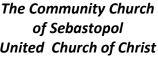
SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER



707.823.2484 www.uccseb.org office@uccseb.org

Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Assoc. Minister for Congregational Care Rev. Rachel Knuth

Minister of Music Rev. Brian Plaugher

> Youth Ministry Coordinator Emily Syal

Children's Ministry
Coordinator
Julie Reimer

Handbell Ensemble
Director
Karna Roa

Keyboardist
J. Althea

Congregational AdministratorBecca Emerson

Bookkeeper Jennifer Halleck

Custodian Maria Mojica

FROM THE PASTOR... EASTER ASTONISHMENT By Pastor Benjamin

In her poem "Sometimes," Mary Oliver describes the grandeur of a thunderstorm: "...the sweetness of rain and the blast of lightning, / Followed by the deep bells of thunder." The poet is astounded by the display of power and beauty. Then she changes modes, becomes the wise sage offering "Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."

These same words could be instructions for hearing the Easter story according to Luke. On the first day of the week, at dawn, the female disciples are awestruck in the face of power and beauty. They had prepared spices, but they were not prepared for what they found. The stone rolled away. No corpse in sight. Two dazzling figures. These words: "He is not here, but has risen."

Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it. These three things are what the women did. They showed up and paid attention to the task at hand. They were astonished by what they saw and heard. They told their story to the apostles. Interesting that when the apostles heard the women, Luke reports, "these words seemed to them idle tale." An idle tale?!



Goes to show one can hear story of power and beauty told by first-hand witnesses and remain unconvinced and unimpressed. Perhaps the apostles were numbed by grief. Perhaps chauvinism dulled their senses. Whatever it was, they had to experience the story for themselves, to pay attention and be astonished. When they did, they told about it so the next generation could experience the story anew. And now it's our turn. And idle tale? Or the story that defines the world?



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WORSHIP AND THE BALCONY VIEW

APRIL 2019 WORSHIP

Regular Sunday Worship happens 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

During the 40 days of Lent, we have been following the "Poetry of Lent" devotional booklet featuring the poetry of Mary Oliver and scripture readings from the Gospel of Luke



April 7 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Today we gather for multi-generational worship with Holy Communion. A small vocal ensemble shares worship music, Rev. Rachel Knuth preaches a sermon on Luke 22:14-21, and we hear a poem by Mary Oliver called "Mindful."



Today we wave palms, shout "Hosanna," and re-enact Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 19:28-40 and we hear a poem by Mary Oliver called "The Poet Thinks About the Donkey."



April 18 – Maundy Thursday—6:00 p.m.

We gather for a contemplative candlelight service for all ages. We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion and, for those who wish, practicing the Washing of Feet.



April 19 - Good Friday-6:00 p.m.

Community Church is invited to attend an Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Sebastopol United Methodist Church along with St. Stephen's Episcopal and Sebastopol Christian. Our own Pastor Benjamin will be preaching.



April 21 – Easter Sunday / Feast of the Resurrection

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service in the Peace Garden at Ragle Ranch Park

9:00 a.m. – Service of Worship in the Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship in the Sanctuary



April 28 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Today we hear the post-resurrection story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Coming in May... Season of Easter, Faith Formation Sunday, Ascension Day



THE BALCONY VIEW... I'M RIGHT HERE!

By Michael Ott, Moderator

A major emphasis for the Leadership Council this year is strengthening our culture of volunteerism. Volunteers are critical to our church's ministry. We depend on volunteers to carry forward our mission of sharing our love and teaching the message of Jesus, and putting our faith into action.

I believe God calls on all of us to be volunteers - to manifest our love of God and our church by sharing freely our time and ourselves. And the idea of getting more than you give is real. Mahatma Gandhi wrote that "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

You may recall a Children's Message last year called A Fantastical Journey. God needed a prophet, someone new. He appeared to Isaiah, sitting on a throne with flowing robes, surrounded by seraphim. Smoke filled the room and Isaiah was terrified. But when God spoke "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah volunteered. He exclaimed "I'm right here, send me!"

