



DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 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

Open My Eyes, That I May See

arr. Michael Wilson

WELCOME

Heidi Bridgeman

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: Mystery beyond mysteries, we seek your *guidance*.

Many: We want to *know* your will.

One: Holy of Holies, we ask your *support*.

Many: We want to *do* your will.

One: Divine One, we covet your *presence*.

Many: We want to *bask* in your love.

One: Spirit of the Living God, be with us today and every day.

Many: And help us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

AMEN.

*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

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

448

*Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.**Rom. 12:1*

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith-ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im-pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov-ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell-ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.
Justin H. Knecht, 1797
Alternate tune: HENDON

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

SERMON

Found It!

Rev. Dr. Karen Lebacqz

ANTHEM

The Lost Lamb

Daniel Carter

*If I thy lamb be lost and lonely, shivering, weary -
Wouldst thou come to find me, Lord?
Surely thou wouldst come.*

*If the night be cold and cruel, threatening wind
should hold the way before thee, Lord.
Wouldst thou wait till dawn to search?*

*Though thy search may cold and cruel be,
I know thy lambs are priceless in thy sight.*

*O, my Shepherd, Lord most loving, thou hast found me,
And kept me near to thee.*

*And thou hast whispered that I should find thy lambs who stray.
I must go to find thy lambs who stray.*

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

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

The King of Love, My Shepherd Is

arr. Jason W. Krug

***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

Heidi

***CLOSING HYMN**

Draw the Circle Wide

See pages 7–8.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Karen

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

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RESPOND

123

Draw the Circle Wide

♩ = 132

123 Draw the Circle Wide

Draw the cir- cle— wide. Draw it wid- er still.

5 132

E♭/G A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭/G B♭

E♭/G A♭ B♭ Dm7(5)/A♭ G G/B Cm Fm7 A♭maj7 B♭sus

Let this be our— song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side,

9

Am7(5) B7 E♭ A♭ Fm7 E♭/G Fm7 A♭maj7 E♭ A♭ Fm7 E♭

To verses Last time, Fine

draw the cir- cle— wide. wide.

To verses Last time, Fine

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Verses

14 E^b A^b Fm⁷ B^b E^b Fm⁷

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
 3. Let the dreams we dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

17 Gm⁷ A^bmaj⁷ B^b Cm Fm⁷ B^b Gm⁷ Cm⁷

-a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but held for - ev - er
 great and small; let our lov - ing know no bor - ders,
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of Christ be in us,

20 Fm⁷ Gm⁷ A^bmaj⁷ Fm⁷ A^b/B^b Gm/B^b A^b/B^b D.C.

in God's gra - cious arms.
 faith - ful to God's call.
 o - pen ev - 'ry door.

D.C.

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER



Rev. Dr. Karen Lebacqz taught ethics in the Graduate Theological Union for more than 30 years. Now retired (re-retired = tired all over again, she says!) and living in Sacramento, she is an active member of Parkside United Church of Christ. *Eight Theories of Justice* (co-authored with Matthew Gaudet) was published by Fortress Press in April, and she is working on a book of sermons, but much of her time is now spent with fabric, making 100 pillowcases every month for heart surgery patients at Mercy General Hospital and selling quilts, pot-holders, and other goodies to support charitable causes.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:30am–9:15am | Choir Rehearsal |
| 9:30am–10:30am | Worship (In-person and Zoom) |
| 10:30am–11:00am | Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room |
| 11:15am–12:15pm | Buildings and Grounds Commission Meeting in Spirit Room |
| 11:15am–12:15pm | Community Life Commission Meeting in Music Room |
| 11:15am–12:15pm | Journeys in Faith Commission Meeting in Agape |

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 |
| Wednesday | 10:00am | Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| Wednesday | 7:00pm–8:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday | 2:00pm–3:30pm | Spirited Sisters |

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeters: Allison Sands and Tony Sbrana

Ushers: Judy Halden and Kris Lewis

Liturgist: Matthew Bassett

Fellowship Hosts: Barbara Carillo, Carol Gerich, Kris Lewis, Michele Sbrana, and Tony Sbrana

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Carol and Matthew Bassett

Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Nan Karns and Sereen Mahmood

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

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.

