



# DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*October 12, 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

*Come Let Us All Unite To Sing*

Carla Klassen

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

Sandra Lepley

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

One: A word of encouragement came from the prophet  
to God's People in their exile;

**All: Live a life that is full – build, plant, eat, love, create--**

One: Pray for your communities

**All: And Seek the Peace of the city where you dwell**

One: Keep God in the center of all that is.

**All: We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts**

One: For something happens here

**All: that reminds us that we can live as God desires**

One: no longer foreigners and strangers to each other

**All: but together as God's people, members of God's family.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sandra

One: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

\*OPENING HYMN

*O For A World*

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Reuben Shank

*Following the Time With Children,*

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

# O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32–35; 1 Cor. 1:26–31; 1 Pet. 3:8–12

1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spect's each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Tune: AZMON C.M.  
Carl G. Glaser, 1828  
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues"  
and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this  
hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian  
Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted  
and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Jeremiah 29:1,4-7](#)

Bill Williams

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Find spouses and have sons and daughters; support your sons in finding spouses, and your daughters in caring marriages; celebrate your grandchildren and great-grandchildren; be creative, productive and multiply. Do not decrease or make yourself small. But seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

Christ put an end to the hostility between us. He came and announced the Good News of 'Peace to you who were far away, and Peace to those who were near'. Indeed, through him, we are brought close in one spirit to our living God. So then, even though Christ's Kingdom is not of this world, you are no longer strangers and aliens to each other, but you are bound together politically as God's holy people --citizens of Christ's city coming through you into this world--and members of God's household.

SERMON

*Seek the Peace of the City Where You Dwell*

Reuben

ANTHEM

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Allen Pote

*Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice  
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.*

*O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.  
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.*

*O, God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.*

*Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.  
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.*

*O, God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.*

*Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul  
into the beauty of a rainbow.  
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.*

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

Sandra

### 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

Unity

Craig Urquhart

### \*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

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*Once We Were Not a People*

Once we were not a people, God's people now are we,  
a diverse, Rainbow people, a new community.  
We once feared condemnation on earth and from above,  
until God's grace and mercy showed us the way of love.

We are a holy nation, empower'd and called by God  
as prophets, teachers, healers, to spread good news abroad.  
To live and work together God called us from the night  
of gloom and isolation into a wondrous light.

We are a pilgrim people, of every class and race,  
from many sects and cultures, now gathered in one place.  
We challenge one another to bend and grow, and be  
a church where all God's children can find a family.

Once we were not a people, God's people now are we,  
a proud determined people, still striving to be free;  
a gentle, loving people with justice as our aim;  
a diverse, Rainbow people united in Christ's name.

### \*BENEDICTION

Reuben

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

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## TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER



**Reuben Shank** (he/him) grew up in Brussels, Belgium in a minority Christian community with parents and mentors working at the intersections of peacebuilding, social justice, and the arts. For 25 years, he has been engaged in collaborative learning and strategic projects at the grassroots in South America, West Africa, and the US; in academic centers in the US and the UK; and in multi-sector national and international change-making organizations. In these projects, he invites all to courageously lean into our sometimes-difficult differences, tend to our healing, and gently generate new powerful possibilities for ourselves, our communities, and our world. When not on zoom or traveling, he loves the silence of wide-open spaces as much as of the inner soul and renews himself by playing with his human and canine friends in high mountains, deep snow, and warm waters.

## 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
1:00pm–3:00pm	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.

**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>Monday</b>	7:00pm	Journeys in Faith Commission Meeting via Zoom
<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
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00pm–8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	2:00pm–3:30pm	Spirited Sisters
<b>Friday–Sunday</b>		All-Church Family Camp

## TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 3**. Next Week's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

Greeters: Linda Elsdon and Carol Gilliland

Ushers: Ron Elsdon, Bob Kovach, and Judy Schreib

Candlelighters: Carol Gilliland and Judy Schreib

Liturgists: Sandra Lepley, and Bill Williams

Fellowship Hosts: Janis Jang, Randy Jang, and Trish Moosbrugger

Flowers: Bill Williams

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Minister: John Klassen

Lock Up Duty: Carol and Matthew Bassett

### Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Kim Michaud and Anne Seiler

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Children - Join us for Godly Play today

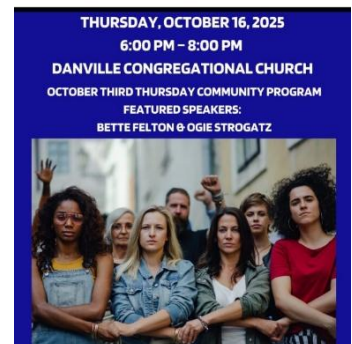
Children are invited to Godly Play this Sunday to hear Storyteller Kim share the beautiful story of Ruth. Doorperson Anne will welcome everyone as we explore this story of loyalty, kindness, and God's faithful love. All children are welcome for this time of listening and wondering

together, plus art and snack!

### *Thursday, October 16th from 6:00pm–8:00pm* **Civic Engagement Check-In Event at DCC**

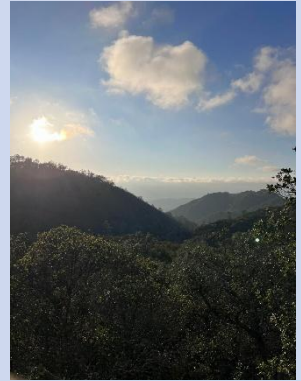
Join the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW for a dynamic conversation on how to use your voice in public policy today. Ogie Strogatz and DCC's own Bette Felton will lead the lively discussion as we explore local action opportunities and non-partisan protests for democracy, rooted in AAUW California's four Public Policy Priorities: Economic Security for All Women, Equal Access to Quality Education for All Students, Social and Racial Justice for All, and Increased Representation of Women in Leadership Roles. We'll discuss opportunities for local action on these priorities as well as non-partisan protests for democracy. Leave inspired with a renewed sense of urgency to help heal and strengthen our democracy. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. [Click here to RSVP](#)

### **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CHECK-IN: WHAT CAN I DO?**





*Sunday, October 19th at 10:00am*  
**DCC All-Church Camp Sunday Service**



I wonder...

