

**THE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
P O BOX 579  
SEBASTOPOL CA 95473**



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Non-Profit Organization  
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**PAID**  
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**DECEMBER**  
**2015**



### *From the Pastor*

An Advent Reflection from Madeleine L'Engle: "First Coming":

*God did not wait till the world was ready, till...nations were at peace.  
God came when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release.  
God did not wait for the perfect time, God came when the need was deep and great.  
God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine. God did not wait  
till hearts were pure. In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours God came, and God's Light would not go out.  
We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice.  
For to share our grief, to touch our pain, God came with Love:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!*

"God did not wait..." I suspect that as we get nearer to December 25th, many of us – and that would include me – are going to feel that we are not ready. So much to do - so little time. We are not ready for this! Says one poet – "Time running out, money running out, patience running out." But Christmas doesn't seem to care if we are ready or not. It is not bound by our schedules. It refuses to wait... God refuses to wait. And just maybe that is good news.

Says one colleague, "In memory, we lace the Christmas story with angelic choirs, softly lowing cattle and attentive shepherds. That is the poetry by which, quite rightly, we remember Christmas. But what really happened, happened as all things usually happen – in the midst of the hustle and bustle, the grit and grime, of everyday life."

It just might be that there is no perfect time when we are "ready" for Christmas. There are no ideal conditions for encountering God. The message of Christmas is that we shall either be alert for signs of the holy in the commonplace or we might miss it altogether. We shall see God in simple things – like the birth of a baby or at a noisy family table – or we may not see God at all. God will find us where we are – at Christmas or any other time of the year. The poet again:

*Wise men still watch and wonder  
And pause to look for the stars in people's eyes,  
And to listen for angel-singing in the night.  
O, let us busy ones wise up and watch for joy again!*

*Gene*

## December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> The 1st Sunday of Advent <b>9:30 AM</b> Adult Sunday School (Fireside Room) <b>9:30 AM</b> Spiritual Practices (Faith Chapel) <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship & Children's Ministry <b>11:45 AM</b> Advent Event	<b>30</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Gospel Singers	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study <b>5:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:00 PM</b> Church Council	<b>3</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea/Coffee & Cookies & Music  <b>7:00 PM</b> Grief Group <b>7:15 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> UkeStars	<b>5</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Family Christmas Concert Fun!
<b>6</b> <b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Adult Sunday School <b>9:30 AM</b> Children's Choir <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship & Children's Ministry <b>4:00 PM</b> Middle School Youth <b>5:00 PM</b> All-Church Advent Spiral <b>6:00 PM</b> All-Church Advent Spiral <b>6:00 PM</b> Sr. High Youth	<b>7</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Gospel Singers	<b>8</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Service of Remembrance in Faith Chapel	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Women's Bible Study  <b>5:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Grief Group <b>7:15 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> UkeStars	<b>12</b> <b>8:40 AM</b> Between Women  <b>11:30 AM</b> 2nd Saturday Lunch
<b>13</b> <b>The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Adult Sunday School <b>9:30 AM</b> Children's Choir <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship & Children's Ministry <b>12:00 PM</b> Christmas Pageant Practice <b>4:00 PM</b> Middle School Youth <b>6:00 PM</b> Sr. High Youth	<b>14</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Gospel Singers	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>5:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir  <b>7:00 PM</b> Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Grief Group <b>7:15 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> UkeStars	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Adult Sunday School <b>9:30 AM</b> Children's Choir <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship & Children's Ministry <b>12:00 PM</b> Christmas Pageant Practice <b>4:00 PM</b> Middle School Youth <b>5:00 PM</b> All-Church Christmas Caroling <b>6:00 PM</b> Sr. High Youth	<b>21</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Mission & Outreach  <b>7:30 PM</b> Gospel Singers	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>5:15 PM</b> Handbell Choir	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Family Service <b>8:30 PM</b> Instrumental Service <b>11:00 PM</b> Acoustic Service	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Sunrise Rotary Christmas Dinner in Memorial Hall	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship & Children's Ministry	<b>28</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Gospel Singers	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Grief Group	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>



## WOMEN'S RETREAT FUNDRAISER CHRISTMAS WREATHS

This holiday season enjoy fresh greens from California lovingly crafted into wreaths at Pooh Corner Farm.

