

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Rev. Eugene N. Nelson, Jr.

gnelson@uccseb.org

(707) 823-2484

www.uccseb.org



From the Pastor

I would guess that in every November newsletter back page since 1978, I have stressed the importance of this month – November – in the life of our church. There is so much: All Saints Sunday, stewardship, pledge cards and pledge decisions, Thanksgiving, and the beginning of Advent. November – a month of remembrance, dedication, commitment, celebration, thanksgiving and profound worship.

But when I think of this November, 2015, it seems to me that this could be one of the most significant Novembers for our church and its future in quite some time – a month that will require a significant commitment from each of us.

Looking ahead to 2016, I know there will be moments of uncertainty for our church in this year of transition. And yet, it can also be a year packed with potential and new possibilities. With Lydia and Rachel in place, we are prepared to reach out in new and creative ways to families in our church and wider community. When families with children come to visit our church, we have programs to offer. And believe me, that makes a difference! With Brian and Darryl and Karna and Sara and all our wonderful musicians in place, our music program will continue to grow and thrive. And with Karin in the church office, we will continue to have wonderful administrative stability and support for all our programs.

Which brings me back to November. Friends, this is no time to step back or diminish our support. Dare to step up! Make a bold statement of support! I urge each one of you to look deeply and prayerfully into your heart and make a generous financial commitment to our church for 2016. Your decision can guarantee the viability of our many ministries. Dare to see the year ahead, not as a time of crisis, but of opportunity. A new day is dawning - a new and hopeful future opens before us and it begins....right now!

Gene



The Community Church, with Sara and Josh Margulus of Plumfund, hosted this wonderful event on October 2 in our courtyard with local food, great music, beverages of all kinds, dancing, crafts for the kids and loads of fun, plus – we raised over \$15,000 for the families affected by the Valley Fire! 100% of the money raised went directly to the families for emergency cash.

Thank yous go to organizers Sara Margulus, Caitie Carcier, Kathy Matthies and Karin Seder with special thanks to our cooks Linda and Roger Collins and of course, Kathy Matthies; to Chris Hudlow for providing his sound equipment and DJ services, plus bringing live music to the event with Lost Dog Found; Darryl Fenley for his musical talents, Megan Buckley Cutting for arranging contact with many of the fire families, to our local Girl Scouts for making desserts and providing on-site craft projects for the kids. We also received donations from local wineries and Lagunitas, Safeway and the Sebastopol Cookie Company. We had help from lots of church folks and people from the community, all working together to help our neighbors in Lake County.

The event was filmed for a TV show to air in January! More on that as we get closer.

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 3rd Monday of each month). Want to get your gospel on? Join Hosanna on Monday evenings and see what happens!



Scripture & Sermons November 2015

November 1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Rev. Brian Plaughter will be our preacher on this All Saints Sunday with communion and lighting of candles in memory of all the saints in our lives.

November 8

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

ONE POOR WIDOW; TWO PESKY PENNIES

A poor widow gives an extravagant gift. Because of her, we are better able to see Jesus and, like it or not, ourselves.

Mark 12:38-44

Rev. Nelson

November 15

GOD AT WORK

So often, it seems, we fall short, failing to measure up to our own standards, not quite reaching our hopes and dreams. But Paul cautions us against despair, assuring us that God is still at work in us. Imagine that!

Philippians 2:1-13

Rev. Nelson

November 22

**THANKSGIVING &
CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

EYES OF THE HEART ENLIGHTENED

Seeing, really seeing, life and the people in our lives with new eyes, new appreciation. That just might be what the spirit of Thanksgiving is all about.

Ephesians 1:15-23

Rev. Nelson

Pledge Cards Returned & Consecrated



A Gospel – A Christmas – Bigger Than Us

November 29

First Sunday in Advent

A CHRISTMAS BIGGER THAN US: GOD IS COMING, READY OR NOT
Advent begins with Jesus talking about ominous and powerful “signs and wonders.” We may not understand it, but we had best not dismiss it.

