

# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

### The Community Church of Sebastopol

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

#### Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

#### Associate Minister

Rev. Rachel Knuth

#### Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

#### Keyboardist

J. Althea

#### Handbell Director

Karna Roa

#### Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

#### Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

#### Custodian

Keith Brown

#### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



### What's the Deal with Hell?

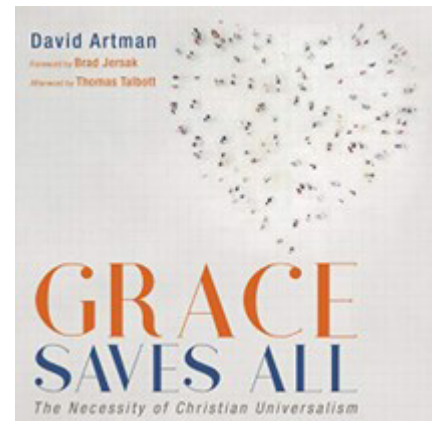
Rev. Benjamin Broadbent

Maybe because it's summer, or maybe because a "heat dome" is bringing triple digit weather to many parts of the country, but I've been thinking more about hell than usual. Most likely it's because I've discovered David Artman, who wrote "Grace Saves All" and hosts a podcast by the same name. Artman has been reminding me of some things I learned about hell in seminary:

- There is no concept of hell in the Hebrew scriptures – the closest thing is "Sheol," referred to as "the Pit," which is where the dead go and where the living go when they feel lost or forgotten.
- Understood as a place of punishment, the idea of hell snuck into Jewish consciousness during the "intertestamental period" (420 BCE – 70 CE) through the Persians and Greeks – think "Hades."
- In Jerusalem, hell was a physical place just outside the city walls. "Gehenna" was the city dump where fires constantly burned. Known as the "Valley of Hinnom," it led down into a hot desert inhabited by jackals.
- Jesus spoke of Hades or Gehenna in relationship to the kingdom of God. To receive the kingdom of God was to receive fullness of life. To refuse the kingdom of God was to find oneself in a place of hopelessness and death. As Kathleen Norris wrote, "Hell is hearing the Gospel, then not doing it."

David Artman observes that most early Christians did not believe in an eternal hell where non-believers would be imprisoned forever. They believed that hell was a place of correction and held out hope for the eventual salvation of all creation. Despite the modern assumption that, for Christians, all will not be saved, Artman makes a case for "the necessity of Christian universalism." It is not possible, he claims, to affirm all three of the following statements:

1. God has the power to save.
  2. God wants all to be saved.
  3. Not all will be saved.
- **Exclusivism** (1+3) believes God *can* save all but chooses (elects) not to.
  - **Transactionalism** (2+3) believes God *wants* to save all but can't do it alone – we must add something like correct belief or good works.
  - (1+2) believes that God *can* save all and *wants* to save all and therefore *will* save all.



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## What's the Deal with Hell? continued...

Theology is our most basic thinking about the nature of being. What we think about the ultimate destiny of ourselves, other humans, and creation itself – our beliefs about whether none or some or all will be saved – is tremendously practical.

- If we don't believe that anyone is destined for ultimate goodness, we may be more likely to look out for ourselves for the time being since that is all we have.
- If we believe that salvation is for an elect few, or only for those who belong to the right religion, or who believe in a certain creed, we may be more likely to support policies that benefit "people like us."
- If we believe that God loves all creation, including all people, and is working right now to bring about a final reconciliation or liberation of all things, we may be more likely to advocate for laws and institutions that extend resources to as many people as possible, beginning with the most vulnerable.

In this sense, hell matters, not because we must, or even can, avoid hell at all costs, but because our beliefs about hell and salvation in the coming life reveal the ways we are willing to share Jesus' love with those who have visited hell in this one.

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In July, our oldest member, **Charlie Williams**, turned 104! **Pastor Rachel** was delighted to help celebrate, and **Charlie** very much enjoyed a homemade card from **Joyce Cox**.

# 104



## AUGUST 2023 WORSHIP

*Summer Worship Theme: "Hospitality"*

### **Worship Details:**

*This summer, we worship in the sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Services live streamed on our church's [YouTube](#) channel & [Facebook](#) page  
Weekly bulletin and announcements available at [www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)*

### **August 6 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost / Hiroshima Day of Remembrance**

We gather for intergenerational worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Alina Kingwill-Peterson** offers special music and **Rev. Benjamin Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [Matthew 14:13–21](#) entitled, "The Four Verbs."

