

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

**The Community Church of
Sebastopol**
United Church of Christ
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www.uccseb.org
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Lead Minister
Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

**Associate Minister of
Faith Formation**
Rev. Lacey Hunter

**Associate Minister of
Congregational Care**
Rev. Rachel Knuth

Minister of Music
Rev. Brian Plaugher

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Gene Nelson

Handbell Ensemble Director
Karna Roa

Keyboardist
J. Althea

**Congregational
Administrator**
Chris Chang Weeks

Bookkeeper
Julie Reimer

Custodian
Maria Mojica



All the Feels

By Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." – Matthew 9: 36

At various points of the gospels, we learn that Jesus is moved with compassion for people who are hurting. The word in Greek, *esplanchnisthe*, literally means to have one's guts turned inside out. Jesus is not removed from people's suffering. He feels it in his flesh. Which is why he also seeks out opportunities for rest and renewal: "And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray."

These past four months have been unlike any other most of us have experienced. As our practices of sheltering-in-place and physical distancing continue, with no end in sight, we are experiencing a whole range of emotions. In modern slang, it's called "all the feels." Here are some of the "feels" I've heard members of our church express on phone calls and Zoom meetings:

- **Exhaustion:** "Not having my regular routine is tiring, and spending so much time communicating online instead of in person is taxing."

- **Impatience:** "When this all began, I thought it was kind of nice, like a stay-cation or a mini retreat, but now I'm just ready for it to be over."

- **Loneliness:** "I keep in touch with members of my family and a few friends, but it's not the same as being in groups of other people. I feel isolated and alone. I am yearning to be with other people."

- **Anxiety:** "How long is this going to last? Will things ever be the same again? What if things keep getting worse and worse? What will I do?"

- **Depression:** "Something just feels off. I feel listless and unmotivated. Days run into days. Things I used to enjoy are no longer interesting to me. I just feel kind of blah."

- **Anger:** "Everything annoys and frustrates me – maybe it's all the cable news I now have time to watch. I find myself grumbling and complaining about the littlest things."

- **Shame:** "I know I shouldn't be complaining. Some people are so much worse off than I am. I feel bad about not being grateful. I wish I didn't feel this way."

TURN TO PASTOR'S MESSAGE Page 6

JULY 2020 WORSHIP

During the month of July we will be offering ways to gather small groups outdoors in a spirit of worship while continuing to worship online every Sunday morning. See www.uccseb.org and weekly all-church emails for details.

Our summer theme is "Stewardship of Incarnation." Drawing on *Beyond the Offering Plate: A Wholistic Approach to Stewardship*, we will be using "Stewardship" as a lens to discover what is precious and important to us as followers of Jesus Christ.

July 5 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost – Matthew 11:16 -19, 25 - 30

Today's theme is "Stewardship of Time." We celebrate Holy Communion and Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister of Congregational Care, will be preaching.

July 12 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost – Matthew 13:1 - 9, 18 - 23

Our theme for today is "Stewardship of Money." Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches.

July 19 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost – Genesis 28: 10 - 19a

The theme is "Stewardship of Technology." The sermon will be offered by Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation.

July 26 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost – Romans 8: 26 - 39

Today our theme is "Stewardship of the End of Life." Pastor Benjamin preaches.

Coming in August... meeting in small gatherings, Stewardship of Food, Anti-Racism, Stewardship of Privilege?, Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts

Camp Caz Online

Campfire & Talent, No Talent

Begin preparing your performance/offering for a night of Zoom Campfire & Talent, No Talent

Mid-summer, date to be determined.

Save the Date! August 9, 4:00 p.m.

Northern California Nevada Conference Celebrates 75 Years of Camp.

Join alums, campers and many more for a night of camp songs, traditions and fun.

