



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Seventh Sunday in Easter
Second OWL Sunday

May 17, 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

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (improvisation)

J.K. Bailey

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.

OPENING BREATH PRACTICE

Pastor Lauren

INHALE: I can listen to my body

EXHALE: I will stay whole

INHALE: My body is good.

EXHALE: I will not abandon it

INHALE: This flesh is divine

EXHALE: The physical is the spiritual

– Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Chris Sonnemann

**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

Chris

One: Creator God, we rise before you, embodied

**All: Each of us exquisite combinations of cells and spirit, Each of us whole.
Not perfect, but whole.**

One: Alive today, we give you thanks for our bodies and
for this trusted community of mutual love and understanding.

***Left side: You know all our secrets, all our desires, all our joys,
and all our suffering.***

Right side: We are always loved by you and never alone.

***Left side: We cherish our connection with each other and
the healing salve of your presence.***

Right side: Give us courage to honor and protect all of your creation.

One: Be with us as we explore sexual health and healing – holiness and wholeness,

All: Always remembering that our precious bodies are gifts from you.

– from the UCC version of *Sexuality and Our Faith for Young Adults*, 1st Edition

Unison

1. Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come, good is the
 2. Good is the bod - y for know - ing the world, sens - ing the
 3. Good is the bod - y from cra - dle to grave, grow - ing and
 4. Good is the pleas - ure of God in our flesh, long - ing in

birth - ing, the milk in the breast, good is the feed - ing, ca -
 sun - light, the tug of the ground, feel - ing, per - ceiv - ing, with -
 age - ing, a - rous - ing, im - paired, hap - py in cloth - ing, or
 all, as in Je - sus, to dwell, glad of em - brac - ing, and

ress - ing and rest, good is the bod - y for know - ing the
 in and a - round, good is the bod - y, from cra - dle to
 lov - ing - ly bared, good is the pleas - ure of God in our
 tast - ing, and smell, good is the bod - y, for good and for

1. world, Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.
 2. grave, Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.
 3. flesh, Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.
 4. God, Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew Bassett

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to dinner. Jesus went to his house and reclined at the table. A woman who had a low reputation in that town came to the house. She had learned that Jesus was dining with the Pharisee, so she brought with her an alabaster jar of perfumed oil. She stood behind Jesus, crying, and her tears fell on his feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the oil.¹

My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk--it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth.² Unbelieving minds have been blinded by the god of the present age, so that they do not see the splendor of the Gospel showing forth the glory of Christ, the image of God.³ But if the Creator's Spirit lives in You, then the desires of your broken human ways cannot overpower you. Remember, the ones who belong to the Chosen One have their spirit.⁴

¹Luke 7:36-38 The Inclusive Bible; ²1 John 3:18 (The Inclusive Bible); ³2 Corinthians 4:4;

⁴Romans 8:9 (First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament)

MODERN LESSON

Chris

Today I asked my body what she needed,
Which is a big deal
Considering my journey of
Not Really Asking That Much.

I thought she might need more water.
Or protein.
Or greens.
Or yoga.
Or supplements.
Or movement.

But as I stood in the shower
Reflecting on her stretch marks,
Her roundness where I would like flatness,
Her softness where I would like firmness,
All those conditioned wishes
That form a bundle of
Never-Quite-Right-Ness,
She whispered very gently:

Could you just love me like this?

—from Hollie Holden

OWL TESTIMONIAL

Nancy Halseth

SERMON

Our Bodies Are Good

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

Sacred the Body

Mark Miller

*Sacred the body God has created,
temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside.
Cherish each person; nurture creation.
Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.*

*Bodies are varied, made in all sizes,
pale, full of color, both fragile and strong.
Holy the difference, gift of the Maker,
so let us honor each story and song.*

*Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries.
Love does not batter, neglect, or abuse.
Love touches gently, never coercing.
Love leaves the other with power to choose.*

*Holy of holies, God ever loving,
make us your temples; indwell all we do.
May we be careful, tender, and caring,
so may our bodies give honor to you.*

TIME OF PRAYER

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.**

CONSECRATION OF PLEDGES

Barb DeBarger, Pastor Todd, & Pastor Lauren

Introduction

*Litany

One: Let the people of Danville Congregational Church rise in body, mind, or spirit.

All: We come to God as God’s people, blessed and highly favored.

One: Giver of all good things, as we focus on our future,
we commit these pledges of time, talent, and treasure
made in varying amounts according to each individual’s ability and desire.
Certainly no gift is so small that it cannot be used for good.

All: All that we have comes from you Oh, God.

One: Today we dedicate our financial gifts to you, Oh God.

All: Help us use them to glorify your name.

One: Today we commit our diversity of abilities and talents to you, Oh God.

All :Help us bring our very best as those who minister in Jesus’ name.

One: Today we offer the time we draw breath to you, Oh God.

All: Guide us as we spend our time wisely and effectively to do your work.

One: Let us bless God with our time, treasure, and talent!

All: We bless God’s name with all that we are and all that we have!

One: Together, we make this commitment to one another and to our community,

All: For the ongoing sustainability of this church and care for one another.

*Prayer

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

Good is the Flesh

Veronica Bennetts

*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

Imago Dei

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

POSTLUDE

God, Who Delights In All Bodies (improvisation)

J.K. Bailey

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

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RESPOND

118

Imago Dei

(Image of God)

$\text{♩} = 85$

Cm Gmsus Cm Gmsus Cm Gmsus Cm Gmsus Cm

I-mag-o De - i,

Cm⁷ Fm⁷/Ab Gmsus Gm⁷ Cm

I-mag-o De - i, born in the im-age of_ God are we_ I-mag-o De - i,

Cm⁷ Fm⁷ Gm⁷sus Cm

I-mag- o De - i, called to com-pass-ion; born_ to be free.

