



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Fourth Sunday of Easter  
First Sunday of Stewardship

*April 21, 2024*

## 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 on 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

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 or designated greeters after worship in the narthex (lobby). 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

*Come Let Us All Unite To Sing*

Carla Klassen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Eric Sherlock

***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

Rev. Mariah Callison

One: We have gathered from our different places to worship here.

**All: How good it is to worship together in unity!**

One: We come from our different occupations, our diverse activities.

**All: How good it is to worship together in unity!**

One: We come as unique individuals,  
bound together in the love of a good and gracious God.

**All: How good it is to worship together in unity!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Mariah

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*Awake, Awake To Love And Work*

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Amy Furber-Dobson

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Psalm 133:1-3](#)

Mariah

How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
running down upon the beard,  
on the beard of Aaron,  
running down over the collar of his robes.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
which falls on the mountains of Zion.  
For there God ordained God's blessing,  
life forevermore.

## Awake, Awake to Love and Work

*Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1921; alt.*

1 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;  
 2 Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;  
 3 To give and give, and give a - gain, as God's own grace is free;

the fields are wet with dia - mond dew; The worlds a - wake to cry  
 See how the gi - ant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!  
 To spend your-self nor count the cost; To serve most glo - rious - ly

their prais-es to the Fount of Life; Christ Je - sus pass-es by.  
 So let the love of Je - sus come and set your soul a - blaze,  
 the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

*Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy was known in the United States as an eloquent preacher. He was a famed chaplain (Woodbine Willie) in World War I and later chaplain to the King of England. This hymn is part of a longer poem, "At a Harvest Festival."*

Tune: MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
 Kentucky Harmony, 1816  
 Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

SERMON

*Better Together*

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

ANTHEM

*Better Together*

Jack Johnson

*There's no combination of words I could put on the back of a postcard  
No song that I could sing, but I can try for your heart  
Our dreams, and they are made out of real things  
Like a shoe box of photographs with sepia-toned loving  
Love is the answer, at least for most of the questions in my heart  
Like why are we here? And where do we go? And how come it's so hard?  
It's not always easy and sometimes life can be deceiving  
I'll tell you one thing, it's always better when we're together*

*Mmm, it's always better when we're together  
Yeah, we'll worship our God when we're together  
Well, it's always better when we're together  
Yeah, it's always better when we're together*

*And all of these moments just might find their way into my dreams tonight  
But I know that they'll be gone when the morning light sings  
Or brings new things for tomorrow night you see  
That they'll be gone too, too many things I have to do  
But if all of these dreams might find their way into my day to day scene  
I'd be under the impression I was somewhere in between  
With only two, Just me and you  
Not so many things we got to do or places we got to be  
We'll sit beneath the wisteria now*

*Yeah, it's always better when we're together  
Mmm, we're somewhere in between together  
Well, it's always better when we're together  
Yeah, it's always better when we're together*

*I believe in memories  
They look so, so pretty when I sleep  
Hey now and, and when I wake up I-realize  
We're makin' new memories.*

*But there is not enough time  
And there is no, no song I could sing  
And there is no combination of words I could say  
But I will still tell you one thing  
We're better together*

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.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jen Faught

TIME OF GIVING

Mariah

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

*Use Your Gifts*

Becki Slagle Mayo

\*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

\*CLOSING HYMN

*No Longer*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
Arr. Myer Lyon

No longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free —  
In you, O Christ, we're given wondrous unity.  
Here in your church we learn that nothing can divide;  
Here all genders, called by God, serve side by side.

No longer in your church should there be rich or poor —  
You taught us kingdom values worth our struggling for.  
Here some have wealth to give, and some, great faith to share.  
The life we live together is an answered prayer.

No longer left or right, defending our own case —  
O God, we're looking for your light, in need of grace.  
The common bond we know is Christ who sets us free;  
In Christ we live and love and grow in unity.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The Gifts We Bring*

David Paxton

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## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
After Worship	All-Church Stewardship Luncheon
1:30pm–3:30pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal
5:00pm–7:00pm	Youth Group

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. Thank you!

**Godly Play** (for children ages 2nd grade and up) is offered immediately following Passing of the Peace.

## THIS WEEK AT DCC

<b>Thursday</b>	7:00pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Friday</b>	5:30pm–7:00pm	TGIF at Kennedy/McGrath home
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00am–11:00am	Coffee and Donuts in Kairos Hall
<b>Saturday</b>	11:00am–12:30pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal



# TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeters: Dottie Howell and Shii Stickler

Ushers: Chris Callison, Bob Howell, and Doug Leich

Liturgist: Mariah Callison

Fellowship Hosts: Dee Brook and Nancy Dowell

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Sound Tech: Dave Michaud

Tech Minister: Joy Davis

**Children's Minister:**

Godly Play: Nan Karns

**Youth Minister**

Youth Group: Pastor Todd

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Pastoral Transition Update 4.18.24

Danville Congregational Church is having a service of Godspeed to celebrate and honor the ministry of our Senior Pastor, Eric Sherlock, on his final church service with us on Sunday, April 28th. The church will be sending him off with gifts and good wishes, and during our coffee hour, there will be cake in Koinonia Hall. Additionally, Jeanne Strauss, the Moderator from the Bay Association of the United Church of Christ, will join us for Pastor Eric's Service of Release. Please join us!