Balcony View. . .
Brothers and Sisters
By Michael Ott, Moderator

The Leadership Council's regular meeting was held on June 17 via Zoom video. We discussed the need to commit as elected lay leaders to bring outward witness to our inward feelings about racism. To proclaim that race and justice begins with each person. To accept accountability for the most impacted and the most vulnerable in our community. To lead with the knowledge that, as Patty Raney said during our bible study today, freedom means equal justice. To discern where we fit in as a community and as a person to stand up to racism. To make, as Pastor Lacey said, anti-racism a spiritual practice.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul writes "for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Dr. Jim Denison comments on this scripture. "There is no longer slave or free" was a revolutionary claim. Slavery was endemic in the first-century world. Many viewed slaves, especially those who came from foreign lands, as inferior to Romans. "There is no male and female" was a radical statement as well. Romans considered women to be the possession of men, with few rights of their own. Paul sounds the clarion call that every form of racism known to Paul's day was invalid and sinful. The God who made us all loves us all."

Jennifer Richeson, a Yale University social psychologist, states that "people today complain about politically correct culture, but what that does is provide a check on people's outward attitude, which in turn influences how we think about ourselves internally."

President George W. Bush, at a memorial service, made this point: "Americans, I think, have a great advantage. To renew our unity, we only need to remember our values. We have never been held together by blood or background. At our best, we honor the image of God we see in one another. We recognize that we are brothers and sisters, sharing the same brief moment on Earth and owing each other the loyalty of our shared humanity."

The Leadership Council has many ideas percolating to give us, the congregation and our community the opportunity to bring outward witness to equal justice. We are working on implementation of these policies and events, to bring our faith into action. ☸

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – MAY 2020

The Leadership Council met for our regular meeting via Zoom teleconference on June 17. A summary of discussions and actions are highlighted below.

Financial Report: The financial report was presented. We are still ahead YTD. We dropped \$18K from last month. Local pledges are still strong. Wider Mission pledges are softer. Facilities showed a negative figure due to refunds from event deposits. A projection of finances through year end will be prepared and presented at the July meeting.

Member Reinstatement: Kathy Bell reported that past member Chris Wagner would like to be reinstated to current membership. One of the pastors will contact Chris to welcome him and review current membership standards.

Camp Caz Update: Kathy Bell gave a report on what's been happening within the NCNC-UCC, UCCR, and Camp Cazadero. As a result of COVID-19 and other issues, the UCCR will no longer be managing and running the camp property. Beginning June 22, the Conference will be in charge of running the Camp. There are 3 committees working

Faith Formation: Formed for Inter-Dependence

By Pastor Lacey Hunter

When we first began sheltering-in-place, I offered a reflection titled, "Formed for Interconnectedness." This piece invited us to reflect on our lives as webs of connection, imagining all whom our lives touch and how we are responsible and accountable to one another's surviving and thriving. Now it is July and I wonder how our country – our economic structures and governments – would be responding to COVID differently, if on July 4th and every day, we celebrated "Inter-Dependence Day" rather than Independence Day? How could this reframing help form us as a people who truly live as though our lives are wrapped up with one another? In the words of Luis Alberto Urrea, "What if there is no Other? What if there is only Us?"

Perhaps some of you have experienced or been invited into the Buddhist practice known as Metta (Lovingkindness) Prayer. This is a practice where you begin by mediating on yourself, offering inward compassion and lovingkindness, and slowly expand your compassion to others and the world. I share this spiritual practice now to help form us as people who respond to and act within the world of COVID, from a place of deep inter-dependence. Set aside a few moments each day to slowdown, breathe and silently recite this mantra.

Metta Prayer

May I be at peace. May my heart remain open. May I awaken to the light of my own true nature. May I be healed and be a healing source of healing for all beings.

1. As you begin, turn your compassion inwards, repeating the mantra.
2. Turn your compassion to someone you care about, repeating the mantra, "May you be at peace..."
3. Repeat again, turning your compassion to someone you are struggling with.
4. Finally, turn your compassion to the whole world and repeat, "May all be at peace..."

For further reflection on inter-dependence:

Meditate on Paul's image of the Body of Christ as found in 1 Corinthians 12: 14-27. Who and what makes up the Body of Christ? How do we love and support one another?

