



DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

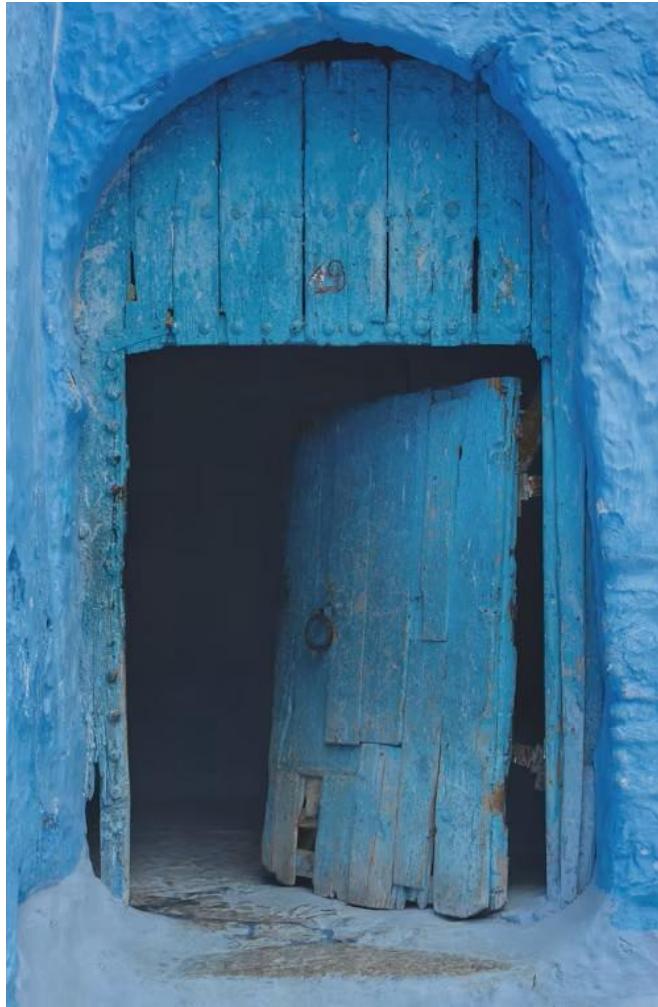


Photo by Oumaima Ben Chebit

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 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

The Narrow Door

Stephen DeCesare

WELCOME

Rev. Lauren Jewett

***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

Alene Riley

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

One: All you who come from the corners of the kin-dom –
some will be first and some will be last.
Let us lift hearts and voices in praise to God,
who hears the cries of the poor, the last, and stands with them.

**All: We give thanks for God who does not ignore the plight of the suffering
but with joy and energy, works to uplift the oppressed.**

One: We embrace the words of the prophet:
we are to loose the bonds of wickedness,
let the oppressed go free and break every yoke.

**All: True worship calls us to action, a commitment to justice,
and willingness to stand in solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable.**

One: So open our eyes to see Christ in the faces of the poor.
Open our hearts to love them as our own.
Let us work for a world where justice and peace prevail,
where poverty is eradicated,
and where all people can live in community with dignity and hope.

**All: We commit ourselves to this work,
inspired by God's love and guided by the example of Jesus,
who calls us to serve the least of these.
Let us be in worship with open hearts and hands ready to serve.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Alene

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,
 C G D A C G
 van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ter,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;
 Gm Dm C D C Gm D
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
 A C D G A C
 Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and
 D G A D A C G
 blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,
 Gm Dm C D C Gm D
 we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

GATHER US IN
10.9.10.10.D

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1979
Ter and Music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

Following the Time With Children,

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

GOSPEL LESSON

[Luke 13:22-30](#)

Alene

Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. Once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then in reply he will say to you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say to you, ‘I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and take their places at the banquet in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

SERMON

"What's Behind the Door?"

Pastor Casey

ANTHEM

I Am the Light of the World
Rev. Gary Davis, vocals & guitar

Rev. Gary Davis

Refrain:

Just as long as I'm in this world, I am the light of this world.

You don't believe in Jesus, and not a word he say

When he come all way down to Lazarus' grave and raised him from the dead.

I've got fiery fingers, I've got fiery hands

And when I get up in heaven, gonna join that fiery band.

Prayer is the key of heaven and faith unlock the door

That's why my god give me the key and he told me to carry it everywhere I go.

Didn't they take old John the Baptist and out him in a kettle of oil

Well, my god got in there with him and they told me the oil wouldn't boil.

I know I got religion, I know I ain't ashamed

For the holy ghost is my witness and the angels done signed my name.

Just as long as I'm in this world, I am the light of this world.

TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Rev. Carol Barriger

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.

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

Another Day in Paradise

Phil Collins

Phil Collins, vocals

She calls out to the man on the street,
 "Sir, can you help me? It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep
 Is there somewhere you can tell me?"

He walks on, doesn't look back; he pretends he can't hear her
 Starts to whistle as he crosses the street
 Seems embarrassed to be there

Oh, think twice, 'cause it's another day for you and me in paradise.

Oh, Lord, is there nothing more anybody can do?
 Oh, Lord, there must be something You can say.

