

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Community Church of Sebastopol

United Church of Christ
707.823.2484
www.uccseb.org
office@uccseb.org

Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Associate Minister

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Handbell Ensemble Director

Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Andrea Reyes

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Confirmation is Affirmation

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

At our first gathering, we played a game called "Lamps of the Lord." (I first learned it as "Swords of the Lord," but the illuminated alliteration is better than the the violent rhyme.) It starts with the phrase, "Lamps of the Lord ready!" Then participants put a Bible on their heads vertically with the spine facing forward. The leader calls out a verse such as: "Exodus 15: 20-21." All participants leaf frantically through the wispy thin pages. As each person finds the verse, they stand up. When all are standing – sometimes this can take a while – everyone but the first person sits and that person reads the verse: "Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand..."



Thus began our church's Confirmation program this fall. Ten young people in grades 8 – 10 have been meeting every Sunday evening, 5:00-7:00 p.m. We begin with a meal in the Youth Lounge, provided by parents, and we discuss a dinner question such as, "What do you know about your family of origin?" Then we move to the Chapel where we engage interactively with subjects such as: The Bible, The Trinity, The Story of Christianity, Empire v. Justice, The United Church of Christ, Sacraments, Faith as a Way of Life. Pastor Rachel and I have

been co-leading the program and are creating a curriculum that we can use again in future years. Bobbie Johanson and Kathy Matthies have been generously taking turns serving as our "TAP" (Trustworthy Accompanying Presence).

Our Confirmation Class participants are amazing. They are funny, quirky, creative, and thoughtful. They have been committed about attending – shout out to parents, too! They have taken turns helping lead prayer at the end of each class session and they have even done work in-between Sundays. One week we asked them to choose a number between 1 and 20 and to write the number on a notecard. Then we asked them to turn the card over and write down everything they knew about the century that number represented. For example, someone choosing the number 10 had to write everything they knew about the years 900-999 CE. Of course, it was a nearly impossible task – the point was to illustrate how much history there is. We then assigned them a Christian figure from their century and had them research some basic facts about Empress Theodora, Hildegard of Bingen, Jan Hus, etc.

The Confirmation program culminates in morning worship on Sunday, November 20, Reign of Christ Sunday. In that service, we will affirm and bless all of our Confirmation Class participants. Those wishing to join the church as members by confirming their

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NOVEMBER 2022 WORSHIP

We worship in the sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Services live streamed on our church's YouTube channel & Facebook page. Weekly bulletin and announcements available at www.uccseb.org.

November 6 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Today we gather for Intergenerational Worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Chancel Choir sings, **Alina Kingwill Peterson** is our liturgist, and **Rev. Benjamin Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17](#) entitled "Breaking the Taboo."

November 13 – Gratitude Sunday

This morning we celebrate the conclusion of our annual Pledge Drive, "A Future with Hope," offering gratitude to God for the resources we have been called to share to allow our church to thrive. The Handbell Ensemble shares music, **Owen Thomas** is our liturgist, and **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on [Luke 21:5 – 19](#) entitled, "We Didn't Sign Up for That."

November 20 – Reign of Christ / Confirmation Sunday

On this last Sunday in the Christian liturgical calendar, we bless the ten young people who participated in our church's Confirmation program this fall. Those electing to confirm their Baptism and to join the church will be invited to do so. **Pastor Benjamin** offers a message on [Luke 1:68 – 79](#) entitled "Preparers of Peace."

November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

On this Sunday following the Thanksgiving holiday, we gather for the First Sunday of Advent. Our Advent theme this year is "From Generation to Generation." We light the candle of hope, asking the question, "What gives you hope?" **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Matthew 1: 1 – 17](#) entitled, "There's Room for Every Story."

Coming in December... 2nd Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, 4th Sunday of Advent, Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 – Child-Friendly; 6:00 – Family-Friendly; 8:30 - Traditional, Christmas Day is on a Sunday!

Gift Bag Ministry



It is getting close to that time of the year when Mission and Outreach start planning for our yearly holiday gift bag ministry to over 150 recipients at the Sam Jones homeless shelter on Finely Avenue, Santa Rosa. Through the years and your generosity, this giving program has been very successful and warmly appreciated by those most in need. This year we would like your help in bag donations. If you could look for bags about the size of a grocery bag 16-20"Hx16"Wx8"D, purchase as many as you are able and donate to the supply we need. For further information contact **Joyce Cox** 829-0750. A Donation Box is located in the church entry.

