



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Fifth Sunday in Easter
Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday
First Sunday in Asian American, Native Hawaiian
and Pacific Islander Month
Third Sunday in Stewardship

May 3, 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

PRELUDE

Bèo dạt mây trôi

Trad. Vietnamese

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Michiyo Laing

**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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Coke Tani

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Michiyo

One: Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—our path when we feel lost.

All: Show us your way; shape us in your truth; breathe your life into us.

One: And Christ promises: those who trust him will follow his example.

All: By the Spirit's power, we will engage in works of healing, justice, mercy, and joy.

One: From many cultures and communities, we praise God.

Today we learn to pray in Taiwanese,
widening our worldview through another sacred tongue:

**All: 願主面光照阮 (Guān Chú ê bīn kng-chiò guán) —
May God's face shine upon us.**

One: In Christ's name we pray, and God is glorified.

All: With faith and courage, we worship and follow Christ's example.

—written by Rev. Charing Wei-Jen Chen, adapted

*OPENING HYMN

Listen to the Wind

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

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

Listen to the Wind

Jessica Cosley

Live Oak UCC 2025

Ron Kobayashi

F F/E Dm7 Gm7 F/C C



1. Lis - ten to the wind as it whis - tles through the trees. ———
2. come with joy - ful laugh - ter, we come with ach - ing hearts, We
3. voic - es join in sing - ing, God's spi - rit fills this place, with

Gm7 C7 C/Bb C11

3



Feel the splash of foam as the waves crash from the seas.
come with search - ing souls and the peace found in e - qual parts.
hearts — full of hope, ——— we leave this sa - cred space to

F/A Bbmaj7 Bø7 F/C

5



Smell the scent of pine, breathe in the light of day,
All we, young and old, have im - por - tant parts to play, de -
be God's hands and feet and work toward a bright - ter day,

Gm7 C7 C/Bb C11 F

7



Calm our hearts to hear the things that God still has to say. We
ci - pher - ing the mes - sage of what God still has to say. Our
faith in God who works through us and still has lots to say. ———

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision¹ a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

He replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.*"

May you gather up the shards
of yourself,
the scattered fragments
that have drifted away
or have become shorn off,
sheared away,
lost and forgotten.

May you re-collect your spirit,
re-weave your tattered heart,
gather up the sparkles
of your insight
and curiosity,
call them in,
call yourself in,
call your spirit back.

Scoop all of the wandering pieces
together into your waiting hands
and hold them tenderly,
close to your heart,
allowing the cracks to mend,
the flavors to meld,
the threads to knit back together,
permitting love to curl itself
back around your fibers
to nourish the whole.

—from Molly Remer, *365 Days of Goddess*

Chorus:

*Come unto me, all who are weak, weary and heavy laden
Gentle am I, humble in heart And you shall find rest for your soul.*

*All things are given unto those who believe
Princes and lowly ones His blessings receive
And just when I think that means everyone but me
Jesus comes beckoning to me. (Chorus)*

*Enter the holy gates just as you are
No need for a happy face, just come with your heart
And Jesus will bring us a joyful melody
If only His calling we heed. (Chorus)*

*We are His little ones, children of God
Children and fellow heirs of His kingdom come
And we share the greatest love the world has ever seen
Here in the Lord's family. (Chorus)*

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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.**

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Reuben Shank

TIME OF GIVING

Wilson Jackson

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

Jana Gana Mana

Rabindranath Tagore

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SURSUM CORDA

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Just as it takes many hands to sow and harvest the grain that make this meal that we eat.

All: It takes all of us to feed this world.

One: Just as it takes many hands to plant and pluck the fruits whose juice fills the cup that quenches our thirst.

All: It takes all of us to tend to the needs of this world.

One: Just as it takes many hands to build this place that has become our church home.

All: It takes all of us to shelter our neighbors from the dangers that surround us.

WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Lauren

Mark 4:26-32; 10:13-16; 1 John 4:7-12

Lavon Bayler, 1994

Unison

1 En - ter in the realm of God.
 2 In com - mu - ni - ties that serve,
 3 God has loved, and so we love,
 4 Come a - gain, O Christ, to rule

It has come, and yet will be.
 and a - mong the saints who care,
 and we give that all may share
 in that realm that has no end.

