



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



@nakedpastor.com

Second Sunday after Pentecost

## PRIDE SUNDAY

*June 22, 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](mailto: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

OPENING MEDITATION

UCC at World Pride 2025

PRELUDE

*Somewhere*  
DCC String Quartet  
Michael Long & Vita Yee, violin  
Ivo Bokulic, viola; Brett Austad, cello

Leonard Bernstein  
arr. Eve Mailly

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

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.*

*Holy One, You who named us before we were born, You who claimed us in the waters of baptism, You who have journeyed with us through closets, protests, pulpits, and pews—meet us here today. Make this space holy with your presence. Make our hearts soft enough to be moved and strong enough to be bold. Let joy rise, let fear fall away, and let your Spirit move freely among us. Amen.*

Source: ONA Coalition

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rande Paige

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

One: Come, you who are weary and wounded, you who are radiant and rising—

**All: We come as we are, beloved and becoming.**

One: Come, you who have been told you're too much or not enough—

**All: We come with our stories, our scars, and our strength.**

One: Come, for you are sacred. You are seen. You are called.

**All: We come to worship the One who made us in love and calls us to live in joy.**

Source: ONA Coalition

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rande

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*For All the Children*

See next page.

# For All the Children

1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -

2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be

3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and

4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and

bove, and we dare to claim the pro - mise of Your love.

free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,

shame so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.

wide, can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.

Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will

that they nev - er have a rea - son to doubt that they are

May the mess - age now be ban - ished that Your love is for the

As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they join us hand in

be, when your chil - dren will be free.

blest. May they, in Your love, find rest.

few, may their faith in You re - new.

hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen

wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.

For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -

long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman  
Music: David Lohman

DavidLohmanMusic.com

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# SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Isabella Tamara Facini

*All children are welcome to come sit near the front for the baptism.*

## Introduction

### Questions of the Parents and Family

Pastor Todd: Allison and Leo do you desire to have your child baptized into this Christian community?

*Parents: We do.*

Pastor Todd: Will you encourage your child to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and journeying humbly with her God?

*Parents: We will.*

Pastor Todd: Will you foster for your child an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus in concert with an appreciation for diverse religious traditions?

*Parents: We will.*

Pastor Todd: Will you teach your child to honor the faith questions that belong to her throughout her life?

*Parents: We will.*

Pastor Todd: Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

*Parents: We will.*

### Questions of the Godparents

Pastor Todd: Will you model how to follow the teachings and examples of Jesus?

*Godparents: We will.*

Pastor Todd: Will you support her parents in raising Isabella, affirming her, and reminding her of her belovedness?

*Godparents: We will.*

Pastor Todd: Will you commit to actively supporting Isabella's physical, emotional, and spiritual development?

*Godparents: We will.*

## Congregational Assent

Pastor Todd: Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

**All: We promise our love, support, and care.**

## Affirmation of Faith

One: Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life?

**All: I believe in God.**

One: Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

**All: I believe in Christ.**

One: Do you believe in the Spirit, the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life?

**All: I believe in the Spirit.**

## Blessing the Water

## Act of Baptism

## Prayer of Dedication

*The congregation is invited to extend their hands toward Isabella and her family*

**All: God of wonder and grace,  
we thank you for your love revealed here this day  
as this community, these parents, and this child  
come together making covenant promises.  
We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the  
promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love  
in which this child may grow and play.  
We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder  
of your presence so transparent here today.  
We pray that this child will bask in your love as she makes her  
own journey through this life. Amen.**

## \*Presentation of the Child

*The congregation is invited to stand and share in singing*

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry (New Century Hymnal #351)  
*as Isabella is introduced.*

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

## FIRST LESSON

[Galatians 3:28](#)

Larry

There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

## SECOND LESSON

[John 14:1–14](#)

Barb

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

## THIRD LESSON

Lili Elbe

Jenn

Each step forward to become the person we are makes it harder to go backward, to return to the shadowy, private world of closed doors and shuttered windows. The experience, the awakening of one’s true self, after being so long suppressed, can never be adequately explained with language.”