Watch the film *Pride*, a movie about how London-based LGBTQ activists join in solidarity with striking miners in 1984 Wales. How do these groups, who the world has tried to keep apart, come to depend on one another and join their struggles and their joy? ❄

Stay Tuned for Upcoming Faith Formation Racial Justice Discussion/Action Groups

- ▶ Parents/Grandparents Talking about Race
- ▶ Youth Book Groups
- ▶ Race Memoir Writing
- ▶ Daily Justice Acts
- ▶ and more.

Books may include:

- ✓ So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- ✓ How to Raise an Anti-Racist Baby
- ✓ How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

A Care Note from Pastor Rachel

Dear Friends,

One of the blessings I've experienced in this pandemic season is having more time for prayer in my life. There is no more rushing out the door in the mornings, lunches packed and coffee in hand. So I've been filling that time with more intentional morning prayer. It's not always the same, depending on the day: sometimes I sit quietly and attend to my breathing, other times I read a Psalm, or even water my vegetables and notice the beauty of God's creation. There are so many ways to pray, and I find being in an intentional relationship with God is both life-giving and healthy. According to Elizabeth Bernstein of The Wall Street Journal, and quoted in The Week magazine from May 29th, prayer "can calm your nervous system, shutting down your fight-or-flight response. It can make you less reactive to negative emotions and less angry." Who wouldn't want less anger and reactivity right about now? I know this extended time of sheltering, without a clear path forward, has many of us feeling stressed and out of sorts. Cultivating a prayer practice could be just the right thing to nourish your spirit in a time such as this. A simple prayer that can be offered at any time in your day is three parts: Notice + Savor + Respond. You simply notice something around you, take a breath to savor it, and respond with a prayer of gratitude to God. You're also welcome to join Noonday Prayer every Tuesday at 12 noon, a time to sink into your connection with the Divine and lift your prayers in community. In whatever iteration of prayer speaks to you right now, I invite you to breathe into the moment and feel God's Presence surrounding you. You are held in love!

Warmly,

Pastor Rachel

Prayer Circle

We Hold in Prayer...

...All people on a healing journey, including Jerry Coleman, Mary Coleman, and Ruth Ann Midi.

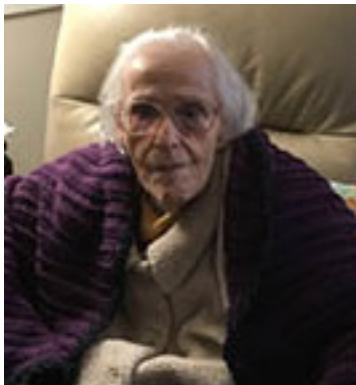
...All people who are housebound, including Nancy Mathews, Elise Lovejoy, and Gladys Chappell.

...All people who experience the loss of a loved one during the pandemic, including Gary & Chris Chang Weeks, following the death of Gary's Mother, and the families of Prue Manley, Martha Rowlands and Pam Ammondson.

God, we ask your blessing on these beloveds, that your Spirit may move in their lives and bring them comfort, peace, and joy. Amen.

Passages

In the past month, we have experienced the loss of three beloved church members, Martha Rowlands, Prue Manley and Pam Ammondson. We hold their families in our prayers as we remember them and hold our memories of them with love.



Prudence Welles Manley
May 12, 1925 - May 17, 2020



Martha Rowlands
January 29, 1933 - May 26, 2020



Pam Ammondson
February 26, 1955 - June 16, 2020

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from Page 1

- **Grief:** "So much has been lost already. The church is empty. Events have been canceled. Stores I love have closed. My friends don't call."

I have heard church members express these emotions, but I've felt all of them too. One spiritual practice I'll share is to imagine yourself in conversation with Jesus. Not just any Jesus, but Jesus who looks at all the people, including you, and who's stomach turns upside-down with compassion for all you are going through. Jesus embodies God's unsurpassable love for you, just you are, with "all the feels," not in spite of them. Share what you are experiencing with Jesus and ask him to help you feel your feelings so they can lead you into greater compassion for yourself and others during this time of great trial.