It is known, and yet un - known.
 There is jus - tice for the poor,
 In the heal - ing God sup - plies,
 May your chil - dren ev - ery - where

Christ re - vealed its mys - ter - y.
 and new free - dom from de - spair.
 in good news that we de - clare.
 hear your greet - ing: "Wel - come, friend!"

Tune: DANDANSOY 7.7.7.7.
Visayan folk melody, Philippines
Arr. Verne de la Peña, 1994

Hymnwriter Lavon Bayler referred to Jesus' teachings about the realm of God in the Gospel of Mark when asked to provide a unison melody for the hymn. He was inspired by the melody of the Visayan folk melody, "Dandansoy," which he arranged. The arrangement of the traditional Visayan folk melody.

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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WORSHIP NOTES



Coke Tani (she, her) is a spiritual director/companion, writer and movement artist, serving in spaces where contemplation, creativity and justice meet. A queer, third-generation woman of Okinawan and Japanese descent, Coke lives with her partner in Torrance, CA. She gives thanks to this gathered community at Danville CC, and invites you to connect with her at coketani.com and coketani.substack.com.

Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries (PAAM) was organized in 1974 at a gathering in San Francisco, California, of representatives from different regions throughout the United States. The vision was to unite and move forward at the national, regional, and local levels as Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans in the United Church of Christ, sharing our unique gifts with one another.



PAAM was voted into existence at the 10th General Synod, in 1975, as a recognized Special Interest Group within the UCC. The 17th General Synod adopted the pronouncement, “A United Church of Christ ministry with Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans” calling to establish an implementation committee to make requests about the ministries of the PAAM churches. The 18th General Synod passed a resolution designating the last Sunday of April as PAAM Sunday when all UCC churches recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans in the life of the UCC. In 2024, the UCC Board of Directors approved PAAM’s request to change PAAM Sunday to the first Sunday of May to coincide with Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month in the United States.

PAAM has initiated, sponsored, supported and participated in many activities at all levels of the UCC, worked for greater PAAM representation on all levels of the conference boards, committees, and staff. PAAM continues to address institutional racism within the church and society, is concerned with issues of human rights and justice, and helps to support and strengthen clergy and lay leadership at the local level.

Today’s communion liturgy was inspired by a poem written by Jonah Chang, revised and edited by Kay Sakaguishi, and read during the National Conference of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United Church of Christ, April 1974. From *The Theologies of Asian American and Pacific Peoples*, compiled by Roy I. Sano, edited by Daniel D. Lee, Claremont Press, 2022.

Do the Works, Liturgical Resources for the Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A, PAAM Sunday, was edited by the Rev. Mitchell Young, Vice-Moderator of PAAM. If you need an Asian/Pacific clergy stole, contact Rev. Mitchell Young at mpccucc@yahoo.com. Mahalo nui loa to this year's writers and contributors:

Rev. Charing Wei-Jen Chen, Chicago-based minister and co-host of 神/上帝的酷兒 (Queer of God), the first Mandarin-language podcast offering queer readings and commentary on the Bible.

Jessica Cosley, Music Director at Live Oak UCC in Brea, California.

Loida Gonzales, Music Director of Montebello Plymouth Congregational UCC in Los Angeles.

Kahu Josann Jenks, Kahu Pono (licensed minister) authorized by the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) UCC.

Ron Kobayashi, Music Director at Live Oak UCC in Brea, California.

Rev. Dr. Yuki Schwartz, the Acting Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Acting Dean of the Faculty, and Associate Professor of Constructive Theologies, Spirituality, and Decolonial Studies, Claremont School of Theology.

Rev. Chad Tanaka Pack Associate Conference Minister for Building the Future, Southern California Nevada Conference UCC.

Jonathan Zari Music Director of Los Angeles Filipino American UCC.

Rev. Michaelraj Yesudhasan, Pastor of the Bowne Street Community Church (UCC/RCA) in Flushing, New York.

Rev. Mitchell Young, Senior Pastor of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church in California. See how God is still speaking in Montebello at www.montebelloucc.org

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
11:15am–12:15pm	Second Hour Discussion about Membership and Baptism in Kairos
Noon	Monthly Lunch Bunch at Thai Taste
1:30pm–3:30pm	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
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2**. Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 3**.

