

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2023 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

Michael Sadler

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Capacity

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

I have been thinking a lot about the word "capacity" lately. When I brought it up at a recent meeting of my Pastor-Parish Relations Team, a lively discussion ensued. "Emerging from the Covid pandemic," I observed, "we've lost some capacity as a congregation." Heads started nodding, which I assumed meant people agreed with me, but then someone spoke up and took the insight deeper. "I think all of us, even our whole society, is experiencing that."

Wow. All of us are experiencing a loss of capacity. "What do we mean by capacity?" someone in the group asked. "To me," I replied, "capacity includes the finances, time, energy, and will to carry out the ministry of the church." Someone else added, "I think true capacity always lies beyond what we think we can do." "I see it quite differently," yet another person shared, "I think capacity is not only what we can do, but also what we choose not to do. Post-Covid, I think many of us are finding energy from simplifying, from letting go of things that really aren't that important, from focusing on the few essentials."



That last insight really resonated with the group. What if capacity is about focusing on the essentials and letting go of things that no longer spark our interest or attention? Here is an example: acolytes. As you may have noticed, for the past year, Pastor Rachel and I have been lighting candles on the chancel at the beginning of worship. This simple yet important liturgical act symbolizes the presence of Christ's light in the midst of God's gathered people. While we are willing to do this, we would prefer that a pair of our church's children would come forward with us and light the candles as a special way of affirming the presence and leadership roles of our young people. Nevertheless, we do not have an acolyte coordinator to oversee this process. Is it essential to have young people lighting candles at the opening of worship? No. Therefore, we can let it go.

*When you say "no," what are
you saying "yes" to?
When you say "yes," what are
you saying "no" to?*

Letting go, or saying no, can be a way of creating energy and building capacity. When we say "no" to something that does not bring us joy, we can open a place in ourselves, and in our community, to say "yes" to something that does bring joy. For example, a major reason our church calls

continued Page 3

FEBRUARY 2023 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

February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

We gather for Intergenerational Worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Chancel Choir sings and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on Matthew 5: 13 – 20 entitled "Seen & Heard."

February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany / Racial Justice Sunday

The Handbell Ensemble shares music and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Deuteronomy 30: 15 – 20 entitled "We Know the Way."

February 19 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany / Transfiguration Sunday

The Chancel Choir sings and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on the story of the Transfiguration found in Matthew 17: 1 – 9.

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

At 6:00 p.m., we gather in the sanctuary for a quiet, all-ages Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes and the words: "Child of God, from dust you have come and to dust you shall return."

February 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on Genesis 2: 15 – 17 & 3: 1 – 7 entitled "The Invention of Shame."



Coming in March... Sundays in Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing, Daylight Savings Time begins, Purim (Judaism) & Ramadan (Islam)

ministers and hires staff is because, as members, you do not want to be responsible for planning worship and preaching every Sunday, attending multiple committee meetings each week, holding office hours, or being called at home at strange hours. You've said "no" to those responsibilities so that you can free up time and energy to engage in forms of ministry that give you joy.

The Bible is full of stories about capacity. God creates a partner for the first human because God knows that relationships are important. Israel made alliances with its neighbors because it could not survive all by itself. Jesus called disciples, not only the 12, but other women and men, because his ministry was something that, by definition, needed to be shared. As the early church grew, its leaders created new roles because new needs arose that couldn't be met forever by the same small group.

As we enter this new year in the life of our church and our world, let us encourage each other to think about capacity. What new interests and energies are you discovering in yourself? What can you let go of? When you say "no," what are you saying "yes" to? When you say "yes," what are you saying "no" to? Who can you invite into partnership to help you realize the thing that gives you joy? Perhaps we can't do and be everything we once were, but it's possible the Holy Spirit is calling us to do and to become what we've not yet imagined, showing us new capacities for creativity, service, and love.

Nine-to-Dine – Marlene Hooper

Want to share fellowship, food, faith, and laughter?

Want to change acquaintances into friends?

Want to sign up for monthly potlucks at three rotating houses?



As newbies in 2019, Jim and I joined a Nine-to-Dine group. We admired our host's elegant home, his restful landscape paintings, and feasted on enchiladas together with new friends. Our host led us to share our insights into three questions, a common link between all Nine-to-Dine groups.