Even though this is a time when you "can't do as much as usual," it is an exhausting time and, like Jesus himself, it is important to find a time and place to "be by yourself to pray." I hold each member of this church in my mind's eye as I pray and I hope you will pray for me, too.✠

Making Music for our Church in COVID-19 Times

By Karna Roa, Handbell Ensemble Director



High tech equipment used to record the music

After learning we were not able to gather for church in the foreseeable future, I watched many choirs and musicians popped up online with home-made versions of songs recorded from their sheltered in place locations. This was intriguing to me!

There was a bit of a learning curve in how the Acapella App works, what equipment is needed, and what environment is needed to record. (Not so easy when you are sheltered in place with your entire family!) I quickly learned that someone would inevitably bound through the door to interrupt recording, that wind is quite counterproductive to the microphone, and there is a very chatty little bird living in our neighborhood that makes his

way into my recordings. (I really don't mind the bird noises!)

Next I needed to figure out lighting, light stands, music stands, extension cords for the headphones, and well...how to arrange this kind of music!

Playing to a metronome through the headphones was an adjustment as well as playing only a few bells at a time. Parts/tracks are added one at a time and eventually a song emerges when the tracks are complete.

This week I learned I could add a 2nd set of headphones to the equation and my Mom and I could record at the same time with good audio. That was a very nice experience to play together. Next, I am working on how to connect 4 headphones together and when it is safe I would like to bring more ringers in on the project.

For now it's mainly myself, the bells, and the little bird in the backyard.✠



The only equipment needed pre-Covid 19

Campus Closure Opens Window to Make Needed Repairs

By Judy Peterson, Facilities Committee Chairperson

The Facilities Committee has been active, making necessary repairs to the Church Facility while practicing safe and social distancing. Our very large campus is always in need of repair and thankfully, the Facilities Committee has been able to do the work that is difficult when the campus is open.

During the last few months, the shed in the preschool play yard has been repaired and painted and the large wooden storage shed that sits in our back corner lot has been completely cleaned out and new shelving was installed. The organized shed will now accommodate garden tools and various materials need for repairs.



Volunteers hard at work leveling the Courtyard

The Courtyard had become a trip hazard with the deterioration of the boards between the blocks. The spaces have now been cleaned out and filled with grout to level out the area. This is a job that would have been especially difficult during normal times at the church.

Because we do not have a professional landscaping company, the Facilities Committee had been doing the necessary garden chores on our campus. The Facilities Committee decided it was time to form a gardening committee that is separate from the Facilities Committee. The new Gardening Committee is being Co-Chaired by Jane Huneke, Dale Phillips and Barbara Whitson. They are always looking for help so please contact one of them to sign up to help with the gardening chores.

Congregational Care (Continued from page 5)

Kindred Group Leader Transitions: Gratitude + Welcome!

With Gratitude and Blessing, we give thanks to God for the ministries of Dale Phillips and Jane Huneke, who have faithfully served as Kindred Group Leaders for several years. They provided essential leadership through our transition and reorganization into neighborhood-based Kindred Groups. Most recently, Dale has led the Pippins, and Jane the Golden Delicious-- and before that both Dale and Jane served as members of the Diaconate Board (when we had a Diaconate rather than Kindred Groups). As Kindred Group Leaders, Dale and Jane offered creative ways for their groups to usher worship services and gather socially-- picnics, a sing-along, and prayer circles. They brought their true, kind, authentic selves to the work, they were organized, and cared for the Pippins and Golden Delicious, and we give thanks for their work among us! We ask God's blessing upon them both and release them to other ministries in our congregational life. Thank you, Dale and Jane!

And, we welcome Debbie Stewart to leadership of the Golden Delicious Kindred Group! The Golden Delicious Kindred Group encompasses towns along the 101, including Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Northern Santa Rosa, and our members who live out of the area. Debbie brings energy, organization, care, and fun-loving-ness to this leadership position, and the Golden Delicious are thrilled to have her. May God bless Debbie's ministry as she leads the Golden Delicious for the coming term. Welcome, Debbie!