Romans 8:18-25; Luke 21:25-36

Rev. Nelson

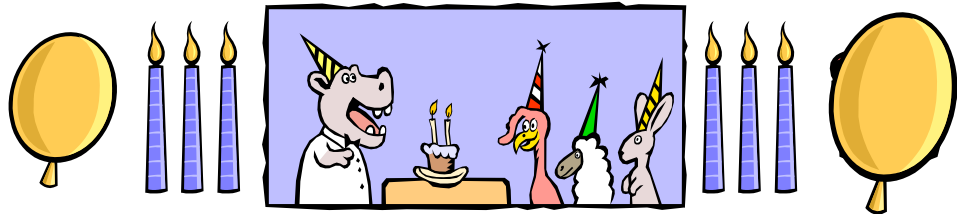
Communion Sunday

Lighting of First Advent Candle – Advent Event Following Worship

November

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Wynneth Longfellow | 15 | Dale Philips |
| 4 | Brian Kautz | | Lisa Johnson |
| 5 | Daniel Arendt | 16 | Ron Wessling |
| 6 | Mary Lou Lennox | 17 | Ann Keller |
| | Julie Seth | 20 | Tyler Porter |
| 7 | Elise Peterson | | Rolf Van Leeuwen |
| 10 | Irene Bettendorff | | Melissa Ferland |
| | Dan Rasmus | | Nicole Ferland |
| 11 | Colin Lovejoy | 22 | Ellen Stillman |
| 12 | Kristen DelMonte | 25 | Grace Grays |
| | Harry Simms | | Karna Roa |
| | Pat Furber | 26 | Norm Stupfel |
| 13 | Debbie McCallum | 27 | David DeSantis |
| | Warren Brisbin | 28 | Barbara Whitson |
| 14 | Connie Ayers | 29 | Jan Kahdeman |
| | | | Stuart Mitchell |
| | | 30 | Amy Furber Dobson |



CONSECRATION & THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 22

Sunday, November 22nd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, will be a day when we focus on giving thanks for all of God's many gifts and blessings. It will also be a day when, as a concrete act of thanksgiving to God, you are all invited to bring your completed 2016 pledge cards to church for a special time of consecration and blessing. It will be a day of special music and celebration, both during and following worship.



2016 pledge cards will be mailed out during the week of November 8th. Each of you is invited prayerfully to consider how you can best financially support the many ministries of our church for the coming year. Completed pledge cards can of course be mailed to the church, but hopefully you will be able to join us for our special time of worship and celebration on November 22nd.



PRAYER/MEDITATION RESOURCES

IN SEBASTOPOL

November 4, 12:00-1:00 PM Contemplative

Prayer: Meets in the sanctuary at Sebastopol United Methodist Church, 500 N. Main Street;

ongoing, every Wednesday of the month; this opportunity is in partnership with The Journey Center: www.journeycenter.org.

November 6, 9:30 AM – 9:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration: St. Sebastian Catholic Church 7983 Covert Lane; ongoing, meets on the 1st Friday of each month.

November 20, 7:00-8:00 PM Taize Worship: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 500 Robinson Road; ongoing, meets on the 3rd Friday of each month. Benjamin Mertz, cantor. Numina Center for Spirituality and the Arts, www.numinacenter.org.

For questions about the above, contact Pamela Downie at pamladownie@sbcglobal.net



Children's Ministry

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 and/or Jenna Gonzales.

Preschool and Kindergarten (Room #5)

| DATE | STORY | TEACHER |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| November 1 | <i>Communion Sunday</i> | Rachel Knuth |
| Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion | | |
| November 8 | Creation | TBA |
| November 15 | Ark & Flood | TBD |
| November 22 | Holy Family | TBD |
| November 29 | 1 st Sunday in Advent | Rachel Knuth |

Children in Grades 1 & 2 (Room #6)

| DATE | STORY | TEACHER |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| November 1 | <i>Communion Sunday</i> | Rachel Knuth |
| Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion | | |
| November 8 | Elijah | Kristen DeMonte |
| November 15 | Isaiah | Kristen DeMonte |
| November 22 | Jeremiah | Kristen DeMonte |
| November 29 | 1 st Sunday in Advent | Rachel Knuth |

Children in Grades 3-5 (Media Room)

| DATE | STORY | TEACHER |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| November 1 | <i>Communion Sunday</i> | Rachel Knuth |
| Children ages 3 and up are invited to join Rachel for Chapel Circle in Faith Chapel and return for Communion | | |
| November 8 | Community | Stuart Mitchell |
| November 15 | Joy | Stuart Mitchell |
| November 22 | Transcendence | Stuart Mitchell |
| November 29 | 1 st Sunday in Advent | Rachel Knuth |



BIJA



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

2015 HARVEST CONCERT

SONGS
OF OUR

AMERICAN ROOTS

featuring the
BIJA CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

&
Special Local
Guests



Michele Hill
Redwood Country Clogger



Bob Murnane
Bluegrass Trio

Sun Nov 15th

3pm Silent Auction Social 4pm Concert

Live Bluegrass & Free Refreshments
at the Silent Auction Social!