Next Sunday during Worship **Long-Range Planning Task Force – Charge!**

Next Sunday during worship, Pastor Carol will provide a charge to our new LRTF and its members. The group will be doing important work for our church in the upcoming months, and we are excited about the ideas that will be brought forward by the group. Join us in church on September 21st!

Sunday, October 5th at 11:45am **Visitor Luncheon**

Curious about joining the DCC family? If so, a time of fellowship for potential new members is planned for Sunday, October 5th at 11:45am. 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.



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](#).



Next Sunday at 3:30pm
Rev. Melissa Tumaneng Installation

On Sunday, September 21st at 3:30pm, DCC will host a service of installation for our very own Rev. Melissa Tumaneng as NCNC Associate Conference Minister for Pastoral Care & Churches in Transition! The service will be followed by a reception. This is a great event and we expect many guests from other churches and our Conference staff. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend - more details to follow!



New Weekly Spotlight – Meet Our Deacons
This Week – Wilson Jackson

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

I was born in the cellar and never brought up... I grew up in northeastern Vermont. I went to public schools in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and then moved to Burlington, Vermont, to spend 10 years studying and teaching at the University of Vermont, where I was recruited by a headhunter in 1984 to work for Gulf Oil Corporation in Houston, Texas.

I joined San Ramon Valley Congregational Church, UCC, in March 1985, shortly after moving to the area from Houston. I immediately joined the choir in our original building and even substituted occasionally for the choir director/organist on the mighty Hammond organ we had at that time. Luckily, I was on the team that selected and designed the new organ for our new sanctuary.

I did Information Technology project work for the company later known as Chevron, and, after a few years, was sent to Kingwood, TX, to build information systems for them. After Chevron's acquisition of Texaco, I was re-assigned to San Ramon to support the new CIO of Chevron in his endeavors.

I re-joined Danville Congregational Church in early 2002 and spent many years in the choir, on the Worship Commission, the Membership Commission, chaired the Circles, HR, and Admin committees, participated on a Pastoral Selection Committee, and even had a chance to play the new organ many times substituting for our music director.

I organized the weekly after church lunch bunch ministry in 2002 - a chance for widows, widowers, singles, etc., to get out and have fellowship with some of their fellow DCC folks at a local restaurant. For those who didn't get out much during the week, it was a real treat for them to dine out and enjoy having conversations.

Lately I have joined the Diaconate and continued on the Worship Commission and, hopefully, will join the new Membership and Media Commission when it is formed. My role on the Diaconate, as it has been since being on the Membership Commission, is to keep track of our fellow congregants and help watch for and welcome new potential members.



Sunday, October 5th
Neighbors in Need Offering

It is easy to think of ministry as a fractured enterprise, where every church is isolated on its own. Yet through the Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, we are stronger together. The [Neighbors in Need](#) offering, which we will receive on October 5th, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Love of Church Unit to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through the national Love of Church Unit, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfytatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues.

Working with members of the [UCC Justice and Peace Action Network](#) (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), the Love of Church Unit continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

With your assistance, we together can help our neighbors in need. Please give generously. Use a Neighbors in Need offering envelope or write Neighbors in Need on your check to DCC. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at any time through the [DCC Donations page](#) by selecting *Neighbors in Need Offering*, or text give to 855-940-3756 and select *Neighbors in Need Offering*.

Blessings,
Outreach Commission

Pictures of the Week



Scenes from Visions of Hope's Put the Guns Down Event.
Thanks to everyone at DCC who contributed to this event.

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

INTERFAITH COURT VIGILS AT ICE



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/CourtVigiVolunteer

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.

Ministers—The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Lauren Jewett, Minister of Youth & Community Engagement

The Rev. Carol Barriger, Sabbatical Support Minister

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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