



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



The challenges  
we face are  
important  
opportunities  
for our  
faith to grow.

IZABELLA MCMILLON

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 10, 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

*Ready*

Charles D. Tillman  
arr. Jennifer Cook

WELCOME

Rev. Carol Barriger

***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

Matthew Bassett

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

One: God, the holy One, compassionate and just, speaks and summons the earth from each day's sunrise to its sunset.

**All:** **From our homes, cities, fields, and work; from places of beauty, and places of grit, the Spirit shines forth and we are called.**

One: In all our colors, shapes, languages and abilities, we are drenched in this Light.

**All:** **God delights in each of us, takes joy in our joy, and embraces us in our pain.**

One: All are gathered in covenant, the faithful, the certain, and those who are unsure.

**All:** **In the person of Jesus Christ, our teacher and brother, God walks with us, And all that is asked of us is that we come to this place ready, present and open!**

One: All that is asked of us is that we let our light shine!

**All:** **Shine!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Matthew

One: Peace be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff*

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*Back to School Blessing*

Rev. Lauren Jewett

*Following the Time With Children,*

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

# My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

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Thomas T. Lynch, 1855; alt.



1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav-eler's well-loved aid;  
 2 My guide is Je - sus Christ whose steps, when trav-el - ers have trod,  
 3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.



My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.  
 Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield-ing grass-y sod,  
 My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur-pose keen.



I'll trav - el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial  
 They car - ried on, their joy un - spent; through pain and trial they on - ward  
 Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -



word; By all my per - il s un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.  
 went, Un - stayed by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.  
 tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.



Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH 8.6.8.6.8.8.6.  
 Swiss folk melody  
 Fellowship Hymn Book, 1910

A gifted Congregational minister in London, Thomas Toke Lynch was the subject of controversy within the churches upon the publication of his hymn collection, *The Rivulet*, which received poor reviews. This hymn was labeled Lynch's "best" when it appeared in Congregational Praise (1951).

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Matthew

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 12:32-40

Matthew

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is God's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

## SERMON

*Be Ready*

Pastor Carol

ANTHEM

*Hills And Valleys*  
Tauren Wells, vocals

Tauren Wells, Chuck Butler  
Jonathan Smith

*I've walked among the shadows, You wiped my tears away  
And I've felt the pain of heartbreak, and I've seen the brighter days  
And I've prayed prayers to heaven from my lowest place  
And I have held the blessings, God, You give and take away*

*No matter what I have, Your grace is enough  
No matter where I am, I'm standing in Your love*

*On the mountains, I will bow my life to the One who set me there  
In the valley, I will lift my eyes to the One who sees me there  
When I'm standing on the mountain, I didn't get there on my own  
When I'm walking through the valley I know I am not alone*

*You're God of the hills and valleys, hills and valleys  
God of the hills and valleys and I am not alone*

*I've watched my dreams get broken; In You, I hope again  
No matter what, I know I'm safe inside Your hand*

*(On the mountains, I will bow my life...)  
(You're God of the hills and valleys, hills and valleys...)*

*Father, You give and take away every joy and every pain  
Through it all, You will remain over it all.*

*(On the mountains, I will bow my life...)  
(You're God of the hills and valleys...)*

#### TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastor Lauren

**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

Matthew

### 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

*Faithful*

Todd Beaney

\*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

\*CLOSING HYMN

*I Want to Be Ready*

See next page.

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Carol

Please remain in your pews until the light has been taken out of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

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# I Want to Be Ready

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African-American spiritual

Rev. 21:1-4, 10-27; John 11:1-44; Acts 2:14, 36-41

Refrain

I want to be ready, I want to be ready,

Last time, end

I want to be ready to walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John.

