



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Sixth Sunday of Easter
Third Sunday of Stewardship
Graduates Sunday

May 5, 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

When I Consider How the Father Loves

Penny Rodriguez

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Michael Do Amor

One: Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

All: You are our God; all the good things come from You alone.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance,
and surrounds us with abundance.

All: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

One: Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life,
whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

All: You are our God; we will not be shaken.

One: Let's worship God together!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Michael

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

Following the Passing of the Peace, children 2nd grade and above are invited to meet their teachers in the back of the sanctuary for Tell Me the Truth About Racism Godly Play.

We are unable to offer Godly Play for children younger than 2nd grade. Those children are invited to grab an Activity Packet on the back table in the Sanctuary.

*OPENING HYMN

Be Now My Vision

See next page.

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
*Traditional Irish melody
Harm. David Evans, 1927*

Keep me safe, O God,
I've run for dear life to you.
I say to GOD, "Be my Lord!"
Without you, nothing makes sense.

And these God-chosen lives all around—
what splendid friends they make!

Don't just go shopping for a god.
Gods are not for sale.
I promise I'll never treat god-names
like brand-names.

My choice is you, God, first and only.
And now I find I'm *your* choice!
You set me up with a house and yard.
And then you made me your heir!

The wise counsel GOD gives when I'm awake
is confirmed by my sleeping heart.
Day and night I'll stick with GOD;
I've got a good thing going and I'm not letting go.

I'm happy from the inside out,
and from the outside in, I'm firmly formed.
You canceled my ticket to hell—
that's not my destination!

Now you've got my feet on the life path,
all radiant from the shining of your face.
Ever since you took my hand,
I'm on the right way.

*And wherever you go, may a bright sun follow you.
 And wherever you go, may your cares be few.
 And wherever you go, may the soft winds carry you,
 through the clouds and the rain, for the rest of your life.*

*And wherever you go, may a song be sung for you.
 And wherever you go, may you be at peace.
 And wherever you go, may a gentle melody
 embrace your life, as your joys increase.*

*And wherever you go, may you know true happiness.
 And wherever you go, may you meet a friend.
 And wherever you go, may you find a loving heart,
 waiting there for you at the rainbow's end.*

*Everywhere you go, may your cares be few.
 May the soft winds carry you for the rest of your life.*

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.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Craig

TIME OF GIVING

Bill Williams

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.*

He has done marvelous things - Praise the Lord!

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Liturgy is an adaptation of Rev. Silvia Purdie's re-working of Psalm 16.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

See next page.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray.

**All: Holy God, our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice;
for Jesus Christ rose from death!**

One: God did not abandon him to the pit of decay,
but opened for us the path of life;

**All: In your presence, God, is fullness of joy,
Here at your table is delight, now and for evermore.
Amen**

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
* 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

My God, have mer - cy on me.

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Pastor Todd

Michael DoAmor, Matteo Massimo and Craig Seiler

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

*CLOSING HYMN

Go Make a Difference

See pages 10-11.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

Forward in God's Name

Kevin Boesiger

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Go, Make a Diff'rence

$\text{♩} = 56$
Dm

Asus A C Dm B \flat C

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff -

Dm F Asus A

__ 'rence. Go make a diff - 'rence__ in the world.__

Dm B \flat C Dm

Go make a diff - 'rence. We can make a diff - 'rence.

B \flat maj 7 Asus A Dm Am Am

Last time, Fine 1. 2.3.

Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. 1. We are the
2. We are the

Dm B \flat C Dm

salt of the earth, called to let the peo - ple see the
hands of Christ reach-ing out to those in need, the

F Asus A Am Dm

love of God for you and me. We are the light of the world,
face of God for all to see. We are the spir - it of hope;

— not to be hid-den but_ be seen... Go make a diff-
 — we are the voice of peace. Go make a diff-

-'rence in the world. — 3. So let your love shine on,
 -'rence in the world. —

— let it shine for all_ to see... Go make a diff - 'rence in the

world. — And the spir - it of Christ_ will be with us as_ we

go. — Go make a diff - 'rence in the world. —

Chords: B^b C Dm B^bma⁷ Asus A⁷ Dm Am Dm B^b C Dm B^bma⁷ Asus A⁷ Dm

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
After worship	Graduates Sunday Brunch
1:30pm–3:30pm	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. Thank you!

Godly Play will be offered for children 2nd grade and above today in the form of Tell Me the Truth about Racism. We are unable to provide Godly Play for children under 2nd grade this week. Those children are invited to grab an Activity Packet on the back table in the Sanctuary.

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Thursday	10:00am–noon	Diaconate Meeting
Thursday	7:00pm–9:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 3.**

Greeters/Ushers: Bette Felton, Bob Kovach, and Judy Schreib

Flowers: Janis and Randy Jang

Liturgists: Michael DoAmor, Craig Seiler, and Bill Williams

Fellowship Host: Trish Moosbrugger and all

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: Doug Leich

Children's Ministers:

Godly Play(2nd Grade and above): Barb DeBarger and Janis Jang

The Community Life Commission will be hosting lunch for graduates,
all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 5.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastoral Transition Update 5.2.24

Pastor Transition Meetings

We are beginning our pastoral transition activities this month with three opportunities for our church to start our discussions on selecting a new Senior Pastor. We want to begin by discussing some important questions that will help to define what our next steps as a congregation might be, as well as what qualities we are looking for in a Senior Pastor. These questions are:

1. Who are we as a church? What are our non-negotiable tenets that we support?
2. How does our church define and relate to our community? What are our expectations for the pastor's relationship to the wider community?
3. Who is God calling us to become as a church that lives up to its Vision/Mission of "Loving God, Loving Each Other and Being God's Love in the World?"
4. What are some activities, traditions and work that are important for us to continue as we move forward that we want our new pastor to support?
5. Our new Senior Pastor must have the following qualities (list qualities under each category):
 - Ministerial Leadership
 - Pastoral Care
 - Organizational Leadership

We hope everyone sets aside time to reflect on these questions and participates in one of three meetings to discuss. Alternatively, you can submit your answers to the questions above prior to our final meeting in May, either via email or reach out to us to schedule an individual conversation. All of the meetings will cover the same content and questions.

- May 14th, 6:30pm, Zoom Discussion--<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84121375583>
- May 19th, 11:00am, Second Hour Discussion--Kairos Hall
- May 22nd, 6:30pm, Zoom Discussion--<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541759467>

If you have any questions about these meetings or our ongoing process, please contact our Moderator Team (Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Heidi and Steve Bridgeman, Barb DeBarger or Kyra Kennedy).



Better Together Stewardship Luncheon Recap

We have compiled a list of the charted responses of how we are “Better Together” at Danville Congregational Church! Please visit <https://danvillechurch.org/stewardship/> to see the list.

Let’s keep the fire burning! Complete your Stewardship forms today—return to the DCC office or drop in the collection plate on Sunday.

Today’s Stewardship Moment

This Sunday we will continue to hear from DCC members about why they contribute to the work of DCC with their time, talent, and treasure. This week, **Craig Seiler** will be sharing the Stewardship Moment.



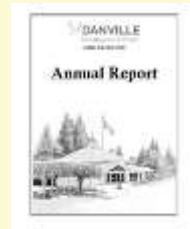
As we journey through this Stewardship season, we invite you to think about how we are *Better Together* and how you can join us in growing our future together.

Commitment Cards are due to Heidi Bridgeman, DCC’s Financial Secretary, by May 12th! Please place your card in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to the church office, or email your commitment to Heidi at dcc.finsec@danvillechurch.org.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Joyce Klassen](#) or [Nicole Noga](#).