## SERMON

*Out and Proud—As God Intended*

Rev. Casey Tinnin

ANTHEM

*We've Only Just Begun*  
Elana Bolds, vocals

Roger Nichols  
and Paul Williams

*We've only just begun to live  
White lace and promises  
A kiss for luck and we're on our way  
We've only begun*

*Sharing horizons that are new to us  
Watching the signs along the way  
Talkin' it over, just the two of us  
Workin' together day to day, together*

*Before the rising sun, we fly  
So many roads to choose  
We'll start out walking and learn to run  
And yes, we've just begun*

*And when the evening comes, we smile  
So much of life ahead  
We'll find a place where there's room to grow  
And yes, we've just begun*

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

Wilson

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

*His Eye is on the Sparrow*  
Elana Bolds, vocals

Charles H. Gabriel

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;*

*Chorus:*

*I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free—  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*



\*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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Lauren

\*A LITANY FOR JUSTICE, LIBERATION, JOY, & LOVE

Larry Berlin, Barb DeBarger,  
Jenn O'Neal, & Rande Paige

Larry: Across faiths, identities, and nations, we affirm an unshakable truth:

**All: Every person is worthy, every voice sacred, every body divine.**

Barb: Our unity is not rooted in a single tradition but in a collective belief in the sacred worth of every person. Let us reject all attempts to impose religious values, symbols, or authority upon our shared civic life.

**All: We unite in our commitment to a society where all traditions—  
and those who follow none—are equally respected.**

Jenn: When forces seek to divide, erase, and harm, we stand as one—

**All: Rooted in justice, driven by love, committed to liberation.**

Rande: We are called to embrace joy as resistance, to dance, to celebrate,  
to live boldly.

**All: In a world that weaponizes despair, joy is our defiance, our strength,  
our sustenance.**

Larry: We are called to embrace solidarity,  
to uplift one another in our shared struggle.

**All: Though our identities vary, our commitment to justice unites us.**

Barb: We are called to join with people across the globe in radical solidarity.

**All: Justice knows no borders. Love knows no borders.  
Resistance knows no borders.**

Jenn: Faith communities are called to be places of compassion, healing,  
and action—spaces that do not merely welcome but actively uplift,  
renew, and give witness to inclusion and intersectional justice.

**All: May our faith be evident in the ways we uplift, hold space,  
and leave no one behind.**

Rande: We are called as faith leaders to unite in advocacy and care, making visible the lives of those under attack, providing education on trans and nonbinary realities, human sexuality, and nonviolent social change, and challenging the systems that increase vulnerabilities to harm and violence.

**All: Knowledge is power. Understanding is liberation.  
Faith must always heal—not harm.**

Larry: Justice is not selective; it is intersectional.

**All: We cannot be free until all are free.**

Barb: We are called as faith leaders to amplify trans theologians, whose voices, wisdom, and spiritual insights must not remain in the shadows.

**All: Let sacred spaces be filled with wisdom that liberates, not silence.**

Jenn: We are called as advocates to bear one another's burdens with grace, not judgment. Intersectional justice demands action against homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, ableism, racism, white supremacy, any religious nationalism, and every system of oppression.

**All: We reject policies that strip our communities of essential services, including gender affirming care, HIV, reproductive health, and other programs that serve people in need.**

Rande: We are called to be people of conscience, holding elected officials to account to defend the Constitution, oppose self-dealing by public officials, resist policies that dismantle collaborative spaces and institutions, and uphold the inherent dignity of every human being.  
No exceptions. No compromises.

**All: We rise-up against the forces that weaken democracy  
and erode our shared humanity.**

Larry: We call the world to reimagine love as revolutionary, faith as liberating, and neighborliness as transformative; and let us honor the activism, resistance, and resilience that drive change.

**All: We are not powerless; we are powerful beyond measure,  
and we will fight for each other always.**

Barb: Above all, we are called to self-care, for rest that sustains resistance and healing that strengthens the fight.

**All: May we nourish ourselves and each other,  
so that we may continue the sacred work.**

Jenn: This is our charge. This is our calling.

**All: Together, unstoppable and unafraid.**

based on the Lavender Interfaith Collective (LIInC)  
*2025 World Pride Call to Action—United for Justice, Liberation, Joy, and Love*

\*CLOSING HYMN

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*  
(Ours the Journey)

Julian B. Rush

<sup>1</sup>In the midst of new dimensions,  
In the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim people,  
Wandering in their separate ways? **[Refrain]**

<sup>3</sup>We are Black and we are Asian,  
Indigenous, Hispanic, White,  
We a rainbow coalition,  
All of value in your sight. **[Refrain]**

<sup>2</sup>We are gay and straight together,  
Bi, Transgender, Lesbian too,  
All along the path of justice,  
Seeking freedom as we go. **[Refrain]**

<sup>4</sup>Should the threats of dire predictions  
cause us to withdraw in pain,  
may your blazing phoenix spirit  
resurrect the church again. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain: God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
Leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore!**

