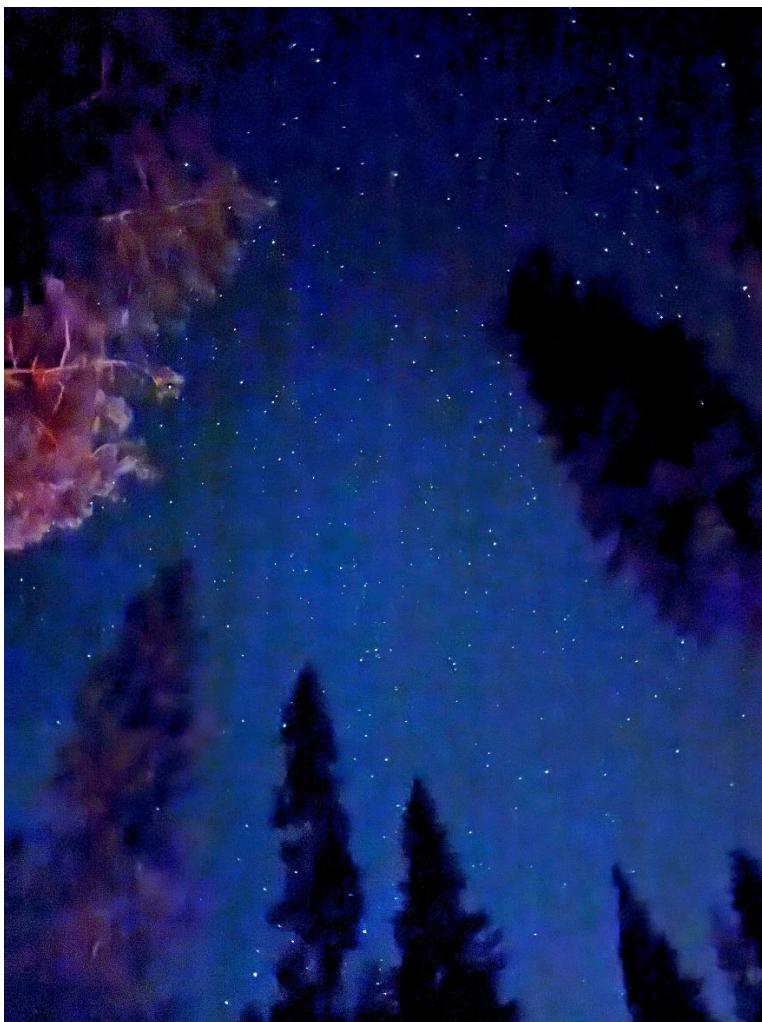




# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

*August 3, 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

PRELUDE

*Sea of Stars*

James Michael Stevens

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

Bill Williams

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

One: We look at the world we live today, at the hurting everywhere.

**All: God, surround and cover us with your mercy and your grace**

One: Let your Holy Spirit overflow in every place.

**All: Let us be one with You today and let Your glory fall upon us.**

One: Holy Light, shine your light upon us

**All: so we may shine like stars above.**

One: Guided by your love,

**All: let your fire burn within us, burning like the sun.**

One: As we glorify your holy name,

**All: may we illuminate your Realm of Love in all the earth. Amen.**

*Adapted from the song *Shine Like Stars* by Sidney Mohede*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Bill

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*Let Your Light So Shine*

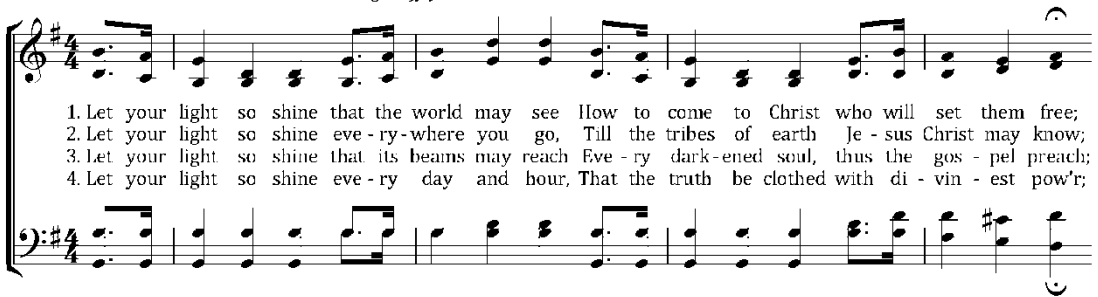
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TIME WITH CHILDREN