*\$10/adults *\$5/children
Community Church of Sebastopol
1000 Hwy 116 North

Concert & Auction proceeds go
to the Bija Choir's need-based
scholarship program and to
special projects



WWW.BIJA-CHILDRENS-CHOIR.COM



ALL-SAINTS DAY NOVEMBER 1

During our worship on All-Saints Day, November 1, we will have a table with candles for you to light in remembrance of a loved one. You are also invited to bring a photograph of a loved one to clip onto a loom during our worship service. Photos will be returned following the service.



And to celebrate All-Saints Day with the Sebastopol community, our Acolytes will be setting up a candle-lighting table at the Farmer's Market on Sunday, November 1st from 9am-2pm. We will have a table, canopy, and everything needed to light candles in memory of loved ones. If you are/have been an Acolyte and would like to take a turn (one-hour shifts) with our group, please contact Rachel Knuth. We are grateful to the Farmer's Market for donating space to us.

ADVENT SPIRAL DECEMBER 6

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

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.

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.



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. Helpers are needed for set up and clean up.

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT!

Save the dates! We will have 2 practices for our Christmas Eve Pageant: Sunday, December 13th and Sunday, December 20th, 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!

OUR 125TH QUASQUICENTENNIAL CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS HERE!

We have worked hard all year on this special 125th Anniversary Pictorial Directory and it is finally here. In addition to your professional Life-Touch photos, we have included more than 175 historical photos – from the early days of our church all the way to the present date, along with 11 pages of historical highlights. Each family photographed will receive a copy of this special directory free of charge.

Additional copies may be purchased for \$7 each. All of our church families are listed in the directory and even if you did not have your photo taken with Life-Touch, there will be copies of the directory available to purchase for \$7 each.

This is more than just a directory – it is an historical document commemorating 125 years of service of the Community Church of Sebastopol.

Spiritual Practices Launched

Daily devotions and learning a spiritual practice are essential to one's ongoing faith journey. Community Church intern, Pamela Downie, is offering three spiritual practice opportunities: Praying the Scriptures, Contemplative Worship and Centering Prayer.

Praying the Scriptures is a four-step practice where we will learn a new approach to reading the Bible which can open-up this ancient book for you in a way that is personal and life-relevant.

Contemplative Worship a time of worshipful silence, allowing each person to notice how they experience spirit and see what the spirit is leading them to meditate on.

Where: Faith Chapel

When: Sunday Mornings in November

Time: 9:30-10:15 AM

Centering Prayer is a wordless, trusting, opening of self to the divine; a time for listening to God as we are quietly gathered in God's presence.

COME! Quench your thirst during these times of refreshment and renewal.

November Women's Fellowship Craft & Bake Sale

NOVEMBER 1

On November 1, following worship, the Women's Fellowship will have crafts for sale in the courtyard and Fellowship Hall. Embroidered towels, doll clothes, scarves, handmade stationery, jams, jellies, baked goods and more will be available for you to purchase on November 1. Please be generous with your purchases as all proceeds will help Women's Fellowship continue their support of local outreach programs.



All women of the church are invited to attend Women's Fellowship, which has been an important part of The Community Church since the church was first established in Sebastopol in 1889. The group has expanded to include many outreach projects, both within the church and the wider community.

Thursday, November 5: Monthly Meeting

Executive Board will meet at 10 AM in the Women's Fellowship Office. The General Meeting will take place in Faith Chapel at 10:30 AM with a program (to be announced) to follow. All are invited to lunch in Fellowship Hall hosted by Circle 2 at noon.

Thursday, November 19: Circle Meetings

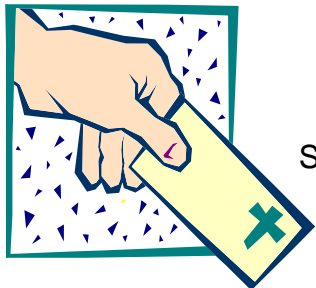
Circles 1 and 2 will meet on November 19 – locations and times to be announced.

Sunday, November 29: Christmas Sale after church

Women's Fellowship will offer Christmas items for sale after church on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent.

Thursday, December 3: Christmas Coffee/Tea

Join us for our only meeting in December when we celebrate the Christmas Season together with a Holiday Tea/Coffee & Cookies! Location and time to be announced.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

September was not as strong a month for the church financially as the previous months have been. Operating expenses exceeded income by \$9662. But, thanks to a very strong July and August we still finished the month with a positive operating balance of \$4011. Income from pledges fell considerably, with just a little over \$15,000 received, and our facility use fees, while strong, continued to lag behind projections. Fortunately, our expenses are almost \$13,000 under our nine month projections. Hopefully we will have a strong final quarter as we move through November and December. Don't forget the church on your holiday gift lists.

