



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*September 21, 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

*God's Great Family*

David M. Combs

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

Nicole Noga

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

One: We gather as God's beloved children –

**All: However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.**

One: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

**All: So this becomes a place where all are welcome.**

One: We come together to hear your call for us.

**All: So that we can know what to hold onto and what to let go of.**

One: We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with other –

**All: It is powerful for us to be in community together. Let us worship God.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Nicole

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 Us Build A House*

See pages 4–5.

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.*

## All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7)

C7

(D)

F

(A)

C

(D)

F

(G)

B<sup>b</sup>

(A)

C

(Bm)

Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell  
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek

wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as

and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as

strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

TWO OAKS

9.6.8.7.10 with refrain

1994

GIA Publications, Inc.

## THE CHURCH

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)  
F B<sup>b</sup> A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
all are wel - come;  
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:  
(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)  
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B<sup>b</sup> F C7

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Isaiah 29:9-13](#)

Nicole

Be astounded and stunned;  
blind yourselves and be blind!  
Be drunk but not from wine;  
stagger but not from strong drink!  
For God has poured out upon you  
a spirit of deep sleep;  
God has closed your eyes (the prophets)  
and covered your heads (the seers).

The vision of all this has become for you like the words of a sealed document. If it is given to those who can read with the command, "Read this," they say, "We cannot, for it is sealed." And if it is given to those who cannot read, saying, "Read this," they say, "We cannot read."

God said:  
Because these people draw near with their mouths  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me  
and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote.

Breathe with unconditional breath  
the unconditioned air.  
Shun electric wire.  
Communicate slowly.  
Live a three-dimensioned life;  
stay away from screens.  
Stay away from anything  
That obscures the place it is in.  
There are no unsacred places;  
there are only sacred places  
and desecrated places.

SERMON

*Where have all the young people gone?*

Pastor Lauren

ANTHEM

*For All the Children*

David Lohman

*God, we gather as your people to raise our song above,  
and we dare to claim the promise of Your love.  
Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be  
when your children will be free.*

**CHORUS:**

*Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the Church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for everyone inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.  
May that welcome be our song.*

*Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free;  
and we sing for generations yet to be,  
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blessed.  
May they, in your love, find rest. (Chorus)*

*Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame,  
so afraid of who they are and whom they love.  
May the message now be banished that Your love is for the few;  
may their faith in You renew. (Chorus)*

*God, we're working for the future when children far and wide  
can live their lives with dignity and pride.  
As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,  
as against all hate we stand. (Chorus)*

## TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Carol Barriger

Sharing our Joys and Concerns, & a Godspeed Blessing for Carol Gerich

**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

Nicole

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

*We Are the Church Alive*

\*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 Carol

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING TASK FORCE BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING

Pastor Carol

Pastor: Paul reminds us that among us there are many and differing gifts, and among you, the one Holy Spirit is manifest in all the ways needed to make our community stronger and richer by your work together.

**All: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Pastor: Those of you who have been called, and accepted the invitation, to serve as the Danville Congregational Church long-range planning task force, we ask you: Are you individually persuaded that God has called you to this ministry? If so, please respond, "I am."

**Task force: I am.**

Pastor: Will you promise to work together faithfully and in harmony for the benefit of this community that we love? If so, please respond, "We will."

**Task force: We will.**

Pastor: I invite all here in person and online, to extend a hand in blessing toward these beloved as we pray:

*Holy God, who gathered us as one church, we thank you for those who over the years have given their time and energy to lead and to tend to it, always carrying it forward in its ministry. Now we thank you especially for these folk of Danville Congregational Church whom we commission in your name for the ministry of long-range planning. Guide, inspire and empower them. Give them open hearts, listening ears, and bold ideas. Keep them faithful to your call for love and justice, and may Jesus, their brother and teacher, be present in all their work as they imagine and bring forward our future together. And let the people say, Amen.*

**All: Amen!**

#### Long-Range Planning Task Force Members

Anne Bremirez

Nicole Noga

Barb DeBarger

Kyra Kennedy

Sabrina Jackson-Kimball

Reuben Shank

Pastor Lauren Jewett

Jim Stickler

Trish Moosbrugger

\*CLOSING HYMN

*These Treasured Children*

See next page.

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Lauren

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

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## These Treasured Children 487

1 Our youth who gath - er with us now are bound to  
 2 Our an - cient sto - ry we shall tell, till these our  
 3 We long to trust as chil - dren do and so en -  
 4 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, help us be a nur - tur -  
 5 Then, ten - der God, our youth em - brace; God give them

us bv sa - cred vow: with love, we make a  
 young peo - ple know it well with - in their souls and  
 trust our days to you; in their young lives we  
 ing com - mu - ni - ty; em - pow - er us to  
 bless - ings, grant them grace. Sur - prise them, God, with

heart - felt claim to wel - come them in Je - sus' name.  
 minds and hearts, for this is where their jour - ney starts.  
 clear - ly see a les - son in hu - mil - i - ty.  
 re - a - lize God's king - dom through our chil - dren's eyes.  
 won - ders still, and gent - ly guide them to your will.

This text emphasizes the covenantal dimensions of baptism, most obvious in the baptism of children (though also present in the baptism of adults), including the worshiping community's commitment to acquaint children with salvation history and to learn from their humble trust.

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
 LM  
 (alternate harmonization, 67)

CCLI# 1296903

TEXT: Jacque B. Jones, 2009  
 MUSIC: Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609  
 Text © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc.