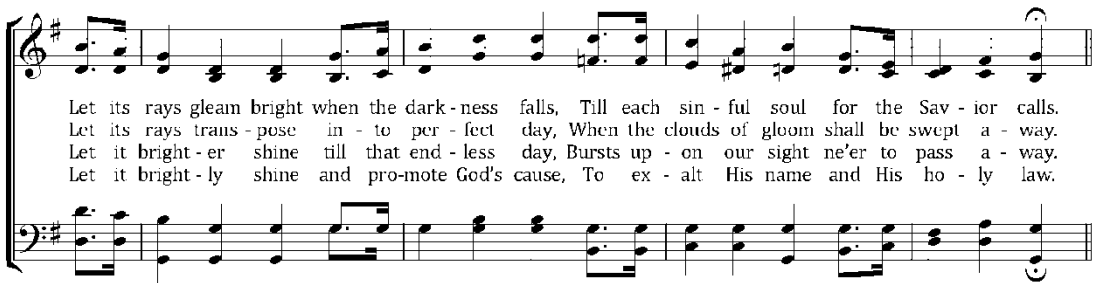
Pastor Todd

# Let Your Light Shine

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Mt. 5:16*



1. Let your light so shine that the world may see How to come to Christ who will set them free;  
2. Let your light so shine eve-ry-where you go, Till the tribes of earth Je-sus Christ may know;  
3. Let your light so shine that its beams may reach Eve-ry dark-ened soul, thus the gos-pel preach;  
4. Let your light so shine eve-ry day and hour, That the truth be clothed with di-vin-est pow'r;

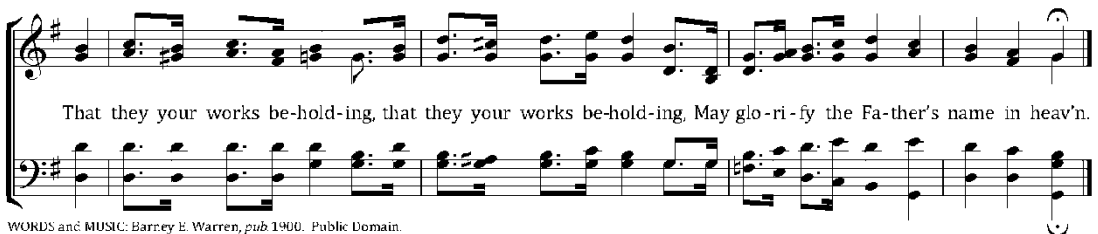


Let its rays gleam bright when the dark-ness falls, Till each sin-ful soul for the Sav-ior calls.  
Let its rays trans-pose in-to per-fect day, When the clouds of gloom shall be swept a-way.  
Let it bright-er shine till that end-less day, Bursts up-on our sight ne'er to pass a-way.  
Let it bright-ly shine and pro-mote God's cause, To ex-alt His name and His ho-ly law.

*Refrain*



Let your light shine, let your light shine, Let your light so shine be-fore men;  
Let your light shine, let your light shine.



That they your works be-hold-ing, that they your works be-hold-ing, May glo-ri-fy the Fa-ther's name in heav'n.

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for Their good pleasure.

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.

## MODERN LESSON

by Marianne Williamson

Sandra Lepley

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, ‘Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?’

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world.

There’s nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won’t feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It’s not just in some of us; it’s in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we’re liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

## SERMON

*Keep Shining!*

Pastor Todd

## ANTHEM

*Shine Like Stars*  
True Worshipers

Sidney Mohede

## TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Carol Barriger

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

*Let Your Light Shine*

Bethany Dillon

*The Power of Shine*

\*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 HYMN

See next page.

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Todd

## SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift up our hearts to God!**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

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

## COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Lauren Jewett

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Pastor Todd

# Come Just As You Are

Joseph Sabolick

4 Pastor

Come just as you are; Hear the Spir - it call \_\_\_\_

9

Come just as you are; Come and see, come re - ceive;

13

Come and live \_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er - more.

16 All

Life ev - er - last - ing, \_\_\_\_ and strength for to - day; \_\_\_\_

20

Take \_\_\_\_ the Liv - ing Wa - ter, \_\_\_\_ and nev - er thirst a - gain.

