your commitment to utilizing faith based approaches to support those in need of emotional support. That has not gone unnoticed by many in our mental health community. We at NAMI CC and our supporters deeply appreciate you understanding the role faith and spirituality plays as a wellness tool and how you show up when needed to pray or advocate social justice and fairness for All! Danville Congregational Church through your leadership, along with other honorees are what is making a difference to move this county move towards being a great place to live for those impacted by mental illness."

Spotlight on Our Graduates

Kimi DeBarger-Gestring



Bio:

Our family's wonderful graduate is Kimberly DeBarger-Gestring. Kimi has been a part of DCC since she was 6 years old, and a delight to her parents, Barb DeBarger and Judy Gestring. Kimi's greatest passions are her strong love of the arts, including dance, choir, and theater. She recently starred in her 6th high school drama production, cast in the role of Ryan in "High School Musical." Kimi has also been a Girl Scout for the past thirteen years and has also earned her Black Belt in Kempo Karate. These varied interests have brought her friends as well as an appreciation for diversity in all of its forms. This, in combination with the strong

upbringing she has received from this DCC community and her family, has prompted her to be interested in becoming a Political Science major, specializing in Peace and Justice. She is definitely out to change the world! She plans to attend Pace University in New York City next year; they have a strong academic program, plus its proximity to Broadway makes it an ideal location for this budding superstar!

In her words:

What has being part of Danville Congregational Church meant to you?

It has meant another family, a community I can always rely on and a place to come back to. It's always made me feel safe and welcome and it's love for one another.

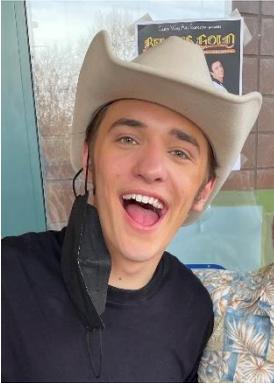
How do you feel DCC has shaped you?

I think DCC has helped me grow as a person to become more compassionate.

How do you feel being part of DCC will help you in the future?

I think because of the experiences I've had in the church like OWL, youth group, and GLIDE have all taught me important life lessons like how to communicate with others or to step up and give back to the community and just do good and to be generous. I think DCC has helped me to be a kinder and more thoughtful person.

Zac Furber-Dobson



Bio:

From the moment Zac could crawl he was curious about how things worked and wasn't intimidated to learn something new. He was the kid behind the bounce house checking out the mechanics of the fan making it all happen. When he was 8 he built a carwash out of PVC for the neighborhood kids to ride their bikes through.

As a young kid he played baseball and as a middle schooler he ran track and cross country. He enjoyed the opportunities for youth group activities-- Glide food distribution, Pride parade, ice skating, flashlight tag, and mission trips to San Diego and Fresno where he not only connected with his leaders and friends but learned about the world beyond the Bay Area and helping others.

As a high schooler he found his passion in theater. While he is still incredibly handy and makes a mean Chicago style pizza and smash burger, theater is what makes his heart sing. As parents we imagine what our kids will become as adults and it is awesome watching it all unfold. Zac will be attending Las Positas College in the fall and majoring in Theater Arts. I know he'd appreciate your prayers on this next adventure.

In his words:

What has being part of Danville Congregational Church meant to you?

It has meant a being close with friends and a community that loves and cares.

How do you feel DCC has shaped you?

It has shaped me to learn that choosing the positive outlook on life and in bad situations is always the best option. I think DCC has helped me grow as a person to become more compassionate.

How do you feel being part of DCC will help you in the future?

I believe that it will help me be a better optimist in the future.

Anything else you'd like to share with the members of DCC.

Thank you all for being a great group of progressive people.

Piper Stickler



Bio:

Piper enjoys reading, spending time with friends, snowboarding in the winter and exploring new restaurants. The extracurricular she decided to give most of her time to is swimming. In the Fall she plans to attend UC Santa Cruz where she will swim and study Computer Science.

In her words:

What has being part of Danville Congregational Church meant to you?

Being part of the DCC has taught me lessons about other people and the world around me that I will carry with me as I transition into college life. It has also been a community that I feel supported and loved within, and where I have found great friendships.

How do you feel DCC has shaped you?

DCC has taught me lessons about giving to others and including others and has made me a more compassionate person. I learned a lot about American history, in terms of Black history and women's history, in youth group which has made me feel more knowledgeable and prepared for life.

How do you feel being part of DCC will help you in the future?

The lessons I have learned about being kind to others and being a good citizen will guide my actions in the future. I have definitely become more outgoing because of DCC which will help me when I start making friends in college.

Anything else you'd like to share with the members of DCC.

Thank you for making my time in DCC so memorable and fun, I appreciate how warmly everyone welcomed my family and I into the church and youth group.

Shower for John & Gabrielle

*Our beloved music director
John Kendall Bailey & Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols
are getting married soon!*

*All are invited to celebrate on Sunday, June 5th (on
Music Sunday!) immediately following worship
in Kairos Hall*

[Sign up here](#) to RSVP, help with set-up, & clean up.

Looking for Gift Ideas?:

- *Contribute to group gift - go to [DCC donations](#)
Other Event -> JKB and Gabrielle Wedding
Shower*
- *Shop John and Gabrielle's [wedding registry](#) at
Crate & Barrel:*

Or

Bring your own card, gift if you wish!

Questions? Email [Alene Riley](#)



WOW!

WITNESS OUR WELCOME 2022

18TH ANNUAL
INTERFAITH CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 5 • 5PM
DANVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
989 SAN RAMON VALLEY BOULEVARD, DANVILLE
IN-PERSON AND STREAMED ONLINE

JOIN 680-CORRIDOR AREA FAITH COMMUNITIES FOR A SPECIAL
INTERFAITH WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Affirming God's *Inclusive Love* Welcoming ALL GOD'S CHILDREN:
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Gender Expansive + Straight Allies

Featuring

a special message from
**The Rev. Dr.
Bishop Megan
Rohrer**

Bishop of the Sierra Pacific
Synod (ELCA) and the first
openly transgender
Pastor-Bishop
in a mainline Christian
denomination



Honoring

the San Ramon
Valley Unified
School District
and Superintendent
Dr. John Malloy

for creating policies of
inclusion and fully
welcoming all students

WITNESS OUR WELCOME 2022 is sponsored by more than
30 local faith communities and organizations including



Center for
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES
in Religion EST. 2000



An offering will be collected to benefit Rainbow Community Center and Gender Spectrum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [INTERFAITHCCC.ORG/WOW](https://interfaithccc.org/wow) OR CONTACT
REV. WILL MCGARVEY 925.597.9797 | **REV. TODD ATKINS-WHITLEY** todd@danvillechurch.org

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Eric Sherlock, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, *Associate Pastor*

John Kendall Bailey, *Music Director*

Elizabeth Setlak-von Thury, *Office Manager*

Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam, *Communications Specialist*

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.

Sonna Dhamrait, *Dayspring Preschool Director*

www.dayspringpreschool.org



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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