Wreaths are a luxurious mix of fragrant native greens, made with or without California Bay, Redwood and other traditional materials, decorated with pine cones and a bright red bow. Standard wreaths are approximately 22-24" wide and sell for \$20 each, or purchase 5 or more for a discounted price of \$18 each.

Wreaths can be ordered on November 29 at the Advent Event and picked up on December 6 or 13. Wreaths can also be ordered on December 6 for pick up on December 13. All proceeds will benefit the Women's Retreat scholarship fund. Please fill out your order form below, include your check (made out to the Community Church) and place in the collection plate or deliver to the church office.

### WREATH ORDER FORM

Please order for me \_\_\_\_\_ wreaths that I will pick up after church on December 6 or 13 (please circle)

Enclosed please find my payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (for the total amount of the order – wreaths are \$20 each or purchase 5 or more for \$18 each.)

Checks are made out to the Community Church of Sebastopol with a notation in the memo line: Wreaths. Order forms with payment can be left in the collection plate by December 6 or in the church office by December 9.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Gail Thomas at 707-758-0295

All proceeds to benefit the Community Church of Sebastopol  
Women's Retreat Scholarship Fund

# December 2015 Sermons & Scripture

Advent  
Sermon Series

• a Gospel • a Christmas •  
**Bigger Than Us**

## *December 6* THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A CHRISTMAS BIGGER THAN US: PLEASE, ANYONE BUT JOHN!

There seems to be no other way to get to Bethlehem and the Christ Child without encountering that wild, wilderness prophet, John the Baptist. Why won't he just leave us alone?

**Luke 3:1-18** Neighbors In Need Offering Rev. Nelson  
Advent Spiral in Faith Chapel

## *December 13* THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A CHRISTMAS BIGGER THAN US: EMBRACING THE PROMISE

Peace on earth, good will to all. Sure sounds great. Dare we believe that the promise is true?

**Zephaniah 3:14-20** Rev. Nelson

## *December 20* THE FORTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A CHRISTMAS BIGGER THAN US: MARY THE RADICAL BELIEVER

Beware that cuddly baby in the manger. He just might turn things upside down. Or so says his Mom!

**Luke 1:39-52** Rev. Nelson

## *December 24* CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

6 PM – Family Service 8:30 PM – Classic Service  
11 PM – Acoustic Service

## *December 27* ROOTED IN THE TEMPLE

Jesus' parents fear that he is lost, when, in fact, he is in the process of being found.

**Luke 2:41-52** Rev. Nelson

## ADVENT SPIRAL

DECEMBER 6 • 5 AND 6 PM

Children, youth and adults are invited to participate in our lovely Advent Spiral in the Chapel on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

All are welcome to participate in the church-wide intergenerational Advent Spiral. We will offer two seatings this year: 5pm and 6pm, with 20 slots in each seating. Please RSVP to the church office at 823-2484 ext.100 or by email: [office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org).



This is a prayerful meditative walk to prepare our hearts for Advent. The ritual calls forth in all of us the seeking of light—in going to our very center, we discover the light and take it out to share it with others.

Please come ready to participate in a quiet walking meditation as we begin our Advent season.

## CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT!

Save the dates! We will have 2 practices for our Christmas Eve



Pageant: Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, after church (approx. 12-1pm), with lunch provided. If you have a child or youth who would like to participate, please let Rachel Knuth know-- we will be assigning parts in early December and getting our angels and shepherds all lined up!

Also, if you'd like to help with ritual arts/worship planning for the Christmas Eve Family Service, please contact Rachel Knuth. She's especially looking for someone who can help with lighting! [RachelKnuth@uccseb.org](mailto:RachelKnuth@uccseb.org).

## Blessing of the Wreaths ALL CHURCH ADVENT EVENT & LUNCH NOVEMBER 29

Join us for a spectacular Advent Event on November 29 right after church. Bring your Thanksgiving dessert to share in Memorial Hall for an all church luncheon extravaganza – turkey soup & cornbread as well as a vegetarian offering, plus your desserts



There will be beautiful materials to make your own Advent Wreath, a Blessing of the Wreaths, and a special candle lighting song you can learn and share with your family throughout Advent. There will be a variation of wreath styles you can choose from (along with our church's traditional style) and the main materials you'll need to get started. Plus other fun crafts for all ages.

