



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Sixth Sunday in Easter
Final Sunday in Stewardship
First OWL Sunday

May 10, 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

Sacred the Body

George Peter Tingley

WELCOME

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Syd Dent

**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

Syd

One: Why have we gathered here?

**All: We come to worship God in whose image we were created:
spiritual physical beings.**

One: God gifted us with bodies and emotions
to express our spirituality in concrete ways.

One of the ways we affirm the sacredness of life is through healthy sexuality.

**All: Let us celebrate God's gift of incarnation
and affirm our desire for sexual health and the joy it brings.**

One: God gifted us with free will — the ability to make our own decisions

**All: Let us celebrate God's guidance and help
as we accept this wonderful and awesome responsibility.**

—adapted from Workshop 1 of the Grades 10-12 Our Whole Live Curriculum

*OPENING HYMN

Rise Up

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

Rise Up

Words and Music By
Kim Williams

♩ = 92

Em Em/D Cmaj7 B Em Bm/D

1. Rise up to - day and
 (2. Reach) out to all hu -
 (3. For) some the day has
 (4. Re -) ceive God's love that

6 Em/C B Am9 B Em Bm/D

stand as one in love and u - ni - ty. Let's rec - og - nize each
 man - i - ty for we de - fine the church. May we look in - ward
 now ar - rived, the truth no long - er hides. The chains of hope - less -
 nev - er fails, no rid - i - cule or blame. A love that will not

10 Em/C B Am B Em Am

child of God cre - at - ed beau - ti - f'ly. En - graved up - on God's
 at the heart to see each per - son's worth. Our lov - ing - kind - ness to -
 ness and fear, re - placed by joy and pride. May we rise up, to -
 let us go, an ev - er - last - ing flame. Re - gard - less of i -

14 Em/G Am/F# B C

lov - ing hands, each one of us by name. Com - plete - ly known and
 brings great hope to those in deep de - spair. We're called to be the
 geth - er strong, em - brac - ing hu - man hearts. Pro - claim - ing God's great
 den - ti - ty or sex - u - al - i - ty, Christ died for all and

18 D2 Am9 Baug

loved by God, each beat - ing heart the same.
 light of Christ, a bea - con ev - 'ry where.
 love for all, with free - dom to im - part.
 wel - comes in to e - ter - ni -

1, 2, 3.

Em

**Optional
vocal interlude
(Rise*

21 Em Em/D Cmaj7 B Em

up! Rise up! In love and u - ni - ty! Reach
 For
 Re - ty.

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Happy are you when you find Wisdom,
 When you develop discernment.
 For she is more profitable than silver,
 And brings yields greater even than gold.
 She is more precious than rubies;
 Nothing you can conceivably desire
 Can equal her value.
 She holds long life in one hand,
 Riches and honor in the other.
 Her paths are pleasant ones,
 And all her roads lead to peace.
 She is a tree of life for those who embrace her,
 And all who hold fast to her find happiness.
 For it was through her that YHWH laid the earth's Foundation,
 Through her that the heavens were set in place.
 By God's knowledge the depths were deepened,
 And clouds dropped down dew.
 Don't refuse goodness to those who deserve it
 When it is in your power to do it.

First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

Can you not see, my relatives? We must no longer let our weak and broken human ways guide us, for that path led us only to death. But if we let the Spirit put to death these broken ways, we will share [their] life, for it is the ones who follow the guidance of Creator's Spirit who are truly [their] children.

A responsible and mature sexual ethic respects the moral agency of every person. When faced with ethical decisions, each of us needs to be accorded the freedom and responsibility to choose. We may turn to the scriptures, call upon the Spirit in prayer, and invite the counsel of trusted people as we seek to discern what is right to do. But, finally, each of us must choose and bear the consequences of [our] choice[s]. Without human freedom there cannot be genuine moral responsibility. If the freedom of choice is curtailed, our power as self-defining moral agents is undermined. Therefore, a responsible and mature sexual ethic will respect and protect the freedom of belief and choice.

From *Created in God's Image* by Melanie and Eleanor Morrison which has guided the UCC's justice work on sexuality issues and is an excerpt used in the first edition of the UCC *Sexuality and Our Faith* Companion to the *Our Whole Lives for Young Adults* curriculum.

SERMON

*The Whole Truth:
A Faith Community's Responsibility to Sexuality Education*

Pastor Lauren

ANTHEM

These Bodies

Hannah & Lenora Rand

You gave us these bodies and you called them good.

We are easily damaged – have you seen the scars?

That's just scratching the surface, more beneath where those are.

