



DANVILLE

Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025

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 visitor? Welcome to Danville Congregational Church! We are glad you are here with us today. Please register your attendance in the Blue Pew Book located in the pew and share whatever information you would like us to have about you. 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 Community Life Commissioner. We look forward to meeting 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

Spirit of the Living God

arr. Daniel Light

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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lily Sonnemann

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

One: The Good News of Jesus endures.

All: God is still speaking!

One: Despite trials and tribulations,

All: God is still speaking!

One: Enduring beyond floods and in spite of rulers,

All: God is still speaking!

One: In sunrises and sunsets, in the breeze, and in the rain that falls on earth,

All: God is still speaking!

One: Through all things present and those to come,

All: God is still speaking!

One: As the church, we are called to make our faith our own.

All: God is still speaking!

One: Speak to us, oh Holy One of Many Names!

All: Your people old and young are listening. Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Lily

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

*OPENING HYMN

Spirit I Have Heard You Calling

See pages 4–5.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Anne Seiler

Following the Time With Children,

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

Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling

Words and music by Thew Elliot

1. Spir - it, I have heard you call - ing, like a
2. Now I see you all a - round me, now I
3. Since you moved u - pon my wa - ters, since you

The first system of the song features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

mem - 'ry long grown dim, cry - ing from cre - a - tion's
hear you call my name. Now I speak the words you
spoke and set me free, I have yearned for this com -

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

mo - ment, seek - ing voice from deep with - in. I have
give me, now I feed cre - a - tion's flame. You are
mu - nion, for your fire in - side of me! Now your

The third system concludes the song. The melody and accompaniment are shown in the treble and bass staves, with the lyrics written below the treble staff.

heard you in my long - ing. I have
speak - ing through my long - ing. You are
love de - fines my long - ing. Now your

heard you in my pain. Now I feel you mov-ing
speak - ing through my pain. Now I feel you mov-ing
love shines through my pain. Now we dance in end-less

in me, feel you burn - ing like a flame.
in me, and I'll nev - er be the same.
un - ion, sing - ing out cre - a - tion's name!

@ 1998 Thew Elliot
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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 4:12–14

Lily

Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before Them no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our faith.

MODERN LESSON

by Sidney D. Fowler
writing for the United Church of Christ

Lily

If you think God's not finished with you yet, guess what? God's not even finished with God yet. God isn't finished with you, or finished with the church or our world, or even letting us know more about God's own compassion, justice, hope, and truth. If you are open, if you listen carefully, you'll discover what God is saying to this generation at this time in history. There's more good news to be heard!

SERMON

God Is Still Speaking

Pastor Todd

ANTHEM

God Is Still Speaking
Mark A. Miller, vocals & piano

Mark A. Miller

God is calling to her people, God is calling to us all.

Are we listening? God is still speaking,

God is calling to us all.

"I will pour out my Spirit, I will pour out my power,

Share my dreaming, shower you with visions,

I will pour out my power."

Chorus:

Pour out justice, overflowing! Pour out mercy for this hour!

Pour compassion on your people, let your Spirit flow with power!

Love is moving through this body, love is moving in this place.

Breathing through us, helping us grow stronger

Love is moving through this place.

(Chorus)

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Todd

Sharing our Joys and Concerns

All: Hear our prayer

Prayers of the People

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

Lily

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, text the word give to 855-940-3756.

Offertory

I Hear Thy Welcome Voice

arr. John Purifoy

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Todd

*CLOSING HYMN

God, Speak To Me That I May Speak

See next page.

*BENEDICTION

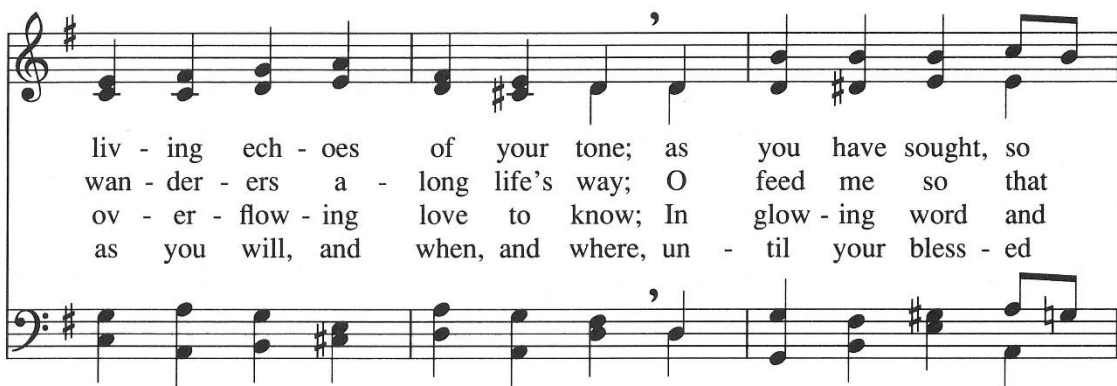
Pastor Todd

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God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal,
 Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several
 languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed
 several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert
 Schumann's piano pieces.