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Casey

POSTLUDE

*Over the Rainbow*  
DCC String Quartet

Harold Arlen  
arr. Matthew Naughtin

*After Coffee Hour, you're invited to join us  
for a sermon talk-back with Rev. Casey:  
11:30am in the sanctuary.*

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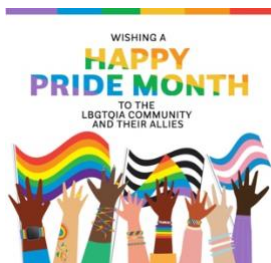
## TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER



**Rev. Casey Tinnin** is a queer pastor and justice advocate whose ministry centers on creating safe, inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ youth and families. For seven years, he served as pastor of United Congregational Church in Loomis, CA, where he founded *The Landing Spot*, a secular support group for queer teens. His work has been featured in HuffPost and reflects a deep commitment to liberation, intergenerational community, and honest, vulnerable faith.

Casey holds two theology degrees, is a certified Enneagram teacher, and currently serves as Director of Community Outreach and Impact for SunSource and Grey Snow Sovereign Solutions. He lives in Northern California with his husband, Jose.

## WORSHIP NOTES



Every June, we, along with millions of people and many other faith communities, observe Pride Month. Pride commemorates the 1969 riots at Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, widely considered one of the touchstones for the history of the LGBTQ rights movement.

As a church we believe that God loves all God's creation, including their rainbow-hued children—regardless of whom they love or how they understand or express their gender. As an expression of our faith, we affirm that every person is recognized and seen as valued. Pride Month is a time for us to “worship beneath God's all-inclusive rainbow” celebrating all our God-given identities and recommitting to the work of liberation for all LGBTQ+ people.

Obstacles to living a full life for our young people also persists. Stigma, bullying, violence and harassment continue to threaten the lives of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth. According to the Trevor Project, in the United States, the rate of suicide attempts is 4 times greater for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth and two times greater for questioning youth than that of straight youth. And a 2024 study shows that anti-transgender laws cause up to a 72% increase in suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth.

So for this month of June, let's continue to rise up as people of faith who believe in civil and human rights—and the *belovedness*—of all persons.

**David Hayward** (@nakedpastor) is a pastor turned artist painting, drawing, and thinking about what it takes to be free to be you. The idea behind the name, NakedPastor, is to seek to tell the naked truth—no matter how vulnerable it feels. The image on this week's bulletin, titled *Family Fun*, is about celebrating families that don't fit the cookie-cutter idea of a nuclear family. Real families love, accept and support one another — you could even say they pick each other up! Your family is what you make it!



Lili Ilse Elvenes, better known as **Lili Elbe**, was a successful Danish painter, transgender woman who, with the steadfast support of her wife Gerda, became one of the earliest recipients of gender-affirming surgery (then called sex reassignment surgery), undergoing five highly experimental surgeries in the 1930s. There are many gaps in the life story of Lili Elbe. There is speculation that Elbe may have been intersex or had Klinefelter Syndrome, but the destruction of medical and historical records leaves many questions unanswered. Nazi students destroyed books related to her story at German's Institute for Sexual Research in 1933, and in 1945, Allied bombing raids demolished the Dresden Women's Clinic which held her medical documents.

Today's returning musical guest is DCC friend **Elana Bolds**, the visionary behind Visions of Hope Outreach in Richmond and creator of the Put the Guns Down movement. Elana, a promoter and singer-songwriter, is a Community Organizer and Event Planner for the cities of Richmond and Oakland. She has been recognized multiple times for her work over the past 29 years that has made a profound impact in the community.



**The Lavender Interfaith Collective (LinC)** is a vibrant and diverse community of LGBTIQ\* and allied faith leaders, united across a rich tapestry of religious traditions and spiritual practices. In advance of the recent World Pride held in Washington, DC, the collective issued a [powerful call to action](#) on behalf of LGBTIQ people globally. This call to action begins: *Across faiths, identities, and nations, we are united by one unshakable truth: every person is worthy, every voice sacred, every body divine. Our unity is not rooted in a single tradition but in a collective belief in the sacred worth of every person. We uphold the fundamental principle of religious freedom, recognizing that no faith should dictate the governance of our nation. We reject all attempts to impose religious values, symbols, or authority upon our shared civic life, united in our commitment to a society where all traditions —and those who follow none—are equally respected. In the face of forces that seek to divide, erase, and harm, we unite as one—rooted in justice, driven by love, and committed to a future where liberation is not just an ideal but a lived reality.* The term LGBTIQ is used as a working shorthand for all the diverse experiences of sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics which make up the myriad beautiful and complex diversity of humanity across languages, cultures and time.



