



# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## May 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

Open

#### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



### The Same, But Different

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

In the post-resurrection stories of the New Testament, we get a glimpse into the early church's earnest struggle with what it means to say that "Christ rose from the dead." In the four canonical gospels, Jesus' body is both the same, but different. He bears the wounds of crucifixion and shows them to the disciples to help them recognize him. But he is also able to appear suddenly within locked rooms, something he had not previously done. The risen Jesus is often mistaken for someone else – a gardener, a fellow traveler, someone cooking fish on the beach. But then an action like breaking bread, or a spoken word, like calling someone by name, causes immediate recognition. It is the same Jesus, but now he appears differently.

At the end of Luke's gospel, and at the beginning of the Book of Acts, also written by Luke, Jesus ascends out of view, promising the disciples, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses." Jesus' physical body has vanished, but his presence, the presence of the Holy Spirit, will soon move among them. In Acts, the Spirit comes on Pentecost, but in John's Gospel, it happens on the evening of Easter when Jesus appears to his disciples, breathing on them and saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." It's as if the exhaling Jesus breathes life into the inhaling church which becomes his new body, given power to represent him in the world.

Does the church still represent Jesus in the world? The most honest answer is probably "sometimes." When the loudest Christian voices support policies that are clearly not Christian, it is challenging to continue to affirm the church's claim to be Christ's body in the world. And yet, by faith, that is what the church hopes to be: a diverse collection of communities that embody Christ's abiding, loving, grace-filled, and justice-seeking presence in the world.

As our congregation returns to life from the tomb of the Covid pandemic, I wonder how we, representing the body of Christ, are the same, but different.

- o Are we providing a place of radical hospitality where people can be fully themselves?
- o Do we honor the way people move through suffering toward spiritual maturity?
- o Are we open to listening deeply to opinions and beliefs other than our own while affirming our own deepest commitments?
- o Are we deepening our capacity to love God, others, and self, confident that Christ's presence, the Holy Spirit, while invisible, is closer than our breath.

**The church  
hopes to be a  
diverse  
collection of  
communities  
that embody  
Christ's  
abiding,  
loving, grace-  
filled, and  
justice-seeking  
presence in the  
world.**

## MAY 2023 WORSHIP

The month of May contains the final weeks in the season of Easter and is the culmination of our regular program year. In our worship, we offer thanksgiving to God for servant-leaders in our congregation who have our worship and ministry programs thrive for the past 9 months.

### Worship Details:

We worship in the sanctuary on Sundays 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](http://www.uccseb.org)

### May 7 – 5th Sunday of Easter

We gather for intergenerational Worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our Chancel Choir sings and **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches an all-ages sermon on [John 14:1 – 14](#) entitled “A Way Out of No Way.”



### May 14 – 6th Sunday of Easter

Today is Mothers' Day and we will take the time to appreciate all of the volunteers who have led our Children, Youth, and Adult Faith Formation programs all year. The Handbell Ensemble plays and **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on [John 14:15 – 21](#) entitled, “God the Adoptive Parent.”

### May 18 – Ascension Day



### May 21 – 7th Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday

In recognition of Ascension Day, **Pastor Benjamin** will preach a sermon on [Acts 1: 1 – 11](#) entitled, “Stop Looking Up and Start Looking Around.” We will offer thanksgiving for our Chancel Choir and Worship Leaders, and we will receive the “Strengthen the Church” special offering of our denomination, the United Church of Christ.

### May 28 – Pentecost Sunday / Sexuality Sunday

On this Memorial Day weekend, we shift to the color red and the symbol of fire as we bless the participants in this year's 8th/9th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality & Our Faith program. We will offer thanksgiving for our Handbell Ensemble and receive the “Strengthen the Church” special offering.

**Coming in June...** Intergenerational Worship with Holy Communion, Pride Sunday, Fathers' Day, and New Members Join

## After Worship in May

### May 7 – Guest Speaker Series: Hayley Bly

Noon in the Sanctuary

**Hayley Bly**, Director of Development for Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín will speak about serving 3500 youth per day out of 35 locations. More info at [www.bgcsonoma-marin.org](http://www.bgcsonoma-marin.org).

### May 14 – Church Chat: “Stories about Moms”

11:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room

**Pastor Benjamin** will lead a “Church Chat” on the stories about our moms, including the lovely stories, the hard stories, and the ambiguous stories. Come to listen and share.



### May 21 – Church Chat: “The End of White Christian America”

11:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room with **Pastor Benjamin**, come and consider five graphs that show the demographic decline of White Christian Americans in recent decades and the impacts that decline is having on politics and religion. [See the article with graphs here.](#)

### May 28 – Art Dedication

11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Today we will bless a piece of art by local Patrick Amiot, a plaster depiction of the tie-dyed sun dress work by the late and former Associate Minister, **Rev. Lizann Bassham**. We will begin in Fellowship Hall before moving to install the art piece in the Youth Lounge.



