

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Community Church of Sebastopol

United Church of Christ
707.823.2484
www.uccseb.org
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Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Associate Minister

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

Keyboardist

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Handbell Director

Karna Roa

Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Keith Brown

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Hospitality: Emulating Oak Trees

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

In "Speak with the Earth and It will Teach You: A Field Guide to the Bible," Daniel Cooperrider, a United Church of Christ pastor, meditates on what he calls "oak ethics." Resting in the shade of the "oaks of Mamre," Abraham is approached by three strangers. He and Sarah offer them radical generosity, sharing their best flour and their choicest calf with the unknown desert sojourners. "Extending hospitality to the stranger," Cooperrider observes, "is the conversation God is always eager to be having with us."



What if "extending hospitality to the stranger" is a conversation God is eager to have with the members and friends of the Community Church of Sebastopol? At a recent Church Chat, a group of us learned that the word "hospitality" comes from ghos, meaning "guest," and podi, meaning "power." The old Slavic word gospodi literally meant "Lord of the Strangers," and referred to a person whose vocation was to provide food and shelter to strangers visiting a village. Interesting, isn't it, that the root of hospitality is a word that means both "host" and "guest," highlighting that the two are reciprocal. "Outside visitors," Cooperrider suggests, "allow the hosts to remember and retell the story of who they are and so to keep the ember of their identity growing."

What if that were true? What if, for example, our congregation depends as much upon its visitors as it does upon its members to re-member by giving us opportunities to tell the story of who we are and to keep growing our identity? Might we emulate the oaks in offering hospitality to visitors for our mutual well-being? We could aspire to become "masters of hospitality" by:

- o Wearing nametags, sharing our names, learning, and repeating the names of visitors so they feel known.
- o Offering to accompany our guests to Kinship Hour, making sure they get a bite to eat before the vittles are gone.
- o Introducing visitors to the pastors or to others with like interests or in similar life stages.
- o Sharing our pronouns so that transgender people know they are seen, welcomed, and valued.
- o Inviting visitors to attend other church events and offering to meet them there.

When the three visitors left Abraham and Sarah, they left them with a blessing. To offer and to receive a blessing is to emulate the oaks. ~

JUNE 2023 WORSHIP

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*

June 4 – Trinity Sunday / Pride Sunday

On this weekend of the Sonoma County Pride Parade, we gather for intergenerational worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our service is created and led by LGBTQIA+ members of our congregation and allies. We sing new music and celebrate the many gifts of our Queer kindred.

June 11 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

We continue with Pride Month and focus on our summer theme of "Hospitality." Special music by **Garth Watson** and **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on [Genesis 12: 1–9](#) entitled, "To Be a Blessing."

June 18 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost / Camp Caz Sunday

Today is "Camp Caz Sunday" and we will be singing camp songs and worshipping in a casual way. It's also Fathers' Day, we will commission our 2023 Youth SALT Trip participants, and **Pastor Benjamin** will share message on [Genesis 18:1–15](#) called "The Hospitality of Oaks."

June 25 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Today we have a guest pianist, we welcome a class of new members, and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Genesis 21:8–21](#) entitled "God's Hospitality for the Outcast."

Coming in July... More "Hospitality," more guest musicians, more stories from Genesis ~



After Worship in June

June 4 – Special Reception for Pride Sunday & Graduates

11:00 in the Bell Tower Courtyard

Bring a dish to share and join participants in our annual Pride Sunday, along with our high school and college graduates, to celebrate academic accomplishments and the beauty of a diverse community.



