



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Photo by Ditto Bown on Unsplash

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love Hans Georg Nägeli

WELCOME

Dianne Dorn

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

Max Posadas

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

One: Friends, we gather not merely by chance,
but by a divine call to connect with God and each other.

All: We gather to reorient our minds and hearts toward truth and compassion.

One: Let us seek the wisdom that teaches us how to live in beloved community.

All: May the grace that binds us together empower us to love the world.

One: Let us open our worship to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Max

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING SONG

Community of Christ

See next page.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Carrie Hrousis

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

Community of Christ

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Shirley Erena Murray, 1985

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
 Traditional Hebrew melody
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

Shirley Erena Murray has grown up within the Ecumenical
 Movement and addresses related themes such as Christian unity
 and social justice in her hymnody. This text was first sung at the
 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.

MODERN LESSON

Human Heart (from Once On This Island)

Stephen Flaherty &

Lea Salonga and Broadway Revival Cast

Lynn Ahrens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuVt8Q4dk6Y>

SERMON

Loving, Learning, Leaning

Carrie

ANTHEM

Lean on Me

Bill Withers

Playing for Change

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LiouJsnYytl>

TIME OF PRAYER

Carrie & Dianne

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.**

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

The Seed

A. Aksnes, M. Leonard
arr. R. Martinez-Lopez

*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

*CLOSING HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

Carrie

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

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER



Carrie Hrousis grew up in the UCC, participating in churches, camps and college ministries. She loves to lay preach, teach Sunday school, serve on committees and lead commissions. Carrie taught math before becoming a stay-at-home mom and has her own math tutoring business. Carrie loves all kids of all ages but especially her own, Lore (24), Athan (21) and Bobby (21). Carrie and much loved husband, Constantine, have lived in California for 28 years and have been DCC members for 25. When not feeding her family, Carrie loves to meet with friends, rest with her cats, sing in the shower and write pastors about their sermons. She is very grateful for the opportunity to share her thoughts with her DCC family.

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–12:45pm	Journeys in Faith Second Hour – Soul Words with Linda Elsdon

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.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

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

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

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

Greeters: Jen Faught, Gilbert Posadas, and Serena Posadas

Ushers: Heidi Bridgeman, Steve Bridgeman, Julie Grenley, and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighter: Max Posadas

Liturgists: Max Posadas and Wilson Jackson

Flowers: Julie Grenley

Fellowship: Sally Baca and Nan Karns

Sound Tech: Randy Jang

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Tom Sonnemann

Godly Play: Nan Karns and Sereen Mahmood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Pastoral Schedule

As a reminder Pastor Todd is away for the month of August and Pastor Lauren will be out August 12th–28th. For pastoral needs during this time, please reach out to the church office or the moderators who will connect you with the designated pastoral care provider.

This Sunday **Join us for Godly Play**

Children are invited to join us in Godly Play this Sunday to wonder together about the Story of Creation — the very beginning of everything. Godly Play invites children into sacred stories through gentle storytelling, wondering questions, and hands-on materials that help them explore faith at their own pace. There's no right or wrong answer when we wonder together — just curiosity and open hearts. Hope to see you there!



Today from 11:15am–12:45pm

Soul Words Second Hour

Join Linda Elsdon after worship for a writing workshop using personal narrative to explore what gives our lives meaning. All are welcome!

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*



Sunday, September 6th at noon

Monthly Lunch-Bunch gathering. Please join us!

Come join the lunch bunch on Sunday, September 6th. We'll be gathering at noon at Clementine's in San Ramon. 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 wrjachev@netzero.com to let him know you'll be attending.

Wednesday, September 23rd

SF Giants Faith Day Outing

Join your DCC friends along with folx from area UCC churches and help express our expansive faith at the upcoming SF Giants game on **Wednesday, September 23rd** (12:45pm start) and for the 10:00am pre-game discussion on the intersection of faith and sports. Tickets are available for \$14 each and will be available only via the following link through August 24. Reach out to Trish Moosbrugger with any questions. <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Danvillecongregational2>



Wednesday Morning Prayer

While Pastor Todd is away, Wednesday morning prayer will continue via Zoom on Wednesdays at 10:00am. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. To join, use this [link](#).



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.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**REV.
DEREK A.
TERRY**

Executive Director of the
Open & Affirming Coalition, UCC



The following is a joint statement from United Church of Christ General Minister and President/CEO, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, and the Open and Affirming Coalition Board Chair, the Rev. Kevin E. Tindell on the untimely passing of the Rev. Derek A. Terry, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition. Rev. Derek was a diligent ally of DCC in our commitment to strengthen and expand our ONA covenant; those who heard him preach on Pride Sunday this past June will

not soon forget his powerful reminder that "we shall not be moved." You can view his sermon here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT1cYNjRf5Q>

We are heartbroken by the tragic passing of our sibling Rev. Derek Terry and offer condolences to his family, his congregation, and the community that supported and loved him. An incomparable and fearless leader, Rev. Terry, touched the lives of everyone he encountered throughout his ministry in the United Church of Christ, and as the Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition.

Rev. Terry brought to his calling a powerful voice to conversations on civil rights, racial and social justice, LGBTQ+ inclusion, income inequality, body positivity, and courageous living. His preaching and teachings called people to deeper compassion, creative resistance, and a more inclusive vision of the church. His big heart, warm spirit, and passion for bringing justice to the world will be missed by all who knew, worked alongside, and partnered with him in the struggle. Rev. Terry's passing is a devastating loss to many for whom he was family, friend, mentor, and confidant.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Terry family, the St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, where Rev. Terry served as pastor, the ONA Coalition, the many colleagues who had the pleasure of working alongside Rev. Terry, and all the lives of those he touched along the way.

Details about celebrations honoring the life of Rev. Terry are pending and will be shared when they become available.

Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President/CEO UCC
Rev. Kevin E. Tindell, Board Chair of the Open and Affirming Coalition



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH
5:00PM-7:00PM IN KAIROS**

RSVP TO OFFICE@DANVILLECHURCH.ORG
QUESTIONS OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO
HELP?

CONTACT KIM MICHAUD
KCMICHAUD@YAHOO.COM

Pictures of the Week



Top: Pastor Lauren led Prayer Time and the men's group met for lunch.

Bottom: Rev. Kim Risedorph served as guest preacher last Sunday, Paula and Owen Chan connected with Lily Kovach and Trish Moosbrugger, and we celebrated Pastor Lauren's birthday during fellowship time.

*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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