



DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Love Everybody by David Hayward

**Third Sunday after Pentecost
Final Sunday of PRIDE Month**

June 15, 2025

OUR PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

A NOTE TO WORSHIPERS

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

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

Please silence your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary.

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

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

*The DCC sanctuary is available for meditation and quiet prayer
during the week during normal business hours.*

Please feel free to come by any time—enter through the office.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

Morning Prayer

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

WELCOME

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

Sandra Lepley

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

One: Strange One. Fabulous One. Fluid and ever-becoming One.

All: **All of humanity reflects your Divine image.**

One: We gather to worship you!

All: **Your essence transcends all that we can imagine.**

One: You are mother, father, and parent.

All: **You are sister, brother, and sibling.**

One: You are drag queen, and trans man, and gender-fluid—
incapable of limiting your vast expressions of beauty

All: **Expressions embodied in all of us, your creations.**

One: We recognize our flesh in all its forms is made holy in You.

All: **With thanksgiving, we celebrate your glorious manifestations!**

One: Blessed are our bodies. Blessed is our love.

Blessed are we when we celebrate that which the world turns away.

All: **Fill our hearts with a pride rooted in resistance to all that seeks to destroy.**

One: May we delight in the ways you have created us:

All: **Diverse, unique, surprising, and beautiful. Thanks be to God!**

m jade kaiser, adapted

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sandra

One: Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

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

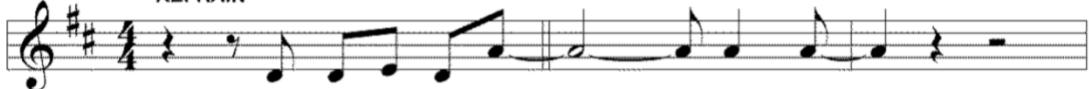
*OPENING HYMN

Believe Out Loud

See pages 4–5.

“Believe Out Loud”

REFRAIN



It's time to be-lieve out loud



no more stay - ing si - lent! It's time to pro-claim a - loud



the faith that we hold dear.



It's time to reach out to the re - jec - ted. It's time to stand up



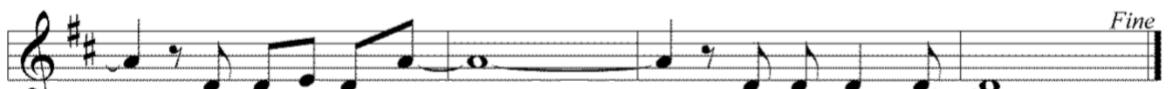
and say, "No more!" It's time to cre-ate a church in this



day where ev-'ry-one's wel - comed in the door. It's time to be-lieve



out loud, It's time to be strong and proud,



It's time to be-lieve, be-lieve out loud.

Fine



1 Our God re - mains un - chang-
2 If thoughts like love and jus -
3 The love of God is bound-



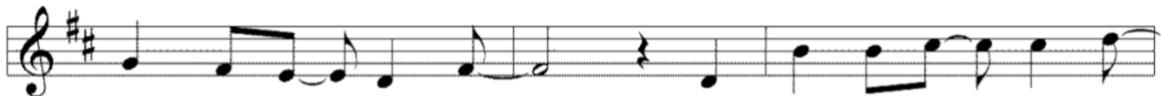
- ing, yet in so man - y ways the
- tice are more than hol - low words, we'll
- less, we're nev - er turned a - way. And



Ho - ly One's still speak - ing, for this we of - fer praise.
lis - ten for the Spir - it and let our hearts be stirred.
out of this a - bun - dance this gift we must re - pay.



Yet God's all - lov - ing guid - ance too
We'll learn to think in new ways, the
We've got to stand with mil - lions who've



of - ten goes un - heard. But there is yet more wis -
doors we'll o - pen wide. The ta - ble's set and read -
heard the Spir - it's call, and shout it from the moun -

Refrain



- dom to break forth from God's Word!
- y, bring ev - 'ry - one in - side!
- tains: "God's love is meant for all!"

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Selections from Galatians 5

Bette Felton

Christ has made us free so that we can be really free! So be strong and do not turn back.

My Christian friends, God has chosen you to serve him as free people. But you are still weak and human. So you are not free to do anything that you might want to do. Instead, you must serve one another, because you love each other. One rule brings together all the rules in God's Law. That one rule says: 'Love other people as much as you love yourself.' So you must not live like wild animals. Wild animals fight and they eat each other. If you live like that, be very careful! You may destroy one another completely.

So this is what I say: Let God's Spirit show you how to live in a good way. Then you will not do the wrong things that you may want to do, as people who are weak and human. The things that you want to do as a weak person are opposite to the things that God's Spirit wants. The things that God's Spirit wants are the opposite of what we want as weak people. Our own thoughts fight against what God's Spirit wants us to do. As a result, you are not free to do the things that you really want to do. But if God's Spirit leads you, then the rules of God's Law have no authority over you.

