



DANVILLE

Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Fourth Sunday in Easter
Second Sunday in Stewardship

April 26, 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

CENTERING MOMENT

Create In Me A Clean Heart, O God

Healey Willan

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy Presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit.*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

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.

BREATH PRACTICE

Pastor Todd

Inhale: We honor this breath.
Exhale: We behold the beauty.
Inhale: I deserve more.
Exhale: I claim more.
Inhale: This flesh is sacred.
Exhale: I contain the divine.

— Cole Arthur Riley from *Black Liturgies*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Todd

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

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug Leich

One: Let us worship God, who has drawn us and healed us.

All: Let us worship God who has restored us to life.

One: Sing praises to the Lord, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.

**All: God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

One: You have turned our mourning into dancing; you have taken off our sackcloth
and clothed us with joy, so that our souls may praise you and not be silent.

All: O Lord my God, we will give thanks to you forever. Let us worship God.

—Beth Merrill, based on Psalm 30, adapted

Restore in Us, O God

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Capo 1: (Em) (Bm7) (Em)(Bm7) (Em) (C) (Bm)
 Fm Cm7 Fm Cm7 Fm D^b Cm

1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love;
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power;
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
 4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,

(Am7) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
 B^bm7 Fm B^bm Cm Fm Cm7 Fm

re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flower.
 bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985
 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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

Rev. Lauren Jewett

MODERN LESSON

Nancy Halseth

“There is no blade of grass, no body, no starlight, that is not in the end begging for repair. This is not poetic despondence, it's a tragedy we must contend with in order to get free. Repair is more than justice. What do we do once the curse is lifted but the damage is untouched? When justice is had and the swords are beaten into plowshares but everyone's wounds are still bleeding in the open, what then? Justice doesn't survive without repair. We have to pause and bandage ourselves up habitually. Even when the oppressor has been defeated, we are worthy of tending to the pain of the past. Repair—truth-telling, reparations, healing, reconciliation—these are what breathe new life into us.”

—Cole Arthur Riley

from *This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.¹

I will restore health to you,
 and your wounds I will heal,
 says the Lord...²

So Jesus spoke again. He said, ‘I tell you this: I am like the gate for the sheep....Everyone who comes in through me will be safe. They will be free to come in and to go out. And they will find plenty of food....I have come so that they can have true life. And so that they can have everything that they need.’³

I saw Heaven and earth new-created. Gone the first Heaven,
 gone the first earth, gone the sea. I saw Holy Jerusalem, new-created,
 descending resplendent out of Heaven....
 I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: “Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making their home with [all people]! They’re God’s people, God is their God. God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone.”
 The Enthroned continued, “Look! I’m making everything new.
 Write it all down—each word dependable and accurate.”⁴

¹Psalm 51:10, ²Jeremiah 30:17, ³Revelations 21:1–5 (The Message)

⁴John 10:7, 9, 10b (Easy English Bible)

TAIZÉ MOVEMENT

The Lord Comes To Restore You

Jacques Berthier

CONTEMPLATIVE HEARING

Excerpted from Soul Search: Rituals of repair, of politics and ourselves, March 20, 2024

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/soul-search/id75423045?i=1000649958908&r=1531>

COMMUNAL RITUAL

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren

Introduction

Anthem

The Lord Comes To Restore You

Jacques Berthier

The Lord God comes to restore us,

Save us and not reject us.

God will run to welcome and embrace you,

Welcome and embrace you.

Prayers of the People

All: Hear our prayer.

Time of Reflection

The Lord's Prayer

**Indwelling God, infused throughout all existence,
we honor you with many names.
Your realm is within the human heart.
We accept life for all that it can be, on earth as throughout all creation.
May we continue to draw sustenance from this earth,
and may we receive forgiveness equal to our own.
May we ever move from separation toward union,
to live in grace, with love in our hearts, forever and ever.
Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty.
So it is. Amen.**

—Fred F. Keip, JBurklo, adapted

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

John Klassen

TIME OF GENEROSITY AND PRAYER

Doug

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.

