

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 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

Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Handbell Director

Karna Roa

Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Michael Sadler

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Seeking a Love that Makes us Whole

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

In a recent sermon, I quoted philosopher Ken Wilber who said that modern western religion needs to evolve so it can help us to “fix up, grow up, and wake up.” For too



long, Wilber observes, Christians have insisted that “believing” is the final goal of a spiritual life. Confess Christ and you have arrived. Once you believe that Jesus saved you, you’ve got nowhere left to go. This overemphasis on right belief has led to stilted spirituality. What if basic belief, or trust, instead of ending the journey, opened us up to a broad new landscape of deeper questions, such as:

- o Where are our broken places, blind spots, and unacknowledged biases, and how we can revisit and “fix up” these growing edges so we can live more deeply?
- o What stage are we on in our spiritual journey and who are we becoming as we “grow up” into mature persons of faith?
- o When we glimpse a flash of divinity breaking into the world, how do we cultivate that insight so that we can “wake up” to God’s presence at all times?

During Lent we will be using materials from Sanctified Art (www.sanctifiedart.com), a collective of artists who create materials for worshiping communities. This year’s theme is “Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith.” As we journey through these 40 days together, we will be asking honest questions of one another and of our biblical texts, experimenting with the possibility that exploring questions can more fruitfully help us to “fix up, grow up, and wake up” than rushing to answers. As Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote to a young poet:

Don’t search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you won’t be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

The point is to live everything. Live the questions now. In the weeks ahead, as a people growing in our capacity to love, we will be seeking after a love that makes us curious, a love that makes us open, a love that makes us compassionate, a love that makes us whole.

MARCH 2023 WORSHIP

We worship in the sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

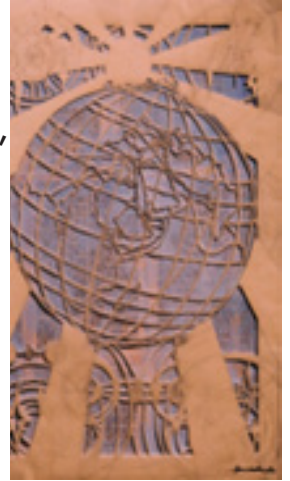
Services live streamed on our church's YouTube channel

& Facebook page

Weekly bulletin and announcements available at www.uccseb.org

March 5 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

We gather for Intergenerational Worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Chancel Choir sings and **Rev. Benjamin Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches sermon on Genesis 12:1–4 entitled “How Do We Begin Again?”



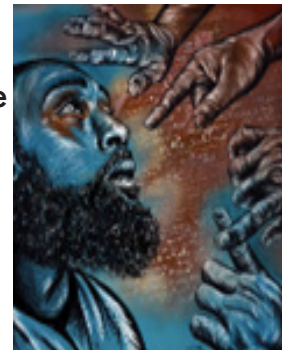
March 12 – 3rd Sunday in Lent



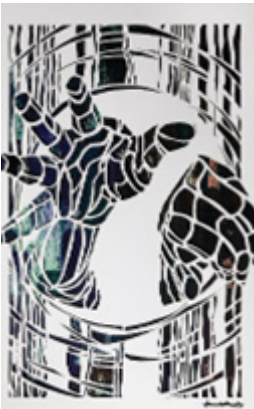
We receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering, the Handbell Ensemble shares music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on Exodus 17: 1 – 7 entitled “Thirsting for Attention.”

March 19 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Once again we receive the OGHS offering, the Chancel Choir sings and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on the anointing of David found in I Samuel 16: 1–13.



March 26 – 5th Sunday in Lent



Today **Nancy Berger** is our guest musician and **Pastor Rachel** preaches a sermon on Ezekiel 37: 1–4, the story of the Valley of Dry Bones.

Coming in April... Palm/Passion Sunday, Easter Sunrise Service, 2 Easter Sunday Services, Youth-led Earth Sunday



- * **Kim Buckman** for repairing/rebuilding the push bars and locks on the choir room doors.
- * **Larry Stallings** and **Roger Wilson** for pruning the trees.
- * **Kim Buckman, Jane Huneke, Larry Stallings** and **Roger Wilson** for repairing/reattaching and cleaning gutters, AGAIN.
- * **John Henel** for your continuing guidance and editing of the website.
- * **Kathy Matthies** for organizing and decorating the potluck meal for our Annual Meeting.
- * **Kathy Bell** and **Denelle Tognozzi** for helping cleanup after the Annual Meeting.
- * **Barbara Deedler** for being Church Clerk for last year and keeping accurate and timely minutes.
- * **Marge Holland** for her work behind the scenes as our church mouse.
- * **Barbara Whitson** for the winter flowers that are still adorning the doors to the sanctuary and the beautiful spring daffodils at the northend of the Belltower Courtyard.
- * **Bob Holland** for pruning all the rose bushes for their best blooms in the Spring.



