

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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From the Pastor

Faith and Evolution ***Rev. Benjamin Broadbent***

For the past 10 years I have participated a multi-faith effort by clergy (www.theclergyletterproject.org) to encourage the idea that religion and science need not be in conflict. This year, on February 12, I want to explore “cooperation” as a crossover theme between Christian theology and the modern theory of evolution. One of my former professors at Harvard Divinity School, Dr. Sarah Coakley, observes that “cooperation must be counted a third evolutionary principle alongside the classic Darwinian duo of mutation and selection.” Many evolutionary theorists think that evolution is not based solely on “selfishness” but also “cooperation.” In other words, sheer competitiveness leads to annihilation while cooperation improves chances of survival.

But what does this have to do with faith? Some theologians have argued that the distinctive Christian name for God is “Trinity.” An interrelation of Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, the Trinitarian God is not a self-sufficient individual being, but a mutually loving relationship between equal partners. This model of cooperation at the heart of the Christian witness is the basis of what it means to be the social creature known as “the church.” If our God is essentially co-operative, then so should we be. Cooperation is how we learn, grow, survive, and even thrive.

In the coming weeks, try paying attention to the Sunday morning readings from the Gospel of Matthew. To my ear, they are all about cooperation. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus addresses the basic facts of human nature, then suggests concrete ways to move beyond selfishness into modes of cooperation. Jesus’ words are non-conventional and challenging, to be sure, but Jesus just might be helping his disciples, and all of us, evolve into a new creature known as the beloved community.

Pastor Benjamin

Youth News

*Sr. High School PF Grades 9-12
Middle School PF Grades 6-8*

February 2017!!

February 5 – Youth Lounge

Restoring Beauty - Matthew 5:13-20

9 -10:15 AM Middle School Meeting

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

February 5 – Youth Lounge

Restoring Beauty - Matthew 5:13-20

9 -10:15 AM Middle School Meeting

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

February 12 – Youth Lounge - Matthew 5:21-37

Are we making our New Years resolutions possible?

What can you achieve?

9 -10:15 AM Middle School

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

February 18-20th - High School Feb Camp at Monte Toyon, Santa Cruz: Speak Out!

How we are called to do Justice as a part of God's mission together.

Registration ends on February 9. Visit:

<http://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?idCamp=663&campCode=ncv&idSession=137991> (and guess what! Ross is one of the directors for Feb Camp!)

February 19 – Youth Lounge 9am-10:15am

Beth will be hosting a breakfast for the Middle School youth and any High School youth not attending Feb Camp. Please let Ross know by February 14 if you plan on attending the breakfast and any dietary restrictions.

February 26 – Youth Lounge

9 -10:15 AM Middle School Meeting **Matthew 17:1-9**

High School Mission Trip Fundraiser in Memorial Hall!

Join us for a Pancake Party and Silent Auction after church in Memorial Hall. \$15 for adults, \$7 Children 5-12.

High School youth will be helping cook, serve, and entertain as we celebrate and prepare our hearts to enter the season of Lent.

February 2017 Sermons & Scripture

Sunday Worship service at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

February 5 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Today all ages gather for multi-generational worship with Holy Communion. Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Matthew 5:13-20 entitled "Becoming a Salty Church."

February 12 6th Sunday after Epiphany / Evolution Sunday

Today we join hundreds of Christian, Jewish, and Buddhist congregations throughout the country in recognizing an "Evolution Weekend" through the Clergy Letter Project which affirms that the enduring tenets of our faith and the modern theory of evolution need not be in conflict. Rev. Broadbent preaches on Matthew 5:21-37 a sermon entitled "God, Cooperation, and Evolution."

February 19 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Today Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister of Children and Families, preaches on Matthew 5:38-48 a sermon entitled "Expanding Boundaries."

February 26 Last Sunday after Epiphany / Transfiguration Sunday

On this last Sunday before the beginning of the season of Lent, we hear the story of Jesus' "transfiguration" on the mountain in Matthew 17:1-9. Rev. Broadbent's sermon is called "Tell No One?"

