



PRELUDE

The Fruit of the Spirit

WELCOME & BREATH PRAYER

Rev. Todd Atkins Whitley

Please sign the sheet in the blue pad and pass it to another.

Place your signed sheet in the offering plate.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jenn O'Neal

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

One: Cultivating the fruit of the Spirit requires ongoing effort and preparation, not just at the moment of need.
We gather not by our own strength,
but as soil awaiting the rain

**All: We come seeking deep roots.
We surrender the hard edges of our striving.
We open our lives to the gentle Gardener.**

One: For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**All: May these virtues sprout in our worship today.
May they grow in our community tomorrow.**

One: Let us be united with Christ, as branches to a vine,
bearing these fruits as we live together with all God's people.

**All: Let us worship the living God who makes all things grow.
Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jenn

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING SONG

Come Tend to God's Garden

#586

1. Come tend to God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,
planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant health!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!
2. As we tend God's garden from its furrow rise
stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness our root,
unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!
3. May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
may God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,
charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lauren Jewett

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:22–26
Easy English Bible

Jenn

God's Spirit causes us to live in a different way. We love other people. We are happy and we have peace in our minds. We are patient, kind and good. People can trust us to do what is right. We respect other people and we rule ourselves properly. God's Spirit helps us to live in that way. There is no law that says these things are wrong. We belong to Christ. As a result, we no longer obey our wrong human thoughts. We stop doing the bad things that our thoughts want us to do. It is like we have killed those thoughts on the cross. Now it is God's Spirit that gives us life. So we must let God's Spirit lead us in how we live. We must not become proud. We must not be jealous of each other, so that we cause trouble to one another.

MODERN LESSON

Advice from *The Old Farmer's Almanac*

Jenn

Feed the soil, not the plant: Top-dress with 1 to 2 inches of compost every year and let the earthworms naturally work it into the soil. This preserves soil structure and prevents dormant weed seeds from being churned up to the surface.

Group plants by their needs: Arrange your garden bed so that thirsty salad greens are in damp areas, sprawling squash is on the edges where it won't smother neighbors, and tall climbers (like beans) never shade lower-growing crops.

Let nature handle the pests: Instead of using harsh chemical solutions, old-timers focus on creating a balanced ecosystem. Keeping clean bird feeders nearby draws in songbirds, bluebirds, and wrens, which naturally “eat their weight in beetle larvae every day of the spring.”

Build up when the ground is down: If you have impossibly rocky terrain or dense, unforgiving clay, bypass the struggle entirely by using raised beds or grow bags filled with high-quality soil.

SERMON

Cultivating the Beloved Community

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

The Fruit of the Spirit

Every Nation Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZwIM8Qu0zw>

*Love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
Gentleness and self-control.
All this can only, only come from you.*

*Teach me to abide, so I can bear your fruit
Let your work in me, make me look more like you.*

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.**



Missed a service or just want to watch it again?

Check out our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@danvillechurch5074

TIME OF GIVING

Jenn

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Flowers in the Garden

Catherine Wilson

*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

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 the website, or scan the QR code using your mobile device.



WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Todd

*CLOSING HYMN

The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit is love for our sharing,
It's joy in the gospel that we have from you.

It's peace that we live out with courage and daring;
It's patience, for we know that we have sinned, too.

It's kindness in all things and generous giving;
It's faithfulness seeking to follow your way.

It's gentleness, Lord, and it's self-controlled living;
Now make us more fruitful in these things, we pray.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Todd

*People of God, carry the light out with you as you depart in hope and love.
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Worship NOTES

Since it was first published in 1792, the *Old Farmer's Almanac*—an annual book of gardening and planting advice—provides long-range temperature and rain forecasts for all of North America and the astronomical structure for each day—Moon and Sun risings and settings, and so on, along with a little history based on that year's particular anniversaries. It offers many articles on wide-ranging subjects, from health to DIY project ideas, and includes advice for lovers, advice for curing sickness and staying healthy, advice for making money, advice for restoring energy, advice for proper social behavior, and on and on, year after year.

Space for REFLECTION

*Use this page to follow along with the sermon
and take it home to continue and reflect.*

As you listen, what Fruit of the Spirit comes most easily to you? (And why?)

Which fruit(s) are most difficult? (And why?)

Does it make a difference to consider the fruits of the spirit *aspirational* vs. standards of perfection? (Why or why not?)

What is the “beloved community” to you?

What is the most important thing you heard in worship today?

What will you focus on cultivating this week?

What's HAPPENING

Worship Commission Meeting

Monday, September 14 | 1:00pm | Zoom

Our Worship Commission will hold its quarterly meeting on Monday, September 14 at 1:00pm via Zoom. Anyone interested in joining the group can get the zoom link from the church office or from Tahir Mahmood.

Men's Coffee and Donuts

Tuesdays | 9:00am

Join the men's group for coffee and discussion Tuesdays at 9:00am in Koinonia Hall.

