



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 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 Velveteen Rabbit

George Winston

WELCOME

Barb DeBarger

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: Come, each and every one, young and old, tired, scared, or weighed down.

**Many: We rest in the loving hands of God—hands that formed us,
that guide us, that never let us go.**

Those hands are strong like a potter, tender like a child.

One: In joy and in sorrow, in strength and in weakness,
we are welcomed and shaped, loved into all that we can become.

**Many: We gather to worship and give thanks for all in our community
and in our lives who heal and bless us,
who make real for us the compassion and sustaining love of Jesus.**

One: Let us lift our hearts and voices to God who knows us in our deepest places. Let
us welcome the Holy Spirit into this place.

**Many: In gratitude, wonder, and joy, we join to pray, sing, and feast
so that we might work together to create a more just and peaceful world!**

*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

As We Gather At Your Table

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Nancy Halseth

Following the Time With Children,

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

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
 The Sacred Harp, 1844
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Words Copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Company

O God, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O God, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end —I am still with you.

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept.

"Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

Margery Williams, 1881-1944.

SERMON

Loving Hands

Pastor Carol

ANTHEM

A Heartsong Blessing

Joseph M. Martin

*Let our breath be gentle wind.
Let our ears be of those who listen,
Let our hearts be love songs for the earth.
Let all our spirits serve,
bringing hope and peace to all the world.*

*Let our minds be filled with hope.
Let our hands reach out in kindness.
Let our eyes, with interest and respect, seek health and happiness.
Let our souls be filled with wonder.*

*Let us join our hands in this moment.
We are one in heart and voice.
Let us touch the future together.
As we pray and play, as we live each day,
we can change the world with love.*

We can change the world with love.

- Mattie Stepanek

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Carol

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

Bill

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

like a child

Daniel Charles Damon

like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend, Jesus comes
like a child we may find claiming heart soul and mind,
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

like a child we will meet, ragged clothes dirty feet
like a child on the street, Jesus comes
like a child we once knew coming back into view,
like a child born anew, Jesus comes.

like a child born to pray and to show us the way,
like a child on the street, Jesus comes
like a child we receive all the love one can conceive,
like a child we believe, Jesus comes.

*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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Carol

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

Pastor Carol

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Pastor Carol

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor Carol

**All: Holy One, we are grateful that you welcome us so extravagantly,
feed us by your grace, and hold us in your loving hands.
We will carry that grace and tenderness into the world
to bless and welcome all, without exception, continuing the work
of radical love and justice to which we are called by Jesus, our Christ. Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barb

*CLOSING HYMN

She's Got the Whole World In Her Hands

African-American
Spiritual

She's got the whole world in her hands... (x4)

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands... (x4)

She's got the little tiny baby in her hands... (x4)

He's got you and me, brother, in his hands

He's got you and me, sister, in his hands

He's got you and me, sibling, in his hands

He's got the whole world in his hands.

They've got everybody in their hands... (x4)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Carol

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

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TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am–11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
12:00pm	Monthly Lunch Bunch
1:30pm–3:30pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal

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	11:30am	Men's Luncheon
Tuesday	1:00pm–3:00pm	Diaconate Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	2:30pm–3:30pm	CARE Support Group
Friday	5:30pm–8:00pm	TGIF at the McGrath's

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Liturgist: Bill Williams

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: Kris Lewis

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Kim Michaud and Anne Seiler

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Saturday, October 4th at 3:00pm **Celebration of Life for Dick Karns**

In celebration of the life of Dick Karns, Nan and family will hold a service on Saturday, October 4th at 3:00pm. A reception will follow from 4:00-6:00pm pm in Kairos Hall.

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

Join us for lunch after church on today at noon at Bridges in Danville. Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo.



Today from 11:00am–2:00pm **Democracy Action Fair**

Join Commit to Democracy and Indivisible Resisters, Contra Costa, for an in-person Democracy Action Fair today from 11:00am–2:00pm in Alamo. This will be an uplifting event with food and inspiring speakers, including Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Concord Vice Mayor Laura Nakamura. More info [here](#).



Friday, September 12th from 5:30pm–8:00pm **TGIF at the McGrath residence**

All are welcome for this super simple, end-of-week, supper get-together! It's a casual time for people to catch up and connect/reconnect with our DCC Community - singles, old/young, families – wherever you are on your Friday journey into the weekend...

- Hosted by Kyra Kennedy & Pat McGrath – Danville. Full address is in the church directory. Contact [Kyra Kennedy](#) with any questions – 925-577-1403
- Open house from 5:30pm to 8:00pm – Drop by for however long it works for you. Kids are very welcome!
- No RSVP necessary – just bring a pizza or dish you'd like to share, enough that covers your family, plus BYO (wine, beer, soda). We'll have salad and dessert.
- If you can't make this one – the next TGIF will be Friday, October 10th.