Save the Date for All Church Camp August 25-27th



After a successful 2022 All Church Camp weekend, we will be repeating the same success of being together for a wonderful weekend. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. More information to come soon with early registration and helping with the Apple Pie event to help with cost. If you would like to be a part of the planning team or volunteer in the following areas:

- Crafting and art
- Hiking and outdoors activities
- Friday's dinner
- Anything else you might want to share

Please send an email to pastorrachel@uccseb.org Here is the camp's website for you to view the camp and the other activities you could be a part of with Westminster Woods <https://www.westminsterwoods.org/>



March Church Chats with Pastor Benjamin

On Sundays in March, there will be opportunities to be in conversation about different facets of our life as a congregation. Mainly 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:

March 5 – The Fast We Choose

Following the first Sonoma County Interfaith Public Fast (www.interfaithpublicfast.org) on March 2, we'll talk about our experiences of fasting and how this ancient practice might inform present-day responses to everything from homelessness to climate disaster.

March 12 – Who Gets Us?

You may have noticed the "He Gets Us" ads (www.hegetsus.com) that have been playing on television for the past year and most recently during the Super Bowl. What is so attractive about these ads and what are the moneyed interests behind them?



March 19 – All-Ages Lenten Workshop: Seeking

Today people of all ages are invited to gather at Noon in the Fountain Courtyard (or Memorial Hall if it's too cold) for a meal and time of sharing our faith journeys with each other.

March 26 – Meet the Council

Our church's Leadership Council is 8 people elected by the congregation to carry out the business of the congregation in-between Annual Meetings. Today some of the Council members will be present to be in conversation about priorities in the life of our congregation.

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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 kathleenmatthies@gmail.com or 707-758-3970. The commitment would be about 4-5 Sundays throughout the year.

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Our Spring Theme for Youth Group is Watershed Eco-Justice! We are 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 what’s coming up next:

Date	Time	Location	Topic
March 5 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Water Catchment and Campus Assessment
March 18 (Sat)	8:30 - 1:30	Petaluma River	Kayak Adventure with the Floathouse
April 2 (Sun)	5:00-7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel (or possibly youth member home)	Learning to make an A-frame to build on-contour bioswales
April 15 (Sat)	TBD	Off-site adventure	Volunteering with The Habitat Corridor Project
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 (Sun)	TBD	Off-site Adventure	Off-site Adventure
June 11 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Pre-Trip Meeting with Parents
June 25-30	All Week!	Pacific Grove, CA	Blue Theology SALT Trip

Join the Interfaith Public Fast

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent

The Community Church of Sebastopol is part of a coalition of people of faith and people of conscience in Sonoma County committed to not looking away, and to bringing our full selves to the crises that challenge our world. This includes engaging in community-wide, interfaith, spiritual action.

Too often we learn of the sufferings of this world – gun violence, homelessness, pandemic, climate catastrophe – and while moved to respond, find that there is no response available. We might sign a petition or send donations to organizations. But then we return to our daily lives, suppressing the grief that could otherwise lead us to take greater agency in response to tragedy and peril.

Interfaith Public Fast of Sonoma County has therefore committed to engaging in periodic days of fasting, some scheduled and some spontaneous, in order to bring a meaningful interfaith witness to these events and challenges. We plan to use these fast days as times of reflection, study, solidarity, and community building.

Our first public fast will be Thursday, March 2, from sunup to sundown, in witness and solidarity with the unsheltered and unhoused of Sonoma County. The day will include opportunities for learning, prayer, and community service, and will conclude with a Community Gathering at the Living Room Life Center, 1335 N. Dutton, Santa Rosa, at 5:30 p.m. For more details, visit www.interfaithpublicfast.org.