Last time, Fine

Fm⁷ Gm⁷

1. How shall we live as im - ag - es of God?
 2. How shall we love the neigh - bor filled with greed?
 3. Then shall we see the im - ag - es of Christ.

Fm⁷/Ab Cm⁷sus Gm⁷sus

How best re - flect the won - der of our Mak - er?
 How best re - spond to those con - sumed by hat - red?
 Then shall we know that God is in our neigh - bor.

Cm Fm⁷ Gm⁷

Hum-bly we will walk, with mer - cy re - spond_ and know the
 Look be - yond the fear that keeps them from know - ing the A -
 Hum-bly we will walk, with mer - cy re - spond_ and know the

Fm⁷/Ab Gm⁷ Cm Gmsus

Es - sence of Love_ is al - ways with us_ _
 - bun - dance of Love_ that's al - ways with us_ _
 Es - sence of Love_ is al - ways with us_ _

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	Future in Focus Second Hour in Kairos
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
Wednesday	10:00am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 5**.

Greeter: Carol Bassett

Ushers: Judy Halden, Michiyo Laing, and Kris Lewis,

Liturgists: Matthew Bassett and Chris Sonnemann

Candlelighters: Dan Morris and Sophia Morris

Fellowship Hosts: Michiyo Laing, Kris Lewis, Ali Morris, and Sienna Morris,

Sound Tech: Steve Bridgeman

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Godly Play: Nan Karns

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



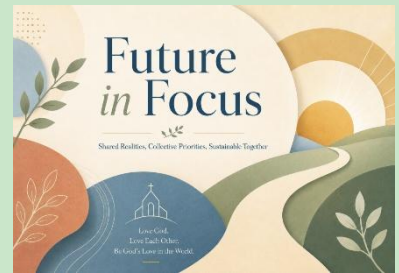
Come Join Godly Play this Sunday!

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 Jesus leaves the disciples for the last time and they wait (and wait) for what will come next. All children are welcome to listen and wonder with us!

Today after worship in Kairos

Future in Focus: Understanding Our Changing Community

Please join us after worship this Sunday for one hour of lively, interactive conversation and reflection in Kairos Hall. Together, we will explore how the religious landscape is changing locally and nationally, how different generations are experiencing faith, belonging, and community, and what shifting demographics in Danville, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and the Tri-Valley may mean for our future.



Come with your stories, experiences, questions, and hopes. We look forward to building a shared understanding of our current reality—and imagining together strengthened pathways into the future.

Today

Mental Health Offering

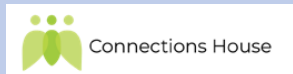
May is Mental Health Month, and to lift that up we are inviting you to make a special offering today for Mental Health Sunday in the UCC. Our Mental Health offerings will be shared equally among **Fred Finch Youth and Family Services**, **NAMI Contra Costa**, and **Connections House**.

[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.



[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

[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.



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*.

Exciting Pride Events in June!



The LGBTQIA Action Team at DCC are excited to share that we have TWO community Pride events that we will directly be involved with this year in addition to our own Pride Weekend offerings! Built on the great success of the last two years of hosting the Pride event on our campus, we are thrilled to be taking this to a much wider community. The Town of Danville is sponsoring us by providing the Community Center and lawn area for the event! We feel this will give much greater visibility to the event and make it more approachable to people who may not feel comfortable coming on a church campus.

We have been working in partnership with PFLAG, Discovery Counseling, The San Ramon Diversity Coalition, and both the Town of Danville and the City of San Ramon to put together these activities and want everyone at DCC to get involved. Here's what's planned:

June 1st, 5:00pm–6:00pm--*Pride Flag-Raising in San Ramon*--speeches, tabling and an opportunity for picnicking on the lawn

June 6th, 10:00am–4:00pm--*Valley Pride 2026!* This is our big, day-long event with the Town of Danville--this year being held in the Town Community Center on Front Street (next to the library). 25+ organizations tabling, flag-raising, speeches, kids' activities, music, picnicking on the lawn, keynote speeches and educational workshops.

We need support for our events--there will be signup opportunities after church, and we hope everyone can attend. Check out our new website at www.srvalleypride.org for more details and information!

June 1st–30th--*DIVINE IDENTITY Exhibit in the sanctuary* (More information to come.)

June 20th, 5:00pm–8:00pm--*DIVINE IDENTITY Artist Talk and Reception* (More information to come.)

June 21st -- *Pride Sunday at DCC* featuring the Rev. Derek Terry, Executive Director of the UCC's ONA Coalition as our guest preacher along with other special guests.

Valley PRIDE

Pride Flag Raising and Community Event

Events Schedule:

- Community Resource Fair** 10:00am-1:00pm
- Family-Friendly Activities & Picnic** 11:00am-12:00pm
- Flag Raising & Speeches** 12:00-1:00pm
- Keynote Speaker & Kids Activities** 1:00-2:00pm
- Presenters & Workshops** 2:00-4:00pm



When:
June 6th, 2026, 10am-4pm
Where:
Danville Community Center
(Front St.)

SAN RAMON PRIDE FLAG-RAISING

Bring a Picnic
Blanket and
Food!



When:
June 1, 2026, 5 - 6pm
Where:
Central Park Meadow
(Bollinger Canyon Rd.
and Alcosta Blvd.)



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.



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!

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](#).

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.

Pictures of the Week



Pastor Lauren served as preacher as we kicked off our First Sunday in OWL;
Anne and Henry Bremirez presented the Stewardship moment;
the Men's Group met at Clementine's for lunch last Tuesday;
Pastor Lauren led the youth and congregation in body prayer during Time with Children;
Dayspring held its graduation this week.

*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*

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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