*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 Lauren

CLOSING HYMN

When God Restored Our Common Life

See next page.

When God Restored Our

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Common Life

(Psalm 126)



1 When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er -
2 We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un - yield - ing
3 Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who are op -



ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a
soil; with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the
pressed. May those who long for what is right with



wak - ing fan - ta - sy; a shock of joy swept
fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who
jus - tice now be blest. We pray for those who



o - ver us, for we had wept so long; the
gave the growth, with voic - es full and strong. The
mourn this day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may



seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
seeds they wa - ter now with tears spring up in - to a song.

RESIGNATION
CMD
(alternate harmonization, 803)
(alternate tune: NOEL)

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1981
MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody, Lewis's Beauties of Harmony, 1828; harm. Erik Routley, 1976
Text © 1992 CIA Publications, Inc.
Music Harm. © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

CLOSING RITUAL

Pastor Lauren

Gather around the sanctuary, hold hands or lock arms (with consent), say to each other around the circle:

May you find the restoration you need.

BREATH PRACTICE

Inhale: We honor this breath.

Exhale: We behold the beauty.

Inhale: I deserve more.

Exhale: I claim more.

Inhale: This flesh is sacred.

Exhale: I contain the divine.

— Cole Arthur Riley from *Black Liturgies*

BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

Renewal

Craig Urquhart

Please remain in your pews until the light has been taken out of the Sanctuary and stay seated for a 10-minute safety review and drill. Thank you!

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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 / breakout room
After worship	Ethnic Storytelling Workshop
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	4:00pm–6:00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Friday	5:30pm–8:00pm	TGIF at the McGraths

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 1.**

Greeters: Dottie Howell, Sereen Mahmood, and Shii Stickler

Ushers: Bob Howell and Tahir Mahmood

Liturgists: Nancy Halseth, Carol Gilliland, and Doug Leich

Fellowship Hosts: Rene Brucker, Barb DeBarger, and Nancy Dowell

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Godly Play: Kim Michaud

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 2.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

Each Sunday during this Easter season we will hear a story about how people came to know Jesus in a new way after he died. This week we hear about Thomas, and how he doubted until he could see with his own eyes. All children are welcome!

FOCUS
on



our
future
stewardship 2023

Stewardship Campaign Continues This Week

If you couldn't attend last Sunday's Stewardship Luncheon or the Coffee and Cake yesterday, we have one more opportunity for you to hear much of the information shared:

- TGIF at home of Pat McGrath & Kyra Kennedy on Friday, May 1st at 5:30pm

Today's Stewardship Moment

We will continue to hear from DCC members about why they contribute to the work of DCC with their time, talent, and treasure. Today **John Klassen** will be sharing the Stewardship Moment.

As we journey through this Stewardship season, we invite you to think about how our *Faith in Action* makes us *Better Together* and how you can join us in growing our future together.



Commitment Cards are due to Doug Leich, DCC's Financial Secretary, by May 10th! Please place your card in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to the church office, or email your commitment to Doug at dcc.finsec@danvillechurch.org.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Barb DeBarger](#).

As we **Focus on our Future**, we are continuing to be rooted in love, committed to justice and trusting in the abundance of God's love to guide our path forward. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure makes a difference, and we are grateful for your ongoing support as we journey together in faith.

ETHNIC STORYTELLING

Everyone has a story...

A DCC Anti-Racism Spring Workshop

Concludes Today

All-Church Spring Workshop Series –Ethnic Storytelling

Join us after worship as we continue our *Ethnic Storytelling* workshop series with **the Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson**. *The workshop will be held during Second Hour*

(lunch will be provided): For more information, reach out to [Barb DeBarger](#) or [Pastor Todd](#).