Coming in March... Ash Wednesday (3/1), Season of Lent, Daylight Savings Time begins (3/12), One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ



On Wednesday, March 1, we will mark the beginning of the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service for all ages in Faith Chapel followed by a simple Soup Supper in the Media Room.

At 5:45 all ages are invited to an Ash Wednesday service in Faith Chapel. Ashes will be available for those who would like to receive them as we start the 40 day journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and Holy Week.

Immediately following the service, you are invited to join us for soup in the Media Room.

Volunteer Opportunity!

At West County Health Centers our volunteers are fondly called "V-WOWs" – Volunteer Wellness Outreach Workers. As members of our health care team their roles include; assisting patients in our reception areas, community education, homeless outreach, food pantries, event support, and data entry. Opportunities in Guerneville, Sebastopol, and Occidental clinics. Please contact Rebecca Howell at (707)823-3204 Ext: 6453 or rhowell@wchealth.org to get involved!



2017 Holocaust & Genocide Lecture Series

Presented at Sonoma State's Warren Auditorium in Ives Hall on Tuesdays, January 24 - May 9, at 4:00pm. More information and the complete schedule at www.sonoma.edu/holocaust.

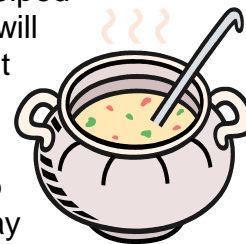


Check us out on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/uccseb> and visit our website: <https://www.uccseb.org/>

Committee for Adult Education 2017 Faith Journey & Soup Suppers

Each year during Lent, we gather on Tuesday evenings to share in a simple soup supper and then hear one of our church members share his/her story and how faith has helped to shape that story. Easter is April 16 and we will meet on the five Tuesday evenings during Lent beginning March 7 through April 4.

In addition to planning the faith journey portion of the program, we are also looking to sign up soup makers for each of the five Tuesday evenings. We enjoy a variety of homemade soups for this event and if you would like to be on the soup schedule sign up here: [Lenten Soup Suppers](#). You may also sign up by sending an email to the church office: office@uccseb.org.



We meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 for the soup supper and then move to Faith Chapel at 7PM for the faith journey. Over the years, this has

proven to be a meaningful experience for all who attend and a wonderful way to build community. Your participation will make this event even more special.

Watch for an updated list as we announce each of our faith journey presenters. We know the first presenter for March 7 will be Pastor Benjamin.



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. For information please call Vicki Reno at 827-3668 or email at vreno@comcast.net.



February Birthdays



2	Rosie Edwards	18	Sonja Larssen
3	Christian Roa		Alec Henelsmith
4	Terry Beck		Nina Henelsmith
	Nathan Knuth	19	John Henel
6	Ellen Sullivan		Donna McPherson
7	Barbara Wilson	20	Danelle Wilson
	Reece Blackstone	22	Theresa Weigel
11	Kathie Mayhew		Bethany Nelson
	Alexandra DeSantis		Zachary Furber Dobson
12	Charlotte Hildago	23	Jean Boal
	Garrett Caldwell		Judy Davison
14	Jennifer Halleck	24	Sophie Sherman
	Sandy Hendrickson	26	Margaux Jame
15	Martha Kautz		Pam Ammondson
	Joan Carter		Michael Murakami
	Brian Wetzel		Benjamin Evans
16	Parker Warner	27	Nancy Mathews
17	Bella Emerson	28	Erika DelMonte



Women's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship has been an important part of the Community Church since the church was first established in Sebastopol in 1889. As an organization, we are continuing to develop and change in order to best serve the women of our church.

Our Women's Fellowship contributes to the social life of the church. However, we do far more than that. In addition to organizing luncheons and teas, we raise money to contribute to the church's current expenses, support many church activities and contribute to outreach projects in the wider community. This is accomplished by the women of our church coming together with love and dedication, much muscle power, and their many talents to work for the good of their church and community.

We welcome participation at any time by women who have an interest in some or all of our activities.