Jane Huneke smilingly recalled her Nine-to-Dine group meeting in October 2019: "We arrived at our host's home during a power outage. By candle light we gathered cozily around her kitchen table. Halloween was days away." (Sounds spooktacular!)

Gina Scriber remembered how the group gave her a sense of belonging in the church. And, she noted, "some in the group didn't want to drive after dark, so we opted for breakfast gatherings...Mimosas helped," she laughed.

And then Covid 19 shut down our Nine-to-Dine program...Until now! **Here's your chance:**

Sign up for a Nine-to-Dine group by February 15: [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up or sign up in the church office. The plan calls for three monthly get togethers March through May. Groups will be around nine people, of course, and the idea is to meet new people and make new friends. Groups can meet for dinner, for breakfast, in each other's homes, in Fellowship Hall, whatever the consensus is. The Nine-to-Dine Team will provide groups with monthly conversation-starter questions.

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.

Church Chats with Pastor Benjamin

On Sundays in February, there will be opportunities to be in conversation about different facets of our life as a congregation. Led by Pastor Benjamin during Kinship Hour (11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.), you are invited to grab a bite to eat, then return to the Fireside Room. Here is the schedule:

February 5 – How Are We Connected?

We will explore how our local congregation connects all the pieces to organize itself in support of its mission. Not just for “Org Nerds,” we’ll use visuals to understand our collaborative style of governance.



February 12 – New Member Class

Today Pastor Benjamin leads a “New Member Class” for those interested in learning more about the history, identity, and beliefs of Community Church.

February 19 – What’s the Deal with Realm?

This will be an opportunity to learn more about our church’s online communication hub. May be especially helpful for those who have struggled to use Realm.

February 26 – Doctor of What?

The title of Rev. Broadbent’s Doctor of Ministry dissertation is “The Flesh Becomes Word: Embodied Preaching and Congregational Response.” Learn more about the project, what inspired it, and what happens next.



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.



Our Spring Theme for Youth Group is Eco-Justice! As we prepare for our summer SALT (Service And Learning Together) trip to Blue Theology in Pacific Grove, California, we will be exploring our local Sonoma County watershed. From laguna to river to lake to ocean, how are we connected in the “basin of relation?” How can we be of service and what justice issues are connected to water/drought and the ways water flows through our West County area? We’ll be exploring all this and more, while building camaraderie and going on service-learning adventures. If you’re in grades 6 - 12, Youth Group is for you! Come and bring a friend if you like, all spring long.

We’re grateful for our team of Youth Leaders: Andrea Card, Daniela Kingwill, Bobbie Johanson, Beth Larssen, and Kathy Matthies – along with Pastor Rachel – who will be guiding our youth through the Spring, and attending the SALT Trip in June.

We’ll be meeting twice a month– once at the church, and once for an off-site adventure. The adventures will be on Saturdays and are still in the works. All of the programming will revolve around learning about our local watershed and doing service projects nearby.

Here’s a sketch of what are planning so far:

Date	Time	Location	Topic
February 5 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Watershed Care: God makes the rain; we make the runoff
February 18 (Sat)	TBD	Off-site adventure	Off-site adventure
March 5 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Water Catchment/Campus Assessment
March 18 (Sat)	TBD	Off-site adventure	Off-site adventure
April 2 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel (or possible youth member home)	Learning to make an A-frame to build on-contour bioswales
April 15 (Sun)	TBD	Off-site adventure	Off-site adventure
April 22 (Sat)	4:00 - 9:00	Memorial Hall & Fountain Courtyard	Earth Day Fundraiser Event
May 7 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Lakes & Reservoirs
May 20 (Sat)	TBD	Lake Sonoma	Lake Clean-up/Exploration/Hatchery
June 11 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Pre-Trip Meeting with Parents
June 25-July 1	All day	Pacific Grove, CA	Blue Theology Salt Trip

AND! Here are some details about the SALT trip:

What do I need to do to go on the trip?

There are a number of things to do to participate in this trip. The first thing to do is to pray about this opportunity. Are you ready and willing to serve God through creation-care as it relates to the ocean, and to explore justice issues around this topic? Next, you will need to do the following:

- Fill out all your paperwork, due February 26 (an online form).
- [Click HERE](#) and pay your \$100 deposit by February 26, and the balance by May 28.
- Participate in our fundraiser on April 22.
- Attend worship regularly.
- Attend youth group meetings– at least 6/ 10 gatherings before the trip (including the fundraiser).
- Attend the SALT Trip worship service (date TBD).