YOUR CHURCH PLEDGE

Please keep the church in mind in your financial planning. If you have slipped behind in your financial support of the church during the summer months, please consider using this month to catch up.



REV. NELSON AWAY

Rev. Nelson will be taking a week of study leave from November 1 through November 6.

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 _____



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!

RECYCLE INKJET CARTRIDGES FOR HABITAT

Leave your empty inkjet cartridges in the green cardboard box in the church office and Mission & Outreach will be able to turn them into cash to help fund our pledge to Habitat for Humanity. Please bring the cartridges in a sealed plastic baggie and Mission & Outreach will take care of the rest. More than \$2,000 has been generated from your used inkjet cartridges for our local Habitat for Humanity. What could be easier!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays in November on the 4th and the 11th in the Fireside Room at 10 AM. Group leader Joanne Matson has prepared handouts as a study guide from the book: *Exploring Women's Relationships in the Bible*. On November 4th, the group will meet earlier than usual, at 9:30 AM to view the film *Calendar Girls* – a story of friendship, support, love and purpose. Discussion of the movie will be on November 11 at the regular 10 AM start time. All women are invited to join the group. Questions? Please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.



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.

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

PRE-ADVENT SABBATH RETREAT

"Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath [rest] to the Lord your God... [then] God blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it."

Ex 20:8,10,11.

November 21 ♦ Faith Chapel & Fellowship Hall

Two sessions are offered: 9:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00

Facilitated by Pamela Downie, Chaplain in Training

Suggested retreat order:

Read Scripture and Reflect on the "Joyful Mysteries"

Luke 1: 26-38 **Gabriel's Annunciation to Mary** (pause, reflect)

Luke 1: 39-56 **Mary's Visitation to Elizabeth** (pause, reflect)

Luke 2: 1-21 **Jesus' Birth** (pause, reflect)

When you are ready, slowly walk the spiral, remembering something from each reading as you quietly proceed through the spiral. The spiral walk is a labyrinth but traditionally at this time of year, I'll use evergreen branches to create the spiral. You may want to repeat the reading & walking steps again or not.

When you feel done with the spiral, you may want to write something about your experience or something new you discovered in the biblical passages; write a poem; sit quietly and savor the Joyful Mysteries/Spiral experience; draw or participate in another art project that will be available.

This Pre-Advent Sabbath Retreat is for you, a time to rest and reflect on whatever gets your attention; an opportunity to quiet and calm your soul before the push through the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

RSVP by November 16 to the Church Office at 823-2484.

Pamela would like help with set up and break down for this mini-retreat, and can be contacted at the church office. She would also like to hear your suggestions of other activities to participate in after the spiral-walk: InternPamela@uccseb.org.

Pamela Downie attends the San Francisco Theological Seminary and is a Chaplain in Training and 2016 Masters in Divinity Candidate.



BOOKS FOR DISCUSSION

Here are suggestions for those interested in a reading and discussion group. We will meet in February and March, dates to be announced.

Questions? Please contact Pamela Downie at the Church Office, 823-2484 or InternPamela@uccseb.org.



The Imitation of Christ – "Next to the Bible, the most widely read spiritual work of all time"

A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life – Parker J. Palmer speaks to our desire to live undivided lives, lives which are consistent with our personal inner truth, in a world filled with fragmentation and distraction.

Not God's Type: An Atheist Academic Lays Down Her Arms – The story of an academic becoming convinced of the truth of Christianity on rational grounds but also the account of God's grace acting in and through her imagination.

Writing as a Way of Healing – How telling our stories transforms our lives

Noisy Contemplation: Deep Prayer for Busy People – Seeks to build habits of effective contemplative praying in our ordinary daily lives which include situations of tension, conflict, and noise

LISTENING DEVICE AVAILABLE

Did you know we have available for your use, a listening device to help enhance the sounds and voices speaking in church? Just ask an usher for a listening device and they will show you how it works. You can sit in any of the pews and the listening device will improve the sound quality for persons who may be hard of hearing. Give it a try!



Men's Group

An informal Men's Group will continue a book study, led by Gene Nelson, in Faith Chapel on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 am. All men are invited to attend and study materials will be provided. For more information contact Steve Beck at 829-0314.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

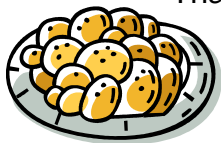
The Search Committee has reached a major milestone in our work.

We are happy to announce that we have finished our Church Profile. 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 that will begin on November 10. If you are interested, you may review a copy of the profile on our website or in the church office, but please leave the copy in the office for others to read.