So you may be terrified, or maybe just have a little trepidation about volunteering your time, talents and passions to further our church's ministry. Do it! We need you! And who knows, this might just be what you are needing. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that "life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?" I can't promise God will arrive with smoke and seraphim when calling for your service to His realm, but I believe he is calling you just the same.

Finally, a big thank you to all the current volunteers who do so much for our church!

YOUTH NEWS

By Emily Syal, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Throughout the season of Lent the middle school youth group has been journeying with the Mary Oliver devotional booklet that has also been available church -wide. We've gone on a wilderness walk; we've let things go that no longer serve us; we've expressed our anger at injustice in the world; we've learned how to deal with our own biases and judgments. Our journey continues into April all the way up until Easter where we will practice "going marveling" and participate in a foot- or hand- washing ritual.

Both middle school and high school youth groups have been preparing for their year-end SALT Trips (engaging food justice in the Bay Area and partnering with the Native American community in South Dakota).

High school youth successfully hosted a *Church-wide Dinner and Movie Night* with the film *Smoke Signals* and led the congregation in a moving discussion after the film. About 50 folks attended and the high schoolers raised \$1750 to support their trip out to Standing Rock/Cheyenne River Reservations in South Dakota.



Mary's Pizza Shack will be hosting a *Dine and Donate* day on *Wednesday, April 3rd*. Come hungry and equipped with a flier and Mary's will donate 15% of the days proceeds to both our middle school and high school trips!

Finally, both youth groups know how much this congregation LOVES pie:) So they will be hosting a *Pie Auction Extravaganza on Sunday, May 5th* after church. The youth who will be participating in the year -end SALT trips will entertain you and auction off pies and other goodies. If you, or someone you know, makes the absolute BEST (insert fruit or flavor here) pie, we'd love for you to contribute your World Famous pies to our pie auction. Please contact me, Emily, if you are interested in contributing to the pie auction.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, April 3rd -ALL DAY

Dine and Donate

Mary's Pizza Shack

(Fliers available in the Church Office or bring this newsletter on your phone in with you and show it to the cashier. Must have flier to participate)

Sunday, April 7th - 12-1:30PM

Youth Ministry Team Meeting
Youth Lounge

Sunday, April 14th - 12-3PM

Middle and High School SALT Trip Team Building Youth Lounge

Saturday, April 20th - 9AM-12PM

Saturday of Service Bayer Farm



Friday, April 26th - 6-9PM

Youth Movie and Game Night

Youth Lounge



Sunday, May 5th - after church PIE AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA! Fundraiser for SALT trips Church Campus

MULTI-GEN AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SHOWING UP

By Patty Foster

I have been thinking about one of Pastor Ben's stories a few weeks ago and the importance for kids to go to church. Every Sunday I sit in the pew and soak up the ambiance of the word, family, and community. One of my favorite things to do is watch and observe the kids of all ages joining together in worship.

No doubt the kids' minds wander, as do many of the adults, day dreaming without their iPhones and TV to keep them occupied. Alone in their thoughts, forced to be alone amongst people. Why is this important when kids just don't want to go?

In my opinion it's not just being with their immediate family for "forced family fun", or even listening to the sermon. It's for sharing in a community that *everyone* in their immediate family knows. Our lives have become so busy. Dad's work, mom's work, kids have their own lives. Families live far apart from each other so the mundane everyday gets lost in translation. Our church family ties together the weekly activities, a "check in" that creates a place that *everyone* in the nuclear family can speak about around the dinner table, discuss friends that they *all* have in common.

When my daughter was young it was easy to know all her friends but as she grew and expanded her circle we became less involved. Keenan's job doesn't make for me knowing his workmates and my work is separate so he doesn't know who I know.

When families attend church together it creates a place that *everyone* in the family knows common people. This creates family amongst family amongst family.

We are doubly blessed.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Summertime Vacation Bible School - Watch for more information &

registration forms coming soon!