Leader

All

1 Oh, John, oh, John, what do you say?  
 2 When Mar - tha spoke the Sav - ior's name,  
 3 When Pe - ter was preach-ing at Pen - te - cost, walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John.  
 4 When Mar - y asked Je - sus to "come and see,"  
 5 John said the cit - y was just four-square,

Tune: I WANT TO BE READY Irr.  
 African-American spiritual  
 Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

This African-American spiritual is one of a small number based not on the Hebrew Scriptures but the New Testament, specifically the book of Revelation. Stanzas two and four are additions to the traditional text and include some of the female followers of Jesus.

All

to Refrain

That I'll be there at the com-ing day,  
 She knew she'd nev - er be the same,  
 He was en - dowed with the Ho - ly Ghost, walk in Je-ru-sa-lem just like John.  
 Her faith gave Laz - a - rus vic - to - ry,  
 And he de - clared he'd meet me there,

Leader

# WORSHIP NOTES

Note about our **Scripture Lesson** this morning: Though widely named as such, the epistle to the Hebrews was not written by Paul. An often-mentioned possibility is that it was written by Priscilla, a follower accompanying and supporting Paul in his church-planting ... and that the female authorship was hidden.

## 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	Anti-Racism Team Workshop
11:15am–12:15pm	Commission Meetings

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

<b>Tuesday</b>	11:30am	Men's Luncheon
<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00pm–3:00pm	Diaconate Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

Greeters: Joyce Klassen and Nancy Snyder

Ushers: Carol Gerich, Judy Halden, and Michiyo Laing

Liturgist: Matthew Bassett

Flowers: Carol Bassett

Fellowship Hosts: Team 5

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

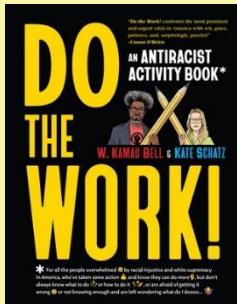
Lock Up Duty: Carol and Matthew Bassett

### **Children's Ministers**

Godly Play: Nan Karns and Kim Michaud

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 6**.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## *First Workshop starts today at 11:15am* **Anti Racism Summer Workshops**

Join Barb DeBarger, Bette Felton and Doug Leich during second hours on August 10th, 17th, and 24th and September 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Any questions? Ask Barb, Doug or Bette. We hope to see you there!

## *Today at 11:15am in the Music Room* **Inaugural meeting of the Welcome and Media Commission**

If you feel called to be active in welcoming and assimilating new folk to the DCC Community, please join us. If you have knowledge and skills in the area of marketing or social media and story-telling, please join us too!

## *Today at 11:15am* **Commission Meetings**

Today is Commission Sunday, and the following Commission will be meeting today in addition to the Welcome and Media Commission mentioned above.

- The **Buildings & Grounds Commission** will meet in the Spirit Room.

The Outreach Commission will be meeting on August 31st at 11:15am in the Spirit Room.

## *This Tuesday at 11:30am* **Men's Luncheon at The View at Bridges Golf Club**

There will be a Men's Luncheon on Tuesday, August 12th at 11:30am at The View in the Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. Come join the group for good conversation and food.

Please contact Tahir Mahmood if you have any questions.  
[mahmoods200@hotmail.com](mailto:mahmoods200@hotmail.com) or 925-719-7778.



## Member and Friends of DCC Section of Website

Thank you for all the supportive feedback following the launch of our new website on [DanvilleChurch.org](http://DanvilleChurch.org)

As you check out the site, you will see a button on the top right-hand corner called 'Members'. This leads to a secure area of the site that is for members and friends of DCC who are known to us. It contains our By-laws, Emmaus Team schedule and duties, photo release form and other items that we feel are relevant for us, internally. To access this section, you will need a password. Please contact [Anne-Marie](#) or [Joyce Klassen](#), who will share it with you.

We will continue to edit and enhance the overall website, so we encourage any feedback you may have for us. Please send to [Kyra Kennedy](#) or [Joyce Klassen](#). Thank you!