Pastor Rachel continues to recruit a new Kindred Group Leader of the Pippins. If you have questions, or feel you may be called to this leadership position, please contact Pastor Rachel: pastorrachel@uccseb.org. ☸

Take Advantage of Tax Deductions Through the 2020 Cares Act

By Judy Bowman, Chair of the Finance Committee

Charitable organizations, including our church, need your support more than ever during these times. In case you are like most of us who did not realize that the "Cares Act" contains some great tax deduction news regarding charitable donations, here are a couple highlights.

For the year of 2020 we are able to contribute to a charitable organization up to 100% of our AGI (adjusted gross income) and have it deductible. This is great news for 2020 and a big change. Previously this was limited to 60%. Even if you do not itemize your taxes, you may deduct charitable donations up to \$300 per individual or \$600 for a married couple in addition to the standard deduction for 2020.

For taxpayers who are over 70 1/2 years old with an IRA, you can replace your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA with a charitable rollover up to \$100,000 per year and not include it in your gross income for that year. The age when RMDs must start has also bumped up from 70 1/2 to 72 years old. The RMD for 2020 has been waived by the CARES Act.

This is not intended to provide individual tax advice. Please research this information regarding your situation and, of course, consult with your tax advisor. ❄

Alternative Gift Market's Grant to our Food Pantry!

Each year at Christmas, the Community Church participates in the Alternative Gift Market. Many of you have helped people around the world with your gifts through this program. When we were hit so hard with the economic shutdown this spring, Alternative Gifts International reached out to us asking if we would like to nominate a local food bank or shelter for a grant. We nominated the Sebastopol Interchurch Food Pantry and are happy to have received a grant of \$1,200 which arrived this week. We are very appreciative for their help for local families who are going through a tough time! ❄

Witness for Transformation and Justice in Honor of Pride Month and Black Lives Matter

Over 40 people showed up to witness for LGBTQ+ and racial equality and justice outside our church on both sides of the Gravenstein Hwy. on Saturday, June 27, from

10-11:00 a.m. Pastors Lacey and Ben were there with youth and adults holding signs and our big rainbow pride banner. Folks were responsible as they socially distanced, decked out in rainbow colors and masks.

Kathy Matthies' six doors with the message "In our diversity there is unity" provided a colorful backdrop and will remain outside



our church as a testament to our support and welcoming of the LGBTQ+ community. The witness was met with much honking and positive affirmation from drivers passing by. Our church made a good showing on Pride weekend that we care about others and are striving for safety, justice and peace for all. Organizers Bobbie Johanson and Joyce Cox were very pleased with the turnout at the event. ❄

LC COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Continued from Page 3

on the process - Facilities, Camp Envisioning and Interim Management. Members from our church as well as other churches are on the various committees. There are many aspects involved in the transfer and updates will be given as it progresses.

Safe Return Task Force: Kathy Bell and Pastor Lacey reported that the Safe Return Task Force has been meeting for the past 3 weeks. Pastor Lacey presented a list of values to consider during this process and we read them out loud. It's important to consider the safety and comfort levels of all involved. The Task Force is working on guidelines and will report on the overall return plan at the July meeting.

Council Visioning: A conversation was held about ways that the Leadership Council and congregation could get involved in gender, race and other social issues. A core group from the Outreach committee is interested in brainstorming. Bobbie and Joyce agreed to plan a peaceful social distance demonstration out in front of the church to show support for the recent social issues. Pastor Ben will lead a book study on racism issues with Council as a separate monthly meeting so Council is better able to carry this issue to the congregation.

Council Member for Faith Formation: The Nominating Committee recommended Larell Fineren as the Council Member for Faith Formation to replace Kendall Tripathi-Clark. The recommendation was approved. Larell will serve in this position now and will be presented for congregation vote of approval at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Community Life Team: Pastor Rachel reported that a new team has been formed under Care & Fellowship. The name is Community Life and some of their goals are: creating pen pals, phone pals fellowship with book clubs, movie nights and ways to gather socially.

Youth Update: Pastor Lacey reported that the youth Zoom meetings have less attendance since summer vacation. They will meet less often during summer. Several parents and grandparents have expressed interest in learning how to have race discussions with their children. Lacey is working on ideas to make that happen.