June 11 – New Member Class & Lunch

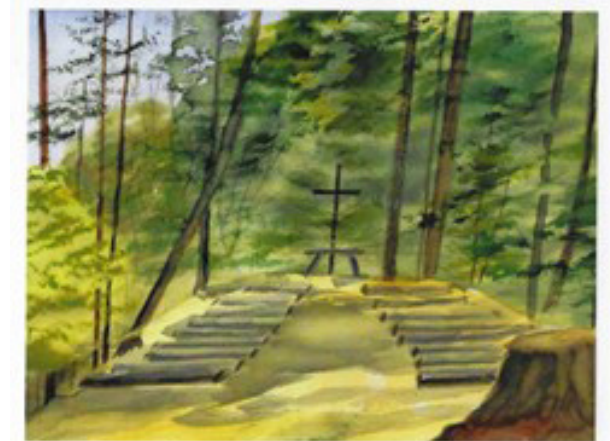
11:15 a.m. in the Media Room

Pastor Benjamin & Pastor Rachel lead a class for those considering joining Community Church as active members. Includes lunch. RSVP to Church Office (office@uccseb.org) by 6/7.

June 18 – Special Camp Caz Sunday Kinship Hour

11:00 in the Bell Tower Courtyard

Following a camp-themed worship, join with others in courtyard for food and memories and more camp songs.



June 25 – Meet the New Members

11:00 in the Bell Tower Courtyard

Come and meet our newest members during Kinship Hour. ~

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP

Food Pantry Weekday Volunteer Coordinator. This opportunity is important for continued operation of the Interchurch Food Pantry. Coordinator will work with a small dedicated group of volunteers to staff the Food Pantry three days a week. We are blessed to have people who volunteer routinely for a specific day; therefore, most of the time all that is needed is to fill in their names on the calendar and send out the calendar each month. This task can be done exclusively from home.

Food Pantry Weekday Volunteer. A weekday volunteer is needed to serve on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 10 a.m. to Noon. This position works directly with people with food needs by accessing food stocks held at the pantry location in Sebastopol.

Contact **Mark Albin** at 707-829-1492.

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

Thresholds



We release with care...

...Ellen Stillman, church member, who died April 22.

...Jennifer Simi, daughter of Ellen & Harry Sullivan, who died April 26.

...Marilyn McHugh, church member, who died May 19.

May God's comforting Spirit and the love of our community surround the family and friends of these beloved ones as they grieve. ~

Guest Speaker Series: Nick Lawrence

On April 30, we hosted **Nick Lawrence** in our sanctuary as part of our Guest Speaker series. Through storytelling, visuals, and music, Nick shared with us his experience transitioning from female to male. More information about Nick can be found at <https://nicklawrenceftm.com>. A recording of the livestreamed presentation can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/live/ZL_DKLQfgbM?feature=share.

Here are the reactions of two church members who attended the event:

Susan Olson: "I had a friend in town visiting, someone I have not seen or talked to much for nearly a decade. So, I wasn't sure if she would be interested or open to going to the talk, but when I mentioned it, she said, 'absolutely!' We both learned a lot from Nick and, in particular, enjoyed the uncomfortable moments because they stretched our boundaries and ability to think about this topic. Nick's openness and frankness about his experience was moving. Change happens when we meet someone who has had very different experiences than our own."

Kathy Bell: "Knowing Nick personally and working with him at the JC made me really want to attend this event, both to support him and to hear more about his story. I had friends visiting that week from Australia, so one of the 'local options' for the weekend was to go to church and to Nick's presentation. I was a little surprised that they chose that option. After church, their comment was, 'That was different... but interesting.' After Nick's presentation, their comment was, 'Why do people care so much about how other people choose to live? What's the big deal???' The politics of our country right now just do not make sense to them. Hmmm... Me neither. I am proud that we have a church that is willing to create the space for educating folks about LGBTQ+ issues. Being able to have the unaskable questions answered was important. Nick's open and lighthearted approach was very welcoming!" ~



SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

Come to Paradise!
Community Church Disaster Recovery Trip 2023
Sunday, October 15 - Friday, October 20

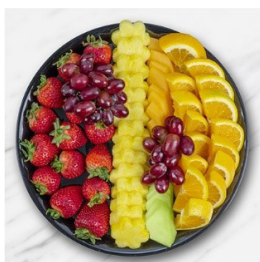
Join our work group in Paradise! We will leave Sunday, October 15, after church and return Friday, October 20, in the late afternoon. We will be working with a wonderful group called [Hope Crisis Response Network](#). This is the same group we worked with in Middletown and Paradise; rebuilding houses burned in the Camp Fire. We will also help with a large distribution center. This will be our church's 16th Disaster Recovery Trip!