For more information about Youth Group or the SALT Trip, contact **Pastor Rachel**: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 3	Nico Bagley
Feb 4	Terry Beck
Feb 4	Jean Boal
Feb 5	Joan Carter
Feb 9	Judy Davison
Feb 11	Erika DelMonte
Feb 12	Ruth Grant
Feb 14	Jennifer Halleck
Feb 14	Sandy Hendrickson
Feb 15	John Henel
Feb 15	Martha Kautz

Feb 15	Nathan Knuth
Feb 15	Sonja Larssen
Feb 16	Kathie Mayhew
Feb 16	Bethany Nelson
Feb 16	Laura Pearsall
Feb 17	Christian Roa
Feb 19	Amy Scribner
Feb 22	Chris Warner
Feb 22	Parker Warner
Feb 22	Gary Weeks
Feb 28	Brian Wetzel



Wondering Circle

In Wondering Circle, the scripture story is told in worship (Children's Message) and then children and adult volunteers walk over to Room 5 for art, prayer, and singing.

Wondering Circle is a great way for children up through Grade 5 to experience the scripture story in a playful way. The children wonder together about the story that's told in the Children's Message, wondering about different facets of the story and how they might fit in to the story themselves. We're looking to keep building our team of parents & adult volunteers in Wondering Circle. Please contact **Pastor Rachel** for more information: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.

- **Role of Adult Leader:** To lead the children in a circle with gathering time to get settled in the space, invite them to use art supplies, lead the children in a share & prayer time, and singing.
- **Role of Adult Helper:** To help shepherd the children, sit alongside any who need assistance, support the Adult Leader in creating a sweet space for the children.

DATE	LEADER	HELPER	SCRIPTURE
February 12	Terri Harper	Ashley Arnold	<u>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</u>
February 19			<u>Transfiguration Sunday</u>
February 26			<u>First Sunday in Lent</u>



Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Our Whole Lives (OWL), comprehensive sexuality education continues in the Chapel, for 8th-9th graders who have signed up. We are grateful for our volunteers who are co-facilitating: **Blythe Osner** and **Roger Wilson**. Here's the February schedule:

DATE	TIME	TOPICS
February 5	10am - 1pm	The Language of Sexuality Anatomy and Physiology
February 11 - 12	Saturday 9am -thru- Sunday 11:30am	Personal Concerns about Puberty Body Image Gender Identity Gender Expression Sexual Orientation
February 26	10am - 1pm	Guest Panel Sexuality & Disability

MEET OUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Bob Curtis: LC Moderator



Bob is married to Sheina and has three girls, Eliana (14), Ainsley (12), and Quinn (10). Bob enjoys skiing, cooking, basketball, and tennis with the family. He works for an education non-profit in San Francisco and was a former biology teacher.

A Fun Fact about Bob: He met his wife swing dancing, and though he describes himself as "the worst dancer," she said yes to dancing with him, reportedly because he didn't have sweaty hands.

Larry Stallings: Council Officer for Facilities (Vice-Moderator)

Larry Stallings will be joining the Leadership Council as the Facilities Officer. Larry is an active member of the Men's Group, OWL and Wandering Circle youth programs, Facilities Committee, Grounds Team and serves as a Usher and Liturgist. Larry is a retired military officer followed by several decades as a healthcare facility director. He has two children and five grand kids.



Deidra Warner: Council Officer for Finance (Treasurer)



In Deidra's words... "I am new to the role of treasurer, so am still learning, but I see my role as supporting and facilitating the rest of the church ministry."

A Fun Fact about Deidra: When she went to Hawai'i in 1st Grade, her teacher asked to be in her suitcase, and she was not quite sure what that meant??

Chris Chang Weeks: Council Officer for Personnel (Secretary)

Chris Chang Weeks will be the new Leadership Council member as Officer for Personnel (Secretary). She has been a member of Community Church of Sebastopol since 2018. She worked as the Congregational Administrator at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, and retired in June 2022. In addition to being on the Personnel Committee, Chris is also a member of Pastor Rachel's PPRT Committee. Now that Chris is retired, she has been able to become involved in projects that she had postponed while working. This includes applying for wildfire mitigation grants for her HOA and joining the board of the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of the North Bay. She stays active with daily yoga, hiking 5-8 miles a day with her two dogs and dog training. Chris loves to cook, and share meals with family and friends.