A poster for the Interfaith Public Fast. It features a diagonal red and orange gradient background. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout. The main title 'Interfaith Public Fast' is in a large, serif font. Below it, in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, is the purpose: 'to witness and stand in solidarity with the unsheltered in Sonoma County'. The date 'Thursday, March 2, 2023' is prominently displayed in a large, orange, serif font. At the bottom, in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, is the gathering information: 'gathering to conclude the fast from 5:30 to 7PM The Living Room Life Center 1335 N Dutton Ave, Santa Rosa'. A diagonal banner on the left side of the poster contains the website 'interfaithpublicfast.org' in a white, sans-serif font.

Interfaith Public Fast

**to witness and stand
in solidarity with
the unsheltered in Sonoma County**

Thursday, March 2, 2023

**gathering to conclude the fast from 5:30 to 7PM
The Living Room Life Center
1335 N Dutton Ave, Santa Rosa**

interfaithpublicfast.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 1 Maya Malone
 Mar 3 Connie Blackstone
 Mar 3 CJ Hudlow
 Mar 3 Nancy Degenkolb
 Mar 4 Pam Kruse
 Mar 5 Denelle Tognozzi
 Mar 5 Susan Olson
 Mar 6 Ross Galletto
 Mar 9 Julie Davis
 Mar 10 Leslie Wood
 Mar 11 Joella Falkingham
 Mar 11 Elena Larssen
 Mar 12 Avy Card

Mar 12 Owen Thomas
 Mar 12 Reece Thomas
 Mar 14 Michelle Bruggemann
 Mar 15 Luiz Quizada
 Mar 16 Cecelia MacKillop
 Mar 16 Sara Poisson
 Mar 17 Lori Babcock
 Mar 18 Karyl Clandenen-Drennon
 Mar 18 Jerry Coleman
 Mar 19 Bree Cassells
 Mar 20 Joyce Cox
 Mar 21 Eliana Curtis

Mar 22 Taylor Davison
 Mar 23 Nao Naguchi
 Mar 23 Esme Arendt
 Mar 23 Briget Hole
 Mar 26 Josephine Nirmala
 Mar 26 Josh Bradley
 Mar 26 Olivia Stoll
 Mar 26 Elliott Butterfield
 Mar 26 Erin Butterfield
 Mar 30 Margarette Murakami
 Mar 30 Lois Michelsen
 Mar 30 Emmett Burton Young
 Mar 31 Zoe Dillard



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Our Whole Lives (OWL): Comprehensive Sexuality Education Grades 8-9

-Pastor Rachel

We are grateful for our volunteer OWL co-facilitators, **Roger Wilson and Blythe Osner**! They are leading a group of 8-9th graders through comprehensive sexuality education curriculum with grace and care. The class of 16 students includes both church members and youth from the wider community. There are 26 workshops and the group is about halfway through the material. If you have a moment, please say a prayer of blessing for our facilitators, youth and parents--they are doing excellent work. Comprehensive sexuality education supports healthy and just relationships in our world!

Here's what's happening in OWL this month:

March 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Workshop 12: Healthy Relationships Workshop 13: Relationship Skills
March 12, 12 noon	Mid-way Parent Gathering
March 16, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Workshop 14: Secuality, social Media, and the Internet workshop 15: Bullying and Bystander Responsibilities

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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.

Awesome things happen in Wondering Circle! For example...

- On the Sunday we shared an impromptu lectio divina, the children learned more about contemplative practice and shared their insights.
- When we heard the story of Jesus baptized by John in the River Jordan, the children wondered why John hesitated? And then children made art and explored the desert box filled with sand.
- After Pastor Benjamin shared his collection of crosses, the group wondered about the difference between a crucifix and a bare cross.
- Children often create thoughtful art responses to the story they've heard, or choose to play with the materials from the day.

To enter into wondering is the process of putting ourselves into the story, into the shoes of someone else, and noticing— noticing what it feels like, what a certain character might be thinking, how we might act if we were in the story. Wondering teaches compassion and inspires hope, through the imaginative process.

Here's what's happening this month in Wondering Circle:

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>

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MOVIN' RIGHT ALONG

-Pastor Rachel

If Fozzy Bear wants to volunteer to be a driver for our next youth outing, he will need to review our church's brand new Transportation Policy! In February, the Leadership Council approved our inaugural Transportation Policy.

I'm not sure how old Fozzy Bear is, but to drive on a church-related event now, he'll need to be at least 21 years old. He'll also need to fill out a Volunteer Driver Application Form and keep a copy of his driver's license and insurance on file in the church office.