Greeters: Wilson Jackson and Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Bruce Hixon, Kathie Hixon, Reuben Shank and Tom Sonnemann

Liturgists: Wilson Jackson, Janis Jang, Randy Jang, Michiyo Laing, Jon McKinsey & Ina Nierotka

Candlelighter: Finn Sonnemann

Flowers: Julie Grenley

Fellowship Hosts: Sally Baca, Julie Grenley, and Nan Karns

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: Amy Furber-Dobson

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

Godly Play: Kim Michaud

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!

Stewardship Campaign Continues This Week

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.

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.



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 **Reuben Shank** will be sharing the Stewardship Moment.



Today 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.

The next important step is to provide training for the congregation in the event of an emergency. Immediately following worship **today.**, 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. 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.

This Sunday at 11:10am **Opening the Doors Wider** Baptism and Membership



Throughout Christian tradition, people desiring to follow the way of Jesus were baptized and became members of Christ's body and the Church Universal. Many people then naturally affiliated with a local church (and, by extension, a denomination). In the present era, many churches are thinking deeply about membership. What does it mean to want to affiliate with a faith community on one's individual faith journey—regardless of their chosen faith tradition or understanding of spirituality—and can the expectation of a "believer's baptism" be a barrier to potential members? And what does it mean to welcome into covenant folk who want to be a part of the work and life of a faith community regardless of their stated faith tradition.

This Sunday at 11:10am, Pastor Todd will lead a 45-minute discussion related to this very topic, considering:

- What does membership in a local church mean?
- What are the benefits?
- Is baptism simply an assumed requirement or is there room in our polity (and bylaws) to welcome folk into membership similar to how we practice open communion—wherever a person finds themselves on life's journey.



Today 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. Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or

Venmo. Thanks!



DCC in the News

Recently, the City of San Ramon city council has re-engaged a discussion regarding whether to fly the Pride flag during Pride Month in June. This past Tuesday, members of the public addressed the city council ahead of it considering the fate of commemorative flags through an upcoming policy committee. Among DCC members attending Tuesday's hearing—and the 19 people speaking in favor of continuing to fly the Pride flag—was DCC member **Bruce Hixon**. [You can read about the meeting and an excerpt of Bruce Hixon's comments, here.](#)

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](#).



Winter Nights – Thank You

Many thanks to those who signed up to provide meals to the Winter Nights folks staying at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Complete meals for both May 1 and May 6 have now been assigned. If you missed your chance to participate, we'll do this again next year. We know that there is a real impact when we make an effort to help those in need. God Bless.

Thank You from Hope Solutions

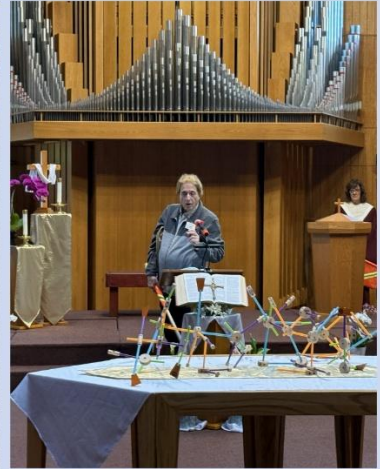
We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Danville Congregational Church for their continued generosity in providing Easter meal baskets for the clients we serve. This has been a wonderful and meaningful tradition over the years, bringing care and support to so many in our community. A special thank you to Kathie Hixon for her dedication in coordinating with the church and helping make this effort possible year after year. We are truly grateful for the partnership and the positive impact it has on those we serve.

Check out Hope Solutions' Instagram post where we highlighted DCC. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DXFbrckEoKN/> We greatly appreciate all you do for the clients we serve! Thank you!

Sandibel Arnold
Volunteer and Donations Coordinator



Pictures of the Week



Top: The newest addition to the DeBarger-Gestring family, Sadie, took some time to look over the Stewardship budget with Heidi Bridgeman and Barb DeBarger; Tom Sonnemann works to repaint the white lines in our parking lot; Larry Berlin led our safety training drill. Bottom: At last Sunday's service, attendees participated in our safety drill and worshippers were asked to use Tinker Toys to explore the theme of restoration.

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

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.

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



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Danville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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