24 All

Come just as you are; Hear the Spir - it call \_\_\_\_ Come just as you are;

30

Come and see, come re - ceive; Come and live \_\_\_\_\_ for - ev - er - more. \_\_\_\_\_

**All: Thank you God for welcoming us to your table—just as we are.  
We accept Your mercy, Your grace, and Your unconditional love.  
We vow to share this extravagant welcome with all those we encounter.  
Amen.**

## LITANY OF SENDING & BLESSING

*as Pastor Todd begins his sabbatical*

Heidi Bridgeman, Alene Riley, Dee Brook, and John Klassen

### INTRODUCTION

Alene: Friends in Christ, today we give thanks to God for Pastor Todd and ask for God's blessings as we send him for Sabbatical rest. We ask God to bless this intentional time of growth both for him and for our congregation, and we ask that God bring him back to our community refreshed and nourished with God's Spirit as we seek to glorify God with our gifts to serve all.

### READINGS

Dee: A reading from Exodus:  
"Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy."  
And again from Exodus:  
"I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared."

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke:  
"Now, more than ever, the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to out-of-the-way places and pray.

### SABBATICAL LEAVE-TAKING LITANY

Dee: We wish Godspeed to Pastor Todd as he begins his sabbatical. As you journey, God dwell with you while we are away from one another.

Pastor Todd: God's blessing upon you while I am gone from you.

Heidi: God fill you with the Holy Spirit as you relax, study, and visit new surroundings.

Pastor Todd: I thank God for my ministry with you over these six-and-a-half years and I thank you for the gift of this renewal time you've given to me.



Dee: We pray that you experience the gift of spiritual growth in your journey and that you return renewed and energized for ministry.  
Pastor Todd: I pray that you, too, might be renewed and energized to serve in God's name.

**All: We send you with our blessing.**

Pastor Todd: God's peace be with you as I leave to journey in new places, to renew my spirit, my ministry, my life.

Alene: We now also lift up Pastor Lauren and Pastor Carol who will be our spiritual leaders and take care of all our pastoral needs during Pastor Todd's absence. We pray for you, too, and look for your guidance and leadership, as we look at our own identity during this mutual time of renewal.

## BLESSING

**All: We bring before you Holy One, our sibling in Christ, our pastor, teacher, and friend, the Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley. We send him on sabbatical with our earnest prayers, asking your blessing upon him, and upon this congregation that he serves.**

Heidi: Spirit of the living God, bless Pastor Todd during his sabbatical. Renew him for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study; the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine; and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace him with your presence and keep him steadfast in the faith while we are gone one from another.

## CONGREGATIONAL LAYING ON OF HANDS

Pastor Lauren: You are invited to come forward and lay your hands upon Pastor Todd or extend a hand of blessing toward him. Let us pray:

Eternal God, you fill us with every good thing  
and your steadfast love endures forever.

We thank you for Pastor Todd and for our life together at DCC.  
As he departs for sabbatical, send him forth with your blessing,  
fill him with your Spirit, and bring him again into our presence  
with renewed life.

Through Jesus Christ, our Strength, our Rock, our Redeemer, we pray.

**All: Amen.**

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd: Beloved, hear these words from the Apostle Paul to Christ's people in Corinth. Let them be my counsel to you as well as God's:  
"Finally siblings, goodbye. Be cheerful. Keep things in good repair. Keep your spirits up. Think in harmony. Be agreeable. Do all that, and the God of love and peace will be with you for sure.  
The amazing grace of Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you."

**All: God below you, God before you and behind you,  
God everywhere you turn and within you. Amen.**

Pastor Todd: And...may the God of HOPE indeed fill you with all joy and peace that by trusting in God, you may overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## REMOVAL OF STOLE

Pastors Carol

& Lauren: The primary and unique symbol for Pastors is our stole.  
It points to our being set apart by the Church for Word and Sacrament ministry. We will now remove Pastor Todd's stole as a symbol of the beginning of his time of rest and renewal and our mutual commitment to pray for one another during this time of rest and growth.  
Dee, you are invited to remove Pastor Todd's stole and place it on the altar.  
John, you are invited to light a candle which will burn as a reminder of our commitment to pray for him.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

John Klassen

*Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-717493. All rights reserved.*

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am-11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
Noon	Monthly Lunch Bunch

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!

There is no **Godly Play** today.