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays | 10:00am

Pastor Todd facilitates morning prayer on Wednesdays at 10:00am via Zoom in and in the Sanctuary. We will engage in centering prayer and then pray for those requests we have received. Contact the office or see Wingspan for the link.

Spirited Sisters

Thursday, September 17 | 2:00–3:30pm

We will continue our discussion of *Cassandra Speaks*, by Elizabeth Lesser, which challenges women to consider the ways in which the stories we have inherited shaped our views and actions over the years. Join us for a lively discussion in a welcoming and safe space. For more information contact Diane Stein or Donna Lenhardt.

SF Giants Faith Day Outing

Wednesday, September 23 | 10:00am

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. Reach out to [Trish Moosbrugger](#) with any questions.

Celebration of Life for Sandy Leich

Saturday, October 10 | 2:00pm

Please join in celebrating the life of long-time DCC member, Sandra Leich. The service will be held in the Sanctuary and will be followed by a reception in Kairos Hall. Sandy was a member of the church since 1983, along with husband Doug and daughter Megan.

Save the DATES

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, September 27 | 11:15am

Long-Range Planning Task Force

Sunday, October 18 | after worship

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 25 | after worship



Use the QR code above to access all the information about these activities.

Preaching SCHEDULE

Next Sunday Pastor Todd
September 27 Rev. Jess Shine
October 4 Rev. Molly Baskette
October 11 Pastor Todd

Note to Worshippers

Please take note of the emergency exits around you and locate the nearest one to 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. Worship time is generally 70 minutes—75 on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month.

First-Time Guests

Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! *We are glad you have joined us today.* We’d love to share with you what is happening at DCC. If you’re willing, provide your contact information on the Guest Info cards available in the Narthex or on one of the sheets in the blue pew pads passed around early in the service. Our Welcome Commissioner, Joyce Klassen, and our pastors are glad to connect with you and share more about DCC. [Feel free to ask any of our members as well!] We look forward to connecting with you!

Land Acknowledgement

DCC 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.

Open and Affirming Congregation

DCC is an Open and Affirming church, welcoming **all** of God’s people—of diverse race, age, gender, sexual orientation, family status, economic condition, and physical, mental, and emotional ability.

Emerging Anti-Racist Church

Since 2020, DCC has been on a journey of healing and solidarity as we strive, as an expression of our faith, to undo systems of white supremacy within the Christian church and in the wider culture. We realize this work will never be finished but strive to become *Anti-Racist* as a community, in our worship, and our ministry together.

Families with Children

Godly Play (for children ages preschool through 5th grade) is offered immediately following Time With Children. All children are invited to participate in Godly Play. Our nursery is available for those who wish to access it.

Prayer Requests

The DCC Prayer Team prays daily for those in need of prayers. To submit a prayer request for yourself or someone else, contact a pastor or send an email to prayers@danvillechurch.org. Requests are kept confidential unless specified otherwise.

Pastoral Availability

Pastor Todd keeps regular office hours remotely on Monday and in the office Tuesday through Thursday. To meet with Pastor Todd, reach out to him directly via phone or text (510.710.1280) or at todd@danvillechurch.org. **Pastor Lauren** keeps regular office hours Tuesdays and Wednesdays and remotely on Thursdays. You can reach Pastor Lauren by phone or text (510.684.9183) or at lauren@danvillechurch.org.

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Church Staff

Senior Pastor The Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley
Minister of Youth &
Community Engagement The Rev. Lauren Jewett
Music Director John Kendall Bailey
Office & Communications
Manager Anne-Marie Vanniasinkam

Church Leadership

Co-Moderators Alene Riley & Heidi Bridgeman
Vice Moderator Dianne Dorn
Financial Secretary..... Doug Leich
Acting Treasurer Steve Bridgeman
Clerk Eileen Ackley
Building and Grounds Tom Sonnemann
Children and Youth..... Pastor Lauren
Community Life..... Kyra Kennedy
Dayspring Preschool Nancy Halseth
Journeys in Faith Carrie Hrousis
Stewardship..... Barb DeBarger
Welcome and Media..... Joyce Klassen
Worship Tahir Mahmood

Dayspring Preschool Staff

Director Maria Arroyo
Administrative Assistant..... Stacey Perez

Upcoming Gatherings

9/13
SUNDAY

9:30AM Worship In-person and Online
10:45AM Fellowship (Koinonia Hall)
11:15AM Commission Meetings
(see commissioner for details)

9/14
MONDAY

1:00PM Worship Commission Zoom Meeting
(email the office or Tahir Mahmood for
login details).

9/15
TUESDAY

9:00AM Men's Coffee and Donuts (Koinonia Hall)
4:00PM Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)

9/16
WEDNESDAY

10:00AM Morning Prayer (Sanctuary or Zoom)
10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Spirit Room)

9/17
THURSDAY

2:00PM Spirited Sisters (Koinonia Hall)



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