Confirmation is Affirmation cont. from page 1...

baptismal vows may do so. As a congregation, we will be asked to participate in this blessing of our young people by being present, by singing "I Was There to Hear Your Born Cry" (while perhaps weeping ourselves), and by lifting our hands as a sign of blessing.

This year, standing with each of our Confirmands as they receive their blessing will be their parents and immediate family members, as well as a mentor chosen from the congregation. Mentors and confirmands will have a few activities to do between now and the end of the church program year in May. The mentor relationship is intended to help the confirmation process continue beyond the class.

The Song of Miriam

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

– [Exodus 15:20–21](#)

The passage from Exodus mentioned above is known as the "Song of Miriam." These short verses follow a much longer "Song of Moses" which is sung in the wilderness shortly after Israel has been liberated from Egypt. Freshly freed, the Israelites are tempted to go back to Egypt where they lived as slaves but at least had food to eat. Moses sings his long song to convince them to keep moving forward. I imagine that Miriam looks at the crowd and realizes that they are will go back to Egypt unless they not only sing but dance this song into their bodies. So she gathers the women and a tambourine and they sing and dance the most importance verse: "In our liberation, God has triumphed." Just as Miriam and the women gave the people hope through their dancing bodies, our church finds hope in the bodies and faces and personalities and unique perspectives of our young people, affirmed and confirmed as God's own beloved.



Climate Hope Cards Art Contest!



All children and youth are invited by the national setting of the United Church of Christ to participate in Climate Hope Cards Art Contest! In the month of November, every UCC person under age 18 is invited to draw, paint, or color their feelings about climate hope, environmental justice, or protecting the Earth. Art worksheets are in the church office and on the rainbow lecturn. To participate, pick one up, create your art, and turn it in by Sunday, November 20th. They will be uploaded to the national office. Winners of the contest will be announced during an online award ceremony on

Saturday, January 7th. The winners will have their art printed on thousands of Climate Hope Cards to be collected by UCC members around the country and ultimately delivered en masse to the White House. For more information about this program, check out ucc.org/climatehopecards or contact **Pastor Rachel:** pastorrachel@uccse.org.

A Care Note from Pastor Rachel: Transgender Day of Remembrance



Dear Friends,

Transgender people, and especially Black trans women, are disproportionately victims of violence and homicide in our country and around the world. To remember those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia, they are memorialized every year on November 20th: Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR). People in 185 cities across twenty countries gather this day to hold vigil and remember the dead— and that night, we will be gathering with our interfaith friends and neighbors at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Santa Rosa.

Like many memorial services, a TDOR vigil often includes candles and the reading of names of those who have died. It is with reverence and care that these names are spoken aloud. It reminds me of the way Howard Thurman taught people to offer intercessory prayer (prayers for someone else you are thinking of); he said all you need to do is hold their name quietly in your mind, and God will hear your prayer. We did this in worship a few weeks ago, when we simply offered names aloud, and then took a deep breath with each one. Similarly, at a TDOR service, names are lifted. But there is another aspect to it— by affirming the names of those who have died, there is an implicit affirmation of their chosen name and their very being.

As an Open and Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we participate in TDOR as a holy act of remembrance. We believe that God creates trans and gender-diverse people in God's own image, and we mourn their loss. Each of these people brought unique gifts to our world— when we consider what is lost when the world loses the gifts the world needs— we grieve. We also grieve the violence and political targeting directed at the trans community in particular.

As a congregation, we are a community that is “increasing in our capacity to love” and this means acknowledging that we haven't yet “arrived” but are always forming and re-forming, always learning and growing. To this end, **Pastor Benjamin** has offered the TransAction education course, the Leadership Council is pondering the ways we can grow into more inclusion, and the Leadership Council is exploring the process of updating our Open and Affirming Statement. There is always more work to be done, and I am grateful we are on this path together.

