



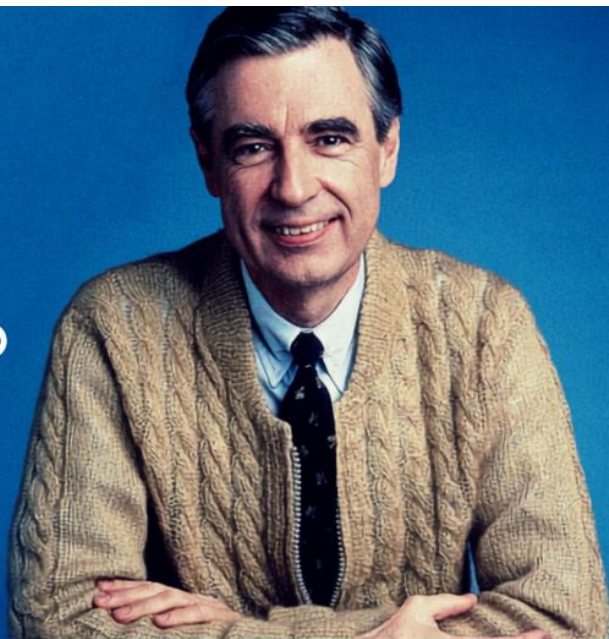
DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Am I a Sheep?

.....



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Jason W. Krug

WELCOME

Rev. Lauren Jewett

Please sign the sheet in the blue pad, pass it to another, and place it in the offering plate.

To offer a special prayer, please fill out a Prayer Card, which will be collected during Prayer Time.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alene Riley

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

One: We are gathered together from many places

All: as the one flock of our Holy Shepherd.

One: We sing God's praise; we lift our hearts

All: while God pours love out on us.

One: In this hour of worship, take comfort and courage:

All: God is faithful still.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Alene

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING SONG

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, vv1, 3

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Back to School Blessing

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley
and Pastor Lauren

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

252

Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847)

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807-1886)

John 10:1-29

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten - der care;

3 Let us al - ways seek your fa - vor; let us al - ways do your will;

in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.

Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us, yours we are.

Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
William B. Bradbury, 1859

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Evans Davis, granddaughter of Laiana.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION SONG

It's You I Like

SURSUM CORDA

One: God is with you!

All: God is with you too!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up. We lift them right up to God.

One: God is so good. Let us thank God and praise them!

All :Thank you God!

One: It is right to give our thanks and praise, isn't it?
It is good to remember who made us,
and how much we are loved just for being ourselves.

All: Yes, it feels good to give God our thanks and praise!

COMMUNION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All: Thank you, God, for our neighbors, near and far.
Thank you for Jesus. And thank you for this food.
Help us to do our best to be good neighbors to all. Amen.**

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

Jesus went to visit all the towns and villages near there. He told [the people] the good news about God's kingdom. He also caused sick people to become well again from all their different pains and illnesses. When Jesus saw the crowds of people, he felt sorry for them. They had trouble in their minds. They had nobody to help them.

Jesus thought, "These people are like sheep that have nobody to take care of them."¹

[Jesus told the people,] "I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as God knows me, and I know God. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice."²

Jesus said, "I, the Son of Man³, will return one day. Then people will see that I am great and powerful. All God's angels will come with me. I will sit on my great seat as king. People from all the countries in the world will come together in front of me. I will put them into two groups. I will do it in the same way that a shepherd puts his sheep and goats into two groups. They put the sheep on his right side and the goats on his left side.

The king will say to those people who are on his right side, "Come here. God has been good to you. God has prepared a place for you in their kingdom. That kingdom has been ready for you since the time that God made the world. I was hungry and you gave me some food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me some water to drink. I was visiting your town and you asked me to stay in your home. I did not have enough clothes and you gave me some clothes to wear. I was ill and you took care of me. I was in prison and you came to visit me there."