Everyone knows the kinds of bad things that weak people want to do. They do things that are bad and disgusting. They worship idols. They do magic to hurt people. They become enemies and they fight one another. They are jealous of other people. They become very angry. They want to please themselves and to be important. They cause trouble. They make people belong to different groups. They want things that belong to other people. And they like to do many other bad things like those. So I warn you again, as I have already warned you before. People who continue to do any of those bad things will not receive good things from God. God has prepared those good things for the people who belong to his kingdom.

But God's Spirit causes us to live in a different way. We love other people. We are happy and we have peace in our minds. We are patient, kind and good. People can trust us to do what is right. We respect other people and we rule ourselves properly. God's Spirit helps us to live in that way. There is no law that says these things are wrong.

We belong to Christ. As a result, we no longer obey our wrong human thoughts. We stop doing the bad things that our thoughts want us to do. It is like we have killed those thoughts on the cross. Now it is God's Spirit that gives us life. So we must let God's Spirit lead us in how we live.

MODERN LESSON

bell hooks

Bette

“Queer” is...about being about the self that is at odds with everything around it and has to invent and create and find a place to speak and to thrive and to live.

SERMON

QUEER

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

Her

Sam Smith

Jasmine Whyte, vocals

*Holy Father, we need to talk
I have a secret that I can't keep
I'm not the girl that you thought you wanted
Please don't get angry, have faith in me*

*Say I shouldn't be here but I can't give up her touch
It is her I love, it is her
Don't you try and tell me that God doesn't care for us
It is her I love, it is her I love*

*I walk the streets of Mississippi
I hold my lover by the hand
I see you staring when she is with me
How can I make you understand?*

*Say I shouldn't be here but I can't give up her touch
It is her I love, it is her
Don't you try and tell me that God doesn't care for us
It is her I love, it is her I love*

*Holy Father, judge my sins
I'm not afraid of what they will bring
I'm not the girl that you thought you wanted
I love her*

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.

TIME OF GIVING

Sandra

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

True Colors

Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly

arr. Elizabeth Swift

*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 Todd

*CLOSING HYMN

We Are the Church Alive

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

We Are the Church Alive

Words and Music by:

JACK ST. JOHN and DAVID PELLETIER

C G/B Am G/B Em⁷ C F Fmaj⁷ G(sus4) G C G/B C D/C

1. We are the Church A - live, Christ's pre - sence on this earth; We give God's Spi - rit
 2. Church A - live, Our faith has set us free; No more en - slaved by
 3. Church A - live, All praise to God on high. Cre - a - tor, Sav - ior,

6 G/B Em C G/D D⁷ G G/B C Dm⁷ C/E F G G⁷ C

bo - dy in the act of our new birth. As yield - ed o - pen chan - nels for
 guilt and shame we live our li - ber - ty! We fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple and
 Com - fort - er, we laud and mag - ni - fy Your name, Al - migh - ty God of love; Pray,

11 F E(sus4) E Am Am⁹/G F G/B C F G/B C C/E

God's de - scend - ing dove, We shout and sing, with joy we bring God's
 free - dom now pro - claim, De - stroy - ing myths of doubt and fear in
 give us life that we May be Your church, the Church A - live, for

15 Dm⁷ C/E F⁶ G | 1.2.C | 3.C

all in - clu - sive love, 2. We are the
 Je - sus' migh - ty name. 3. We are the
 all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORSHIP NOTES



David Hayward (@nakedpastor) is a pastor turned artist. The idea behind the name, NakedPastor, is to seek to tell the naked truth—no matter how vulnerable it feels.

“Believe Out Loud” emerged from the Religious Voices Project in 2008. It became a program of the Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, known for being the largest LGBTQIA+ church in the world. While “Believe Out Loud” is primarily the name of an organization, it is also associated with a specific hymn written for its launch in 2010. The hymn, also titled “Believe Out Loud,” was composed by David Lohman, who is also known for other songs reflecting his experience as a queer-identified Christian. “Believe Out Loud,” expresses the organization’s mission and commitment to LGBTQIA+ inclusion.



The late **bell hooks** is an acclaimed intellectual, feminist theorist, cultural critic, artist, and writer. Her writings cover topics of gender, race, class, spirituality, teaching, and the significance of media in contemporary culture. Born Gloria Jean Watkins in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, bell hooks adopted the pen name of her maternal great-grandmother, a woman known for speaking her mind. Her books include *Ain’t I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, *Rock My Soul: Black People and Self-Esteem*, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*, *Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*, *Teaching*

Community: A Pedagogy of Hope, *Where We Stand: Class Matters*, *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity*, and the children’s book *Skin Again*.



This morning’s anthem is Jasmine Whyte’s cover of **Sam Smith**’s 2017 *Him*, a song where Smith recounts a story of an imagined boy in Mississippi coming out to his father. The Catholic singer also incorporates the conflict between his sexuality and his religious upbringing. Smith said the track isn’t personal, but a narrative meant to convey a specific aspect of the gay experience. “That song is a coming-out song from a boy to his dad,” he said. “It’s just a general story. It’s not my story. I wanted to make that song for my community, for the LGBT community.”