Dates: June 17-21, 9am-12pm

For: Children ages 4 - 5th Grade

Needed: Youth & adult helpers

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Julie Reimer, Children's Ministry Coordinator, at childrensministry@uccseb.org

GODLY PLAY UPDATE

Godly Play is growing! For the past few weeks, there have been two Godly Play classrooms due to



increased attendance. Each Sunday, in Godly Play, the children hear a "wonder"ful story, followed by work/art time and a feast. Children, if you haven't tried it, come check it out! Adults, if you are interested in learning

more about Godly Play and volunteer opportunities, contact Julie Reimer, Children's Ministry Coordinator.

PALM SUNDAY



Palm Sunday - Attention all children! We will be parading into the sanctuary with our palm leaves on April 14, Palm Sunday. Children are in-

vited to gather in the narthex before church begins and we will parade through the sanctuary during the Prelude. After the parade, children will return to their seats.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

By Michael Ott, Moderator



At the Leadership Council meeting in March, Pastor Ben updated the Council on the exciting new database system that he and the staff have been using, called Realm. Realm can do some pretty amazing things. Our church directory can be completely modernized – the congregation can maintain their own information with photos as well as communication preferences with just a couple of clicks. Our current printed directory is sorted alphabetically. Realm can sort the directory that way too, and also in so many other ways. Need to know who lives close by because you need a ride to church? Sort the directory by town address. Tap on someone's directory profile to initiate contact immediately – super convenient!

Realm is also a communication device. We have already started forming groups on Realm, for example, the Leadership Council and Mission and Outreach Committee. The goal is to

have all our teams and committees grouped on Realm. Groups can list profiles, meetings, rosters, and resources, and delegate group management. Meeting agendas and minutes can be uploaded. There are so many ways that grouping can help further our ministry. For example, Godly Play leaders can create a group for storytellers and door helpers, another group for Godly Play parents and another for Godly Play children. Realm makes it easy to get the word out to those who need to know.

There is a mobile app available so you can carry the directory with you and keep in contact anytime and anywhere. And the group function allows communication to all the members of a group at one time.

Realm has an inbox function like email, and also provides a platform for posting and chatting. It's easy to know what's happening in our church community with Realm. We can read church-wide posts, check out upcoming events, double-check group meetings, and RSVP to any church event.

Personal giving can be reviewed on Realm's secure site. Total giving can be reviewed, and giving can be adjusted. The giving information is kept current each week so pledging can be managed. And there is privacy for your giving that cannot be opened by other members.

This is just a summary of Realm and its capabilities. When you receive your invitation to register, please do so right away and join in on this new and wonderful ministry tool.

You can find an article by Pastor Ben on page 6 about the details of registering to use Realm.

And please visit the websites below to read the Council meeting minutes from our February and March meetings. Paper copies are available in the Church Office.

https://uccseb.org/docs/2019-February-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf

https://uccseb.org/docs/2019-March-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf

The congregation is invited to discuss any issues, concerns, ideas or appreciations to any of the Council Members.

The Council Members are:

Michael Ott - Moderator

Kathy Bell – Council Officer for Personnel

John Henel – Council Officer for Finances

Larry Stallings – Council Officer for Facilities

Joyce Cox – Council Member for Outreach

Linda Inman - Council Member for Faith Formation

Bobbie Johanson – Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts



WHO'S WHO & REALM

WHO'S WHO IN THE PEW: MEET JOYCE

Whether you are new to Community Church or have been here for some time, you may recognize Joyce. She came to worship with her mother, a long-time member, every time she came to visit and when Joyce moved to Sebastopol in 1980, she naturally joined right in. Joyce is very involved in many of the Outreach ministries at Community Church. She just began a



term as the Leadership Council Member for Outreach. Joyce participates in the Mission & Outreach Committee, chairs the Faith in Action Team, organizes the Adult Mission Trip, co-chairs the Women's Retreat, coordinates the accompaniment team that is currently working to help support a newly arrived Honduran Family, and helps with 2nd Saturday Lunches.

When Joyce isn't busy at Community Church, she can be found volunteering at a Santa Rosa school where she used to work. Joyce was an elementary school teacher (mostly Kindergarten and 1st grade) for 41 years. When she began her career she first taught in a four-room school house in Manchester, CA. She first taught grades 4,5 & 6 and then took a round of K,1 & 2! Have you noticed the lovely bulletin boards in the entry to the main church building? They are usually the handywork of Joyce, who brings her creativity and years of experience in the classroom to share with us.