Chorus:

You gave us these bodies and you called them good

You gave us these bodies and you called them good

May we love them as you do; Let us love them as you do

Inside, outside, through and through; Let us love them as you do

But we do so much damage. Have you seen the scars?

We keep hurting each other, sometimes that's just how we are. (Chorus)

These bodies, they are fearfully, wonderfully made,

Don't believe the lies some say.

Our flesh and bones, our hearts and hands

are loved in every way. (Chorus)

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

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

Anne Bremirez

TIME OF GIVING

Miguel

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

Mother God (improvisation)

J.K. Bailey

*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

This Joy That I Have
Resistance Revival Chorus

African-American Spiritual

This joy that I have – the world didn't give it to me (3x)
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.

This strength that I have– the world didn't give it to me (3x)
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.

This love that I have– the world didn't give it to me (3x)
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.

This pride that I have – the world didn't give it to me (3x)
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.

This peace that I have – the world didn't give it to me (3x)
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.

This joy that I have – the world didn't give it to me (3x)
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away (4x)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Lauren

POSTLUDE

Created in God's Image

J.K. Bailey

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

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WORSHIP NOTES



Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive, kindergarten through adult, sexuality education curriculum series that is based on a philosophy of comprehensive sexuality education. It has been designed to help participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behaviors. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas:

- human development
- relationships
- personal skills
- sexual behavior
- sexual health
- society and culture

Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, comprehensive sexuality education provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps learners to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, social, and political aspects of sexuality as well, helping them to make informed and value-based choices.

OWL was developed as a partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association; however, the core curricula do not include religious references or doctrine. OWL has two companion resources that include faith conversations. Central will use the UCC faith companion as a complement to the foundational program.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) values:

- Self-Worth
- Sexual Health & Wellness
- Responsibility
- Justice & Inclusivity

OWL models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. It helps adolescents address their attitudes, values, and feelings about themselves, their sexuality, and others' sexuality. Trained facilitators guide participants through an engaging curriculum that addresses topics most important to young adolescents, including those typically excluded from sexuality education and health classes.

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	Buildings and Grounds Commission Meeting in Spirit Room
11:15am–12:15pm	Community Life Commission Meeting in Music Room
11:15am–12:15pm	Outreach Commission Meeting in Sanctuary

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.

There is no **Godly Play** today.

THIS WEEK AT DCC

Tuesday	11:30am	Men's Luncheon
Tuesday	1:00pm–3:00pm	Diaconate Meeting
Wednesday	10:00am	Wednesday Morning Prayer
Wednesday	2:30pm–3:30pm	CARE Support Group
Wednesday	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 3**.

Greeters: Ron Elsdon and Judy Schreib

Ushers: Leslie Dent, Syd Dent and Ron Elsdon

Liturgists: Miguel Atkins-Whitley, Leslie Dent, Syd Dent, and Bette Felton

Candlelighters: Bob Kovach, Lily Kovach, and Trish Moosbrugger

Fellowship Hosts: Miguel Atkins-Whitley, Bob Kovach, Sandra Lepley, and Trish Moosbrugger

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

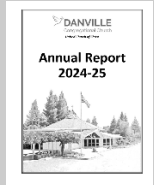
Lock Up Duty: Carol Bassett and Matthew Bassett

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reports for the Annual Report due now

Reports the Annual Report were due, May 8th. If you are a commissioner, committee chair, and/or team lead and haven't submitted your annual report to Anne-Marie yet, please do so ASAP. Thanks!



Stewardship Campaign Concludes 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](mailto:Barb.DeBarger). For those of you need a Vanco authorization form, you can access the form [here](#). Then you can print and fill it out. We also have copies of the form in worship today.

Today's Stewardship Moment



As we conclude our Stewardship campaign, we will continue to hear from DCC members about why they contribute to the work of DCC with their time, talent, and treasure. Today **Anne Bremirez** will be sharing the Stewardship Moment.

Friday, June 12th SF Giants Pride Night

On Friday, June 12th, join your DCC friends for a trip to see the Giants on Pride Night and celebrate love, inclusion, and the belief that baseball is for everyone. Stick around after the final out for a spectacular fireworks show set to music by queer artists. Partial proceeds from each Special Event ticket will benefit local LGBTQ+ organizations. The [commemorative giveaway jersey](#) is designed by Bay Area native artist and activist Favianna Rodriguez!



A few of us have already purchased tickets for section 324 (row 4). To purchase tickets in this section (\$59 each), go to <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Pridenight566> and select *View Reserve OUTFIELD, Section 324*. Please email the office to let us know you're joining the party!