In 2022, **Jasmine Whyte**, then aged 23, queered the song, reimagining it as *Her*. Growing up under the influence of Gospel and Jazz, Whyte wrote her first song in elementary school. At the very young age of 8, Whyte began singing independently. Later, her decision to come out as bisexual in high school, and her overall mental health victories influenced many ideas regarding sexual exploration, and celebration within her music. She said, “I believe in Jesus, yes. By believing in Jesus I believe in Love. I feel like as an artist who is lgbtq+ and also a believer in God, there is I suppose one would call a fear directly related to being outcasted. However, this is who I am, and I am who I am. It didn’t take me long to find myself and accept myself for who I am; and I will always be accepting of others for who they are. Regardless, of how I may not always be accepted whole. All I know is Jesus loves me, and he loves you too.”

“**True Colors**,” originally written by Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly, became a hit for Cyndi Lauper in 1986. The song’s meaning centers around accepting and celebrating individuality and authenticity, encouraging people to embrace their true selves without fear. Lauper dedicated the song to her friend who passed away from AIDS, and it has since become an anthem for the LGBTQ+ community, symbolizing self-acceptance and fighting for equal rights.

The hymn “**We Are the Church Alive**” was written in 1980 by Jack St. John and David Pelletier, two musicians from [Metropolitan Community Churches](#) (MCC). It was specifically written for the MCC community and emerged during a time when the MCC was grappling with issues of AIDS. The lyrics reflect a desire to heal and find wholeness. It is now sung in churches worldwide. The hymn emphasizes the church as a living body of people, rather than a building, and celebrates the diversity and inclusivity the church exists to display.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
11:15am–12:15pm Adult Education Second Hour (Kairos)

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 preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following the Opening Hymn. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play.

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeters: Linda Elsdon, Ron Elsdon, and Jim Felton

Ushers: Ron Elsdon, Jim Felton, Bob Kovach, and Judy Schreib

Fellowship Hosts: Janis Jang, Randy Jang, and Trish Moosbrugger

Liturgists: Bette Felton and Sandra Lepley

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley & Doug Leich

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Jen Faught

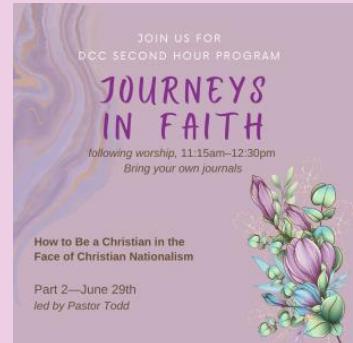
Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Lauren is away this weekend visiting family before a full month of ministry-related travel. She will return to worship on Sunday, August 3rd.

Today after worship **Adult Education Second Hour**

This Sunday during Second Hour, join the Journeys in Faith Commission for Part Two of our conversation on Christian Nationalism. [[Watch Part One here.](#)] This interactive session, led by Pastor Todd, is designed to help us engage in these often difficult, anxiety inducing conversation in meaningful and effective ways.



Sunday, July 6th after worship **Summer Picnic with Visions of Hope Outreach**

Please join us after worship on Sunday July 6th for a church picnic on our patio as we host our friends from Visions of Hope Church in Richmond. Burgers, hotdogs and vegan options will be fresh from the grill courtesy of the Sister Parish Committee and Community Life Commission. Cake and ice cream are on the menu for dessert as well! Bring a salad to share if you'd like to contribute.

Thursday, July 17th from 1:00pm–2:00pm in-person and Zoom **Bible Study with DCC and San Antonio, Guatemala**

Save the Date for a Bible Study with DCC and San Antonio, Guatemala on "The Good Samaritan" on Thursday, July 17th from 1:00pm–2:00pm in-person in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. More details to come.



Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Sanctuary with access for folk 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](#).

Saturday, July 27th at 11:30am

Visitor Luncheon

Curious about joining the DCC family? If so, a time of fellowship for potential new members is planned for Sunday, July 27th at 11:30am. We'll gather at the home of John & Joyce Klassen in San Ramon for lunch and the opportunity to get to know DCC and each other a little better. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Joyce Klassen at joyce.klassen@comcast.net.



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. Five of the ten have already been taken. Completed backpacks should be **delivered to DCC by 11 AM Sunday, July 20th**, and the Outreach Commission will take care of delivering them to **Shelter, Inc.**

[Visit danvillechurch.org/BACKPACK](http://danvillechurch.org/BACKPACK) to view the remaining five "adoptees".

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](#) and a [Back to School Drive Amazon Wish List](#) for online purchases.

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 20th**, 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





Scenes from the Second Annual Valley Pride and Pride Sunday (including the baptism of baby Isabella!)—along with most of the folk who gave of their time and presence to make the weekend such a success.

*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.*

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



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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