Please bring clippers for cutting greenery. And if you have greenery to contribute, we need that too! Greenery can be delivered to the church the week of November 22 and left outside Memorial Hall.

If you're interested in being involved, please contact Rachel Knuth: 823-8124 or [RachelKnuth@uccseb.org](mailto:RachelKnuth@uccseb.org). Helpers are needed for set up and clean up.



## NEW LIFE FOR YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES

Those old eyeglasses in your junk drawer are a great gift to someone in Mexico or South America through the **Lions In Sight** collection program. Just put the glasses in the collection box in the church entry and they will be processed and eventually reach an eye glass clinic to help someone improve their vision. Old hearing aids are also in demand. Here is an opportunity to re-use and recycle at the same time as helping someone in need. If you have any questions about the eyeglass collection program, please ask Jerry Coleman.



## ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY MORNING CLASS CONTINUES

Please join us Sundays at 9:30 in the Fireside Room for coffee and to discuss the scripture chosen for the sermon. We will begin the discussion with a brief insight into the pastor's view of the passage and pose questions for the group. We will read the passage, discuss it, and then listen to the Sunday sermon with a little more insight and hear what the pastor has to say.

You don't need to be a Bible scholar, just have the desire to delve into the Bible, one scripture at a time. We hope you will join us.

## Women's Fellowship

### DECEMBER 3 CHRISTMAS TEA/COFFEE & COOKIES!

Join us for our only meeting in December when we celebrate the Christmas Season together with a Holiday Tea/Coffee & Cookies! We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 PM and begin with a short business meeting followed by tea, coffee, cookies and a special Christmas musical presentation. Please bring a favorite Christmas decoration or ornament to

help create some festive table decorations! And if you would like to participate in the Christmas Cookie exchange, bring 3 dozen of your favorite home baked Christmas cookies to share – and you will get to take home 3 dozen cookies of your choosing!

All women are invited to this final meeting of Women's Fellowship for 2015. Please join us!

### HELP WANTED: SUNDAY MORNING CHILDCARE

Our Sunday morning childcare is looking for a few adults to serve as back up help – please see Fran Rasmus or Kathy Bell if you can help on occasion – or contact the church office at 823-2484.

### EMAIL CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Judy and Norm Stupfel have a new email address:  
[swimquilt@gmail.com](mailto:swimquilt@gmail.com).

If you have a change of any sort – phone, email, or mailing address, please keep us up to date! Call the church office at 823-2484 or [office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org). Thanks!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On Communion Sundays our children will begin worship in the Sanctuary with their families and then at the middle hymn, children ages 3 and up will be invited to join Rachel in Faith Chapel for a Chapel Circle.

The children will then return to worship in the Sanctuary during the Doxology to partake in Communion with their families. Children under age 3 may go the Nursery in Room 4 with Fran Rasmus.

### Preschool and Kindergarten (Room #5)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
November 29	Communion Sunday	Rachel Knuth
Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion		
December 6	Second Sunday of Advent	Paula Berndt
December 13	Third Sunday of Advent	Paula Berndt
December 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Paula Berndt
December 27	Chapel Time with Rachel	

### Children in Grades 1 & 2 (Room #6)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
November 29	Communion Sunday	Rachel Knuth
Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion		
December 6	Second Sunday of Advent	Kristen DelMonte
December 13	Third Sunday of Advent	Kristen DelMonte
December 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Kristen DelMonte
December 27	Chapel Time with Rachel	

### Children in Grades 3-5 (Media Room)

DATE	STORY	TEACHER
November 29	Communion Sunday	Rachel Knuth
Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion		
December 6	Advent Club	Pam Ammondson
December 13	Advent Club	Pam Ammondson
December 20	Advent Club	Pam Ammondson
December 27	Chapel Time with Rachel	





### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Join Grief Counselors Harry & Susanna Simms in the Fireside Room on Thursday evenings at 7PM as they facilitate a support group dealing with the pain of grief. Losing a loved one, whether it be a recent loss, or from years past, can be difficult to process. Please call Harry or Susanna at 829-7769 if you have any questions. The group meets each Thursday at 7PM in the Fireside Room. There is no charge and the group is open to all.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children (age 6-11) are invited to choir practice on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Choir Room. The children will practice on December 6, 13, and 20 and sing during worship on December 13. Questions? Contact Sara.



### ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

#### GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

Mission & Outreach has the Alternative Gift Catalogs in the entryway and in the church office.

Alternative Gifts International is a collection of products or services that allows you to donate in honor of your gift recipient. When you make a purchase from the Alternative Gifts catalog, you receive a gift card to present, explaining about the alternative gift you have purchased in their name. Through your Alternative Gifts purchase you can honor your gift recipient by giving someone in desperate need a flock of chickens, eye surgery, a month of care for an orphan or clean water. Choose from a multitude of other wonderful and helpful gifts that will be truly appreciated. Pick up a catalog and let your imagination go!

This Christmas, give the gift of hope – a gift that can change a life! Shop from home and save gas – give from the Alternative Gifts International Catalog.



# Memorial Poinsettias

On December 13 we will grace the church chancel with beautiful Memorial Poinsettias in 6" foil wrapped pots. Please fill out the form below and bring it to the church office or leave in the collection plate with your check. The cost is \$10 per poinsettia plant with checks made payable to the Community Church.

*Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 8<sup>th</sup>.*

Given in Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- or -

Given in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
poinsettia plants. (\$10 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant home.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.

*Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 8<sup>th</sup>.*





2	Jean Polleg	18	Lange Look
3	Christopher Petersilge	19	Jack Dunlap
4	George Drennon		Patty Raney
	Linda Good	20	Anga Meyskens Paull
6	Victoria Nelson		Dick Zimmer
7	Alvin Hukins	21	Lorilei DeSantis
	Pamela Downie		Maddy Foster
	Emma Steyn	24	Suzanne Albin
9	Nathaniel Felton		Bruce Matson
	Georgia Grays	26	Hunter McLeod
10	Ginny Embry	27	Paula Matzinger
11	Jim Jenkins		Dylan Lamm
	Bruce Bragonier	28	Mat Keller
	Amelia Cassells		Luke Purell
12	Rowena Kennedy		Josie Malone
	David Peterson	29	Jenna Evans
13	Elizabeth Thomas		Brayden Farnham
14	Rachel Bright	30	Joanna Caldwell
	Marquesa Weigel		
15	Colby Magster-Buman		

### 126<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING.

The 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Community Church of Sebastopol will be on Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship in the Sanctuary.

All committee chairs need to turn in their annual report to the church office by January 14, 2015. Please call the church office – 823-2484 – if you have any questions or would like to see copies of previous reports to help you get started.



## Christmas Eve Services

Our evening Christmas Eve services are always special, with three different, distinctive and very beautiful worship services.

### 6:00 pm Family Service.

A candlelight service for all ages will feature our Children's Choir and a Christmas Pageant. We will enjoy a joyous celebration that will include the singing of familiar Christmas Carols and concludes with a candlelight recessional to the courtyard.

### 8:30 pm A Classic Service.

A more "traditional" service, featuring our Chancel and Handbell Choirs. We will also sing familiar carols, hear the Christmas Story and conclude with a candlelight recessional.

### 11:00 pm Acoustic Christmas Service.

Music for this service will be provided by our Folk Acoustic group and Handbell Quartet. We will sing familiar, carols with a different sound, and conclude our celebration of the Christ's nativity with our traditional candlelight recessional to the courtyard.



## YEAR END FINANCIAL REQUESTS

The last day to request a check for 2015 is December 15. Checks will be distributed on December 16. Check requests made after December 15 will not be available until after the first of the year.

2015 contributions to the church must be postmarked on or before December 31.

## PASTORAL/SPIRITUAL CARE

Pamela's Listening Ministry is available on Tuesday's 10 AM to 3:PM, Wednesday's 4-6 PM, or other times by appointment for Pastoral or Spiritual Care. By appointment: if you or someone you know cannot come to the church but would like a Care visit, Pamela will make visits to individuals where they reside. Contact office 823-2484 or [InternPamela@uccseb.org](mailto:InternPamela@uccseb.org).

*Pamela Downie, San Francisco Theological Seminary  
Chaplain in Training  
2016 Masters in Divinity Candidate*



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING!