### *New Weekly Spotlight – Meet Our Deacons* **This Week – Meet Dottie Howell**

DCC's deacons, aka the Diaconate, are appointed by the Church Council "to aid and advise the Minister(s) and the Council, to stand with and listen to persons in the congregation, and to provide special ministries of reconciliation, comfort, and inspiration. The Diaconate consists of nine persons plus those whom the congregation has elected deacon for life.

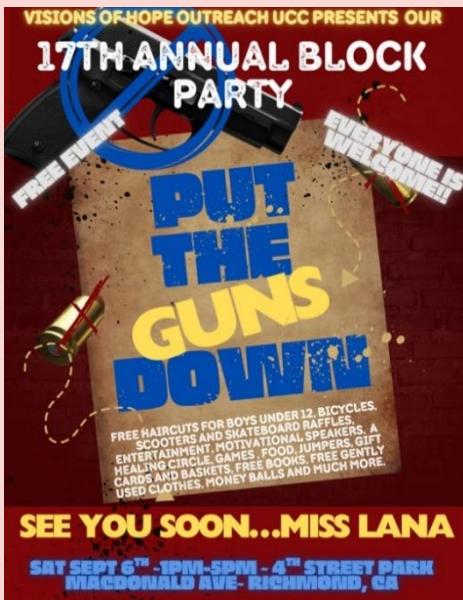


This Week, we spotlight one of our new deacons, **Dottie Howell**.

Born and raised in the New York City metropolitan area, faith formation was always an important part of her life, having grown up as a Lutheran (ELCA). After graduating from high school, she went to work as a secretary with New York Life Insurance Company, followed by several years of clerical work with Burroughs Welcome Company. Bob and Dottie were high school sweethearts and got married shortly after he completed military service in Korea. Soon after the marriage, Dottie had and raised two daughters, continued working as a part-time secretary, and took college courses as well. Bob and Dottie have been very

active in local churches, including serving together as youth group leaders.

After a nearly 35-year career, Bob responded to a call to full-time Christian ministry that he began to sense as a boy and then was called to pastor a Congregational church in Rossmoor. Together they faithfully served the church, singing in the choir and carrying out pastoral responsibilities. In 2010, they joined Danville Congregational Church. She continues to support Bob's interests in interfaith and social justice ministries. As a member of DCC, she has faithfully supported worship service responsibilities and served on the Sister Parish Committee, having participated in a delegation that visited the San Antonio sister congregation about eight years ago.



## 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 –designed to provide a community activity for youth that is positive, uplifting, and helps kids enjoy themselves in a safe environment. 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. Or Sign Up to purchase items using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0548ACA72D6-57760219-putthe>

For more information on donating specific items, please contact Doug Leich, Barb DeBarger, Chris Sonneman or Carrie Hrousis.

## Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Carol 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](#).



## Pictures of the Week



Top: Junior High Camp Tam was a great experience for campers and staff alike. Hazel participates in Vespers; Amy, Jenn, and Pastor Todd bundled up in the early morning waiting for the campers to wake up.

Bottom: Last Sunday, DCC blessed Pastor Todd as he started his three-month sabbatical.

*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).*

*Sundays in September–November from noon–  
2:00pm at MDUUC*

## **OWL for 2nd–4th Graders AND THEIR PARENTS!**

Join MDUUC for an exciting journey of learning in our "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) class for 2nd–4th graders **and their parents!** This comprehensive class is designed to help children begin the lifelong process of learning and developing values around identity, relationships, safety, and health. This program helps set up the parents as the primary educators for their child as we explore key topics like gender identity, gender roles, sexual orientation, race, ability, and setting healthy boundaries for ourselves. Don't miss out on this engaging opportunity to create a dynamic of open communication with your child! Cost is \$100 per participant. Includes lunch potluck rotation & parent involvement

[\*\*Click Here to Register\*\*](#)



### **Pastoral Availability**

**Pastor Carol** keeps regular office hours Tuesdays. If you would like to meet with Pastor Carol, please reach out to her via email at [pastorcaroldcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcaroldcc@gmail.com)

**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.

***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*

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