We have extremely comfortable housing in rooms with twin beds and attached bathroom. We are fortunate enough to have Kathy Matthies coming to coordinate food! We work on the job site from 8:00 a.m., until about 3:00 p.m. We typically have several houses we work on as well as distribution centers. Working as a team, we get a lot done to help people get back into a home. It is a fun and rewarding experience. The cost will be about \$250 per person to cover food and housing.

We can take 14 people. Now is the time to commit! Please let **Joyce Cox** know you intend to go at b-j-cox@att.net. You are welcome to call me at 707-829-0750.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND 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



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Brian Plaugher
 June 1 Lincoln Warner
 June 2 Garik Goodell
 June 2 Elin Lennox
 June 2 Keith Blackstone
 June 2 Chris Hudlow
 June 3 Mariel Wurfel
 June 4 Paul Downing
 June 4 Alicia Boal
 June 6 Jan Barrow
 June 6 Brian Purcell
 June 6 Richie Goodell
 June 6 Casey Card
 June 8 Susan Shaw
 June 9 Kasey Babcock
 June 12 Rachel Allen

June 13 Antonio Trevino
 June 13 Cassius nelson
 June 14 Nathan Nelson
 June 14 Jimmy Hooper
 June 15 Bob Holland
 June 15 Jamie Malone
 June 15 Blythe Osner
 June 16 Elise Lovejoy

June 17 Maebel Trivunovic
 June 17 Abigail McGinnis
 June 18 Ainsley Curtis
 June 18 Anabelle Bagley
 June 21 Olive Wilson
 June 21 Alicia Sanchez
 June 22 Gary Bachelor
 June 22 Beth Larssen
 June 24 Bernie Hovden
 June 25 Sokpha Lim
 June 26 Joe Plaugher
 June 26 Sam Dowdney
 June 28 Juniper Gonzales
 June 29 Marie Cotton
 June 29 Tyler Whitehorn



SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.



Apple Pies are on the Horizon

-Pastor Rachel

The apple blossoms have bloomed and now we await the gravensteins. And while we are waiting, we are making plans for pie!

Every year in August, our church bakes over a thousand pies, we are in our 51st year! We sell them out of the back of Memorial Hall, it's a drive-thru situation, with customers coming onto our church campus and purchasing pies to-go.

One of the most fun things about how our church does this, is that it is a huge intergenerational community builder. People of all ages find themselves elbow-deep in sticky apple juices. Grandmotherly types teach younger children to crimp crusts. Teenagers jump in to help sell or tend the ovens with older adults. Decisions have to be made about whether to mop the floor— it's sticky, but it's maybe going to get stickier! Grace abounds. This is what being a community looks like! Everyone works hard and has fun.

The Apple Pie Team designates the funds to support camperships of all kinds, including SALT Trips and All-Church Camp Weekend scholarships. Because of the generosity of the Apple Pie Team, our youth and families are able to go to places in nature to discover God's grace in community.

So go ahead and mark your calendar for August 11-13! There are lots of ways to get involved, but it all begins with signing up: [YES! I'd like to join the pie-making extravaganza!](#) Please note: There is a special Youth volunteer time on August 12, 9am-1pm (lunch provided). ~

Youth Events Gratitude!

-Pastor Rachel

On behalf of the Youth Group, I want to thank everyone who came out and supported our Envelope Fundraiser and Farm-to-Table Dinner with Auction! Together we raised \$5877! These funds will go to support our SALT (Service And Learning Together) Trip Ministry.

Both fundraisers involved a large number of volunteers— special thanks to our Youth Leaders: **Andrea Card, Daniela Kingwill, Beth Larssen, and Kathy Matthies**, to our Fundraising Team: **Sheina Curtis, Kristen DelMonte, and Sara Poisson**, our Event Leaders: **Kathy Matthies** and **Elizabeth Thomas** in the kitchen, along with **Kathy Bell, Sheina Curtis, Andy DelMonte, Pat Furber, Bobbie Johanson, and Beth Larssen**, and all of the Youth Parents who pitched in to make it a huge success! Thanks also to farmers from our church community who supported the meal: **Garth Watson** of Cumbria Farm and **Leslie Wiser** of Radical Family Farm.