Victoria Mayster: LC Member for Worship & Arts

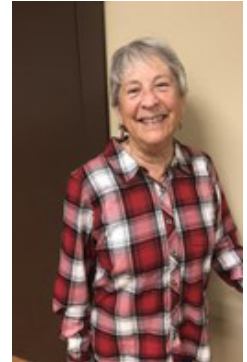


Victoria Mayster joins the Leadership Council as member for Worship and the Arts. Victoria has lived in the redwoods just outside of Sebastopol for over 30 years, originally from Southern California. She is mom and stepmother to three sons, including Colby, who grew up in our church. Vicki has worked in a variety of nonprofits and schools serving the immigrant community and is now semi-retired. She sings in our choir, feeds her soul with live music, a contemplative practice, and loves diverse cultures, foods and traveling to find these.

Bobbie Johanson: LC Member for Care & Fellowship

Bobbie has switched hats this year and is now the Leadership Council Member for Care & Fellowship which includes ministries such as, Prayer Shawl, Kinship Hour Hosts, Retreats, All-Church Camp and Visitation, just to name a few.

A Fun Fact about Bobbie: When she was 9 years old she went to a family camp outside of Sacramento, where she joined an adult pinochle tournament—and came in 5th!



Gary Bachelor: LC Member for Outreach



Gary and his wife Irma have been members of the Community Church for 35 years. They have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Gary was both a junior high and senior high youth leader for 9 years. For the past 3 years Gary has been on the personnel committee and has managed the church's Safe Parking Program for 7 years. He's interested in expanding the membership of the church.

Urgent Need for Help for Interchurch Food Pantry

While many members give one or more days a month distributing food to clients of the Interchurch Food Pantry, it is possible because 4 different two-person teams pick up food at the Redwood Empire Food Bank on Tuesday mornings and bring it back to the Interchurch Pantry on the grounds of St. Stephens Episcopal Church on Robinson Road off Bodega Avenue. Former church member **Harry Sullivan** has been my team mate for at least a dozen years, but has been advised by his doctor to stop doing so. Thus, I need a new partner. hopefully before February, who also has a pickup truck or other vehicle able to transport a pre-loaded pallet from the Food Bank to the Food Pantry and then help me unload the food on it. The time required is usually 2 hours. Please contact **Steve Beck** at 1-707-479-3567 or at rottenappleranch@aol.com for more information.

Events in February 2023 at Community Church

February 1	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary Lent & Easter Worship Planning, 6 pm, Fireside Room
February 2	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
February 5	Fifth Sunday After Epiphany, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary 8th-9th grade OWL, 10 am, Chapel, Youth Lounge Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Church Chat, 11:30 am, Fireside Room Youth Group, 5 pm, Youth Lounge, Chapel
February 6	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
February 7	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
February 8	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
February 9	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
February 11	8th-9th grade OWL overnight, 9 am, Youth Lounge, Chapel Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
February 12	6th Sunday after the Epiphany, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard New Member Orientation, 11:45 am, Media Room
February 14	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room Pastor Parish Relations (Ben), 4 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
February 15	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary Leadership Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Media Room Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline
February 16	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
February 19	Transfiguration Sunday, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Church Chat, 11:30 am, Fireside Room
February 20	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
February 21	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall

Continued Page 11

- February 22 Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
Ash Wednesday, Worship Service, 6 pm, Sanctuary
- February 23 Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- February 26 1st Sunday in Lent Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary
8th-9th grade OWL, 10 am, Youth Lounge, Chapel
Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5
Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Church Chat, 11:30, Fireside Room
Associate Minister PPRT, Noon, Room 6
- February 28 Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall



Thresholds

We release with care...

...**Bill McMillon**, church member, who died January 12.

May God's comforting Spirit and the love of our community surround Bill's wife Mary,
and all family and friends as they grieve.

Christmas Caroling

On December 18, a group of our members gathered in the Fellowship Hall to share a potluck meal and the gift of their voices with neighbors and church members who don't get out much. Here are a few pictures (thank you **Stuart Mitchell**).



Community Church of Sebastopol
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North
Sebastopol, CA 95472



SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent
Lead Minister

pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org

Rev. Rachel Knuth
Associate Minister

pastorrachel@uccseb.org

www.uccseb.org

office@uccseb.org

707.823.2484