Today, we sing four verses of Julian Rush's seven-verse *Ours the Journey*, a song (lyrics and tune) he wrote in the years immediately following his ouster from the church he was serving upon coming out as gay. The song, which can be viewed as a prayer, was first presented at the 1985 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church at which the first Japanese-American United Methodist bishop was commissioned. This text celebrates diversity with the labels of gender, race, age, and sexual orientation named in the various stanzas; in some cases, we have adapted them slightly (substituting Indigenous for Indian) and have adapted the fifth verse to be more inclusive of various LGBTIQ+ identities. The song is rarely presented in its full seven-verse form (only five verses are included in the UCC hymnal). We concur with the Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church who wrote in 2018, "In

the Midst of New Dimensions is just as relevant today as it was at its creation, now thirty-three years ago. The first stanza begins 'In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways', which certainly describes the present world. The prayers of many Christians include the sentiments of Rush's text, and God still guides all of God's people." For a deeper look at this hymn, [read this article from the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada](#). You can read more about Rev. Julian in [this biography published by the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network](#).



The ONA Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for and supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary, and queer individuals, equipping UCC congregations to fully embody Christ's extravagant affirmation. Through education, advocacy, and community-building, the Coalition empowers churches to become bold witnesses for LGBTIQ+ justice and inclusion, ensuring that all people are celebrated as beloved children of God.

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 9:30am–10:30am Worship (In-person and Zoom)
- 11:00am–11:30am Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
- 11:30am–12:30pm Second Hour with Rev. Casey (sanctuary)

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! **3Godly 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

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2.**

Greeters: Heidi Bridgeman and Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Steve Bridgeman, Kathie Hixon, Bruce Hixon, and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighter: Finn Sonnemann

Flowers: Nan Karns

Liturgist: Wilson Jackson

Fellowship Hosts: Jen Fought, Kathie Hixon, Nan Karns, and Tom Sonnemann

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Children's Minister: Jen Fought

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 3.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Condolences to the Karns Family

With deep sympathy, we announce that **Dick Karns** transitioned peacefully from this life on Monday, June 16 surrounded by his wife, Nan, and their three children. Please keep **Nan** and their family in your prayers during this time.



Anne-Marie remains out of the office through June 27th. The office will be closed Tuesday. Heidi Bridgeman will be helping in the office from 9:00am–2:00pm on Wednesday and Pastor Todd will be in the office Wednesday and Thursday. (Be sure to ring the office doorbell if you come up to the office!) For any office matters during this time, contact Pastor Todd.



### Celebrate Juneteenth

You are invited to join members of the DCC Anti-Racism Team for the [Concord 2025 Juneteenth](#) celebration on Sunday, June 22, noon–5:00pm, at Todos Santos Plaza. The Anti-Racism Team plan is to meet for lunch on the Plaza green at 12:30pm. You can bring your lunch, patronize the food trucks, or get take-out from a local restaurant. We suggest that you bring a folding chair or blanket. Enjoy lunch and stay as long as you like to take in the entertainment and visions of freedom and justice.

**A statement from the [Open and Affirming Coalition](#) of the [United Church of Christ](#) in response to the Supreme Court Decision in U.S. v. Skrmetti**

Today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold Tennessee's ban on gender-affirming care for transgender youth is a moral failure and a heartbreaking injustice. This ruling abandons vulnerable children and their families to the political whims of state governments, disregarding the lived realities, medical consensus, and human dignity of transgender youth.

As people of faith committed to justice and radical inclusion, the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ grieves this ruling and the harm it inflicts. We reject the idea that any government has the right to deny life-saving, evidence-based healthcare because of a young person's gender identity. We reject a theology that would permit such cruelty. And we reject the misuse of power that seeks to control, erase, and endanger trans lives.

This decision is not just a legal setback—it is a spiritual wound. Trans and nonbinary youth are beloved children of God, created in the divine image, worthy of care, protection, and the fullness of life. Every attack on their rights is an attack on the sacredness of creation itself.

We are clear: Our trans and nonbinary siblings are not alone. We will not abandon you. The church, when it is truly living into the Gospel, must stand with the marginalized, defend the oppressed, and speak boldly against unjust laws.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to creating sanctuaries of love, safety, and affirmation—especially in states where this care is now banned.

This ruling does not end the fight. It intensifies our call to action.



*Sunday, July 6*

**Summer Picnic with Visions of Hope Outreach**



To get to know our siblings from Visions of Hope Outreach in Richmond, you are invited to a picnic after worship on July 6.

If you're in town, please plan to join us and get to know these good folk! Details will be available next week.