I also want to thank our young people for working so hard— you all did a magnificent job. You even taught our congregation to make paper prayer generators (aka “cootie catchers”) in worship the morning after our big fundraiser. I know it was a big weekend, and you rocked it. So did your parents. So did your Youth Leaders. So did your church community. Good work, everyone!



**It's Time to Sign Up for
All Church Camp Weekend
August 25-27
Westminster Woods**

-Pastor Rachel



There is really nothing like breathing the air in a stand of redwoods on a misty morning with a cup of coffee in your hands. The only thing that could improve on that is to be in that place with a community of faithful people of all ages who experience God in the beauty of the earth. This is what All-Church Camp Weekend is all about.

I attended last year with my family. Because my spouse was out of town for work, my nice Dad came in his place. He had a great time, made new friends, and loved the beauty of the place combined with laughter (one of his favorite things is to laugh) and just enjoyed watching my children play. Although at first, he didn't know many people, he ended up having a great time, and left feeling like he'd had meaningful conversations with folks he hadn't met before. He also said the closing worship service meant a lot to him.

Everyone in our church is invited to spend the weekend August 25-27 together at beautiful Westminster Woods outside of Occidental. The theme of the Camp this year is "Living Water," and there will be opportunities to experience the life-giving presence of God through a nature hike, arts and crafts, shared meals, campfire songs, and a "Talent-No Talent" (TNT) show. The All-Church Camp Weekend Planning Team is **Kathy Bell, Sheina Curtis, Bobbie Johanson, Kathy Matthies**, and myself— you may hear from us as we look for volunteers to help lead specific activities throughout the weekend. :-)

Pricing varies depending on housing, and there is a Saturday-only option as well. Please follow the link below to see all the possibilities. Camperships are granted through the Apple Pies Fundraiser— see the other link in this newsletter to sign up to help with Apple Pies!

Click Here to sign up-----> [YES! I'm going to Camp!](#)

The deadline to sign up for Early Bird pricing is July 2, and the final deadline is August 6.

Trade your "screen time" for some "green time" with your church community. All are welcome!

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

Events in June 2023 at Community Church

June 1	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall
June 3	Sonoma County Pride Parade, 11 am, Fremont Park
June 4	SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M. 1st Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Pride Sunday Potluck, 11 am, Memorial Hall
June 5	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
June 6	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room Men's Discussion Group, 7 pm, Fireside Room
June 7	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
June 8	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Finance Committee, 2 pm, Fireside Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
June 10	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
June 11	2nd Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard New Member Class & Lunch, 11:15 am, Media Room Youth Group, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
June 12	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
June 13	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Lead PPRT, 4 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
June 14	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
June 15	July Salt & Light Deadline Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
June 18	3rd Sunday of Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Kinship Hour, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
June 19	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

Blessing Bags

The Mission & Outreach Team invites you to make your own DIY "Blessing Bag." The idea is simple: assemble a few Blessing Bags to keep in your vehicle, and hand them to unsheltered neighbors as you encounter them in your everyday life. Here are some Blessing Bag suggestions to place in a 1-gallon ziploc bag:

Include your own words for a blessing on a small note:

Tissue	Breath mints
Wipes	Chapstick
Socks	\$5 bill or change for laundry
Granola Bar	Candy (soft)
Snacks	Bandages/First Aid
Comb/brush	Flashlight
Batteries	Hat
Gift Cards	Water
Notepad/pen/pencil/crayons	

Create a separate bag with toiletries:

Toothpaste/Toothbrush	Travel-size shampoo/conditioner
Soap/Body Wash	Deodorant

Events in June continued from Page 10

June 20	Grounds Team, 9 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
June 21	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
June 22	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
June 25	4th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Youth Salt Trip to Blue Theology
June 27	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
June 28	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
June 29	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall

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