Then the people on the right side will say to the king, "Lord, when did we see that you were hungry and give you some food? When did we see that you were thirsty and we gave you some water to drink? When did we ask you to stay in our home because you were alone? When did we give you some clothes to wear? When did we take care of you because you were ill? When did we come to visit you in prison?"

The king will answer them, "I tell you this: You did all these things to help other people. They were not important people, but they were my friends. When you helped them, then you also helped me."

Then the king will say to those people who are at his left side, "Go away from me. God has decided to punish you. God has prepared a fire that will burn for ever. God has prepared it for Satan and his servants. You will also go into that fire. I was hungry but you did not give me any food to eat. I was thirsty but you did not give me anything to drink. I visited your town but you did not ask me to stay in your home. I did not have enough clothes but you did not give me anything to wear. I was ill but you did not take care of me. I was in prison but you did not come to visit me."

Then these other people will say, “Lord, when did we see you and you were hungry, or you were thirsty? When did we see you alone or without clothes? When did we see you and you were ill, or in prison? When did you need our help and we did not help you?”

Then the king will reply, “I tell you this: You did not help people who are my friends. They were not important people. But when you did not help them, you also did not help me.”

Then those people on the king's left side will go away to the place where God will punish them for ever. But the good people on the king's right side will live forever with God.”⁴

¹[Matthew 9:35–36](#) (Easy English Bible); ²[John 10:14–17](#) (NRSVUE);

³“Son of Woman” is a suggested translation of the phrase “Son of Man” as described in *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church* by the Rev. Wilda Gafney, PhD; ⁴[Matthew 25:31–46](#) (Easy English Bible)

MODERN LESSON

Words from Fred Rogers

Alene

“You are loved with a greater love than anyone could ever imagine, Tom.

I trust that you’ll never ever forget that.”

Fred Rogers, in an email to Tom Junod, reporter for *Esquire*

SERMON

Am I A Sheep?

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley

ANTHEM

God Loves Everyone

Leon Bridges

God loves the birds and the bees

God loves the stoners and freaks

And the girls on the street

Just the same as you and me

Old men and the young and the strange

School kid looking out at the rain

Cops on the beat and the crooks in the cage

Just the same

God loves everyone, everybody under the sun

God loves everyone just the same...

God sees all the folks on their own

God knows what it's like to be cold

And the winners and losers and player and fool

For the game

God loves everyone, everybody under the sun

God loves everyone just the same...

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.