## 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
11:00am–1:00pm	Youth Group
11:15am–12:15pm	Anti-Racism Team Workshop in Kairos
1:00pm–3:00pm	Celebration Bells Rehearsal
3:30pm	Rev. Melissa Tumaneng's Installation

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>	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00pm–8:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeters: Dianne Dorn and Anne Seiler

Ushers: Joy Davis, Nancy Halseth, and Richard Stein

Liturgist: Nicole Noga

Fellowship Hosts: Eileen Ackley and Grace Johnson

Flowers: Grace Johnson

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Minister: Amy Furber-Dobson

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

### **Children's Ministers**

Godly Play: Trish Moosbrugger and Nan Karns

### **Youth Ministers**

Youth Group: Pastor Lauren

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

# 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.



## **Children - Join us for Godly Play today**

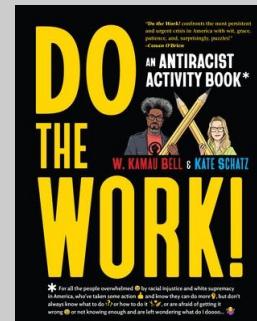
After a wonderful summer and time to settle back into school, we're excited to welcome children back to Godly Play! This fall we're focusing our stories on inspiring people from the Bible.

This Sunday, children are invited to join Trish and Nan in our new Godly Play classroom to hear the story of Joseph. Trish will guide us through this powerful story that reminds us God is with us even in our darkest moments and that each of us has unique gifts to share with the world. Nan will serve as our welcoming doorperson, ready to greet everyone with a smile. We can't wait to see you all!

## *Final Workshop today at 11:15am* **Anti Racism Summer Workshop**

Join Barb DeBarger, Bette Felton and Doug Leich during second hour on 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.

Any questions? Ask Barb, Doug or Bette. We hope to see you there!



## *Today at 3:30pm* **Rev. Melissa Tumaneng Installation**

Today 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.

**Next Sunday at 10:00am  
Special Joint Worship Service with  
Visions of Hope**

Next Sunday, September 28th, DCC will be participating in a joint worship service with Visions of Hope.

**We will NOT be holding worship in our DCC Sanctuary on September 28th.**

See the flyer for more details and plan to join us there.



**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](mailto:joyce.klassen@comcast.net).



**New Weekly Spotlight – Meet Our Deacons  
This Week – Donna Lenhardt**

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

"Home" will always be Buffalo, New York. It is where I was born, graduated college and met and married my husband, Don. Shortly thereafter, Don was offered a job out of state and after numerous moves across country our family of four made its way to California. It is here we raised Ryan and

Kristin and became members of DCC in 1985.

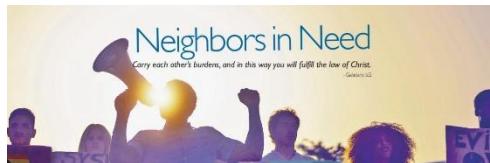
The "Home" of my heart, however, continues to be Danville Congregational Church. It continues to fill my desire for community, gives me a sense of purpose, provides a moral compass, a place to grow my faith and when I need it most a soft place to land after losing Don. For these reasons and those too numerous to mention, I have discovered a commitment to my faith and a purpose and meaning to my life.



## *Sunday, October 5th after worship* **Anti-Racism Field Trip Opportunity**

Join the Anti-Racism Team as we trek to Coyote Hills Park in Fremont to the annual Gathering of the Ohlone Peoples on Sunday, October 5th. We'll leave after the church service, around 11:15 after the coffee hour. Experience cultural activities and songs, indigenous food, and more! If you are interested in attending and/or carpooling, please let Barb DeBarger or Doug Leich know. Learn more using the link below.

<https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/ebparks/activity/search/detail/56699>



## *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. 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).

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



## DCC Endowment Looks to Put Funds to Work

If you have an idea for a program or activity that you'd like to see at DCC, the DCC Endowment Fund could be a source of funding to make it happen. This fund supplements our operating budget and can be used to support church activities that range from youth group and music programs to capital improvements.

All you need to do is fill out the [Endowment Fund Request for Program Support](#) and send your idea or proposal to the DCC mailbox ([office@danvillechurch.org](mailto:office@danvillechurch.org)) or to DCC Endowment Committee Chair Pat McGrath at [Pat504mcgrath@gmail.com](mailto:Pat504mcgrath@gmail.com). The DCC Endowment Fund committee will evaluate your request and make a decision based upon its value to our church community. So, send along an idea today!

**Please submit your proposal no later than November 24, 2025 for consideration.**

Interested in ensuring that more funds are available for church programs in the future? There's no better way than considering a contribution to the fund before year end or making DCC Endowment part of your estate plan.

Here are some contribution options you might consider:

- Charitable gift through a retirement plan (such as an IRA or 401-k).
- Charitable gift of stocks and securities outside of a retirement plan, to potentially reduce income, capital gains and estate taxes.
- Name DCC as the beneficiary of your will and/or trust

There are potential tax consequences with these options along with having an impact on your finances, so make sure you discuss these options with your tax advisor.

To learn more about the DCC Endowment Fund and how you can support it, reach out to Pat McGrath or committee members Joy Davis, Syd Dent, Carol Gerich, Bette Felton.

## CARE Support Group New Meeting Schedule

The CARE Support Group (C-Compassionate, A-Acceptance, R-Resilience, E-Encouragement) will now meet the SECOND Wednesday of the month in the music room from 2:30pm-3:30pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 8th.

## 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](#).

## Picture of the Week



Linda Elsdon and Kyra Kennedy attended the Indivisible protest outside of the immigration court last Saturday.

*If you'd like to submit a picture to be considered for the pic of the week, email [anne-marie@danvillechurch.org](mailto:anne-marie@danvillechurch.org).*

***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](http://www.dayspringpreschool.org)**



**Danville Congregational Church**

*United Church of Christ*

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