Thursday, February 9: *Monthly Meeting*

10 AM – Executive Board – Women's Fellowship Office

10:30 AM – General Meeting – Faith Chapel

11:15 AM – Program – Faith Chapel. February is Women's Heart Health Month. Our speaker will be a representative from the American Heart Association. Come learn about heart health issues unique to women and how to prevent and/or treat them.

12:00 noon- Heart Healthy Luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Call Chris Jenkins for reservations at 829-2230



Thursday, February 23: *Circle Meetings*

11:30 AM- Circles 1 and 2 meet at the Sebastopol Senior Center for lunch. There is a selection of 4 menu items-all of them delicious. Cost is \$4 for those over 60 and \$6 for those under 60. Call Chris Jenkins, 829-2230, for reservations by Tuesday, February 21. Please join us.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Godly Play and Sunday School

Pre-School & Kindergarten (Room 5)

- Feb 5** Multi-Generational Worship Service
Feb 12 *Parable of the Great Pearl*
Feb 19 *Parable of the Sower*
Feb 26 *Parable of the Mustard Seed*

1st – 3rd Grade (Room 6)

- Feb 5** Multi-Generational Worship Service
Feb 12 *Jesus Calls the Twelve*
Feb 19 *Jesus Feeds 5,000*
Feb 26 *Transfiguration*

With many thanks to our Storytellers and Door Helpers in February: Mary McMillon, Gerri Doody, Kristen DelMonte, Olivia Foster, and Ann Butterfield

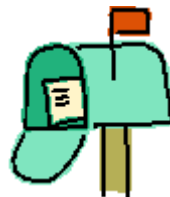
4th & 5th Grade Sunday School (Media Room)

- Feb 5** Multi-Generational Worship Service
Feb 12 *Patience*
Feb 19 *Service*
Feb 26 *Humility*

With many thanks to our Teachers in February: Kathy Bell & Sara Margulis



We have updated **2017 Church Directories** available in the church office – come pick one up! And if you have any changes in your contact information, please let Karin in the church office know: office@uccseb.org or 707.823.2484.



NEW IN THE NURSERY!

We Welcome Elana Altman Roberts to our Nursery Staff!

We are delighted to welcome Elana Altman Roberts to our Nursery Staff. She will join Laurelin Lewis and Jamie Holmes in the nursery on alternating Sunday mornings. Elana is a former soloist ballerina with the San Francisco Ballet, now an organic farmer and yoga instructor, and comes to us as an experienced babysitter with San Francisco's Urban Sitter program.

Highly recommended for her personal integrity, professional demeanor, and kind spirit, we are blessed to have Elana attending to our youngest churchgoers in the Nursery. Welcome, Elana!



WELCOME OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

Jenna Gonzales will be our new Children's Choir Director - Hooray! She brings a lot of experience working with young people in a classroom setting as well as musical training. Jenna has a holistic vision of what the Children's Choir can be: a program for children in Preschool thru 5th grade that is fun, instructional, creative and that nurtures children in the Christian faith while preparing them to participate as worship leaders with music they have rehearsed.

Children's Choir practice will meet on Sunday mornings starting February 5 and rehearse in the Choir Room from 9-10:15. The children will meet Sundays through May 21.

Parents – please invite your Preschool through 5th grade child(ren) to participate in the Children's Choir! Bring them to the Choir Room for rehearsal at 9 am, younger children (to age 3) can go to the nursery, and that frees parents to attend the Sunday Bible Study meeting in the Fireside Room.

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.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays on February 1, 8, 15 and February 22 in the Fireside Room at 10 AM. We will be studying The Story of Ruth by

Joan Chittister. All women are invited to join the group. Questions? Please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.

BAKED GOODS FOR SUNDAY 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!



Minister of Music, Brian Plaughter requests that you take a few moments and jot down the titles of your favorite hymns to help with future worship planning. Please leave this in the collection plate or in the church office.

Your Name: _____

Favorite Hymns: _____

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

New Start Time: 9 AM

Please join us Sundays at 9 am in the Fireside Room for coffee and Bible Study. This Spring, we are focusing on the Gospel of Matthew. Bring your Bible and your coffee/tea mug. Rev. Broadbent will start the class each Sunday morning before handing it off to capable discussion leaders.