### *Today after worship* **All Church Stewardship Luncheon**

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for the new fiscal year ahead, we wonder together....

- How has the DCC community blessed you, personally?
- How does being together at DCC help our church community?
- Where have we seen DCC's impact on our wider world?
- What gifts—time, treasure, talent—could you lend to our mission at DCC?



We hope you all can join us this Sunday for worship and a **potluck** lunch afterward as we engage these questions and also consider the proposed financial plan for the year ahead.

For those who cannot attend the Stewardship luncheon in person, we encourage you to join us via Zoom, using our usual [worship link](#). Just a heads-up that you *may* need to reconnect your Zoom session after worship as we transition from the Sanctuary to Kairos.

In addition, we have planned two more occasions for you to hear much of the information being shared on Sunday:

1. TGIF at home of Pat & Kyra McGrath on Friday April 26th at 5.30pm
2. Coffee & Donuts in Kairos Hall on Saturday April 27th at 10am

We look forward to being in community with you this Sunday to plan for our next year together. Don't forget to bring a dish to share!

Please contact Stewardship Commissioners [Joyce Klassen](#) or [Nicole Noga](#) with any questions.



## Today's Stewardship Moment

As a part of our Stewardship Campaign, for the next four Sundays, we will hear from DCC members about why they contribute to the work of DCC with their time, talent, and treasure. To kick things off, our Children's Ministry Commissioner **Jen Faught** will be sharing the Stewardship Moment.

As we journey through this Stewardship season, we invite you to think about how we are *Better Together* and how you can join us in growing our future together.



## Today is Ingathering Sunday

Please place your non-perishable food offerings directly into the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano barrel in the narthex as you enter or exit the sanctuary. Thank you for providing nourishing food for our neighbors who are hungry!

## Phishing/Spam Email/Text Notice

It has been brought to the church's attention that some of you may have received phishing/spam emails or texts that say they are DCC staff asking you to purchase gift cards or do errands on behalf of the pastors. **Please disregard these emails!** No one on the DCC staff will ask you to do anything like this via email or text. If you are unsure about a suspicious email or text you have received, please contact the Pastors or the DCC office.



## *Sunday, May 5th* **Graduates Sunday Blessing and Brunch**

On Sunday, May 5th, we will honor our three young people who are transitioning from high school this year: **Matteo Massimo, Craig Seiler, and Michael Do Amor**. These young people have grown up here at DCC and as a community, we want to commemorate their achievements, affirm our love for them, and encourage them toward the bright futures that await them.

We will bless them during worship that morning and will honor them and their families

with a brunch in Kairos Hall. We invite the whole church to be a part of this DCC tradition.

Our Community Life Commission has graciously arranged a delicious lunch for us. However, to ensure we have enough food for everyone, **please RSVP [here](#) or call/email the church office by Sunday, April 28th.**

# InterFaith

See Hope

# EarthFest

Seed Change



**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 12:30 to 4:30**

**at Peace Lutheran Church**

**Created by I-SRV**

**Learn more: [InterfaithSRV.org](http://InterfaithSRV.org)**



*2<sup>nd</sup> Annual*

*All Peoples are Invited*

*Fun & Learning for the Entire Family*

*Ritual • Art • Music • Activities • Speakers • Booths*

**We will spotlight our eco-success stories, draw hope from one another, and inspire ongoing local commitment to action!**

**This Town of Danville community event is a collaborative celebration of Bahá'í, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Sufi, Hindu, Taoist, and Christian friends, with acknowledgement to our Indigenous relations.**

## Picture of the Week



Pastor Eric celebrating his last Communion at DCC. Photo submitted by Randy Jang.

*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)*

## Pastors' Availability

**Pastor Todd** keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday.

If you would like to meet with one or both Pastors, please reach out to them directly via phone or email. **Pastor Eric:** [eric@danvillechurch.org](mailto:eric@danvillechurch.org), **Pastor Todd:** [todd@danvillechurch.org](mailto:todd@danvillechurch.org)



Alone we  
can do so  
little;  
together  
we can do  
so much

-Hellen Keller

***Ministers—The Entire Congregation***

***Church Staff***

**The Rev. Eric Sherlock, *Senior Pastor***

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

**John Kendall Bailey, *Music Director***

**Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam, *Office Admin & 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.

**Maria Arroyo, *Dayspring Preschool Director***

**Kim Michaud, *Administrative Assistant***

**[www.dayspringpreschool.org](http://www.dayspringpreschool.org)**



**Danville Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

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