New Weekly Spotlight – Meet Our Deacons **This Week – Syd Dent**

We are continuing our spotlight of DCC's deacons, aka the Diaconate. This week, we spotlight, **Syd Dent**.

I grew up in Pasadena, California. I lived a half mile away from the mountains and an hour away from the beach and spent most of my recreational time outdoors hiking or riding the waves. I went to UC Berkeley where I met Leslie in the dormitory. Having graduated from Cal and UNC with degrees in geology and geochemistry and I took that knowledge to become a science teacher to middle school for ten years. From there I went into the technology industry and taught customers how to get the most out of their really expensive software. Both Leslie and I are now retired. I spend my time working in the garden, hiking, cooking, doing photography and, when time allows, traveling near and far.

When I embarked on the teaching journey I was recruited to assist with a church youth group in Livermore. When we switched churches to DCC, Alan Kelchner found out about my teaching and youth background and quickly enlisted me to assist with DCC's youth group. Which I have been assisting since. Over the years, in addition to working with the youth, I have been a moderator, financial secretary, a member of a pastor search committee and I am now currently on the Diaconate. I have appreciated DCC's willingness to hear all voices in difficult times. DCC has helped me understand my faith and place in God's amazing world. And I am grateful and humbled by all that DCC is becoming.

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. via email lauren@danvillechurch.org or 510-684-9183.

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Pastor Carol facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am via Zoom. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. To join use this [link](#).

Pictures of the Week



Scenes from last week's Service as Worship Sunday and Pastor Lauren and Rev. Jim Mitulski at a vigil in front of the ICE Building in San Francisco.

If you'd like to submit a picture to be considered for the pic of the week, email anne-marie@danvillechurch.org.

Interfaith Court Vigils



Creating Sacred Space and Community Welcome

ICE immigration courts have become sites of fear and danger for many immigrants simply trying to access due process.

Join us in creating a sacred corridor of hope, connection, and beloved community—right outside the courtroom doors.

Vigil Days & Locations:

We're beginning with presence at the following ICE courts from now through the end of August:

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
- San Francisco Immigration Courts
- Concord Immigration Court

Sponsors:

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Kehilla Community Synagogue Immigration Committee, Beyt Tikkun, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church Sanctuary Team, Immigration Support Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, Shomeret Shalom and more.

We Offer:

- Presence & spiritual solidarity
- Prayer & Pastoral care
- Art, Music & Witness

Can You Show Up?

Your presence matters!



bit.ly/CourtVigilVolunteer

You are invited to join your voice with others from the East Bay faith community as a peaceful and welcoming presence at the Concord Immigration Court any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday during vigils organized by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Leaders and members of the Contra Costa County and Alameda County faith communities provide leadership and volunteer at these vigils. Morning sessions are from 7:30am–9:30am; afternoons from 11:45am–2:00pm.

See the flier below and [this web page](#) for more info and to join a vigil. Although the posted information mentions vigils only through August, they are, in fact, being scheduled through October. Contact Doug Leich with any questions.

There is free “visitor” parking at the courthouse at 1855 Gateway Blvd. But you may also choose to park in the shopping center lot on Willow Pass Road (near Brazilian Steakhouse and Gratitude Coffee). Cross Willow

Pass Rd and walk towards the large building that houses the courts. You will see a few folks wearing stoles, holding signs, and singing on the “island” on Clayton Road between the parking garage and the building containing the immigration courts.



Join us at the gorgeous Peace Lutheran Church to experience an intimate concert

featuring the Arab jazz funk vibe of [The ShadowBand](#), with Naima Shalhoub (keys and vocals), Aaron Kierbel (percussion), Chris Trinidad (keys) and Tarik "Excentrik" Kazaleh (oud, guitar, strings). **The ShadowBand will take you on a spiritual journey as we raise funds to support Prosthetics for Palestine.**

The war on Gaza has left tens of thousands—especially children—without mobility. Prosthetics for Palestine is a grassroots initiative led by dedicated volunteer community members working alongside [Physicians for Palestine](#). We are committed to addressing the exponentially growing needs of amputees in Gaza and throughout Palestine. We are responding by **delivering cutting-edge, 3D-printed prosthetics** and building permanent clinics and manufacturing labs in the West Bank and in Gaza.

With each limb, we restore dignity, independence, and the chance to live again.

Please join us for a beautiful evening in community with one another.

Every dollar you donate goes directly toward prosthetics, training, and healing.

- General admission tickets: \$40
- Child admission tickets: \$20
- Tickets include concert entry and light refreshments.
- Vendors will include unique Palestinian art, ceramics and textiles.

Purchase Your Tickets Today!

<https://prostheticsforpalestine.betterworld.org/events/shadowband-peace-concert>



Sunday, September 7
Peace Lutheran Church, Danville
Reception: 4:00p
Music 5:00p



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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