We are sorry to announce that Kathie Mayhew had to resign from our committee due to personal commitments. Now keep those prayers coming for our hard-working committee and prayers that we may have a plethora of great people ready to apply for our Senior Minister position!



BAKED GOODS FOR SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR



Thank you to everyone for bringing in snacks to accompany our Coffee Hour – but we need more! 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!

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 November 8, 15, and 22. Questions? Contact Sara.



ROSELAND CUP SOCCER TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!



A big THANK YOU to our church family for your help and monetary sponsorship of the Roseland Soccer Cup II held on September 26.

Twelve teams competed, including one team from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, all in the spirit of

strengthen relationships between local youth and law enforcement through sports.

Volunteers from our church registered players, handed out team jerseys, cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and served them free all day long, set up soccer goals, provided water for the players, served cake and did whatever was needed to make the day a huge success.

Two of the twelve teams wore jerseys with our church logo right on the front! At the end of the day, it was our two teams that played in the championship game with the winner taking home a huge trophy!



Soccer fans were thrilled with a surprise visit from world cup soccer great Edwin Tenorio and Suzanne scored an autograph!

A special thank you goes to key volunteers Steve Beck and Suzanne White for their organizing efforts months before the event and their fortitude during the day of the event, working a 10-hour day to insure the success of the tournament. Thanks also to volunteers Eric Allison, Jerry Coleman, Joyce Cox, John Henel, Ellen Stillman, Tom Terry, Norma Watson and Greg Yaylian for spending their Saturday helping out at the event. Thanks also to those who wrote checks supporting the event – it would not have happened without you!



MISSION & OUTREACH

The Mission & Outreach Board is once again sponsoring the Christmas Tree as well as the Shoebox Ministry – with a slight change: the shoeboxes will be filled for men only (women and children are covered by a great many other services while the need to help homeless men remains strong).

Shoeboxes will be available for you to pick up on November 29 following worship. The shoeboxes can be filled with necessities for a homeless man (see list below). The box should be wrapped in Christmas paper and placed under the Christmas tree in the narthex. On December 21st members of the Mission & Outreach Board will deliver the gifts to the Homeless Services Center in Santa Rosa.

Our Shoebox Ministry gifts can be an important part in the life of a homeless man. Please fill your shoebox generously using “regular” size products (not “sample” sizes). It is important to stick to the list and include all the items as these gifts are opened in a group setting

SHOEBOX MINISTRY FOR MEN

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Toothpaste | Toothbrush | Pocket comb |
| Deodorant | Washcloth | Shampoo/conditioner |
| 2 granola bars | Hand towel | Package of tissues |
| Disposable razors | Chapstick | Large bar of soap |
| 1 Pair of warm socks | | Pen and notepad |
| Shaving cream | | Box of band aides |

Our tree will be decorated with “Socks, Warm Hats & Underwear.” There is always a tremendous need for men’s, women’s and children’s socks and new packaged underwear in all sizes. Socks, packages of underwear, hats and gloves can be brought in to decorate the Christmas tree that will be placed in the narthex on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29. All the items collected will be delivered to agencies serving the needy on December 21 by members of the Mission & Outreach Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will be calling you soon to ask you to volunteer for committees and boards at The Community Church. Please give prayerful consideration as to where you would like to serve in the year 2016.

- ✂ **Adult Education Committee**: Plans classes, workshops, Bible studies for adults
- ✂ **Board of Christian Education**: Responsible to guide and support Sunday Children’s Ministries. Also works on special events, such as the Advent Event.
- ✂ **Memorial & Endowment**: Manages funds given as endowments and memorials; plans educational events for the congregation and community.
- ✂ **Mission & Outreach**: Concerned with meeting human needs in the local community, the nation and the world; presents educational programs and projects.
- ✂ **Nominating Committee**: Responsible for obtaining persons to serve the church on boards and committees.
- ✂ **Personnel Committee**: Establishes and maintains personnel policies; meets with church staff; addresses personnel issues.
- ✂ **Board of Trustees**: Responsible for care and custody of the property and financial affairs of the church.
- ✂ **Youth Committee**: Support group for the youth groups and their advisors. Responsible for finding and training youth leaders
- ✂ **Diaconate**: Help coordinate Sunday morning volunteers and act as church liaison during memorial services.

✂ - - - - -

Please consider me for the following Board or Committee:

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Please complete and return to the church office. Thank you.



15TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015 join us in Memorial Hall as we help host the 15th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. With the help of Roger & Linda Collins, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner has grown more and more each year and we want to make 2015 the biggest and best yet! Here is how you can help: Call the church office at 823-2484 to sign up to work a 2 hour shift on either Wednesday, November 25 or Thursday, November 26. We need prep work, cooking, serving and cleanup – and there is no age limit – everyone can pitch in!