## 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 3**.

Greeters/Ushers: Miguel Atkins-Whitley, Randy Jang,  
Trish Moosbrugger, and Judy Schreib

Liturgists: Sandra Lepley and Bill Williams

Flowers: Bill Williams

Fellowship Hosts: Miguel Atkins-Whitley, Randy Jang,  
Sandra Lepley, and Trish Moosbrugger

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Minister: Carol Bassett

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## *Today at noon* **Monthly Lunch Bunch - Please join us!**

Would you like to get to know some of your DCC colleagues better? Come join us for lunch after church today. We'll be gathering at noon (or whenever you get there) at the Peasant and the Pear in Danville (across the street from the San Ramon Valley museum on Railroad Ave.) and would love for you to join us! If you have joined us before, please come again! If you haven't been able to make it before, please join us. Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with cash or check. Thanks!

Please RSVP to Wilson Jackson at 925-819-0222 or email him at [wrjachev@netzero.com](mailto:wrjachev@netzero.com) to let him know you'll be attending.



## **Put the Guns Down Event Needs Support** *Saturday, September 6th at 1:00pm*

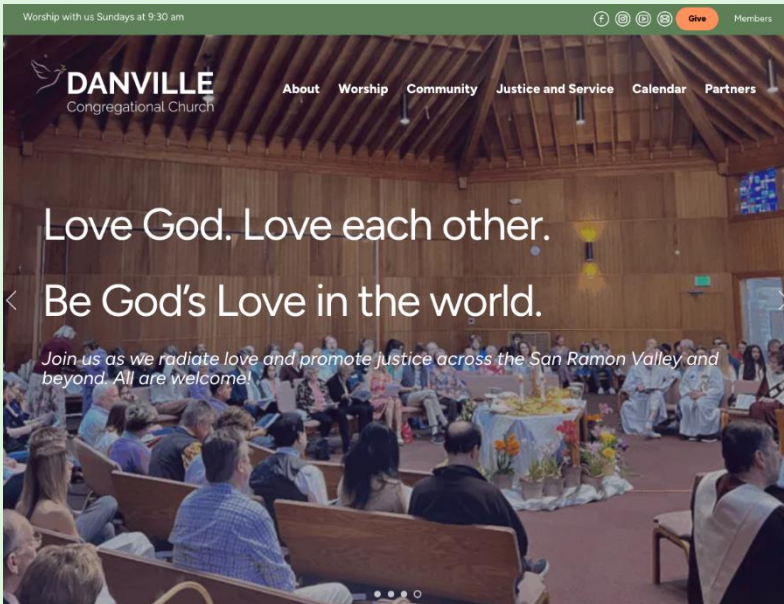
DCC is co-sponsoring our sister organization, Visions of Hope, with their annual "Put the Guns Down" Community Event in Richmond on Saturday, September 6th from 1:00pm–5:00pm – this event is designed to provide a community activity for youth that is positive, uplifting, and helps kids enjoy themselves in a safe environment. Please see the accompanying event flyer for information. Visions of Hope is asking for volunteers from DCC to help run games and snack distribution, and also is asking for donations of bicycles, game prizes and snacks for participants! You can contribute actual items, or funds to purchase them.

There is a line in our Vanco system to donate electronically to our Visions of Hope Sponsorship fund. To donate by check, please make your check out to DCC and write VoH sponsorship fund on the memo line.

For more information on donating specific items, please contact Doug Leich, Barb DeBarger, Chris

Sonneman or Carrie Hrousis.

## New DCC Website...Coming Early August!



We're excited to share that we have been working on a big refresh of our current website to better tell the story of who we are, the warmth of our welcome, and the actions we engage in for community and social justice. This is a very outwardly focused website with the aim of attracting more people to our congregation, while also keeping the congregation up to speed on events, the calendar, Emmaus team activities etc. We hope you will find it welcoming, engaging, and informative. We encourage you to share it with friends and family!

You will see that it is rich with photos of the congregation, and we hope you'll enjoy seeing yourself in some of the photos 😊 We believe a photo can often tell a story and convey a feeling far better than words. We thank Linda Elsdon for sharing her incredible photography skills with us. All her work in capturing, editing, and compiling so many images over many months has really made the website 'pop' and be so attractive.

We have deep appreciation for the gift of the funding from the Endowment Committee that enabled us to realize this project.

