



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Far More Abundantly by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

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 guest? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church!

We are glad you have joined us today. We would love to share with you what is happening here. Please leave your information – name, email/phone in the Blue Pew Pad that is passed around early in the service. 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 Welcome Commissioner. We look forward to connecting with 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



Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE *Finding Hope* Faith Angelina

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Diane Stein

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 Diane

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

One: If you need good news,

All: settle into this space. We have good news to share.

One: If you need a word of hope,

All: then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.

One: If you need a glimmer of joy,

All: then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.

One: If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

All: then know that this is God's house.

One: This is the good news of the gospel.

All: God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us worship our with-us God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Diane

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN *Human Minds Just Can't Imagine* See next page.

CALL TO CONFESSION Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

Human Minds Just Can't Imagine

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Joseph Haydn (1797)



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring
God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts
Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven
too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to
-ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,
an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents
fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low
will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -
each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world
-er in the work you've gi - ven us to do
pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed.
The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope.
With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that.
We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.
We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.
We forget that you are always with us.
Forgive our small-minded ways.
Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.
But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor Lauren

One: Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

**All: today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven.
We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news. Amen!**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Pastor Lauren

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Mark 6:32–44](#)

Matthew Bassett

And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Now to [The Holy One] who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON

The Good News is... together, the impossible is possible

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

*Beautiful City
From Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

*Out of the ruins and rubble, out of the smoke
Out of our night of struggle, can we see a ray of hope?
One pale, thin ray, reaching for the day*

Chorus:

*We can build a beautiful city - Yes, we can, yes, we can
We can build a beautiful city. Not a city of angels -
But we can build a city for all.*

*We may not reach the ending, but we can start
Slowly but truly mending, brick by brick, heart by heart
Now, maybe now, we start learning how (Chorus)*

*When your trust is all but shattered
When your faith is all but killed
You can give up bitter and battered
Or you can slowly start to build –*

*A beautiful city - Yes, we can, yes, we can
We can build a beautiful city. Not a city of angels -
But finally a city for all.*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Lauren

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, using the QR Code on the back cover.

Offertory

Loaves and Fishes

Kevin G. Pace

*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

WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Todd

*CLOSING HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This
Sandra Lepley, piano

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

Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-717493. All rights reserved

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small or glob - al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur - round each per - son's sor - row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar - ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom - en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal - lenge, said with care,
 Make us part - ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

WORSHIP NOTES



Far More Abundantly by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman Inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21 |
Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper, with gold leaf detail

I read this Ephesians text alongside the feeding of the five thousand. I placed Jesus at the center of the image, but he did not feed the crowds alone. He asked his disciples to offer what they had. They responded with meager resources, yet those small gifts were enough.

Through the lens of Ephesians, if Jesus were to ask us today what we have to give, our answer would be: We have the power you have given us to do the impossible. The same power that turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for thousands— with leftovers—empowers us “to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine.”

Do we allow this truth to settle into our bones and animate our actions? I’ll admit, I tried to avoid this passage because it felt overly optimistic in light of today’s world. People still go hungry. Wars rage. The earth groans under our misuse. Yet if we reimagine the systems we created, studies show it is possible for every human being to have what they need. That would require massive restructuring, international cooperation, and the reallocation of resources—but not more than we already possess. We don’t need a miracle of multiplication. We simply need to use what we’ve been given.

In a world convinced of scarcity, this is astonishingly good news. We already have enough. And as my mentor used to say, “Enough is abundance.” What will we do with this abundance? Is it too lofty to dream of a world that sustains all of life? Perhaps. Yet I believe it is God’s own desire that all may have life, and have it abundantly. This is the work before us, accomplished through the power at work within us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman (she/her) is an artist, graphic designer, and theologian. She uses paint, metallic inks, linoleum carving tools, and her trusty Apple pencil to image the layered complexity she experiences in scripture texts. Visual exploration offers her a holy space to ask questions, find her voice, take risks, and make bold statements.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

8:30am–9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
9:30am–10:45am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:45am–11:15am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia
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
11:15am–12:15pm	Outreach Commission Meeting in Sanctuary
11:15am–12:15pm	Tenant Relations Committee Meeting in DCC Office
1:00pm–3:00pm	Youth Group
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

Tuesday	9:00am	Men's Coffee and Donuts
Tuesday	1:00pm–3:00pm	Diaconate Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	1:00pm	Pastor Bible Study
Wednesday	2:30pm–3:30pm	CARE Support Group
Thursday	10:00am–noon	OWL Adults

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**. Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 6**.