Fozzy might be surprised to know that our Transportation Policy requires all drivers and passengers to wear seatbelts, so Gonzo and the chickens won't be able to ride on the roof of his Studebaker anymore. [Read the Transportation Policy Here](#) or check it out on the church's web site: www.uccseb.org.



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What can YOU do about Immigration?

Joyce Cox, Judy Davison, Peggy Porter

About 5 years ago, through our church's association with the North Bay Organizing Project, we were called upon to help a mom and 3 children from Honduras who were arriving in Sonoma County having just crossed the border. We put out word to the congregation asking for clothing, blankets and a list of household goods. The response was immediate and fabulous! A West County Accompaniment Team from our church and the community was put together to help this family get settled here. After about a year they were granted asylum and just this past year they were granted residency!

This last year the Accompaniment Team was revived to help a second family from Honduras. We have helped the family secure housing, health care, food, clothing, and furnishings. The children are doing well in school and childcare. After 20 months, the mom has received a work permit and last week she got her permit to learn to drive. The mom is going to take a 6 week intensive English class through the JC.

It is a very rewarding experience to work with a dedicated team to help families get settled. Each family has different needs and the team works together to connect the immigrants with food, clothing, medical and dental care, housing (a big issue in Sonoma County), legal help, education and child care. One person couldn't do it, but working with a group, anything is possible and it is a joy to work with immigrants who have suffered so much to get here and to see them adjust and move forward.

There are several BIG needs at this time.

1. Now that our current mom is learning to drive, we are looking for a reliable used car which will enable her to work. If you have or hear of one, please contact Joyce Cox.
2. We are seeking donations to help with initial car expenses so mom can get to work.
3. We are looking for Employment for the mom in May or June. Our hope is by then she will have her license and know more English. She is a good worker!
4. Our team could use a few more members and there are several other teams forming. There is a team for LGBTQ immigrants and there are families from Honduras, Haiti and Ecuador who have teams forming for them.

It has been a pleasure to work with our 2 Honduran Families! They are amazing, wonderful people.

I encourage you to get involved in any way you can! Please talk to one of us. **Joyce Cox:** b-j-cox@att.net,

Peggy Porter: pporter501@gmail.com, **Judy Davison:** jdavison95472@yahoo.com.

Farewell **BIG BERTHA!** Thanks for the memories!

By Kathy Bell

We took a leap of faith and bought our beloved big white 12 passenger Van around 2003 with the intention of toting youth groups here and there. Since I put the first dent in the back bumper by running into a tree at Camp Caz, I guess it is fitting that I write the 'Farewell', and share some memories. Many of us have memories of noisy, happy kids loading into **Bertha** to head off on some grand adventure. I wonder how many times that Van made it up and down the bumpy road to Caz, or how many times it went up and over Hwy 17 to Santa Cruz for Mid-Winter retreats and Feb Camps... I do remember one time when it started snowing pretty good on the summit of Hwy 17. The kids talked me into stopping so they could have a snowball fight on the side of the road. Then, there were the Mini Mission trips to San Francisco. Try parking **Bertha** in the streets of San Francisco – YIKES! And the trips to bowling alleys, beach clean ups, Screamin' Mimis trips, and on and on!

I always loved driving TO someplace. The kids were so excited and talkative. I also relished the drives HOME where everyone was conked out and snoring and I got to pick the radio station. The relationships that formed and bonds that were built in that van are precious, numerous and not to be forgotten. Truly, God was in that Van! Of course there are the not so fun times like having the Van die on Hwy 24 right before the Caldecott tunnel where we had to push it off to the side to wait for AAA, (a different kind of fun, as I have heard coaches on the losing team say).

As I'm sure many of you have noticed, the Van sits alone in the parking lot these days.. Gas has been stolen from it twice. Its use has dwindled, and it has become more of a liability than a memory maker or tool for ministry. With all this, the decision was made in Leadership Council to sell the Van to someone who can create more memories and find another use, another family to care for it. Thank you to the many hands that cared for the Van through the years:

- To Carol Hudlow, who housed it in her yard for many years to keep it safe.
- To Keith Blackstone for helping with maintenance during his time as our custodian.
- To Bruce Matson for keeping it alive these later years.
- And to all those I have not named - THANK YOU!