Join us on Sunday, Sunday, December 20, for caroling with the choir, right here in our neighborhood. Everyone – all ages – are invited to meet at church at 5 PM on December 20. And if you know someone who would particularly enjoy some Christmas cheer, please contact our Minister of Music, Brian Plaughter at 869-9120.

## BAKED GOODS FOR COFFEE HOUR

We need to stock up with goodies to share during our Coffee Hour! If you have cookies, cake or some kind of treat we can serve after church, please bring it by the church wrapped for the freezer and we can save it for next Sunday. Thanks!



## SOUL PSALMS GOSPEL SINGING



A newly formed Gospel Group led by Hosanna Bauer will meet on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:45 PM in the Fireside Room (moving to the Chapel on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month). Want to get your gospel on? Join Hosanna on Monday evenings and see what happens! Contact Hosanna at 707-775-8967 or [moonbeam@sonic.net](mailto:moonbeam@sonic.net).

## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will be on break until after the first of the year when they will resume meeting on Wednesday mornings in Faith Chapel at 9:15 am. For more information contact Steve Beck at 829-0314.



## CHURCH OFFICE ON VACATION!

Karin will be out of the office on December 7-10 and again after Christmas, starting on December 25, returning on Monday, January 4. Our wonderful volunteers will check phone messages and email, but office hours will be sporadic and your patience is appreciated.

Bring your kids and grandkids for a late afternoon of fun!  
*Cool Christmas Classics and Frosty Fun!*



A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE  
**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL**  
YOUTH PROGRAMS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 ★ 4PM**

Sebastopol Community Church, UCC

This fun, kid-friendly concert has become a holiday favorite with snow in the chancel, Rudolph glow sticks, and lots more! Join Lizann, Darryl, The Children's Choir and friends for all the fun, plus your chance to throw 'snow balls' in church!

No admission charge, a free will offering will be collected to benefit the Community Church Youth Programs.

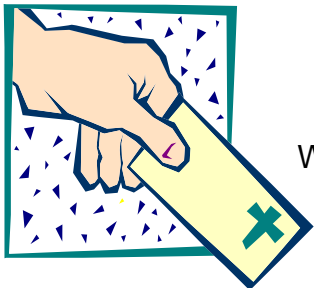


## UKULELE GROUP MEETS ON FRIDAYS

The UkeStars will continue to meet on Fridays in the Fellowship Hall for their jam sessions and weekly practice from 10-11:30 AM. The UkeStars will not meet on December 25 or January 1. For information please call Vicki Reno at 827-3668 or email at [vreno@comcast.net](mailto:vreno@comcast.net).







## FINANCIAL UPDATE

We took a step back financially in October. Operating expenses exceeded revenue by \$5,773. This wiped out our positive balance from the previous month and left us with an operating deficit of \$1,761. Pledge

income remained lower than expectations. We finished with income about \$4,000 behind our 10 month projections, plate income remained strong, but income from facilities use lagged.

Please use December as an opportunity to bring your pledge up to date and perhaps even add a little extra Christmas gift for the church.

### Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays in December on the December 2 and 9 in the Fireside Room at 10 AM. We will break for Christmas and meet up again in the New Year. Group leader Joanne Matson has prepared handouts as a study guide from the book: *Exploring Women's Relationships in the Bible*. All women are invited to join the group. Questions? Please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.



### Name Tags?

If your name tag has come up missing, or you don't have a name tag, we'd like to get one for you! And if you already have your name tag, please make a habit of clipping it on to help all of us remember your name!

To get a new or replacement name tag, print C L E A R L Y the first and last name you would like to see on your church name tag. Leave this request in the church office or collection plate:

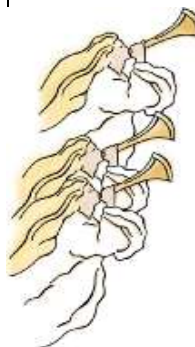
First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Service of Remembrance

DECEMBER 8



On the Second Tuesday of Advent, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in Faith Chapel, we will share in a special Service of Remembrance. For many of us, the joy and busyness of the holiday season is also marked with the memory of loved ones no longer with us. This quiet service of candlelight and reflection is the opportunity to pause for a moment and light a candle in memory of those who have meant so much to us. You are invited to bring a photograph or other remembrance to share.

### RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

To receive the monthly newsletter online, visit <http://www.uccseb.org/Newsletters.php>. **Go Green** and sign up for the online newsletter. Save paper, save postage and save money!

### 125TH QUASQUICENTENNIAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Pick up your copy of the Pictorial Directory in the church office Monday-Thursday before 4 pm. The directory is complete with everyone's contact information and if you had your photo taken by LifeTouch, you get a free copy. You may also purchase copies for \$7 each.



Visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/uccseb> and give us a thumbs up! Lydia keeps our facebook page fresh and up-to-date with something new each day. Check us out!

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search Committee has completed our Church Profile and a copy is available in the church office. Or, send an email to [office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org) and you may request an electronic copy be sent to you.



This is a document that explains who we are as a congregation and what we are seeking in a new Senior Minister. It is shared on the UCC website with candidates who are interested in applying for new positions. We have also posted an ad on the UCC site announcing the position.

Our next step will be to review the applications submitted. We will keep you posted on our progress.



At its October meeting, the Church Council approved working with Goodwill Industries to

provide a donation container in the Danmar Street parking lot. There will be an attendant there, 8 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the container will be emptied each day. It will also be a source of income, providing \$300 - \$500 a month depending on volume of donations received. We will begin on a monthly trial basis and evaluate how it is going.

## 2015 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Lydia Mulkey created a wonderful home Advent devotional pamphlet that is available for each family. The weekly devotional includes not only a Bible reading but fun and easy craft projects to accompany each week of Advent. Please pick up a copy in the Narthex, or email the church office and we can send it to you electronically: [office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org).



## Fact: Sunday Mornings are Volunteer Intensive Query: How Can You Share Your Time?

The Diaconate Board needs your assistance in filling sixteen positions every Sunday. (This does not include Sunday School.) Your gift of time will be a valuable contribution to the warm, welcoming climate of our church. Please consider this an opportunity to put your faith in action and serve the Lord and our Church.

Please complete the following form and drop it in the offering plate or in the church office. We'll add you to the calendar for the dates you have indicated.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I am able to help Sundays on:

Dec 6 \_\_\_\_ Dec 13 \_\_\_\_ Dec 20 \_\_\_\_ Dec 27 \_\_\_\_

**Christmas Eve:** 6 pm \_\_\_\_ 8:30 pm \_\_\_\_ 11 pm \_\_\_\_

On the Sundays indicated above, I could help:

- \_\_\_\_ usher
- \_\_\_\_ be the head usher for a Sunday
- \_\_\_\_ greet at the front door
- \_\_\_\_ be a Lay Reader
- \_\_\_\_ call on shut-ins
- \_\_\_\_ Acolyte (Children 7-14)
- \_\_\_\_ drive people to church in my car
- \_\_\_\_ with Communion set up
- \_\_\_\_ with Coffee Hour
- \_\_\_\_ I can also help with memorial receptions on occasion
- \_\_\_\_ with new members and be a New Member Shepherd



**THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU**

Thank you to Doris Rowe for spending time cleaning the pews and preparing the Sanctuary for worship. ★ Thank you to office elves Joanne Matson and Janet Minton for your weekly help doing all sorts of office chores. ★ Thank you to all the folks who donated sleeping bags – they are so appreciated! ★ Thank you to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday cooks and servers for helping with our homeless lunch – there is always next month if you would also like to lend a hand.

**THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU**

Women's Fellowship wishes to thank everyone who helped make our Fall Bazaar such a great success. Thank you to our set-up and clean-up crews and to everyone who contributed handmade baked goods and plants. And thank you to everyone who purchased them – because of your generous support, we will be able to continue our contributions to our church (look for new drapes in Fellowship Hall soon) and outreach programs.

**THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU**



★ Thanks to our fantastic garden volunteers, a new Crepe Myrtle tree is planted in the courtyard! The tree will bloom in late summer/fall with deep pink flowers. A big thank you to our Fall Garden Party work crew for their hard

work: Keith Blackstone, Bob Holland, Jane Huneke, Sonja Larssen, Gene Nelson, Jeff Pearce, Garth Watson and Barbara Whitson.

**THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU ★ THANK YOU**

# Between Women

Inter generational Gathering

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 8:45 AM**

**PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION 9-11 AM**

Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, December 12, in Faith Chapel with a continental breakfast in the Media Room.

Program information to be announced.

Come and be a part of a network, •supporting •educating, •expanding •connecting, individually along with a larger community of wise, wonderful women in a safe and compassionate environment.

Between Women was started in 1998 to connect and support women – that is what we still do! For more information, contact Marie Cotton at 393-7573.

## GOOD NEWS!

Thanks to your generous support, the Community Church of Sebastopol was recognized as one of the top 100 UCC giving churches across the nation to the One Good Hour of Sharing offering in 2015. Read the 2014 OGHS Annual Mission Report: <http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/2014MissionReportFinal.pdf> to find out how your gift touched lives in places where support was most needed. (2015 report will be out early next year.)

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION



Sebastopol Sunrise Rotary is collecting warm winter coats and new toys to hand out during a festive Christmas Dinner in our Memorial Hall on December 25 to help those in need. If you can contribute new or nearly new warm clothing and new toys for Santa to hand out on Christmas Day, please see Gail Thomas or call her at 758-0295. Also, if you would like to volunteer your time on Christmas Day or help with preparations, please contact Gail at 758-0295.







## MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach will meet at 10 AM on December 21 to gather the wrapped packages under the tree and all the items decorating the tree and deliver them to those in need. Please be sure to have your package under the tree before Monday morning!

### SATURDAY TABLE

On the second Saturday of each month, Mission & Outreach serves lunch in Fellowship Hall to our local homeless population. In addition to offering a hot meal, we also offer showers, laundry vouchers and bus passes. If you would like to contribute to this effort, there are several ways to help:

- ❖ Cash and check can be made out to the Community Church and designated for the homeless lunch
- ❖ Soaps, shampoos and conditioner in sample or motel sizes
- ❖ Thick tube socks, sweat shirts, jackets, etc.
- ❖ Men's walking/athletic shoes or boots
- ❖ Tarps, rain ponchos, back packs
- ❖ Disposable razors and shaving cream
- ❖ Packaged toothbrushes & toothpaste
- ❖ Hand sanitizer, Chapstick, insect repellent and sun screen

Clothing items to do not have to be new, but they must be usable and clean. Look for the collection bin in the church entry to drop off your donations. Monetary donations should be left in the church office. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249 or the church office at 823-2484.



### SLEEPING BAGS

Winter is here and we have had a number of requests for sleeping bags. If you have a clean, useable sleeping bag to donate, please bring it to the church office and we will see that it gets put to good use. Thank you!

### NEW MEETING DATES FOR 2016

Starting in January of 2016, Mission & Outreach will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, still at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. The next meeting will be January 11, 2016.

# Youth News

December 2015

Sr. High School PF Grades 9-12

Middle School PF Grades 6-8

**December will be Delightful!!**



### Saturday, December 5 – Sanctuary Holiday Benefit Concert for Youth Programs

The concert starts at 4, but you need to be there earlier. We will have baked goods for sale, maybe some entertainers?? And lots of fun!

### December 6 – Youth Lounge

#### No Way into Bethlehem, part 1

4 PM Middle School Hang Out ★ 4:30 -6 PM Meeting

5 and 6 pm **Advent Spiral in Faith Chapel for all Youth**

6 PM High School Hang Out ★ 6:30 -8 PM Meeting

### December 13 – Youth Lounge

#### No Way into Bethlehem, part 2

4 PM Middle School Hang Out

★ 4:30 -6 PM Meeting

6 PM High School Hang Out

★ 6:30 -8 PM Meeting

**Service Project: Shoe Boxes- Bring \$5**



### December 20 – Youth Lounge – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Ugly Sweater Party!!

**Wear your ugliest, most outrageous holiday sweater and bring a snack to share with the crowd.**

4 -4:30 PM Middle School Hang Out ★ 4:30 -6 PM Meeting/Party

6 PM High School Hang Out ★ 6:30 -8 PM Meeting/Party

### December 24 Christmas Eve Services

Hope to see you there – 6 pm, 8:30pm or 11pm

### December 27 – No Youth Group Meetings

Enjoy the time with your families. Youth Groups will return on January 10, 2016. Happy New Year!!