Blessings

Pastor Todd, Amy Furber-Dobson, Kyra Kennedy, Joyce Klassen  
Website Project Team

### Interested in Protesting Injustice?

*Saturday, August 9th from 11:30am–12:30pm*

The Indivisible Resisters of Contra Costa County is organizing a protest regarding the various injustices relating to immigration reform on Saturday, August 9th, from 11:30–12:30pm at the Concord Immigration Court, 1855 Gateway Blvd. in Concord. Folks who go to this event will be assembling on the sidewalk on the Clayton Road side. The Anti-Racism Team is organizing a group from DCC to attend! If you are interested in joining us, or if you want to carpool from DCC, please let Linda Elsdon or Barb DeBarger know! There will be a sign up available after church in Kairos this Sunday, or you can email us to let us know! Wear your DCC t-shirts!



## Plans for Pastor Todd's Sabbatical

Pastor Todd's letter of call provides for a paid three-month sabbatical leave every five years. After postponing it for a year, he will be taking this leave very soon! His last Sunday before sabbatical will be **August 3rd**, returning November 3rd and back in worship on November 9th.

We are looking forward to granting this well-deserved leave to Pastor Todd, and plans to cover his duties have been underway over these past several months. No one has been working harder at covering all the needed duties than Pastor Todd himself!



In addition to performing the duties of her call with us, **Pastor Lauren** will be present during worship most of the Sundays Pastor Todd is away, preaching at least twice and shepherding three other services. We have also engaged several guest preachers, including two DCC members!

Through Pastor Todd, the Moderator Team met with and has engaged the **Rev. Carol Barriger** to provide additional worship and pastoral support and cover the following duties in Pastor Todd's absence:

- preach three Sundays;
- maintain office hours at the church office each Tuesday, working with John and Anne-Marie to plan the bulletin, music, and provide other worship support, and following up with members;
- provide pastoral care as needed.



Pastor Carol brings to DCC a wealth of church leadership and pastoral care experience. She is ordained in the UCC and has served numerous churches in our Conference (DCC will be her seventh); she has also as a hospital chaplain. She was an Associate Conference Minister of our Conference and later served as a member and chair of various sections of the Committee on Ministry, mentoring candidates for ministry and, currently, reviewing ethical concerns. Pastor Carol is a graduate of Harvard University, received the M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and later an M.A. in Biblical Studies. She taught UCC history, theology and polity as an adjunct faculty member at PSR, and in various other settings.

Pastor Carol is eager to get to know DCC folks and is grateful to Pastor Todd and the Moderator Team for opening the door to serving and learning among us. She is dedicated to the justice and equality taught to us by Jesus, and loves all sorts of music. She will be with us in worship on August 3 and will stick around during Coffee Hour so you can get to know her.

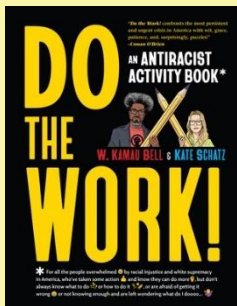
[Click here to review the preaching schedule for this three-month period.](#)

As a part of this time of rest, Pastor Todd will not be checking email or responding to matters of the church. Members are asked to reach out to Pastor Lauren and Pastor Carol for pastoral support and to the moderators for all church-related issues. In consultation with Pastor Todd, they have agreed to contact him for urgent concerns.

The moderator team is thankful that DCC has planned and budgeted for this leave for Pastor Todd, and we are grateful to Pastor Todd for so thoughtfully working to ensure that our church's needs continue to be well supplied in his absence. If you have any questions about Pastor Todd's sabbatical and the plans for pastoral coverage, please reach out to your Co-Moderators Heidi Bridgeman or myself.

Alene Riley, Co-Moderator





## Coming this August and September Anti Racism Summer Workshops

Join Barb DeBarger, Bette Felton and Doug Leich during second hours this summer on August 10th, 17th, and 24th and September 21st from 11:15am–12:30pm to learn more and practice anti-racism activities. We'll be studying and using the workbook **Do the Work!** by W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz, and will cover a variety of topics, including race, white supremacy, privilege, history, and what you can actually DO as a fellow anti-racist during these troubled times.

Come to some or all of the workshops! Sign up online

<https://forms.gle/1PHypSGDezdbNaC9A> or on the clipboard in Koinonia after church. Any questions? Ask Barb, Doug or Bette. We hope to see you there!

## Pictures of the Week



*It was a DCC night out when members caught Woodminster's production of "Hello, Dolly!" on Friday, July 18th.*

*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).*

## Wednesday Morning Prayer

Our pastor 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](#).



***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](mailto: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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