### **August 13 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost / Apple Pie Fundraiser Weekend**

On this busy and fun weekend in the life of our church, we will bless the backpacks of those returning to school, including donated backpacks. **Jules Dantin** and **Maria Culberson** offer special music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Matthew 14:22–33](#) entitled, "When a Ghost Comes Aboard."

### **August 20 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Today **Sheina Curtis** offers special music and **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon from [Matthew 15:10–20](#) entitled, "We Are What We Say."

### **August 27 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost / All-Church Camp Weekend**

Today while some of our congregation worship with **Pastor Rachel** under the redwoods in Occidental, **Pastor Benjamin** preaches in the sanctuary a sermon on [Exodus 1:8–2:10](#) entitled, "We Know Their Names."

**Coming in September...** Gathering & Blessing of the Waters, Launch Sunday, Outreach Sunday, Neighbors in Need Special Offering

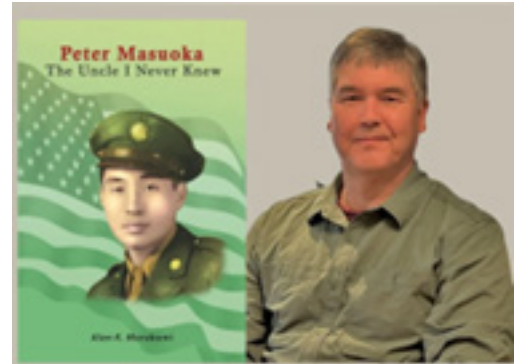


## AUGUST AFTER WORSHIP

### August 6 – Guest Speaker: Alan Murakami on “The Uncle I Never Knew”

11:30 in the Sanctuary

Pastor Benjamin will interview **Alan Murakami**, member of Community Church and author of a book about his uncle, **Peter Masuoka**, who attended Analy High School, was detained in the Amache Internment Camp in Colorado, served in the U.S. Army, and died during a battle in France.



### August 13 – Memorial Bench Dedication

11:15 a.m. in the Breezeway

In memory of **Tom Larssen**, a new bench has been installed in the breezeway corridor between the Bell Tower Courtyard and the back parking lot. People of all ages are welcome to join the Larssen family in dedicating this new place of rest.

### August 20 – Church Chat: Leadership Council

11:15 in the Fireside Room

Come meet with members of our Leadership Council to discuss current issues and upcoming priorities in the life of our congregation.

### August 27 – Church Chat: What are Microaggressions?

11:15 in the Fireside Room

**Pastor Benjamin** will lead a presentation and discussion on microaggressions. What can we do to recognize and reduce our unconscious biases?





## By popular demand, NINE-TO-DINE RETURNS THIS FALL



Forty-five people participated in our Spring Nine-to-Dine program, gathering once a month in each other's homes for a simple meal and conversation.

Here are a few things people are saying about Nine-to-Dine:

"As a new church member, I found the Nine-to-Dine group an effective way to begin getting to know people. The group I was paired up with were all delightful and we formed a comfortable friendship very quickly and easily. I recommend it to new members as a way to quickly form relationships in the church."

—**Mary Culberson**

"It was a pleasure to be with old friends and new friends, enjoying a simple meal together, talking and listening, engaging with others, learning things. I have been far too solitary for too long. Emerging from the isolation of the covid years has made me feel estranged; ... I hope there will be a continuation of the program. It can be an important link for me, and I hope to participate in the future." —**Rosemary Manchester**

When you join the Fall Nine-to-Dine program, you'll be placed in a dining group. You'll meet with your group once per month, September through November. The idea is to meet new people and make new friends. Your group will decide together the days and times that are best to meet, whatever the consensus is. The Nine-to-Dine Team will provide groups with monthly conversation-starter questions.

Sign up for a Nine-to-Dine group by August 20: [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up! or in the church office.

The Nine-to-Dine Team is **Marlene & Jim Hooper, Jane Huneke, Gina Scribner**, along with **Pastor Rachel**. For more information contact **Gina Scribner** at [kagscrib@gmail.com](mailto:kagscrib@gmail.com).