Greeters: Carol Bassett and Joyce Klassen and

Ushers: Judy Halden, Michiyo Laing, and Kris Lewis

Candlelighters: Sophia Morris and Sienna Morris

Liturgists: Matthew Bassett and Diane Stein

Flowers: Kim Michaud

Fellowship Hosts: Carol Bassett, Barbara Carrillo, Michiyo Laing, and Alison Morris

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Ministers: Eileen Ackley and Carol Bassett

Lock Up Duty: Carol Bassett and Matthew Bassett

Godly Play: Kim Michaud

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come Join Godly Play Today!

Join us in Godly Play for the season of Lent. We will journey through Jesus' life and the children will help us tell the story. Today, we remember when Jesus was baptized by his cousin John. All children are welcome!

Care Packages for College Students

The DCC Diaconate is continuing in the "tried and true" tradition of sending care packages to our college students. This year is no exception. Spring gift boxes will include snacks, notes from the congregation, and the always popular Starbucks cards. Won't you take the time to write a quick "hi," make a much-appreciated donation, or both after church? Look for Chris Sonnemann and Donna Lenhardt in Koinonia Hall after the service. Thank you.



Today from 11:15am–12:15pm
Commission/Committee Meetings

Today is Commission Sunday and the following groups will be meeting.

- Buildings and Grounds in the Spirit Room
- Community Life in the Music Room
- Journeys in Faith in Agape
- Outreach in the Sanctuary
- Tenant Relations in the DCC Office

Easter Flower Donations

The season of Lent has begun, and the Worship Commission extends the opportunity for you to honor or commemorate the memory of someone by donating Easter flowers to fill our sanctuary.

To make a donation, fill out [this form online](#) and print. Take the completed form along with your check (made payable to Danville Congregational Church) or money and do one of the following:

- Give it directly to **Carol Bassett**.
- Place it in the offering plate.
- Drop it by or mail it to the church office.

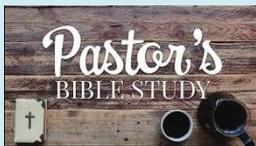
You can also make your donation and designation using our web site. Please enter amount in “Easter Flowers” and specify In Honor or Memory of _____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don’t receive an email within the week, contact [Carol](#). Please note on your check it is for “Easter Flowers”.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carol. Thank you!

Wednesday Morning Prayer

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



Pastor's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 1:00pm

You are invited to join Pastor Todd from his office each Wednesday at 1:00pm—in person or via [Zoom](#). During January, we will focus on the topic of migration. Meeting ID 885 6171 8426 and password 783855.

Saturday, March 14th at 1:00pm
Visions of Hope—Homeless Outreach Event!

Our partner congregation, Visions of Hope, is holding an outreach event for unhoused people in Oakland on March 14th, beginning at 1:00pm on MLK Drive near the 27th St. Exit. They are creating 100 “blessing bags” for distribution, including snacks and toiletries. They are also collecting clean and useable clothing and shoes for adults, which they will distribute at the same time. If you are able to assist with this project, either by donating supplies/clothing and/or by helping distribute the bags, please sign up on the clipboard after church, or send an email to Barb DeBarger, bdebarger@gmail.com. Here are the specific items needed—please bring items to the church office or to Koinonia during coffee hour by March 7th:

- Donations of adult-sized clothing and shoes (used okay, but clean and good condition)
- Donations of suitable food-- crackers, canned meat/sausages, snacks, small juice boxes and small bottled water—items able to fit into gallon Ziploc bags
- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- \$\$ to pay for a U-Haul van to transport items to the park and for lunch (collection envelope at church or give online to DCC's Visions of Hope Sponsorship Fund <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCT3/campaign/C-15G87>.)
- Distribution volunteers—we will organize a carpool from DCC for those interested in helping at the event and also announce parking arrangements soon.

Pictures of the Week



Pastor Todd, Miguel, & Joe-Joe enjoyed visiting and sharing communion with Dave & Nancy Hill and Pastor Lauren presided over worship sharing how the Good News is...great love for God and neighbor.

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.

ETHNIC STORYTELLING

Everyone has a story...

A DCC Anti-Racism Spring Workshop

Beginning March 15th

All-Church Spring Workshop Series –Ethnic Storytelling

For many years, now, DCC has demonstrated a sincere commitment to justice, racial equity, and faithful public witness. We all are now witnessing the level of racism in society that is happening on a daily basis that is causing many of us to question our stories of what is real and true and long for

practices that are spiritually grounding, relationally meaningful, and sustainable.

To revitalize and extend our commitment to Anti-Racism, DCC is offering a new workshop series—*Ethnic Storytelling*—that offers a refreshing entry point into this work. Rather than beginning with what people should “do” or should “know,” this process—facilitated by DCC friend **the Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson**—begins with who we already are: our families, migration stories, losses, values, faith traditions, and survival stories.