TIME OF GIVING

Alene

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

When I Consider How the Father Loves

Penny Rodriguez

*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

O For A World

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

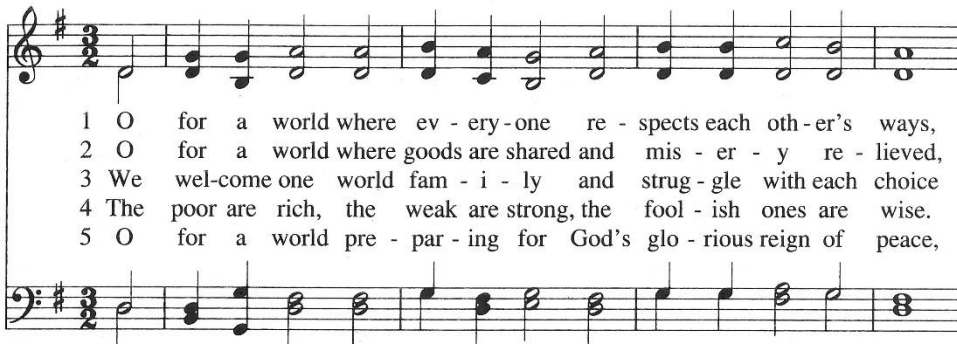
O for a World

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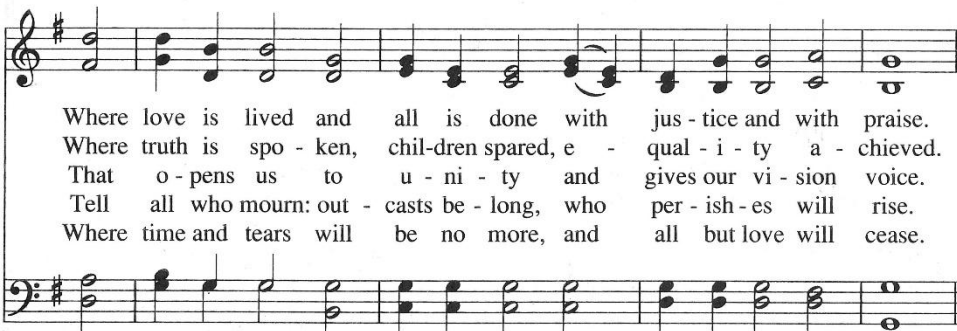
Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Glaser, 1828
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839



1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel-come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil-dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues"
and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this
hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian
Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted
and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

POSTLUDE

It's A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Fred Rogers

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood
A beautiful day for a neighbor
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beautywood
A neighborly day for a beauty
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you

So, let's make the most of this beautiful day
Since we're together, we might as well say
Would you be mine? Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?
Won't you please, won't you please?
Please, won't you be my neighbor?

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

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:45am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:45am–11:15am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout room
11:15am	Anti-Racism Team Open Meeting in Kairos Hall
12:00pm	Monthly Lunch Bunch at Café Esin

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
Saturday		Council Retreat and Potluck

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 6.**

Greeters: Dianne Dorn and Anne Seiler

Ushers: Joy Davis

Candlelighter: Anne Seiler

Liturgist: Alene Riley

Fellowship: Eileen Ackley, Alene Riley, and Bill White

Sound Tech: Jim Felton

Tech Minister: John Klassen

Lock Up Duty: Dee Brook

Godly Play: Pastor Lauren and Kim Michaud

Next week's Emmaus Team is **Team 1.**

Upcoming Pastoral Schedule

Following his sabbatical last year, Pastor Todd shared with us that one of the valuable lessons he learned was to access the time he is given each year for renewal and reflection: *instead of banking it, use it as it is intended*. We affirm this intention.

Therefore, following worship Sunday, Pastor Todd has arranged to be away for the month of August using a combination of vacation time and study leave. A portion of his time will be dedicated to creating an anti-racism worship and study series partially funded by a Conference Clergy Vitality grant he received. Similarly, Pastor Lauren will be accessing vacation and study leave August 12–28 to catch her breath after a busy summer, attend a youth ministry conference, and transition out of her work with the Conference. Ideally, our pastors try to cover one another's leave but this summer's calendar made that challenging. Going forward, Pastor Todd and Pastor Lauren will strive to make sure they're not both gone at the same time; an increase in hours for the Children, Youth, and Community Engagement role will help.

Pastor Todd has arranged for us to be cared for in worship by the Rev. Kim Risedorph, DCC member Carrie Hrousis, and the Rev. Carol Barriger. Pastor Lauren will preach August 30. For pastoral needs during this time, please reach out to Pastor Lauren through August 12 and then directly to the church office or the moderators who will connect you with the designated pastoral care provider.

We deeply value our pastors' commitment to our church family and know that they can serve alongside us best when they are rested and have time for renewal. We ask that you pray for them while they are away and for their safe return to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Deepest Sympathies to the Leich Family

It is with heavy hearts and deep sympathy that we share the passing of **Sandy Leich** early Wednesday morning following her recent hospitalization. Sandy transitioned into God's eternal presence of loving kindness surrounded by Doug, her husband of 53 years, and their daughter Megan.

Please hold Doug and Megan in your prayers. Doug welcomes calls and texts. If you'd like to send expressions of care and support, Doug's address is in the church directory; contact the church office for Megan's.