## Backpack & School Supplies Drive

*Multiple opportunities to bless students in the coming academic year*

Don't mention this to your kids or grandkids but it's time for our annual **Summer Backpack and School Supplies Drive** to provide new backpacks stuffed with school supplies for children of homeless, formerly-homeless and at-risk families now living in **Shelter, Inc.** and **Hope Solutions** housing.

**Shelter, Inc.** has provided us with the names of ten students for "adoption" by folks (individuals, families or groups) at DCC who are ready to shop for a new backpack for him or her and a complete set of grade-appropriate school supplies. Completed backpacks should be **delivered to DCC by 11 AM Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**, and the Outreach Commission will take care of delivering them to Shelter, Inc.

[Visit danvillechurch.org/BACKPACK](http://danvillechurch.org/BACKPACK) to view the list of students.

If you want to "adopt" one of these Shelter, Inc. students, please contact [Doug Leich](#) or Eileen Ackley to select your student and they will provide you with Shelter, Inc.'s checklist of recommended items to include in the backpack.

Shelter, Inc. is also requesting **\$50 gift cards** (Target or Kohl's) for uniforms or clothing and shoes, and you can sign up for these separately. Donations of any amount by check made out to DCC, with "backpacks" in the memo line will be used to purchase gift cards for Shelter, Inc. students. Shelter, Inc. also has an [online sign-up to provide separate school supplies](#).

**Hope Solutions** also has an option for you to shop for a backpack and items on a checklist of school supplies. Sign up at the [Hope Solutions Backpack Drive 2025](#) sign-up web page (please type "Danville Congregational Church" in the My Comment box) and follow [Hope Solutions' instructions](#), except that you may **deliver your completed backpack to DCC by 11 AM Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**, and the Outreach Commission will deliver it to Hope Solutions. Or you may support Hope Solutions' backpack drive with a [monetary donation here](#).

To sign up, or for more information, look for the backpack sign-up table during our Time of Fellowship after worship. If you have questions, or want to report your participation in DCC's back-to-school backpack project, please email [Doug Leich](#).



## Pictures of the Week



At Saturday's Annual Gathering of our Conference, our own Pastor Lauren was installed as one of our Associate Conference Ministers! At the same time, folx around the valley were gathered exercising their right to peacefully protest and make their voices heard. Sunday morning we gathered to worship and commemorate Juneteenth. The Lutherans provided a moving Pride testimonial while our young friends enjoyed their new Godly Play space. It was great to see Michael and Zac home from college while new friends gathered for conversation.

*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)*

## 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 at [lauren@danvillechurch.org](mailto:lauren@danvillechurch.org) or phone at 510-684-9183.

## Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Sanctuary with access for folx to join through Zoom. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. To join via Zoom, use this [link](#).



## Words of Gratitude

From one of our tenants who meets weekly on our campus:

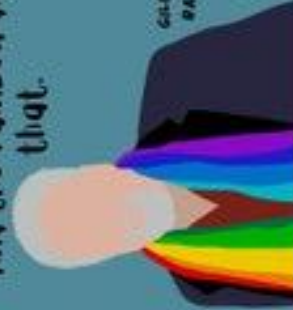
*"We feel blessed and lucky to have such a wonderful place to fellowship. It is indeed our 'home group' for many of us."*

From Hope Solutions:

*"We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you and DCC for your recent gift in support of Hope Solutions. Due to compassionate communities like yours, we have been able to support over 3,835 people in the past year—more than ever before."*

We needed something  
to express our joy,  
our beauty, our power.  
And the rainbow did  
that.

GILBERT  
BAKER



You never completely  
have your rights, one  
person, until you all  
have  
your  
rights.

MARSHA P.  
JOHNSON



Love takes off the  
masks we fear we  
cannot live without  
and know we cannot  
live within.

JAMES  
BALDWIN



It's just really important  
that we start celebrating  
our differences. Let's start  
tolerating first, but then  
we need to celebrate  
our differences.

BILLIE  
JEAN  
KING



Let us be enraged  
about injustice,  
but let us not be  
destroyed  
by it.

BARBARA  
KUSTIN



It takes no compromising  
to give people their  
rights. It takes no money  
to respect the individual.  
It takes no survey  
to remove  
repressions.

MARVEY  
PINK



Equality means more  
than passing laws. The  
struggle is really won in  
the hearts and minds of  
the community, where  
it really  
counts.

BARBARA  
GIDDINGS



You can be anything  
you want to be, just  
turn yourself into  
anything you think  
that you  
could ever be.

FREDDIE  
MERCURY



***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**

**Kim Michaud, Administrative Assistant**

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



**@DCCUCC**