2023–2024 Annual Reports due May 10th

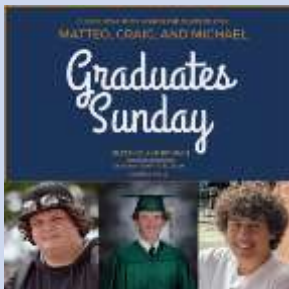
It’s that time of year again! We are collecting written annual reports from all officers, commissioners, and committees of the congregation to compile for DCC’s 2023-2024 Annual Report for the Annual Meeting. If you are a commissioner, committee chair, and/or team lead, please email your group’s annual report to Anne-Marie (anne-marie@danvillechurch.org) no later than May 10th.





Summer Newsletter Articles Due May 10th

We are gearing up for the production of the Summer 2024 Good News. **The deadline for article submissions for the Summer 2024 Good News is Friday, May 10th.** Please submit any articles or information for the Good News to [Anne-Marie](#). Thank you!



Today

Graduates Sunday Blessing and Brunch

Today we will honor our three young people who are transitioning from high school this year: **Matteo Massimo, Craig Seiler, and Michael Do Amor.** We will bless them during worship 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.

Prayer Ministry Expands

As many folks may know, a group of DCC folks are a part of a “prayer team” who faithfully prays over those who have requested spiritual support through prayer.

Starting this month, Pastor Todd will facilitate a once-weekly morning prayer here at DCC with access for folks to join through Zoom. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. The tentative day and time will be **Wednesday mornings at 9am**. If you are interested, please email Pastor Todd and also let him know if that time or a different time might be better for you.



Join the 2024 Open Delegation

Curious about other Sister Parish relationships? Interested in visiting Central America in a meaningful way? Want to learn more about the root causes of migration from Central America and/or the impact of climate change in the region?

You are invited to join the Sister Parish [Open Delegation](#) to Guatemala and El Salvador November 5th–15th, 2024.

Be part of this special Sister Parish experience, traveling through Guatemala and El Salvador and spending time with community members from the south. Share fellowship, laughter, and learning on

this 10-day journey, during which the group becomes one large family. Trish Moosbrugger has already signed up. Feel free to email her (Patriciamoosbrugger@gmail.com) with any questions.

Pastor's Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. If you would like to meet with him, please reach out directly via phone or email todd@danvillechurch.org

Pictures of the Week



Photos from Pastor Eric's Service of Release last Sunday.

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



22nd Annual Garden Tour *Gardens That Inspire*



Friday, May 10 & Saturday, May 11, 2024
10:00am – 4:00 pm, rain or shine

Tickets are \$45 per person

All proceeds support college scholarships for local students, STEM camperships for middle school girls, and branch programs advancing equity for all.

For more information and tickets please visit the website or scan the QR code below.



Six beautiful gardens
Fun and educational

Support Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW

Note that AAUW DAW is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization,
EIN 92-3233415.

The amount of your ticket purchase
exceeding \$5.00 (Fair Market Value) is tax deductible.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
Visit <https://daw-ca.aauw.net/2024-garden-tour/>

It's a WIN-WIN-WIN!



SAVE THE DATE!

**ANNUAL MEETING
AND
POTLUCK**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH
AFTER WORSHIP**

**MORE DETAILS
TO FOLLOW**

Michael Do Amor



Michael Nicholas Do Amor has so many great qualities: he is loving, compassionate, caring, resourceful, a man of music, and a man with an amazing soul. He is passionate about serving others and truly giving from his heart. Michael is an avid basketball player, guitar player, singer, and songwriter. He always wanted to end up in a helping field as a career. He started volunteering in local hospitals thinking he would become an ER nurse. In the last three months, he changed his mind and is now pursuing a career as a paramedic and a firefighter. He starts the Fire Science Academy at Las Positas College in August. This summer, he is attending EMT school. In addition to volunteering at the hospitals, Michael is part of

the comrade group at San Ramon High School. He is a teacher's assistant in two Special Education programs at San Ramon High School. Michael has completed 19 Semester Units at DVC throughout his High School career. He has been active in our church since he was knee-high to a grasshopper. Michael also participated in the UCC Leadership program through Chapman University. His final for the program was our fabulous Church Carnival last year!