WORSHIP NOTES



Rev. Derek Terry is a pastor, artist, and social justice leader based in Cincinnati, Ohio. He serves as the pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, a welcoming church dedicated to fairness and justice. Rev. Terry is also the Program Director for the [Open and Affirming Coalition](#), a group that supports churches in fully including LGBTQIA+ people. In addition to his work in ministry, Rev. Terry has written books like *God Loves Me & So Do I* (2015) and *The Shattered Ornament* (2017). He's created inspiring calendars and free coloring pages celebrating Black and queer leaders, such as Black Women's Freedom Fighters and The Regular King.

In 2015, Rev. Terry appeared on *Iyanla: Fix My Life on the Oprah Winfrey Network*, where he courageously shared his journey of coming out as gay. Today, he uses his art, writing, and voice to inspire others to live authentically and embrace who they are. Rev. Terry is active on social media, where he shares uplifting messages about hope, justice, and love. Keep the conversation going by following him on Facebook, Instagram, BlueSky, and YouTube (@RevDerekTerry). You can also visit www.DerekTerry.com to learn more, shop his creations, and read his regular blog posts.



Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson is a writer and poet and is the President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ. She was born in Kingston, Jamaica and writes from her experience as a global citizen. Karen Georgia believes that words have power to heal and bring new life to body, mind and spirit. She is a healer and seer in the traditions of her ancestors and holds sacred the gifts she carries. She incorporates her culture and heritage with her spiritual and healing practices, and the rituals she creates

for healing and self care. Her work has a focus on healing from grief, death, and loss, an out-growth of her journey through caring for her Mother and losing both parents in less than two years. She creates rituals for healing and loss and believes writing is a source of healing emotional pain and loss. She is an inspiring preacher, speaker, teacher and theologian, who shares her skills and gifts in a variety of settings internationally.



Rev. Jennifer Butler has spent the last three decades strengthening and rebuilding the progressive faith movement. She has dedicated her life to helping individuals and communities ground themselves in liberative spirituality that empowers them to speak out with a faithful voice to change the world.

In 2005, she founded Faith in Public Life (FPL) to amplify progressive faith voices and forge multi-racial, multi-faith and ideologically diverse faith coalitions to work for justice and the common good. In founding FPL, Rev. Jen drew on her decade long experience countering religious extremism with a faithful argument for democracy, the rights of women and LGBTQ people. Her book *Born Again: The Christian Right Globalized* (Pluto Press) remains a go-to resource for those tracking white Christian nationalism globally.

Rev. Jen Butler served as CEO of Faith in Public Life from 2005 to 2022. Highlights of her work as CEO include mobilizing a multi-state faith strategy to secure passage of the Affordable Care Act and defeating Republican efforts in 2017 to gut the bill. She spearheaded faith based campaigns to defeat fake religious freedom bills at the state level by empowering ideologically diverse religious leaders to oppose discrimination in the name of faith. Rev. Jen also led FPL in the Trump years to draw a bright moral line in the sand against rising authoritarianism and racism.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30am–10:30am	Worship (In-person and Zoom)
10:30am-11:00am	Time of Fellowship in Koinonia / breakout rooms
11:15am	Pastor Todd's PSC
11:30am–12:15pm	Visitor Luncheon at the Klassen's

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. Thank you!

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
Friday	5:30pm–8:00pm	TGIF at the Seilers
Saturday	8:30am–2:00pm	Council Retreat

TODAY'S EMMAUS TEAM

Today's Emmaus Team is **Team 2.**

Greeter: Chris Sonnemann

Ushers: Steve Bridgeman, Wilson Jackson, and Tom Sonnemann

Candlelighter: Finn Sonnemann

Liturgist: Lily Sonnemann

Flowers: Nan Karns

Fellowship Hosts: Sally Baca, Heidi Bridgeman, Julie Grenley, and Nan Karns

Sound Tech: Brett Clark

Tech Minister: Eileen Ackley

Lock Up Duty: Brett Clark

Children's Ministers

Godly Play: Jen Faught

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Lauren is away at the high school session of Camp Tam, returning to worship next Sunday.

This is **Pastor Todd's** last week in the office prior to his final Sunday behind the pulpit on August 3 before leaving on sabbatical through November. (If you want to meet with him before he leaves for sabbatical, contact him directly.)

Pastor Todd's PSC

Pastor Todd's Pastoral Support Committee will meet today after worship. Members are Dee Brook Jenn O'Neal, Jen Faught, John Klassen, and Dave Michaud.

Today at 11:30am

Visitor Luncheon

Curious about joining the DCC family? If so, a time of fellowship for potential new members is planned for Sunday, July 27th at 11:30am. 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 at joyce.klassen@comcast.net.