When was the last time you witnessed the beauty of God's creation from atop a mountain? When was the last time you gathered with others to welcome a new day while singing praises for all you've received from a mountain top?

For me, it's been too many years since attending a youth summer camp or enjoying a camping trip along the Colorado River with family.

If that is your story as well, here's a classic opportunity to right that wrong. Please join your DCC Family on Mt Diablo **Sunday, October 19th at 10:00am** for a wonderful family service. John Kendall-Bailey and the Choir will be there, Pastor Lauren will be there, your friends will be there, including those who have been camping out since Friday. There will be sightings of God's Forest creatures and maybe a spontaneous chorus of "The Hills Are Alive With The Sound of Music"

You are also invited to arrive early to join others for breakfast and are asked to register using the following link ([DCC All-Church Camp 2025](#)) so that our hosts can plan for ample food. You do not need to register to join the church service itself.

Details:

Service starts at 10:00am

Parking is available and carpooling is strongly encouraged

From the park website, it looks like there may be parking and a paved pathway, however, we cannot guarantee what accessibility in the area will be. We will update if we get more information.

This is our service for October 19th, so there will not be services at DCC. Due to connectivity issues, there will not be a zoom link to the Mt Diablo event. If you are unable to attend the Mt Diablo service, you are encouraged to attend the Parkside UCC zoom service which starts at 10:30am. Pastor Lauren has let them know they just might have visitors. Click the [Parkside Community Church](#) link to access their Zoom.

Here's to experiencing worship beyond our physical walls.

Warmly,  
Heidi Bridgeman  
Co-Moderator



*Friday, October 17–Sunday, October 19th*  
**DCC All-Church Camp**

Come join your fellow DCC members for All-Church Camp on Mt. Diablo this weekend. Join us for the whole time, part of the time, or from 12:00-4:00pm on Saturday for lunch and a hike. The camp will culminate with our Worship Service on Mt. Diablo on Sunday. Please fill out the Google Form by tomorrow.

<https://forms.gle/XNFRjkSkFNx2m4c6>



*Saturday, October 18th from 11:30am–1:00pm*

### **Invitation for Action Against Injustice**

The Anti-Racism team is inviting all DCC members to participate in a day of action to protest injustice, along with the Indivisible Resisters of Contra Costa County on Saturday, October 18th from 11:30am–1:00pm for the NO KINGS DAY NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION in Broadway Plaza Walnut Creek. Rally with speakers and their famous parody entertainment, then march through Broadway Plaza street to Main St. and Mt. Diablo Blvd. for Honk & Wave. For more details, map and to sign up click [HERE](#). If you'd like to carpool from DCC, please talk with Barb DeBarger or Linda Elsdon.

*Sunday, October 19th at 11:15 am*

### **Journeys in Faith Second Hour–Graceful Merit**



Equality of opportunity guarantees a just society. Or does it? How do grace and faith inform our thinking about merit and a just society? In this session we will explore these questions and how they relate to meaningful work. This will build on the book "The Tyranny of Merit" by Michael Sandel. Ron Elsdon will facilitate this session. Ron is the author or editor of several books, one of which is about business social responsibility.

## **JOURNEYS IN FAITH SECOND HOUR PROGRAMS THIS FALL**

**OCTOBER 19: GRACEFUL MERIT -RON ELSDON**

**NOVEMBER 16: LEADERSHIP IN APOCALYPTIC TIMES -  
DR. DAVID VASQUEZ-LEVY**



*Sunday, November 2nd from 4:00pm–6:00pm*

### **The Flourish Collective presents**

### **Faith in Action: An Afternoon with Dominique Gilliard**

Join The Flourish Collective Sunday, November 2nd from 4:00pm–6:00pm at Oakland City Church for a transformative conversation about living out justice-centered faith in challenging times. Theologian, author, and civil rights leader Dominique DuBois Gilliard will share practical wisdom on sustaining hope and community engagement, followed by interactive Q&A and small group connections. Bay Area faith communities are invited to stand together for hope,

liberation, and solidarity. Light refreshments at 3:30 PM. Bring a friend!

For more details: [theflourishcollective.org/events/faith-justice-conversation-with-dominique-gilliard](https://theflourishcollective.org/events/faith-justice-conversation-with-dominique-gilliard)



## Monday, October 27th from 5:00pm–6:30pm Dayspring Preschool Annual Trunk or Treat Needs YOU

The Dayspring Preschool Trunk or Treat event is a fun way for DCC members to participate in the life of our campus preschool! The fun is set for Monday, October 27th, from 5:00pm–6:30pm. You can sponsor a decorated car trunk and give out treats to the kids, or you can donate items or help at their Halloween carnival that happens at the same time inside Kairos Hall! Click on the link to participate! [Trunk or Treat Sign Up](#)

## 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](#).

## 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.



## 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 office ([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 decide 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.**

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, or Bette Felton.

***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***

**989 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, Danville, CA 94526-4020**

**Phone: (925) 837-6944**

**[www.danvillechurch.org](http://www.danvillechurch.org)**