## Youth SALT Trip to Blue Theology



In June, nine of our Youth attended the SALT (Service And Learning Together) Trip to Blue Theology in Pacific Grove, to learn about ocean ecology from a Christian perspective. Our group learned that one cigarette butt contains 15,000 microplastics and pollutes 150 gallons of water. We also learned that when you take 3 deep breaths, 2 of those breaths come from oxygen produced by the ocean. The ocean is a sacred, life-giving ecosystem where we can witness forgiveness, vulnerability, and resurrection.

Huge thanks to the adult volunteer chaperones: **Daniela Kingwill, Kathy Matthies, Andrea Card, and Sara Poisson.**



"The scripture we chose for reflection is [Luke 12:34](#): Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. If we treasure the ocean, we can love the ocean, and if we love the ocean, we will have a greater motivation to help the ocean. I think if we are to treasure the ocean, we need to spend time with it, and near it. We were learning to treasure the ocean when we kayaked in it, climbed on rocks near it, wrote haiku about it, sang songs around a campfire on the beach, and even when we ate delicious smores next to it." – **Eliana Curtis**

## Make Your Own Haiku

Did you know that you can pray by writing a haiku?

There are 3 rules:

1. Your haiku will have 3 short lines (don't worry about syllables)
2. First you set the scene
3. Then you record your reaction

Prayerful Haiku (anonymous)

My Grandmother's illness  
Breathing takes effort  
Holy One, come close

Ocean Haiku – by Sophia Broadbent-Bell

Sitting on the beach  
Blend of color fills the sky  
My heart cries with joy!

Try it some morning with your tea and a blank piece of paper and see what happens!

## Gratitude!



We are grateful for **Kathy Matthies'** years of service and leadership on SALT Trips, Mission Trips, as a Youth Leader galore. She has loved people by cooking them yummy food and sustaining so many while they do acts of service. Her ministry is a gift to our world. As a sign of our gratitude for her ministry among us, The Community Church made a donation to the Ceres Project, another local group that cares for people through nutritious meals, especially those facing chronic illness, while mentoring teens in nutrient-dense food preparation. Thank you, **Kathy Matthies!**



## SOMETHING NEW IS COMING!

Beth Larssen

Recently, a parishioner asked her friend, "Could you drive around to the handicap parking? I can't manage the stairs to Danmar. I wish there were a bench to sit on near the ramp."

Well, a gray granite memorial bench will be installed soon. It will serve our congregation and the many groups of individuals that utilize our campus. The placement in the breezeway will especially benefit mobility-challenged folks waiting for rides, as it is close to the handicap parking spaces.

Generous donations to the Undesignated Memorial fund and gifts honoring Tom Larssen have made this compassionate gift of improved accessibility and welcome possible.

This bench is for everyone's use and the informal dedication after worship on August 13, is for everyone's participation. It will include a quick intergenerational art project that invites you to celebrate and honor the lives of your loved ones. Please come join us.



### Thresholds

We release with care...

...**Carol Wood**, former church member, who died July 18.

*May God's comforting Spirit and the love of our community surround Craig Nessler & Richard Wood, and their whole family as they grieve.*

All are welcome at the Memorial Service for **Mike Burton**, father of **Reena Burton**, August 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 1 MARIN BROADBENT-BELL  
AUGUST 1 CAROLINE CASSELLS  
AUGUST 2 DAN PORTER  
AUGUST 3 BOBBIE JOHANSON  
AUGUST 3 HARRY POLLEY  
AUGUST 3 ELIZABETH SCHULTZ  
AUGUST 3 CHLOE MADDEN  
AUGUST 4 PEGGY PORTER  
AUGUST 4 LIAM STONE  
AUGUST 7 AUSTIN PRESLEY  
AUGUST 7 TOBIN ARNOLD-PETERSON  
AUGUST 8 KATHY MANCHESTER  
AUGUST 8 KYLE PELTON  
AUGUST 9 CHRIS DAWSON  
AUGUST 9 VICTORIA MAYSTER  
AUGUST 10 CRAIG STERLING  
AUGUST 12 GINA SCRIBNER  
AUGUST 13 SUSAN WAHL