Today during worship **Back to School Blessing**

The new school year is almost here — with all the anticipation, worry, and excitement that come with it. Join us in worship today for our Back to School Blessing, as students, teachers, staff, parents, and our whole church family gather to ask God's blessing over the year ahead.



Today after worship in Kairos **Anti-Racism Team Open Meeting**

The Anti-Racism Team will be having a regular planning meeting after worship today. All who are interested in knowing what our team is all about are welcomed to attend-- we'll be in Kairos Hall. We'll be discussing several topics, including what it means to be an "emerging anti-racist church," upcoming activities around Indigenous Peoples Month, and opportunities to help support our next event with Visions of Hope. Come join us!

Today at noon **Monthly Lunch Bunch**

Come join the after-church-lunch-bunch today at noon at Café Esin in Danville. Note: Please come prepared to pay for your meal with check, cash, Paypal or Venmo. Thanks!



Sunday, August 16th from 11:15am–12:45pm
Journeys In Faith Second Hour

Soul Words

What: A Writing Workshop using personal narrative to explore what gives our lives meaning

Who: Everyone! No prior writing experience is necessary

When: Sunday, August 16th from 11:15am–12:45pm

For more information contact Linda Elsdon (lindaelsdon@gmail.com or 925-768-0617).

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](#).

Sunday, August 30th at 11:45am
New Member Interest Lunch

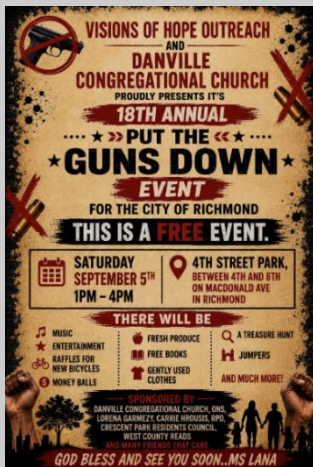
Curious about joining the DCC family? If so, a time of fellowship for potential new members is planned for Sunday, August 30th at 11:45am. We'll gather at the home of John & Joyce Klassen in San Ramon for lunch and the opportunity to get to know DCC and each other a little better. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Joyce Klassen, Welcome Commissioner at joyce.klassen@comcast.net.

Please hold the date of Sunday, September 20th for welcoming new members to our congregation, as part of our worship service.

**New Member
Interest Lunch**



*Sunday, August 30th
at 11:45am
at the Klassens*



Saturday, September 5th from 1:00pm–4:00pm Visions of Hope Opportunity

Our work with Visions of Hope is coming around again full circle, with the annual "Put the Guns Down" event in Richmond on Saturday, September 5th from 1:00-4:00pm at 4th Street Park. We are seeking support from DCC to help at the event, donate money for bicycles and prizes, and to help purchase food. There's an online sign up form [here](#), or you can sign up after church during coffee hour. Please direct any questions to Carrie Hrousis, Doug Leich or Barb DeBarger.



Learning to be brave



**Bishop
Mariann
Budde**

Episcopal Diocese of Washington



In conversation with

**Adam Russell
Taylor**

President of Sojourners

August 12th

1pm ET / 10am PT

On Wednesday, August 12 at 10:00am, Sojourners President Rev. Adam Russell Taylor will host a live conversation with Bishop Mariann Budde: *Learning to Be Brave: Speaking Truth to Power in the Public Square*. Drawing from her recent book, [We Can Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith](#), Bishop Budde will reflect on the moments that ask us to choose courage, integrity, and moral clarity. To sign up for this webinar, click [here](#).

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.

Picture of the Week



Scenes from last Sunday's worship in which Rev. Karen Lebacqz served as guest preacher, Alene Riley served as worship steward, Anne Seiler led Time with Children, John Kendall Bailey enriched the service with his musicality, Bette Felton shared an announcement on behalf of the Anti-Racism Team, and the Long-Range Planning Team held a second hour.

*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

a Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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