And now - We Bless and Release **BIG Bertha** to her next great adventure. And we give thanks for all the memories!



Urgent Need for Help for Interchurch Food Pantry

Inter-Church Food Pantry needs volunteers who can serve on occasional Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - Noon. This important and satisfying ministry consists mostly of filling boxes and bags of food and handing them to patrons. Contact **Jerry Slaby** at 707-874-9082.

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Lenten Workshop: Seeking March 19, 12-1:30 p.m. Potluck and Program Fountain Courtyard



All are welcome at an all-ages Lenten Workshop: Seeking. The first part of our time together, we'll eat together and share conversation. The second part we'll explore honest questions for deeper faith, with art materials and sharing in small groups. If you are seeking to be in community with people of all ages, this is a workshop for you! Please [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP or sign up in the church office by Sunday, March 12, so we can set up for the right size crowd. This is a potluck, so everyone will bring a dish to share. For more information, contact **Pat Furber**: pafurber@yahoo.com or **Pastor Rachel**: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.

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Thresholds

We release with care...

...**Susanna Simms**, church member, who died January 31.

...**Howard Bredesen**, friend of the church and father of **Jen Bredesen**, who died February 1.

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Events in March 2023 at Community Church

March 1	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
March 2	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall Inter-Faith Public Fast Post Event, 5 pm, The Living Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
March 4	Leadership Council Orientation Retreat, 7:30 am, Media Room
March 5	Second Sunday in Lent, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Church Chat, 11:30 am, Fireside Room Youth Group, 5 pm, Youth Lounge, Chapel
March 6	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
March 7	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
March 8	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Personnel Committee, 1 pm, Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
March 9	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
March 10	Outreach Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room
March 11	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
March 12	Third Sunday in Lent, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary One Great Hour of Sharing Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard 8th-9th Grade Owl Parent Meeting, Noon, Youth Lounge Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 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
March 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
March 16	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Finance Committee, 10:30 am, Fireside Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
March 18	Youth Group Petaluma River Kayak Adventure, 8:30 am
March 19	Fourth Sunday in Lent, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary One Great Hour of Sharing Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Lenten Workshop: Seeking, Noon, Memorial Hall
February 20	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room

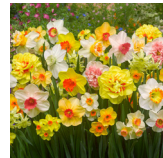
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March 21	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall
March 22	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
March 23	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
March 26	Fifth 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
March 28	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Outreach Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall
March 29	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
March 30	Shower Outreach Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

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Beauty in the Small Things

by Joy Richards



The garden or surrounding lawn of a house (or church) is very important. Not only does it add to the visual beauty of the place, welcoming all who gaze on it, but it allows the residents to dwell a bit amidst nature. It takes a lot of maintenance to reap the benefits of a beautiful garden.

Time spent in the garden is never wasted. The elegance of emerging plant life features but one glimpse of the delights of small things the garden harbors. In the fall, watching the red squirrel(s) busily hopping from rooftop to tree and back again. Often coming down the tree to bury its treasure that will provide him sustenance in the coming winter. Spending time in the garden gives us the privilege of a front row seat to view busy insect life as they go about their spring chores. Soon the bees will awaken and tidy up their hives getting ready for their first drink of spring nectar. The hummingbirds that often visit the bottle brush plant outside my office window as well as the finches, robins and chickadees that visit daily will be busily setting up housekeeping, gathering the most bizarre items to build their nests.

Each day you visit can be truly different from the last time or the next. A newly bloomed rose, daffodills springing up when the weather is still quite cold, trees whose leaves you spent hours cleaning up the in fall are budding again in the spring. The garden offers familiarity, welcoming and accepting, but also mystery in its ever changing landscape. Of course, the garden changes with each season, but always offers a place to sit -- to take in the sights, sounds and fragrances of that day.

Gardening is a very skillfull hobby, but doesn't always require skill. What is required is dedication, care, patience and hardwork. We have dedication from a few who are here every week, showing care and patience -- our Grounds Team. Come join us in enjoying the splendor of the garden and embrace the beauty in the small things. Tuesdays 9 a.m. - noon. Contact **Barbara Whitson**, BarbWhit@sonic.net.

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



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MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent
Lead Minister

pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org

Rev. Rachel Knuth
Associate Minister for Congregational Care

pastorrachel@uccseb.org

www.uccseb.org

office@uccseb.org

707.823.2484