There are not really that many times that we gather as an interfaith community in Sonoma County— but this is one of them. It is actually the Religious Leaders Caucus of the North Bay Organizing Project who are hosting TDOR at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Rosa, and we are all invited to attend:

Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 20
5:00pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa
547 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA95401

I hope to see you there.

Warmly,
Pastor Rachel

You Are Invited to Attend

Saturday

November 5, 2022, 6-9pm

Memorial Hall Youth Groups Sponsored

All church and community 50's Sock Hop with Burger and Fries Dinner
Root Beer Floats, Dancing, Entertainment, Dancing Games, Hula Hoop
& Bubble Gum Blowing Contest, Door Prizes and more.

RSVP Online link: [Roll Up My Jeans, I'm Coming to the Sock Hop!](#)

Invite friends and family.

Admission: \$10.00 per person or \$30.00 max for a family to cover food cost – Kids under 4 are free + Unused Socks Donation Drive of Socks and shelter needs will be donated to our local Youth Shelters in Sonoma County.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOV 1	JIANNA GONZALES	NOV 13	WARREN BRISBIN	NOV 29	JAN KAHDEMAN
NOV 3	GLADYS CHAPPELL	NOV 13	HELEN OLSON	NOV 29	STUART MITCHELL
NOV 4	BRIAN KAUTZ	NOV 13	KRISTINA DILLINGHAM	NOV 30	ANY FURBER-DOBSON
NOV 4	KATHERINE DOWDNEY	NOV 14	TOM TERRY		
NOV 5	DANIEL ARENDT	NOV 15	DALE PHILLIPS		
NOV 5	QUINN CURTIS	NOV 15	PATRICIA HUFFMAN		
NOV 6	MARYLOU HILLBERG	NOV 17	MARILYN FOSTER		
NOV 6	JULIE SETH	NOV 17	ANN KELLER		
NOV 7	ELISE PETERSON	NOV 19	MARY DOHERTY		
NOV 9	HOWARD BREDESEN	NOV 20	TYLER PORTER		
NOV 10	DAN RASMUS	NOV 20	NOE MARGULIS		
NOV 10	IRENE BETTENDORFF	NOV 22	ELLEN STILLMAN		
NOV 10	JIM DAVIS	NOV 23	MARK NELSON		
NOV 10	JULIE HODGE	NOV 25	KARNA ROA		
NOV 12	PAT FURBER	NOV 26	NORM STUFFEL		
NOV 12	HARRY SIMS	NOV 27	LESLEY BAGLEY		
NOV 12	KRISTIN DELMONTE	NOV 27	EMILY MORGAN		
NOV 12	JEFF PEARCE	NOV 28	BARBARA WHITSON		
NOV 12	BENJAMIN BROADBENT	NOV 28	ABBEY SAWYER		
NOV 13	DEBBIE MCCALLUM	NOV 28	JON GONZALES		



Honor a Loved One or Special Event

Our Flower Team can provide an arrangement which you can dedicate to a person or an event.

Here's how it works:

- Using the chart in the church narthex, sign your name on an available date.
- Give to the church office, or put in the offering plate, a check for \$50-\$75 payable to "Community Church" with "Chancel Flowers" in the memo line.
- 1-2 weeks prior to the date you selected, the church office will contact you for dedication information and a member of the Flower Team will contact you about the arrangement itself.
- Following the Sunday service, you may either take the arrangement home or request that it be delivered to a homebound member.

The Flower Team has lost a few of our volunteers. If you love to arrange flowers (no expertise required), or just love flowers and how they make worship beautiful, contact **Kathy Matthies** at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com or 707-758-3970. The

commitment would be about 4-5 Sundays throughout the year.



ADVENT WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 27 NOON - 2 P.M.

People of all ages are invited to the Advent Workshop! We will begin at 12 noon with a simple meal in Fellowship Hall. After the dishes are cleared, we will move on to crafting at tables, where we will have beautiful choices of crafts, designed by the artistic team at A Sanctified Art. All supplies will be provided, along with a beautiful weekly devotional to take home. The workshop will be guided with the intention of bringing all generations together in relationship to support a meaningful home practice of Advent. All are welcome!

What you need to be ready for the Advent Workshop:

- Register for the workshop by signing up on Realm or in the church office by Friday, November 18th, so we can set a place for you!