AUGUST 13 DAVID LENNOX  
AUGUST 13 FRANCINE CROOK  
AUGUST 15 SOHNI YAYLIAN  
AUGUST 15 RACHEL KNUTH  
AUGUST 15 JOCELYN NELSON  
AUGUST 15 JULIET HOLE  
AUGUST 16 ELIAS GALLETO  
AUGUST 17 SUZANNE GORDON  
AUGUST 17 ANDY BERNDT  
AUGUST 20 ALICIA PELTON  
AUGUST 22 DORIS ROWE  
AUGUST 22 TIM ALLEN  
AUGUST 24 ELIA DELMONTE  
AUGUST 24 MONICA GOODELL  
AUGUST 25 JOANNE FEIGE  
AUGUST 27 PAM OAKES  
AUGUST 29 YOLAN CHRISTY  
AUGUST 30 JUDY BOWMAN  
AUGUST 30 AARON KNUTH





**School Supply Donation Drive  
&  
Blessing of the Backpacks  
August 13**

The Mission & Outreach Team is collecting back-to-school items for local children who need school supplies. All donations will be taken to Our Village Closet, a local Sonoma County organization that supports children and youth impacted by foster care and kinship care situations.

And, if you're headed back to school this Fall, bring your backpack to worship on August 13, and you'll receive a special blessing during the Children's Message.

Please donate only new, high-quality supplies in the church office by August 13.

- Lunch boxes
- Metal water bottles (adult size)
- New tennis shoes (youth - adult sizes)
- Pencil bags/boxes
- Crayons (36-count or less)
- Crayons (oversized for small hands)
- Binder divider tabs
- Character folders (2 pocket)
- Spiral notebook (college & wide)
- Lined paper (college & wide)
- Composition books (college & wide)
- 3 ring binders (1-inch or smaller)
- Glue sticks
- Kids scissors (left & right-handed)
- Markers (24-count or smaller, thin & thick)
- Ice packs (for lunch boxes)
- Hand sanitizer (5-oz size)

For more information, please contact **Joyce Cox**: [b-j-cox@att.net](mailto:b-j-cox@att.net).

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## **August 2023 Events at Community Church**

- August 1      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
                  Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
                  Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- August 2      Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
                  Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- August 3      Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
                  Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall
- August 6      10th Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary  
                  Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
                  Alan Murakami, Guest Speaker, 11:30 am, Sanctuary
- August 7      Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
- August 8      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
                  Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
                  Facility Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room  
                  PPRT - 4 pm, Fireside Room  
                  Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
- August 9      Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
                  Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- August 10     Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
                  Apple Pies Set Up, Memorial Hall, Fellowship Hall & Kitchens
- August 11-13 Apple Pie Event, Memorial Hall, Fellowship Hall & Kitchens
- August 12     Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am, Fountain Courtyard
- August 13     11th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary  
                  Kinship Hour, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
                  Bench Dedication, 11:15 am, Breezeway  
                  5-6th Grade OWL Parent Info Session, 11:15 am, Chapel
- August 14     Apple Pie Clean Up
- August 15     Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
                  Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
                  Finance Committee, 11 am, Classroom 6
- August 16     Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
                  Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6  
                  Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
- August 17     Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
                  Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

Events Continued on page 12

August 2023 Events at Community Church continued...

- August 19 Mike Burton Memorial Service & Reception, 1 pm, Sanctuary
- August 20 12th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship Service,  
Kinship Hour, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
Church Chat, 11:15 am, Fireside Room
- August 21 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
- August 22 Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- August 23 Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- August 24 Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- August 25-28 All Church Camp Weekend, 5 pm, Westminster Woods
- August 27 13th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship Service,  
Kinship Hour, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
Church Chat, 11:15 am, Fireside Room
- August 29 Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- August 30 Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6  
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- August 31 Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

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## CALLING ALL BAKERS & SAVORY MAKERS

Our Kinship Hour after church is in need of supplies of cookies, breads, fruit, and savory brunch bites to serve.  
To help, contact **Kathy Matthies** at [kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com).



## Grounds Team debuts ADOPT-A-PLOT

Jane Huneke

The Grounds Team is starting a new program called ADOPT- A-PLOT. Family and friends can “own” a small portion of the garden and tend it whenever the unwanted weeds pop up. This wouldn’t take much time and the plots would be manageable. If you are interested in adopting a plot, please contact **Jane Huneke** [jane.huneke1@gmail.com](mailto:jane.huneke1@gmail.com). Many hands make light work. Thanks for participating!



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