## Would you like to go to Paradise????

by Joyce Cox

Paradise, California, that is! Our church Disaster Recovery Trip is going to be to Paradise, CA, again this year. We will be going Sunday, October 15 - Friday, Oct. 20. We will be working with a group called [Hope Crisis Response Network](#) to help rebuild houses destroyed by the [Camp Fire](#).

This will be our church's 16th Disaster Recovery Trip. We work hard, and have a good time. We always have people of all skill levels. Working together on projects we are able to accomplish a lot and make a difference in the lives of people who have suffered a disaster. We have a great place to stay in Paradise with comfortable beds and great food (thanks to Kathy Matthews). If you think you might like to join us, please contact **Joyce Cox** [b-j-cox@att.net](mailto:b-j-cox@att.net).



**If you're in grades 6 - 12, Youth Group is for you!**

**Here's what's coming up next:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic</b>
May 7 (Sun)	5:00 - 7:00	Youth Lounge/Chapel	Thank-a-thon and Considering Next Year's Theme
May 20 (Sat)	9:00 - 12:30	Community Church of Sebastopol	Our last service day is at the church for an intergenerational church clean-up with pizza lunch!
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



Our church's Mission & Outreach Team is partnering with Rebuilding Together Sebastopol for a big city-wide volunteer work day on Saturday, May 6. Rebuilding Together helps homebound people with projects around their homes. The group from our church is headed to work on a yard clean-up project that involves picking up branches and trimming bushes. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact **Joyce Cox** at [b-j-cox@att.net](mailto:b-j-cox@att.net).



## Maundy Thursday

pictures by Stuart Mitchell



## Habitat Corridor Project

Pastor Rachel Knuth

In April, our Youth Group volunteered with the Habitat Corridor Project to plant a fire-wise, drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly garden at the Windsor Fire Station! The Battalion Chief welcomed us, and we got a tour of the fire station at the end of the day. Our group left feeling hopeful and like we'd done a little something to bring healing to the earth.





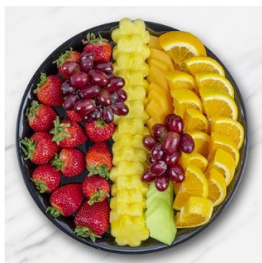
## Save the Date! June 3, 2023



"WE ARE COMMUNITY" is the theme for this year's Pride Parade and it is also our theme at the Community Church of Sebastopol. We need participants to march in the parade representing our church. More information to come, but if you would like to help or participate with the planning and decorating, contact **Judy Hawkins** at [jodyha@gmail.com](mailto:jodyha@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com)





## MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Gene Koch	May 10	Lisa Dawson	May 18	Andrea Card
May 1	Robert Field	May 10	Judy Peterson	May 18	Ronnie Peterson
May 2	Deborah McLeod	May 10	Solveig Davidson	May 19	Morgan Thomas
May 2	Callen Warner	May 10	Forrest Templin	May 20	Celeste Hole
May 3	Lisa Gonzalez	May 11	Dale Dougherty	May 21	Barbara Deedler
May 4	Dave Bell	May 11	Muriel Weaver	May 21	Stephanie Camara
May 4	Pollie Joy Richards	May 11	Debbie Stewart	May 22	Ron Davis
May 5	Genia Thorhaug	May 12	Marilyn McHugh	May 23	Rian Sanderson
May 5	Stacie DelCarpio	May 13	Mark Albin	May 23	Camie Sumrall
May 5	Prudy Tucker	May 15	Michael Moore	May 28	Bill Phillips
May 7	Rosemary Manchester	May 16	Will Stoll	May 29	Peg Roush
May 7	Zeb Young	May 17	Marilyn Lerum	May 29	Celie Cummings
May 9	Jenna Canfield	May 17	Bob Curtis	May 31	Mary Coleman
May 9	Emerson Dowdney	May 17	Benjamin Sumrall	May 31	Isaiah Sawyer



## Save the Date for All Church Camp

**August 25-27, 2023**

After a successful All Church Camp weekend last year, we will be repeating the same success of being together for a wonderful weekend. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. There is a Saturday only date option for those who want to attend, but can't committ to the entire weekend. More information to come soon with early registration and helping with the Apple Pie event to discount the 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](mailto: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/>.