This is a zero-waste event: please bring your own plates, utensils, and cloth napkins. Cups and drinks will be provided.

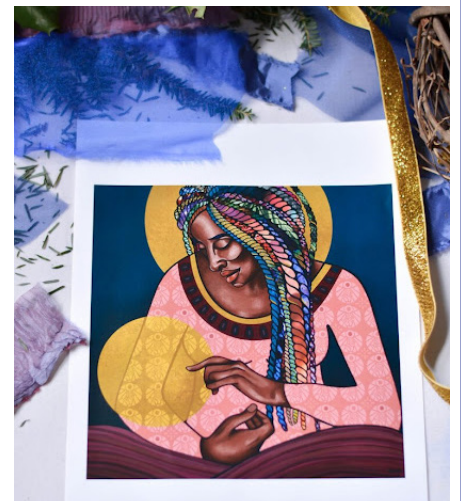
If you'd like to help with set-up and clean-up (either for the meal or the crafting), please contact **Pastor Rachel**: rachelknuth@uccseb.org.



An Evening of Conversation and Creativity for Mothers of Children & Youth

November 7, 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall

All mothers of children and youth are welcome to join an evening of camaraderie and art. We'll gather for tea and dessert while we get to know each other, and we'll spend time being crafty. Everything will be provided— just show up ready to make friends and create art. The crafting projects we'll share are designed by the artistic team of mamas at Sanctified Art. For more information or if you'd like to help with set-up, contact **Pastor Rachel**: pastorrachel@uccseb.org



Meet Andy DelMonte, Choral Director

By Rachel Allen

Long-time church member, Andy DelMonte, is reprising his role as Chancel Choir Director — after 24 years! Although he's been a member of Community Church for many years, some may remember that Andy served one year as Choir Director in 1998.



Andy is a Northern California native, was born in San Francisco, and grew up in Healdsburg, where his parents still reside in their family home. The second of four boys, he attended Santa Rosa Junior College, later graduating from Arizona State.

Andy is a seasoned instructor, teaching Choir at Analy High School for 25 years. During this time, his choir enjoyed many honors, including performing at New York City's Carnegie Hall, and singing with famous artists such as Arlo Guthrie, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and the Chanticleer ensemble. In 2013 he was named Teacher of the Year for West Sonoma County, and in 2017 was honored as Director of the Year by the NorCal Band & Directors Association.

One of his hidden talents, juggling, was picked up during his Analy years. The student "Circus Club" was looking for a classroom with high ceilings (!) and Andy's space filled the bill. As an added bonus, he also learned how to ride a unicycle.

With eclectic music tastes, Andy confides that he "likes it all," from opera and classical genres to John Denver, 80's pop and gangster rap. "I paint with a wide brush," he says.

When teaching and directing choir, he similarly likes picking music from a variety of genres, as well as music in different languages. But for Andy, the best part of directing choir is watching people working together. "I love the idea that everyone works together to create something beautiful that you couldn't create by yourself. Everyone is an equal contributor," he explains.

Andy is enjoying many new beginnings this year. After spending years working with high school students, he's now teaching music to younger kids at Parkside and Brookhaven schools. He's also excited about leading our Church choir. He says it feels good to serve, and to share gifts with the Church: "The Church feels like a home for my family, and it's been family for me."

Andy lives in Sebastopol with his wife, Kristen, and their daughters Erika, 10, and Elia, 13. Adult children include Ethan, 22 who attends Oregon State, and Emma, 27, a professional chef. Kristen has served as a former Associate Pastor at Community Church and met Andy back in 2000 at Camp Caz. She teaches at Apple Blossom school.

Thank you, Andy, for bringing your musical talents to our Church Choir and enhancing worship for everyone.

A Week in Paradise

After worship on Sept. 25, a team of 10 Community Church members and 2 friends headed north to Paradise CA, to help rebuild homes, after the town was destroyed by the Camp Fire. We worked with a group called Hope Crisis Response Network. We had good housing, great food – thanks to Kathy Matthies, good projects, great coworkers, and friends.