Facilities: The Grounds team is working in accordance with the Social Distancing rules. There are plans to remove the lawn in front of the sanctuary due to gopher and redwood tree root damage. Indigenous plants and mulch will replace the grass. The Facilities Committee has completed repair of the courtyard between Fellowship hall and the Sanctuary.

Outreach: The Food Pantry has received a \$1,200 grant from Alternative Gifts.

The congregation is invited to discuss these items as well as any other 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

Larell Fineren – Council Member for Faith Formation

Bobbie Johanson – Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts

Denelle Tognozzi, Clerk ☸

July Birthdays

- 1 Austen Look
- Allie Hole
- 4 Harper Malone
- 5 Hannah Stanley
- Sandy Rosen
- 6 Maria Gordon
- Ian Galleto
- 8 Andrew Liput
- Ryan Hole
- 9 Norma Watson
- 10 Benjamin Emerson
- Isaac Trevino
- Andy Phillips
- 11 Bob Best
- Eva Norton
- Margot Dowdney
- 13 John Sweeney
- 14 Dawson Bell
- Sid Buchanan
- Chris Jenkins
- Lowell Yeager
- 15 Hosanna Bauer
- 16 Allyson Davis
- Norma Taddeucci
- 17 Luanne Buchanan
- Daphne Cripps
- Judy Stupfel
- 19 Evelyn Bishop
- Holly Johanson
- Diane Krautner
- Dorothy McKoin
- Charles Williams
- 20 Jane Hynes
- 22 Dick Norton
- Rebecca McClendon
- Tamar Knuth
- 23 Lucy Kishaba
- Nicolas Jame
- 24 Barbara Nicols
- 25 Hal Roa
- Marna McKenzie
- Chris Dillard
- 27 Andy DelMonte
- 28 Barbara Fanslow
- Ken Noguchi
- Tod Noguchi
- Toshi Noguchi
- 29 Michella Trevino
- 30 Rob McKoin
- Philip Wilson
- Rita Purcell
- 31 Adair Look



Dear Community Church,

The last days in May marked our departure from Santa Rosa and our arrival in the high desert of Central Oregon. After a wild time of moving/ selling/ buying during a pandemic and a few trips back and forth to get everything where it needed to be, we are happy to be settling in well in our new home. Lena stayed to finish working for the summer, but will be heading north for the fall and hopes to continue her fire fighting training closer to us. The rest of us have found our happy places in this stunning place. Bella and Benjamin are thrilled with every project and love our growing collection of animals (two horses, three cats with two barn kittens coming soon, four hens, and six chicks). They run outside when they want to, with plenty of space to roam, do their chores without too much grumbling, and are looking forward to getting started with homeschooling. Laura adores her horses that the previous owners gifted her. She has been learning fast, devouring as much information as possible, and working to (re)train them after many years of at least minor neglect. We are all learning about acquiring hay, understanding strange community irrigation systems, and being clear on expectations about things like properly locking gates. Laura is also looking forward to homeschooling, but is enjoying the break for now. Pete has been taking rides on his motorcycle to get an idea about what is around us when he is not working. We are very fortunate to have snagged a great view of some beautiful mountains and the window in his office is the perfect spot to take a moment and enjoy. I am trying to



convince myself to keep unpacking, but there is always something more exciting for me to do outside, like build a temporary chicken coop for the four hens we brought with us, build a giant sand box using a tiny fraction of the boulders from our pasture, move the extra four yards of sand into the round pen, stack three tons of hay with Laura before the rain rolled in, prepare and fence a garden since veggie starts are just now safe to plant outdoors (hopefully no more freezing!), and there is always some lawn mowing or weed whacking or irrigation redirection that I could work on.

We are thrilled to be close to my sister and some other relatives and love our new home, but we miss our community in Sonoma County and hope to be able to see you all some time in the future when it is safer to gather.