If you are not available to work on either of those days, another big help to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner is to donate food items or cash. Non-perishable food items can be brought to church on Sunday, November 15 & 22 (potatoes, onions, canned goods, etc.) Checks can be made out to the Community Church with a notation in the memo line: Thanksgiving Dinner.

Who is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner? Anyone who might find themselves eating alone, or may not have the energy or funds to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner is invited. In fact, everyone is invited to our Community Thanksgiving Dinner to share a meal with our neighbors.

Dinners are served from 1-5 PM. We can also arrange for meal delivery or transportation to and from the dinner. Call the church office at 823-2484 to make arrangements.



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:

Nov 1 ____ Nov 8 ____ Nov 15 ____ Nov 22 ____ Nov 29 ____

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:

____ be the head usher for a Sunday

____ usher

____ with new members and be a New Member Shepherd

____ greet at the front door ____ with Coffee Hour

____ be a Lay Reader ____ with Communion set up

____ call on shut-ins ____ drive people to church in my car

____ Acolyte (Children 7-14)

____ I can also help with memorial receptions on occasion



MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach meets regularly on the 3rd Monday of the month. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 16 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room at the Community Church.

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 on its way and we have already 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!

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT SALE A BIG SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone for your generous support at our International Crafts Sale – we sold \$2,666.49, all of which will be returned to Ten Thousand Villages in an effort to further support these Third World artisans.

Youth News

November 2015

Sr. High School PF Grades 9-12

Middle School PF Grades 6-8

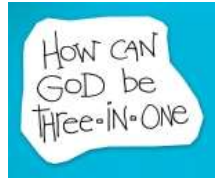
November will be Non-Stop!!

November 1 – Youth Lounge

Tough Question: Can it be proven that God exists?

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

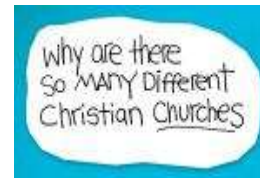
6 PM High School Hang Out ★ 6:30 -8 PM Meeting



November 7 – 8 Fall Youth Event (Grades 9-12)

The Fall Youth Event will take place on the weekend of November 7-8, at Peace UCC in Santa Cruz. Start time is 1 PM on Saturday through 11:30 AM on Sunday. Cost is \$35 and registration ends on Wednesday October 28 with no registrations accepted after 10/28. Register online: <https://ncncucc.org/fall-youth-event-2015-youth-registration/>.

See Lydia with any questions.



November 8 – No Youth Group Meetings

November 15 Youth Lounge

Tough Question: Why are there so many different Christian churches?

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

6-6:30 PM Sr. High & Parents initial Mission Trip Meeting: Let's get ready for Disney World!!

★ 6:30-8 PM Sr. High Meeting ★

November 21-22 Middle School Lock-In

Middle School only – bring \$10 and let's see what happens!

November 22 – No Youth Group Meetings

November 29 – All Youth – Advent Event in Memorial Hall

Come to worship at 10:30 and then we are in charge of a special candle project at the Advent Event.

No Youth Group Meetings tonight – enjoy time with your family!



Passages

Wedding

Holly Folendorf and Joseph Geller were united in marriage on October 10th. Rev. Nelson officiated at the service which took place in Monte Rio. Holly is the daughter of former church members Rod and Rose Folendorf, and both she and Joe participated in our church youth program. Congratulations!

Birth

Martha Rowlands announced the birth of her newest Great Grandson, Jay Charles Hawkins, born on July 6. His parents are Chance and Michelle Hawkins – Michelle is the granddaughter of Martha Rowlands. Blessings!

Move

Elyse Mengle moved recently to Southern California to be closer to her family and writes this note:

Dear Community Church Friends,
Thank you for twenty-five wonderful yeas of worship and friendship. Leaving was difficult, to say the least.

I am comfortable, though not yet organized, in the Brethren Hillcrest Community, a four-level senior facility near the eastern edge of Los Angeles County and near my son's family.

While renewing Southern California friendships, I think fondly of you Northerners and your many kindnesses.

Warmest wishes,

Elyse Mengle
2764 Mountain View Drive
La Verne, CA 91750
phone (909) 392-4080



Corrine Kauwe will be away in Kentucky for a few months, visiting her daughter. Not to worry, she will return!