Joyce enjoys hiking, gardening, crafts, and traveling! She recently combined her passion of mission work with her love of travel and together with another church member spent a week on the US-Mexican Border. Check back next month for an article about their trip. She and her husband Bill, a retired Fishery Biologist, will be off on another adventure at the end of the summer and are looking forward to a trip to Japan!



WHAT IS REALM? By Pastor Benjamin

By now, many readers of this newsletter have received an email invitation to register with a secure online service called REALM. If you've been suspicious of the invitation, I don't blame you. Most of us receive multiple online "invitations" to register for something or other every day. Let me assure you that the invitation to register with REALM is coming from your church.

As you read in Mike Ott's article on page 5, REALM is our church's new online database where we track members' contact information so that we can connect with each other as a congregation. Here are a few features:

When you register with REALM you can change your own information and set your own privacy settings.

You can check your secure giving record and print off statements for tax purposes.

All registered users are part of an online directory available only to other users.

If you are in a group or on a committee, you can use REALM to communicate with other participants.

These are our goals for the next 6 months:

Every church member registers with REALM, updating their personal and household information, including adding a picture.

All groups and committees, including Kindred Groups, begin using REALM to get connected.

Church events, especially those requiring an RSVP or Registration, are managed through REALM.

As we move forward, please offer your feedback to the Church Staff Team. Some folks enjoy using online tools like REALM more than others. The purpose of using this new online database is not to replace face-to-face

interaction, but to help us connect in new ways. Thanks for being open to this new process.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

CEMETERY WALK

On Good Friday, April 19th at 4:30pm all are invited to gather at the cemetery for a walking meditation. On this day when we remember the death of Jesus, we walk through the cemetery to honor people who have died. Jesus' death teaches us that pain, suffering, and injustice are part of life--but they are not the final word. We'll make gravestone rubbings, and tell the story of Holy Week as we walk through the cemetery. Please gather at 4:30pm in front of the Pleasant Hill Memorial Park & Mortuary main office, 1700 Pleasant Hill Road in Sebastopol. For more information,

please contact Pastor Rachel: rachelknuth@uccseb.org.

PRAYER CIRCLE

The people of Christchurch, New Zealand and our Muslim neighbors ... may the Spirit comfort those touched by violence and push us toward justice.

All people journeying with illness, including Barbara Wilson, Meg Brittain ... may the Christ-light surround them.

All people in a season of loss, including Dick Zimmer, Joanne Feige, Pat Furber, Dorothy McKoin ... may they experience God's healing peace.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Sebastien Jame	21	Marshall Clark-Cupp
	Laurie Kellner		Russ Reimer
	Sara Margulis		Annie Petersilge
2	Kevin Caldwell	25	Dave Madsen
5	Diane McPherson		Dennis Olson
	Jeff Boal		Terri Harper
	Becky Wessling		Molly Wreden
6	Irma Bachelor	26	Kathy Matthies
8	Jessica Steyn		Ginnie Clifton
9	Lena Emerson	27	Deidra Warner
11	Tony Given	28	Chris Chang Weeks
12	Caitie Carciere	29	Brooke Bell
14	Charlotte Mitchell		Christine Ford
15	Susanna Simms	30	Nancy Shimetz
17	Roger Wilson		Nancy Dougherty
18	Becca Emerson		Isabel MacKillop

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Lorinda Bradley

WHAT IS A MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE? By Pastor Rachel

It is my deep delight to step into a new role serving our church as half-time Associate Minister of Congregational Care. The main objectives of this position are to offer staff support and accountability



to our care ministries, to evaluate spiritual & care needs and prioritize them, and to invite lay-people to engage in healthy caring ministries. A Congregational Care Minister offers direct care to our members, through both clergy and lay visitation, connects our home-bound and hospitalized members to the church, creates a healthy community of care that honors healthy and safe boundaries, and supports our members in making connections with each other in meaningful ways. I'm examining best practices from other congregations, leading the Prayers of the People in worship, making contact with members on the pastoral care list, and meeting with the leaders of the Visitation, Prayer Shawl, and Kindred Groups Ministry Teams. I will continue to attend Leadership Council meetings as often as my hours allow. And I'm already dreaming of future Ministry Teams and Spiritual Care programs to support the healthy care of our congregation. I'm excited to bring organizational attention and heart for ministry to this newly created position. If you'd like to be in touch with me, the best way is by email: rachelknuth@uccseb.org.

EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

All are invited to honor a loved one with an Easter Lily dedication on Easter Sunday, April 21st. Dedication forms are available on page 9, in the Narthex on Sundays, and in the Church office throughout the week.



EVENTS IN APRIL AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

	EVENTS IN APRIL AT COIVIN	MONTH CHOICH		
April 2	2 Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall			
	Faith Journey, 7:00pm in Faith Chapel, Julie & Russ	Reimer		
April 3	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Roo	om—Chapter 20		
	Associate Minister Search Committee, 5:30 pm in t	the Media Room		
	Men's Group, 7:00 pm in Faith Chapel			
April 7	5 th Sunday of Lent			
	Lenten Bible Study, 9:00 am in Faith Chapel			
	Adult Mission Trip, 12:00 pm in Faith Chapel			
	Visitation Ministry, 12:00 pm in the Fireside Room			
	Youth Ministry Team, 12:00 pm in the Youth Loung	ge		
April 8	Mission & Outreach, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room			
April 9	L.M. Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 4:30pm in the Fireside Room			
	Lenten Soup Supper, 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall	000		
	Faith Journey, 7:00pm in Faith Chapel, Gail Thomas	s		
April 10	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Roo	om—Chapter 21		
ı	Card Writing Ministry, 3:00 pm in the Women's Fe	llowship Office		
April 13	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am in Fellowship Ha	all		
April 14	6 th Sunday of Lent—Palm/Passion Sunday			
	ChilFFAT, 12:00 pm in the Youth Lounge			
	Pastor Chat, 12:00 pm in the Fireside Room			
April 15	<i>Prayer Shawl Group,</i> 10:00 am in the Fireside Room			
April 17	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Roo	Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room—Chapter 22		
	Leadership Council, 6:30 pm in the Media Room			
April 18	Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary			
April 19	Cemetery Walk, 4:30 pm at Pleasant Hills Memoria	·		
	Good Friday Service, 6:00 pm at Sebastopol United	l Methodist Church		
April 20	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside			
	Room—Chapter 16	Sundays at 9:00 am—Faith Formation Hour		
	Leadership Council, 6:30 pm in the Media Room	• Godly Play, <i>Pre-School-Grade 5</i> in rooms		
April 21	Easter Sunday	5 & 6		
	Sunrise Service, 6:30 am at the Peace Garden,	 Middle School Youth, Grades 6-8 in the 		
	Ragel Ranch Park	Youth Lounge		
	Easter Service, 9:00 am	 Adult Bible Study, Adults in the Fireside 		
	Easter Service, 11:00 am	Room (resuming April 14)		
April 23	Health & Safety Team, 7:00 pm in the Fireside	Sundays at 10:30 am—Worship in the Sanctuary		
	Room	Wednesdays at 4:45 pm—Handbell Ensemble		
April 28	2 nd Sunday of Easter	rehearses in the Sanctuary		
		Thursday at 7:15 pm—Chancel Choir rehearses		
& T	A Pa	in the choir room		
8	480			

ship Hall

Fridays at 10:00 am—Uke Stars meet in Fellow-



~Honor a loved one with an Easter Lily on Easter Sunday, April 21st~

To order a beautiful living plant that will grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please fill out the order form below and drop it in the labeled basket in the church office.

Each lily is \$15, please make checks payable to Community Church.

Deadline to order Easter Lilies: April 14th

This lily is in (circle one) Honor / Memory of
Dedicated by (your name)
I will pick up my lily at 12:15 on Easter Sunday
Please deliver my lily to someone on the Visitation Ministry List
(For multiple dedications, please use additional forms)

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