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.

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!

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Irma Bachelor (707.829.5485), Marian McDonald (707.338.5156), Marna McKenzie (505.660.1725) and Roger Wilson (707.823.8944) are the Members-at-Large to the Church Council for this year. If you have any issues you would like brought to the Council's attention, one of the Members-at-Large can help you out. Look for their bright red "Member at Large" name badge on Sunday mornings.



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 _____



MISSION & OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach meets on the 2nd Monday of the month. Their next meeting will be on Monday, February 13 at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. Become part of something big – become a member of Mission & Outreach!

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 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!



MISSION & OUTREACH



Kim Buckman



Diane McPherson



Donna & Scott McPherson



Shawn Nichols & Susan Wahl



Michael Ott



Welcome New Members!



A Warm
Welcome to our New Members!



Keenan & Patty Foster



Molly Wreden



Larry & Diane Stallings



Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU ♦ Thank YOU

☺ Thank you to Bob Holland for taking care of our roses – his work now will make them look even better next summer! ☺ Thank you to Joanne Matson and Janet Minton for the office help – greatly appreciated! ☺ Thank you to our committees and boards for their time and talents in 2016 – we could not do any of this without you! ☺ Thank you to Tom Dilley for stepping up to help with property upkeep – your experience is invaluable! ☺ Thanks also to Mike Moore for lending a hand with a heater installation, keeping our children warm in the nursery!

Pancake Party!

& Silent Auction



WHEN

Sunday, February 26 – right after worship

WHERE

Community Church of Sebastopol Memorial Hall

FEATURING

Pancakes & all the fixings, Pancake Games & Prizes, Entertainment!

COME SUPPORT THE. HIGH YOUTH GROUP'S MISSION TRIP



Tickets: \$15 for Adults (13+)

\$7 for Youth (5-12) **FREE** if you are 0-4

Our High School youth will help cook, serve, and entertain us as we celebrate and prepare our hearts to enter the season of Lent.

Watch for more information in your Sunday Bulletin or on line:

www.uccseb.org

REMINDERS FOR ALL OF US...

Please turn out the lights, turn off the heat and lock the door if you are the last person leaving.

Let's all pitch in and do our part with recycling – but did you know – food contaminated containers (paper plates & cups) are not recyclable? Did you know paper towels and tissues are not recyclable? Please pay attention to the Blue Recycling bins – they are for recyclable products only!



February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:00 AM Middle School Youth 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 6:00 PM High School Youth	30	31	1 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	2 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	3 10:00 AM UkeStars	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM Children's Choir 9:00 AM Middle School Youth 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 11:45 AM Safe Church Team Meeting 6:00 PM High School Youth	6	7	8 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Handbell Practice	9 10 AM WF Board 10:30 AM WF Meeting 11:15 AM WF Program 12 PM WF Luncheon 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	10 10:00 AM UkeStars	11 11:30 AM 2nd Saturday Lunch
12 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM Children's Choir 9:00 AM Middle School Youth 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 6:00 PM High School Youth	13 7:00 PM Mission & Outreach	14	15 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Handbell Practice 7:00 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	16 7:00 PM Christian Education Committee 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	17 10:00 AM UkeStars	18 Feb Camp (grades 9-12)
19 Feb Camp (grades 9-12) 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM Children's Choir 9:00 AM Middle School Youth 9:00 AM High School Youth 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 11:45 AM Safe Church Team Meeting	20 Feb Camp (grades 9-12)	21	22 10:00 AM Church Staff Meeting 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:45 PM Handbell Practice	23 11:30 AM Women's Fellowship Circles Lunch at Seb Senior Center 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	24 10:00 AM UkeStars	25
26 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 9:00 AM Children's Choir 9:00 AM Middle School Youth 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Ministry 11:30 AM Pancake Party & Silent Auction – a fundraiser for High School Youth Mission Trip	27	28	1 5:45 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:15 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	2 7:00 PM Grief Group 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	3 10:00 AM UkeStars	4