Workshops will be held on the following Sundays during Second Hour (lunch will be provided):

March 15, March 22, March 29, April 12, April 26

For white Christians, this deep work is especially valuable. Whiteness often goes unnamed and unexamined, leaving justice work feeling external, intellectual, or burdensome. Naming one’s own ethnic story restores particularity, responsibility, and agency—without centering guilt or defensiveness. By connecting this way with ourselves and others, we can more readily see and identify areas of need and attention in our own world experience.

This process is designed to help us:

- Re-ground justice commitments in faith, relationship, and story
- Reduce burnout by shifting from performative antiracism to formative practices
- Build the spiritual and relational capacity needed for long-term justice engagement

Sign-ups will be held during coffee time in February/March and online.

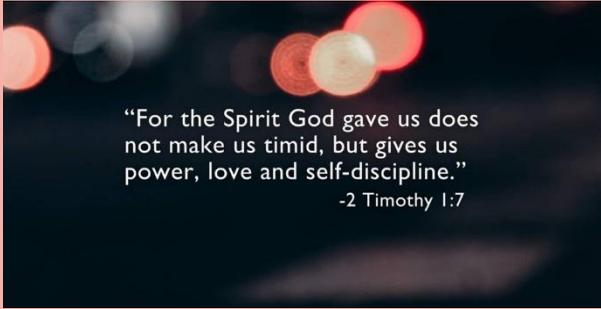
Participation in each session is suggested but all are welcome no matter how many sessions they can attend. Visitors, friends, and neighbors are always welcome!

For more information, reach out to [Barb DeBarger](#) or [Pastor Todd](#).

Pastoral Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. If you would like to meet with Pastor Todd, please reach out to him directly via phone or [email](#).

Pastor Lauren is available by appointment. You can reach her via [email](#) or phone.



**UCC Statement on Iran from
the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson,
General Minister & President**

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

-2 Timothy 1:7

Hegemonic power is on full display in our world. Authoritarianism is on the rise along with a collective amnesia as leaders of nations lurch down paths of violence and war that have been traveled before with consequences of death, trauma, and hatred against neighbors.

Absent in these days are higher virtues, holy virtues of love and restraint, and the sacredness of the power of the Holy Spirit to act in love and kindness as we seek justice for all. Instead, power which is flexed is the unholy trinity of deceit, domination, and destruction.

The bombing of Iran by the United States and Israel, with diplomatic talks ongoing and progressing toward the stated aims, is the epitome of this evil and is strongly condemned.

The United Church of Christ calls on the United States and the Israeli governments to bring to an end the dropping of bombs which is killing children and innocent persons.

We call on Christians to act from the power of God with courage and a love that rejects fear of the powers and principalities of our day that would have us cower to hegemonic power.

We call for an end to the abuse of government might that is poured out on people who are not the ones making decisions yet bear the brunt of the ensuing violence, casualties of actions they do not support.

We urge people of faith to call on leaders to return to diplomatic efforts and to reject war as a tool for peace.

We pray for a lasting peace, a deep peace which is more than the end to violence and brings about a just world with flourishing for all, remembering also in our prayers other parts of the world where wars and civil unrest persist.

Giver of life, how you must grieve at the callous infliction of death and destruction, the easiness with which people choose the path of violence when you have shown us a better way through your love for all humankind. We remember the words of the prophet Jeremiah, who said, “They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace. They acted shamefully; they committed abomination, yet they were not ashamed; they did not know how to blush.” In these moments, we cry out for peace, while leaders who do not know how to blush choose bluster, bombast, and bombs.

We pray for your intervention and a settling of your Spirit on the hearts of those which are now set on the path of domination: turn them back to the path of life. We pray for your intervention in the midst of our fear, that we persist in your truth with courage as we seek peace and justice for all. Protect those who are now in harm’s way and send your healing spirit to each one afflicted by acts of violence. Show us a way where there appears to be no way, a peace where there is now no peace, a path to restoration of community and a just and lasting peace. Amen



Easter Flower Donations

Donations are now being collected for our Easter Flowers. Fill out this form and give your check/money to **Carol Bassett**, place it in the offering plate, or deliver it to the office.

Name(s) gift given by

Name (Circle One) in honor of / in memory of

You may also donate online on the church website: please enter amount in "Easter Flowers" and specify In Honor or Memory of ____ in comment field.

An email will be sent to you to verify that we received your donation. If you don't receive an email within the week, contact Carol at greenplanner@yahoo.com.

Please make checks payable to Danville Congregational Church, and note on the check that it is for **"EASTER FLOWERS."** Thank you!

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

Stacey Perez, Administrative Assistant

www.dayspringpreschool.org



Scan QR code above to Give



Scan QR code above to Connect with Us



Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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

Phone: (925) 837-6944

www.danvillechurch.org