Sunday, June 7th at 11:45am

New Member Interest Lunch



Curious about joining the DCC family? If so, a time of fellowship for potential new members is planned for Sunday, June 7th at 11:45am. We'll gather at the home of John & Joyce Klassen in San Ramon for lunch and the opportunity to get to know DCC and each other a little better. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Joyce Klassen, Welcome Commissioner at joyce.klassen@comcast.net.

Sunday, May 17th

Mental Health Offering

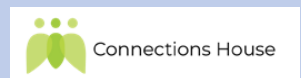
May is Mental Health Month, and to lift that up we are inviting you to make a special offering for Mental Health on Sunday, May 17th – Mental Health Sunday in the UCC. And we invite you to wear a green ribbon for mental health awareness, or green and black, with the black for social justice awareness. Our Mental Health offerings will be shared equally among **Fred Finch Youth and Family Services**, **NAMI Contra Costa**, and **Connections House**.

[Fred Finch Youth & Family Services](#) seeks to provide innovative, effective services supporting children, youth, young adults, and families to heal from trauma and lead healthier, productive lives. Founded in 1891 as an orphanage in Oakland, today's Fred Finch Youth & Family Services now operates more than 20 programs in California including mental health, housing, education and independent living services to some of the most vulnerable populations throughout the state.



[NAMI Contra Costa](#) is an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, providing outreach, education, support and advocacy to and for families and individuals in need of help dealing with mental illness. They have been assisting people and families affected by mental illness in Contra Costa for over 30 years. All programs are free. NAMI CC supports many underserved portions of our community, with groups, classes and services for Asian Pacific Islanders (API), Latinx and African American communities, and Transitional Age Youth (TAY). NAMI Contra Costa was named a 2023 California Nonprofit of the Year.

[Connections House](#) (formerly Putnam Clubhouse), operated by [Mental Health Connections](#), is a welcoming community where adults recovering from mental illness come to rebuild their lives. Participants—called members, not patients or clients or consumers—share ownership and responsibility for the success of the organization, and participate free of charge. The underlying premise is that each member can sufficiently recover from the effects of mental illness to lead a personally satisfying and productive life.



Please write "Mental Health Offering" on your offering envelope or on the memo line of your check made out to DCC. To make your offering online, go to the [DCC Donations page](#) or scan the QR code in your bulletin and select *Mental Health Offering*.

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](#).

Pictures of the Week



Last Saturday, DCC took part in Visions of Hope's event in Richmond; at Sunday's worship service, we celebrated the start of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday with guest preacher Coke Tani and varied voices from our liturgists. Many members brought items from home that reflected these cultures.

We also performed our evacuation drill as part of our safety training.

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.



TOGETHER AGAINST MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

11am - 3pm

Todos Santos Plaza

**2175 Willow Pass Rd,
Concord, CA 94520**

- Resource Fair
- Arts & Crafts
- Games
- Drum Circle
- Complimentary Meal
- Dove Release
- Live Music
- Guest Speakers

Announcing 2026
Mental Health Change Agent Appreciation Awards

RSVP to
Nostigma2026@mentalhealthconnectionsca.org
or
christy@namicontracosta.org

SANCTUARY

Screening And Q&A

Sanctuary is a feature-length documentary that exposes the plight of LGBTQIA+ individuals within modern faith systems—told

through the eyes of a visionary architect whose passion project becomes a lifeline. As doctrine collides with identity, a sacred space rises from rejection, offering refuge and hope. Alongside his journey, scholars and spiritual

leaders from a variety of religious traditions share how they are transforming their institutions to welcome the marginalized and reimagine what it means to belong.

Join us for a private screening and conversation with the filmmakers.

Saturday, May 16th at 6 p.m.

Lynnewood United Methodist Church
4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton 94566

Scan the QR code to register - event is free!



Q&A with Sanctuary filmmaker Autumn McAlpin; pastor and LGBTQ+ advocate, Rev. Stan Mitchell; and Rev. Dr. Paula Stone Williams, a Pastoral Counselor & internationally known speaker on gender equity and religious tolerance.



20th Anniversary Celebration!

Carl Orff *Carmina Burana*

&

Post-concert party with our audience

Saturday, May 16, 2026 - 7:30 p.m.
First Church Berkeley
Dana & Durant



Carl Orff *Carmina Burana*

James W. Cook *The Brightest Sound*
Commissioned work in honor of Chora Nova's 20th Anniversary

John Kendall Bailey, conductor
Shawnette Sulker, soprano
Joseph Meyers, tenor
Igor Vieira, baritone

Post-concert party with our audience
Wine, food, and raffle ticket drawing

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
First Church Berkeley
Dana and Durant



Choranova.org

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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