Today and May 3rd after worship Congregation Safety Training

As we have announced previously, DCC considers safety training and preparedness to be an important part of our commitment to love each other. Much has been going on behind the scenes to ensure that our congregation and church campus, including Dayspring Preschool, are trained and prepared to respond to an emergency. In-person training of key individuals (employees, church members frequently at worship/onsite) has taken place. **The next important step is to provide training for the congregation in the event of an emergency.**

Immediately following worship on the following two Sundays, we will run through brief preparedness drills to ensure that all are aware of the available exits and important steps to follow in the event of an emergency.

- **April 26 and May 3**

Please make every effort to attend worship in person if possible, and stay for the brief training afterward.

With everyone’s help, we will be more prepared to respond in the unlikely event of an emergency. If you have any questions, please contact Alene Riley.

May is AANHPI Month

The month of May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month, an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of people of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. The first Sunday of May has been designated by the United Church of Christ as Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) Sunday. Next Sunday, our worship will organize around these observations and will feature a liturgy designed by PAAM; sacred music composed by folk of AANHPI heritage; and Coke Tani as our guest preacher.



Friday, May 1st from 5:30pm–8:00pm TGIF at the McGrath's home



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

- Hosted by Kyra Kennedy and Pat McGrath – Danville. Full address is in the church directory. Contact Kyra with any questions.
- Open house from 5:30pm to 8:00pm – Drop by for however long it works for you. Kids are very welcome!
- No RSVP necessary – just bring a pizza or dish you'd like to share, enough that covers your family, plus BYO (wine, beer, soda). We'll have salad and dessert.



Sunday, May 3rd at noon
Monthly After Church Lunch Bunch gathering

Come join the after-church lunch bunch on Sunday, May 3rd. Given that we're celebrating AAPI month, we'll be gathering at noon at Thai Taste in San Ramon. It's in the same shopping center as Panera Bread, Total Wine, Wells Fargo, etc. Note:

Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo. Thanks!

Please RSVP to Wilson Jackson at 925-819-0222, or email him at wjrjachev@netzero.com to let him know you'll be attending.

Long Range Task Force Planning Information

Thanks to everyone for participating in a short taste of our [Focus on our Future \('FooF'\) collective long range planning process](#) after-church this past Sunday. In case you were unable to attend, here is the [slide deck of some our initial learnings](#).

Mark your calendars for a fun learning together session and sharing of your experiences in second hour after church on **Sunday, May 17th** as the next full community FooF event! --Kyra, Sabrina, Jen, and Reuben



Friday, May 1st and Wednesday, May 6th
Winter Nights

As part of a program called **Winter Nights** several churches and other faith communities in Contra Costa County open their facilities for lodging and meals during the winter and spring months for families that would otherwise be homeless. San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo is one of those churches. **Friday, May 1st and Wednesday, May 6th** have been set aside for **DCC** members and friends, working with members of SRVUMC to provide and serve dinner to these families.

Meals will be needed for about **17** adults (which includes church members and WN staff) and **15** children. If you would like to be part of this critical outreach program, by providing all or a portion of the needed meals (main dish, kids meal, salad – green salads are preferred, dessert) for one of these two days, we can arrange to pick up your meal item(s) at your home, or you can deliver them directly to the church in Alamo. We will also need a few folks to join the clients and serve these meals. If you would like to sign up, or have any questions, please contact Richard Stein at (925) 200-0051 richarddiane@sbcglobal.net. You can also sign up on Sundays during Fellowship Time.

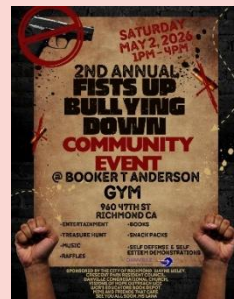
Wednesday Morning Prayer

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](#).

Visions of Hope Support Needed for May 2nd event

Our partners at Visions of Hope are holding another event to support the Richmond community! Their second annual "Fists Up, Bullying Down" event is designed to give the children in the community a day of fun, learning and love. It will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, from 1:00pm–4:00pm at the Booker T. Anderson community center in Richmond. DCC has been asked to help with a few things for this event:

- New or gently used children's books for all ages, 0-12
- Food for snack bags--granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks, pretzels, etc.
- \$\$ for prizes
- Support at the event to hand out bags, snacks and prizes



If you are able/interested in supporting this event, please contact Barb DeBarger, Carrie Hrousis or Doug Leich, and/or sign up on the signup sheet during coffee hour. If you wish to donate, please do so on the church's donation website--click on "Visions of Hope."