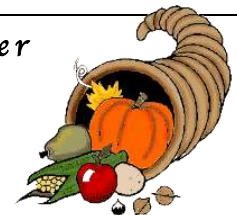
☺ Thank you to Janice Minton and Joanne Matson for their weekly help in the office – such a treat! ☺ Thank you to Irma Bachelor and Ellen Stillman for washing our shower towels while regulars Norma Watson and Barbara

Wilson were away in October. ☺ Thank you to Sophie Sherman and Eva Norton for preparing our visitor bags for Sundays. ☺ Thank you to the folks who came over to visit with Tom Larssen and sang with great joy! ☺ Thank you to Doris Rowe for cleaning the pews each week in preparation for Sunday Worship. ☺ Thank you for all the donations for the Women's Retreat rummage sale and to all the folks who helped! It was a long couple of days, but a very successful fund raiser!

A Thanksgiving Prayer

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



BABY WIPES FOR VALLEY FIRE FAMILIES

Here is an easy way to provide help for the Valley Fire families: bring – “wet ones” or other moistened wipe products to church for deliver to the fire area. Many of the residents still do not have running water and as they try to live in the area and work at cleaning their home sites, the wipes are essential for cleaning their hands and surface areas - each step or gust of wind stirs up the ash! Bring the wipes to church and Lake County resident and church member, Julie Seth, will be able to deliver them.

Fall Garden (Work) Party!

November 14 9 AM-Noon

Please plan join us on Saturday, November 14 for a fall clean-up garden party - we plan to have a good time while we spruce up the courtyard and church grounds. All ages welcome. Bring your own work gloves and if you have some garden tools, bring those along too! Questions? Contact Barbara Whitson at 322-2012 or Karin in the church office at 823-2484 ext.100.



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.



PUMPKIN PIES!

November 22 after worship

**A FUND RAISER FOR THE
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH
MINI MISSION TRIP.**

Fresh baked pumpkin pies \$12

GOLDEN GATE ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

NOVEMBER 7 AT EDEN UCC IN HAYWARD

Register now for the November 7th Bay Association Fall Meeting by November 1 via email to baevents@sonic.net.

Schedule:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 8:45- 9:30 AM | Registration: Continental breakfast |
| 9:30 AM | Gathering |
| 10:15 AM | Business Meeting: Budget, Bylaws, Board |
| 11:30 AM | Introduction of Compañeras Program |
| 12:15 PM | Lunch: Cherryland Youth Leadership Institute (ChYLI) fundraiser. |
| 1:15 PM | Worship and Installation of Rob Parrish |
| 1:45 PM | End of Fall Meeting |

The meeting will be at Eden UCC, 21455 Birch St., Hayward

Between Women

Intergenerational Gathering

Saturday, November 14, 2015

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 8:45 AM

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION 9-11 AM

Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, November 14, in Faith Chapel with a continental breakfast in the Media Room.

This meeting of Between Women will feature seasoned program speaker Melissa Craig-Morse and a presentation on

The Language of Love

Melissa is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor practicing in Sebastopol and is excited to share with us recent breakthroughs in the fields of couples counseling.

- ♥ Are you curious to learn what emotions have to do with the language of love?
- ♥ Why is the *psychology of attachment* the scientific word for love?
- ♥ Why do small things turn into big battles?
- ♥ How do recent discoveries of PTSD research bring new insight to the challenges distressed couples face?
- ♥ Learn 3 things to better connect, repair and communicate with your partner.

Please join us – maybe for your first time – for Between Women to hear this insightful speaker on November 14.

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.

Between Women

Intergenerational Gathering



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.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 1

Alternative Gifts

GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

Mission & Outreach will be passing out the Alternative Gift Catalogs in November. The catalogs will also be available in the entryway and in the church office.

The 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, given in their name. 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 Church World Service Best Gifts Catalogue.

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 8th.

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 8th.



Women's Retreat Registration Form January 15-16-17, 2016



Name _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Any special needs: _____

FEES:

____ \$185 **Double Room**; Full retreat Fri.-Sun. includes meals.

Preferred roommate: _____

____ \$200 **Single Room**; Full Retreat Fri-Sun. includes meals.

____ \$70 **Saturday Only**; includes meals

\$ _____ = **Total Registration Fee – Fees are not refundable after Dec. 31**

____ Enclosed is the total registration fee

____ Enclosed is the total fee + to \$ _____ to supplement the retreat fund

____ Enclosed is a deposit of \$ _____ (no less than \$50)

NOTE: The remaining balance to be paid no later than **Jan 9th**.

Transportation: I am interested in carpooling: Yes No

Carpooling will be arranged by Joyce Cox b-j-cox@att.net 829-0750

____ I will be driving my car and have room for ____ more people.

____ I would like to have a ride.

Please make checks payable to **The Community Church** with a notation in the memo line: Women's Retreat.