The Emersons

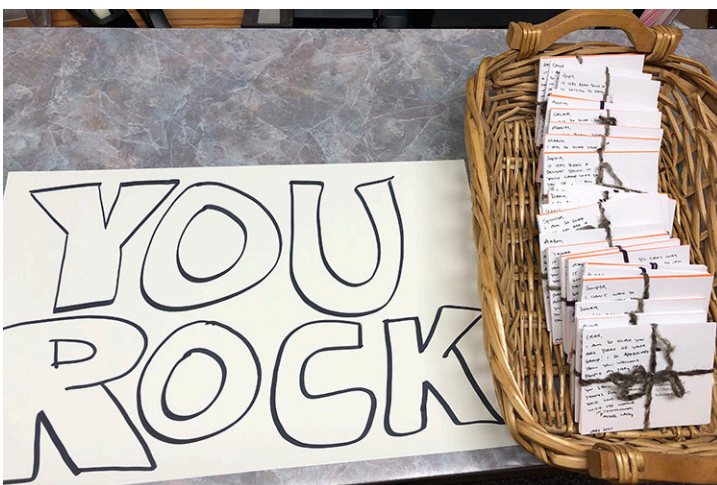
☞ Pete, Becca, Lena, Laura, Bella and Benjamin ☞



End of Year Confirmation Celebration with confirmands and mentors



Faith Formation Sunday Middle School Youth Group end of year celebration



Basket of affirmation notes



Pastor Lacey delivering affirmation notes to youth group members

Events in July at Community Church

Most gatherings at Community Church are suspended. Check our online calendar at <https://uccseb.org/Calendar.php> for updates when changes are made to the Shelter-in-Place order for Sonoma County.

July 1	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
July 2	Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:15- 9:15 p.m., Zoom
July 4	Independence Day, Holiday
July 5	5th Sunday after Pentacost, Worship recordings on YouTube Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Zoom Fellowship Hour, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
July 7	Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
July 8	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
July 9	Card Writing Ministry, 11:00 a.m., Zoom Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:15- 9:15 p.m., Zoom
July 11	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m., Courtyard
July 12	6th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship recordings on YouTube Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Zoom Fellowship Hour, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
July 14	Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Ben), 4:00 p.m. Zoom
July 15	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Leadership Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Zoom
July 16	Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:15- 9:15 p.m., Zoom
July 19	7th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship recordings on YouTube Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Zoom Fellowship Hour, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
July 21	Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom Health & Safety Committee, 1:30, Off-site
July 22	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
July 23	Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:15- 9:15 p.m., Zoom
July 26	8th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship recordings on YouTube Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Zoom Fellowship Hour, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
July 28	Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
July 29	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
July 30	Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:15- 9:15 p.m., Zoom

Event Changes:

- ⇒ Caz CIT Camp - cancelled
- ⇒ Caz Junior Camp – cancelled
- ⇒ High School SALT (Service and Learning Together) Trip – Postponed
- ⇒ Caz You + Me Camp - cancelled
- ⇒ Caz Senior High Camp - cancelled
- ⇒ Caz Junior High Camp - cancelled
- ⇒ UCC National Youth Event - cancelled
- ⇒ FIAT- cancelled

Suspended until further notice:

- ⇒ Facilities Team
- ⇒ Handbell Ensemble
- ⇒ Outreach Committee
- ⇒ Showers
- ⇒ UkeStars

Welcomed First Drive-Thru Blessing



Our first Drive-Thru Blessing happened Sunday, June 28 and over 30 people participated. As cars approached, they were greeted by Brooke Bell, Marin Broadbent-Bell, and Larry Stallings, holding a sign that said, "Enter here for a blessing."

The first station was with Pastor Lacey who read Psalm 46, including the words, "The One who knows all hearts is with us; the Beloved One is our refuge and our strength."

At the second station, Pastor Benjamin received prayer requests and incorporated them into a prayer that began, "Grant us, Loving God, a vision of your world as your love would have it."

At the third and final station, Pastor Rachel offered a blessing with these words:

"May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deeply within your heart."



As participants exited the parking lot at Gravenstein Highway, Tamar Knuth and Sophia Broadbent-Bell were there with signs that said, "Go in Peace," and "Share the Blessing."

We are considering offering another drive-thru blessing. See upcoming communications for details.



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SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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