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.

Playground Under Construction

The new playground will be under additional construction and will be closed for a short period of time while safety modifications are attended to. Please reach out to Heidi if you have any questions.



Thursday, May 7th at 12:30pm UCC's Nurture the Soul

Join the United Church of Christ National Setting for an engaging and timely webinar exploring our "Love Knows No Borders" resource, a powerful witness and resource offered to equip congregations to respond to the continued attacks on immigrants, refugees, and LGBTQIA siblings. Grounded in the Gospel call to welcome the stranger, Love Knows No Borders (LKNB) resources offer theological reflection, policy analysis, and practical strategies for advocating for our migrant siblings. This webinar will highlight voices from UCC national staff and leaders from UCC COREM ministries to share stories of how communities are being impacted and growing points of collaboration on immigrant justice, humane border policies, and the role of faith communities in confronting systems of exclusion and harm.

[Proclaiming "Love Knows No Borders": Moving from Desolation to Action](#)



Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center

presents an URGENT half-day conference

Middle East in Crisis

US & Israeli Wars on Iran, Palestine, Lebanon,
International Law & United Nations

Saturday, April 25th
1 pm—5 pm

Orinda Community
Church
10 Irwin Way, Orinda*

Free Admission but
Registration requested
<https://bit.ly/4tFoLmm>

or use QR below



~ TOPICS & SPEAKERS ~

WAR ON IRAN - Bahman Azad, Iranian American professor & president US Peace Council

COST & CONSEQUENCES - Jack Rasmus, author & economics professor

LAW, POWER, AND THE EMPIRE OF IMPUNITY- George Bisharat, law professor, author, and musician

WAR ON INTERNATIONAL LAW- Marjorie Cohn, Dean of the People's Academy of International Law

CHINA'S ROLE IN US WARS - Julie Tang, former Superior Court Judge

HORMUZ AT THE HINGE OF HUMAN HISTORY- Helena Cobban, author and president Just World Educational

RESISTING ILLEGAL ORDERS AND WARS - Gerry Condon, former national president of Veterans for Peace.

*Venue is a 17 minute walk from the ORINDA BART station. FREE ON-SITE PARKING.

Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) - <http://ourpeacecenter.org>

CONTACT: info@ourpeacecenter.org / (925) 933-7850 / 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, California

The American Association of University Women
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch Presents

The 2026 AAUW DAW Garden Tour



*“Gardens that
Inspire”*

**Friday May 8 and
Saturday May 9
10 am - 4 pm**

- Tour five wonderful private gardens in Danville and Alamo.
- Proceeds support the DAW branch’s initiatives for scholarships, STEM campers, and speaker programs.
- Tickets are \$45 through April 23, \$50 April 24 or later.
- For more information and tickets, visit -
<https://daw-ca.aauw.net/2026-garden-tour/>

AAUW
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (CA) Branch



Scan to purchase
tickets



presents a fundraiser for its 20th Season

An Evening with Soprano
Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols



Vocal Recital
with chamber orchestra

with musicians from the
MOZART TO MENDELSSOHN
orchestra

JOHN KENDALL BAILEY, conductor

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 7:00 PM

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

\$25 suggested donation
with post-concert refreshments!

Featuring arias from Handel's *Alcina*, Bach's *St. John Passion* and Magnificat, Haydn's *The Creation*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, plus Respighi's gorgeous *Il Tramonto* and two of Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*.

Pictures of the Week



We had a Sunday full of renewal and stewardship last Sunday as we scattered and planted seeds and kicked off our Stewardship season with a *Focus on Our Future*.

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



“Where do you need *restoration* in your own life?
Healing? Renewal?”

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

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