Please return this form with your deposit to:

Marge Holland; 8949 Barnett Valley Road, Sebastopol 95472,
or drop in the collection plate, or leave at the church office.

For more information please contact;

Jane Huneke

jhunkek1@att.net

795-5441

Joyce Cox

b-j-cox@att.net

829-0750

LIVING MINDFULLY THROUGH THE HOURS OF THE DAY A RETREAT FOR ALL WOMEN FRIDAY, JANUARY 15-17, 2016 ANGELA CENTER IN SANTA ROSA



The weekend begins with Friday dinner and ends after worship on Sunday morning at 10. There are a few openings for Saturday only.

THEME: Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day

We will explore how our minds, bodies, and souls act and react at different times of the day. We will look at how the Spirit moves in our lives and in the world at different times of the day. We will have activities, music, and discussion topics based on the time of day.

FACILITATOR: Reverend Bethany Nelson

Bethany is the Associate Minister of the Tiberon Presbyterian Church. She is the daughter of our Gene and Betty Nelson, grew up in our church and has done several retreats for us which have been very inspiring and interesting.

The time at retreat is yours to do as you wish. Nothing is mandatory! Sessions are no longer than 2 hours, with breaks and lots of interaction with others or alone time. There is free to walk, sleep, chat, and there are always table games with lots of fun and laughter.

FACILITY: We will be at **Angela Center**, Santa Rosa, off Old Redwood Highway near Cardinal Newman High School. There are 12 rooms with a single bed and 12 with two twin beds. Each room has a sink; bathrooms are down the hall. Meals, meetings and sleeping are all in one building which is handicap accessible

The fees are subsidized by our Rummage Sale and Wreath Sales. Our fundraisers were very successful this year so the fees are a little lower than last year, even though the facility rates went up!

Fees are non-refundable after December 31st.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available for **ANYONE** who wishes to attend (you don't have to be a part of the church family). Scholarships will be limited to a maximum of \$135. Payment of your portion can be made monthly so long as it is paid prior to the next retreat. Those who receive a scholarship will be asked to participate in one or more fundraising events. Scholarship information is kept confidential. Contact either Jane Huneke or Joyce Cox.



November 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Communion & All Saints Sunday Women's Fellowship Craft & Bake Sale 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (Fireside Rm) 9:30 AM Spiritual Practices (Faith Chapel) 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Middle School Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth | 2 7:30 PM Gospel Singers | 3 | 4 9:15 AM Men's Discussion Group 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir | 5 10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Executive 10:30 AM Women's Fellowship Meeting 12:00 PM Women's Fellowship Luncheon 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir | 6 10:00 AM UkeStars | 7 Fall Youth Event (grades 9-12) 10:00 AM Golden Gate Assoc Fall Meeting in Belmont |
| 8 Fall Youth Event (grades 9-12) Stewardship Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (Fireside Rm) 9:30 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Spiritual Practices (Faith Chapel) 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry | 9 Pledge Cards mailed 7:30 PM Gospel Singers | 10 | 11 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir | 12 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir | 13 10:00 AM UkeStars | 14 8:40 AM Between Women 9:00 AM Fall Garden Clean-up 11:30 AM 2nd Saturday Lunch |
| 15 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (Fireside Rm) 9:30 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Spiritual Practices (Faith Chapel) 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 4:00 PM Middle School Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Parents & Youth 6:00 PM Sr. High Youth | 16 7:00 PM Mission & Outreach 7:30 PM Gospel Singers | 17 | 18 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting | 19 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir | 20 10:00 AM UkeStars | 21 Middle School Youth Lock-In 9:00 AM Pre-Advent Sabbath Retreat 2:00 PM Pre-Advent Sabbath Retreat |
| 22 Pumpkin Pies Fund Raiser Consecration & Thanksgiving Sunday Middle School Youth Lock-In 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (Fireside Rm) 9:30 AM Children's Choir 9:30 AM Spiritual Practices (Faith Chapel) 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry | 23 7:30 PM Gospel Singers | 24 | 25 Thanksgiving set-up in Memorial Hall 5:15 PM Handbell Choir | 26 1:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner | 27 10:00 AM UkeStars | 28 |
| 29 The 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (Fireside Rm) 9:30 AM Spiritual Practices (Faith Chapel) 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 11:45 AM Advent Event | 30 7:30 PM Gospel Singers | 1 | 2 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Church Council | 3 Women's Fellowship Christmas Coffee/Tea 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir | 4 10:00 AM UkeStars | 5 |