This Friday from 5:30pm–8:30pm

TGIF at the Seiler residence

All are welcome for this super simple, end-of-week, supper get-together! It's a casual time for people to catch up and connect/reconnect with our DCC Community - singles, old/young, families – wherever you are on your Friday journey into the weekend...

- Hosted by Tim and Anne Seiler – Danville. Full address is in the church directory. Contact Anne with any questions
- Open house from 5:30pm to 8:30pm – Drop by for however long it works for you. Kids are very welcome!
- No RSVP necessary – just bring a pizza or dish you'd like to share, enough that covers your family, plus BYO (wine, beer, soda). We'll have salad and dessert.
- If you can't make this one – the next TGIF will be announced in the near future.

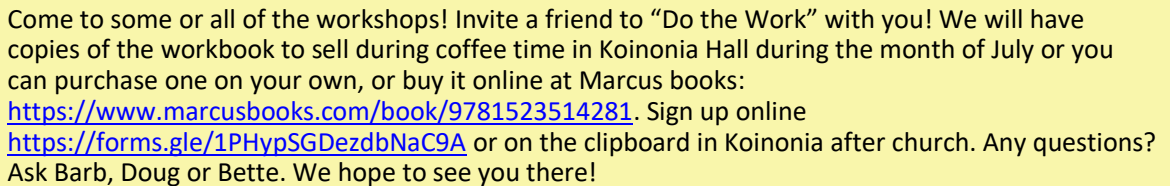


Next Sunday at noon

Monthly Lunch Bunch - Please join us!

Would you like to get to know some of your DCC colleagues better? Come join us for lunch after church on Sunday, August 3rd. We'll be gathering at noon (or whenever you get there) at the Peasant and the Pear in Danville (across the street from the San Ramon Valley museum on Railroad Ave.) and would love for you to join us! If you have joined us before, please come

Please RSVP to Wilson Jackson at 925-819-0222 or email him at wrjachev@netzero.com to let him know you'll be attending.



Plans for Pastor Todd's Sabbatical

Pastor Todd's letter of call provides for a paid three-month sabbatical leave every five years. After postponing it for a year, he will be taking this leave very soon! His last Sunday before sabbatical will be **August 3rd**, returning November 3rd and back in worship on November 9th.

We are looking forward to granting this well-deserved leave to Pastor Todd, and plans to cover his duties have been underway over these past several months. No one has been working harder at covering all the needed duties than Pastor Todd himself!



In addition to performing the duties of her call with us, **Pastor Lauren** will be present during worship most of the Sundays Pastor Todd is away, preaching at least twice and shepherding three other services. We have also engaged several guest preachers, including two DCC members!

Through Pastor Todd, the Moderator Team met with and has engaged the **Rev. Carol Barriger** to provide additional worship and pastoral support and cover the following duties in Pastor Todd's absence:

- preach three Sundays;
- maintain office hours at the church office each Tuesday, working with John and Anne-Marie to plan the bulletin, music, and provide other worship support, and following up with members;
- provide pastoral care as needed.



Pastor Carol brings to DCC a wealth of church leadership and pastoral care experience. She is ordained in the UCC and has served numerous churches in our Conference (DCC will be her seventh); she has also as a hospital chaplain. She was an Associate Conference Minister of our Conference and later served as a member and chair of various sections of the Committee on Ministry, mentoring candidates for ministry and, currently, reviewing ethical concerns. Pastor Carol is a graduate of Harvard University, received the M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and later an M.A. in Biblical Studies. She taught UCC history, theology and polity as an adjunct faculty member at PSR, and in various other settings.

Pastor Carol is eager to get to know DCC folks and is grateful to Pastor Todd and the Moderator Team for opening the door to serving and learning among us. She is dedicated to the justice and equality taught to us by Jesus, and loves all sorts of music. She will be with us in worship on August 3 and will stick around during Coffee Hour so you can get to know her.

[Click here to review the preaching schedule for this three-month period.](#)

As a part of this time of rest, Pastor Todd will not be checking email or responding to matters of the church. Members are asked to reach out to Pastor Lauren and Pastor Carol for pastoral support and to the moderators for all church-related issues. In consultation with Pastor Todd, they have agreed to contact him for urgent concerns.

The moderator team is thankful that DCC has planned and budgeted for this leave for Pastor Todd, and we are grateful to Pastor Todd for so thoughtfully working to ensure that our church's needs continue to be well supplied in his absence. If you have any questions about Pastor Todd's sabbatical and the plans for pastoral coverage, please reach out to your Co-Moderators Heidi Bridgeman or myself.

Alene Riley, Co-Moderator

Pictures of the Week



In Kauai, the Faught/Posada family saw a UCC church and decided to stop in where they met the granddaughter of the founders of the church, who now works in the office and whose name is on the plaque above the door (photos submitted by Jen Faught).

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

Kim Michaud, Administrative Assistant

www.dayspringpreschool.org



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United Church of Christ

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