In Michael's words:

DCC has been a spiritual home for me. I have participated in many programs through this church, and I am so grateful to my Pastors and church community, who have taught me the value of giving to others.

My time in the youth group and volunteering in the church has shaped me in critical ways. First, I know I have a home here at DCC. It has given me such a stable foundation in my life, especially when things in my life got complicated. My faith has meant so much to me. Serving in the church has helped my dreams come true. Also, volunteering with my Mom in the Celebration of Life Services, I learned to truly live my life fully as time is not promised to us.

In the future, I will keep attending DCC as my faith is a big part of who I am. The people here have touched my life in so many ways. My church family empowered me to believe in myself and achieve my goals one step at a time. I have valued all the learning opportunities here at church and I look forward to many more.

Matteo Massimo



Matteo Antonio Massimo is an amazing young man with a kind and generous soul. His quick wit and sense of humor bring smiles and laughter to anyone crossing his path. Matteo is good-natured and willing to go the extra mile to help others.

The DCC Youth Group and its guidance have played a seminal role in cementing Matteo's virtuous character as he sets out independently. We are so proud of Matteo as he ventures into a new chapter in his life.

He enjoys fishing, playing baseball, soccer, bike riding, and watching Formula One racing. After graduation, Matteo will major in mechanical engineering at Sacramento State University. Although he is excited about his new adventures, he'll never forget where he comes from and always appreciates his family, friends, and the community.

In Mateo's Words

Being part of Danville Congregational Church has meant a sense of community and friendship that will support each other. The church has shaped me into being a better person and helped me learn many things. I feel that being part of DCC will help me in the future as it will help me to continue to grow as a person.

Craig Seiler



There are several institutions and activities that played central roles in Craig's youth, but the first has to be DCC. He was baptized here when he was eight months old, was a member of the first class at Dayspring Preschool and rolled right into Godly Play and later Youth Group, where he remains active today.

Another is Kennolyn Camps in Soquel. He has attended more than a dozen sessions of Family & Summer Residence Camp, has completed the three-year Camp Counselor Training Program, and will work this summer as a paid counselor responsible for successive cabins of campers over

a period of six weeks.

Three other aspects of his youth that are so tightly interwoven they are a bit hard to distinguish are school, Scouts, and athletics. His school social groups tended to mirror the kids he was playing with and against in any particular season, be it swimming, soccer, flag football, baseball, or basketball. By the time he was nine, he was eligible for Little League's summer all-stars program, and that brought baseball front and center. He played ball straight through his junior year where he was the starting shortstop. For his senior year, he opted to set down his glove and get involved in some other activities that never fit his schedule with the requirements of high school sports. He jumped into Student Leadership where he plays a central role in organizing and running rallies for the student body – if you want to see him in action, the last one of the year is Friday afternoon, May 17th in the Main Gym. He has also become active in Speech & Debate and YMCA's Youth in Government program and won awards in both. Lastly, his Scouting career. He joined Cub Scouts in first grade, bridged to Scouts USA in middle school and attained the rank of Eagle Scout with just days to spare before his 18th birthday last year. That experience included countless nights camping, hiking, backpacking plus dozens of merit badges, and one harrowing experience on an 80-mile hike in New Mexico (ask him about it).

For his next chapter, he plans to enroll at Chapman University in the fall to study History and apply to a dual degree program during his sophomore year that will include a Master of Secondary Education degree and a California teaching credential after five years so he can start his career as a high school teacher.

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, *Acting Senior 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



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville, CA 94526-4020

Phone: (925) 837-6944

www.danvillechurch.org