We started off each morning with a hardy breakfast and meaningful devotions by Jane Huneke. Then we headed out to work. Through the week we worked on three houses, mostly installing doors, shelving, and interior trim – including a LOT of baseboards, painting, and caulking. We also helped out at 2 distribution centers and the last day four of us worked on a tiny house through Tiny Pines Foundation. After much needed showers and a delicious dinner, we played games, did jigsaw puzzles, read, talked, and slept well.

Watch for the announcement for our after-church slide show to see us in action and hear more about the organizations we worked with! We presented Hope Crisis Response Network with a check for \$1,000 from our church through our outreach funds. They are very appreciative!

We had a wonderful week and are always looking for others to join us! Maybe YOU could come next year! Our team; Kim Buckman, Diane Wilson, Jane Huneke, John Henel, Joyce Cox, Julie Davis, Kathy Matthies, Keith Blackstone, Linda Roa, Nancy Shimetz, Peggy Porter, Warren Mar





Calling on all bakers and edible makers!

Our Kinship Hour after church is in dire need of supplies of cookies, breads, fruit, and savory brunch bites to serve. If you can help and donate please contact **Kathy Matthies** at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com.



Events in November at Community Church

November 1	Grounds Team, 9 a.m., Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 a.m.
November 2	Staff Team, 10 a.m., Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sanctuary Pledge Drive Calling Night, 6 p.m., Fireside Room
November 3	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary
November 5	Evelyn Hughes Memorial/Reception, 2 p.m., Sanctuary Sock Hop, 6 p.m., Memorial Hall Gym
November 6	22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Adult Mission Trip Presentation, Noon, Media Room Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., Youth Lounge
November 7	Convo & Crafts, 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall
November 8	Grounds Team, 9 a.m., Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 a.m., Memorial Hall Facilities Committee, 10 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Pastor-Parish Relations Team 5 p.m., Fireside Room Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m., Youth Lounge Outreach Committee, 7 p.m., Fireside Room
November 9	Staff Team, 10 a.m., Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m., Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sanctuary
November 10	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
November 11	Church Office Closed, Veteran's Day Holiday
November 12	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
November 13	23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Gratitude Sunday Wondering Circle, 11 a.m., Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Intergenerational Gym, 3:45 p.m., Memorial Hall Gym Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., Youth Lounge
November 15	Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline Grounds Team, 9 a.m., Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 a.m., Memorial Hall Pledge Drive Calling Night, 6 p.m. Fireside Room
November 16	Staff Team, 10 a.m., Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m., Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sanctuary Leadership Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Media Room
November 17	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
November 20	24th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Reign of Christ/Confirmation Sunday Wondering Circle, 11 a.m., Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
November 21	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 a.m., Fireside Room
November 22	Grounds Team, 9 a.m., Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 a.m., Memorial Hall
November 23	Staff Team, 10 a.m., Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m., Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sanctuary
November 24-25	Office Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday

Events in November at Community Church cont...

November 27	23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Gratitude Sunday Wondering Circle, 11 a.m., Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Advent Workshop, Noon, Fellowship Hall Intergenerational Gym, 3:45 p.m., Memorial Hall Gym
November 29	Grounds Team, 9 a.m., Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 a.m.
November 30	Staff Team, 10 a.m., Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 a.m., Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sanctuary



2022 Calendar	Event	Time
November		
Saturday, November 5	All Church and Community Sock Hop sponsored by Youth Group. Burger and fries dinner, dance games and a Donation Drive for socks to donate to the local Youth Shelters in Sonoma County. Invite friends and family of all ages.	6-9 pm Memorial Hall
December		
Sunday, December 11	Assemble Gift Bags for Sam Jones Shelter Christmas Party-White Elephant Gifting	5-7 pm Youth Lounge

Hello Middle School and High School Youth, parents and/or guardian,
Above is a calendar of meetings and events for the next couple months to plan for. We look forward to getting together once again for fun, service and community. Many of you are still attending confirmation classes and the youth leaders are proud of your next step in your faith journey. We will try to organize the events, service and fun activities around your confirmation schedules, but priority will be confirmation in the next months.
The Big Event we need everyone's participation in is our scheduled 'Sock Hop' and we need all church participation by attending!

Blessings from your Youth Group Leaders,

Middle School Youth Group

- **Bobbie Johanson**
- **Beth Larssen**

Senior High Youth Group

- **Kathy Matthies**
- **Bobbie Johanson**

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