You can tell from the lines on her face, you can see that she's been there
 Probably been moved on from every place 'cause she didn't fit in there

Oh, think twice, 'cause it's another day for you and me in paradise.

*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 Am the Light of the World

See pages 8-9.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Casey

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

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

F Unison
Introduction

§ Refrain

B♭

C

F

"I am the light of the world!

B♭

C

F

Gm

Dm

C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!"

If you fol-low and love you'll

F

Gm7

C

B♭

F

B♭

Last time, end

F

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F

B♭/D

C

F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 γ To find the lost and lone-ly one, γ to
 3 γ To free the pris-oner from all chains, γ to
 4 To bring hope to ev - ery task you do, γ to



Gm Dm C
 star in the sky is gone,
 heal the bro - ken soul with love,
 make the pow - er - ful care,
 dance at a ba - by's new birth,
 When the *γ* To
 To re - *γ* To

F B♭ C F
 sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home,
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food,
 build the na - tions with strength of good will,
 make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart,
 the To to and

Dm B♭ Gm7 C
 work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!
 Return to \S

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.

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–12:30pm	Anti-Racism Team Workshop
12:30pm–2:00pm	Pastor Lauren's PSC

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
Tuesday	4:00pm–6:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Thursday	2:00pm–3:30pm	Spirited Sisters

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 6**.

Greeters: Dianne Dorn and Kyra Kennedy

Ushers: Nancy Halseth and Mary Kay McClure

Liturgist: Alene Riley

Flowers: Mary Kay McClure

Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Ackley, Kristin Chambers, and Alene Riley

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Minister: John Klassen

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Children's Ministers

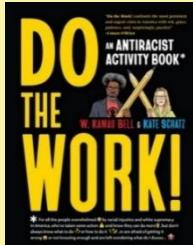
Godly Play: Nan Karns and Sereen Mahmood

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 1**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements for this week's e-News and Bulletin are due tomorrow

The office will be closed this Wednesday and Thursday. Anne-Marie will be online and checking email, please email her for any office assistance during those days.



Second Workshop today at 11:15am Anti Racism Summer Workshops

Join us during second hours today, August 24th and September 21st from 11:15am–12:30pm. 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. Any questions? Ask Barb, Doug or Bette. We hope to see you there!

Pastor Lauren's PSC

Pastor Lauren's Pastoral Support Committee will meet today from 12:30pm–2:00pm. Members are Nancy Halseth, Syd Dent, Bette Felton, Anita Jackson-Kimball, Derek Jackson-Kimball, and Chris Sonnemann



New Weekly Spotlight – Meet Our Deacons This Week – Meet Karol Mead

We are continuing our spotlight of DCC's deacons, aka the Diaconate. This Week, we spotlight another of our new deacons, **Karol Mead**.

Being something of a late bloomer, I was married and had two young daughters when I had decided to return to college and study nutrition. I grew up in the Pacheco/Pleasant Hill area but moved to Hayward for my first job in 1992 as a registered dietitian, moving back to Concord in 2005. I had been working at John Muir Health-Concord Campus since 1999 and it seemed logical to return to Concord after my marriage ended and it's home now. My daughters are all grown up with families of their own, blessing me with four grandchildren, Emerson, Eliot, Owen and Wade. I retired from the hospital in September 2023, and since then have been busy taking drama and musical theater classes at DVC. I hope to get back to my hobby of soapmaking again and have been working to make my garage into a craft room.

I have been coming to DCC since the fall of 2010 and became a member in March of 2011. I've been drawn to this church and its people from the first time I attended church service. I love all the service opportunities available and have served in the Outreach Commission, served as lead person in Christmas for Others, been a part of the Worship Commission as a member and as commissioner, and am a member of the Anti-Racism Team, and also sing in the Chancel Choir, and am a handbell musician in DCC's Celebration Bells. I am so happy and excited to be asked to join the Diaconate, and I'm looking forward to serving in this capacity.



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](#).



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

Pastor Lauren is available by appointment. You can reach her via email at lauren@danvillechurch.org or phone at 510-684-9183.

Pictures of the Week



Top: Last week, the fence on the north side and part of the west side of the preschool was repaired in a collaborative effort with the medical offices behind our campus. Dayspring students started school this week and were able to reap the benefits of this project.

Bottom: A contingent from DCC took part in the Indivisible Resistors of Contra Costa County protest last Saturday. On Tuesday, the Men's luncheon got to together at the View at Bridges.

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.

Faith & Justice

Building Community with Faith-Rooted Action

A Convening for Advocacy and Systemic Change

Explore the powerful nexus of community-building and spirituality, justice, and systemic change. Join faith leaders, community members, and advocates from diverse faith and moral traditions.

Thursday, Aug 28 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Coffee and a Light Breakfast served at 8:30 AM

At: Mt Diablo UUC, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

Hosted by: East Bay Housing Organizations • Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy • Multi-faith ACTION Coalition

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Important local issues
- Advocacy tools
- Joining Coalitions
- Creating an ACTION plan for your community



SCAN ME

Hosted by:



Questions? Contact

Greg Colley, 925-948-1300

greg@multifaithactioncoalition.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



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