## 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...

- Played a drum and learned about how the words we use matter.
- For the scripture about sheep and a shepherd, children got to experience a spinning wheel and play with raw wool.
- 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 this month's schedule for Wondering Circle:

DATE	LEADER	HELPER	SCRIPTURE
May 14	<b>Terri Harper</b>	Volunteer Needed	<u><a href="#">Sixth Sunday of Easter</a></u>
May 21	<b>Sheina Curtis</b>	<b>Ashley Arnold</b>	<u><a href="#">Ascension of the Lord</a></u>

If you're interested in learning more about how to volunteer in Wondering Circle, please contact **Pastor Rachel**. All volunteers are background-checked and undergo an orientation process.

Contact: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org).



## SOCK HOP Follow up .....

In April, **Kathy Matthies**, **Judy Davison**, and **Reece Thomas** delivered 290 socks from the Youth's Winter Sock-Hop to SAY (Social Advocates for Youth). They got a tour of the facility where unsheltered teens are housed, and learned more about SAY's programs. SAY provides teen crisis services, counseling services, career and life readiness skills, and other programs to support youth in our wider community.





## Piano Sonoma Comes to The Community Church

by Gary Bachelor

["PianoSonoma"](#) is a music festival that brings together Artists in Residence and adult musicians to collaborate and perform in private and public concerts and community workshops in Sonoma County, CA, and across the United States. This intersection of Artists in Residence and our adult participants creates a rich and vibrant experience for everyone."

Irma and I first became aware of PianoSonoma a few years prior to the pandemic. We attended their concerts at the Green Music Center's Schroeder Hall. They are normally in this area for 2 weeks in July. This year they will be here for a short stint in May performing 4 concerts in the San Francisco area. I called Jessica Chow Shinn, co-founder, and artistic director, and asked if they would consider a concert at our church. I told her about who we are and the diversity of our members and views. She said "yes."

The challenge was finding time during their short May visit. The available date was Tuesday May 16th at 7:00pm. The concert will be around an hour and fifteen minutes – so there is still time to get a good night's sleep but with dreams of beautiful music.

I like many distinct kinds of music, Jazz is my favorite but music of any kind, played with love and passion makes my life better. I think, if you attend this concert, you will feel the same.

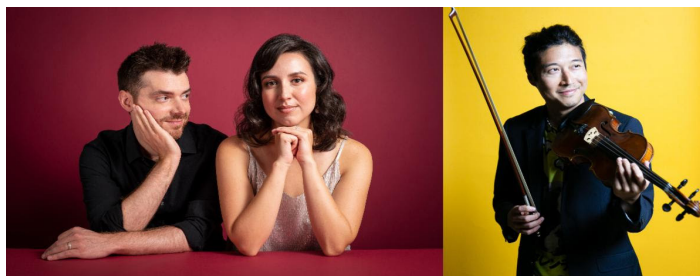
The PianoSonoma Artist in Residence have impeccable credentials, from the Boston Conservatory to Julliard and have performed with symphonies around the world.

Our church is unique. We embrace difference. We are a Christian Church with Christian traditions, but you are free to be whatever you want to be – I am an example. I love our community. I hope you attend this concert and invite friends to attend. They too will see a community of hope sharing a love of music and each other.

The admission price is a love for music and a smile.

Performances by

[Kara Dugan](#), mezzo-soprano | [Peter Dugan](#), piano | [Charles Yang](#), violin | [Jessica Shinn](#) and [Michael Shinn](#), pianists



## 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



### 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 this 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 in the home stretch. 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:

May 14, 10am - 1pm	Workshop 19: Sexually Transmitted Infections
May 27-28 (overnight) with celebration in worship	Workshop 20: Pregnancy and Parenting Workshop 21: Unintended Pregnancy Options Workshop 22: Contraception and Safer Sex Workshop 23: Sexual Decision Making Workshop 24: Communicating with a Sexual Partner Workshop 25: Self-Care, Celebration, and Closure

For more information about the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program at our church, contact **Brooke Bell**: [bellbrooke@aol.com](mailto:bellbrooke@aol.com).

## **Events in May 2023 at Community Church**

May 1	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
May 2	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
May 3	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
May 4	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
May 7	5th Sunday of Easter, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary Confirmation Celebration, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 am, Fountain Courtyard Guest Speaker, Hayley Bly, Noon, Sanctuary Youth Group, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
May 9	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 10 am, Memorial Hall Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room Finance Committee, 1 pm, Fireside Room Pastor Parish Relations (Lead Minister), 4 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
May 10	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
May 11	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
May 13	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
May 14	6th Sunday of Easter, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary 8th-9th Grade OWL, 10 am, Chapel Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Church Chat, 11:45 am, Fireside Room
May 15	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room June Salt & Light Deadline
May 16	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Piano Sonoma Concert, 7 pm, Sanctuary



Events in May continued from Page 11

- May 17      Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
              Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6  
              Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary  
              Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
- May 18      Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
              Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- May 20      All-Church Camp Workday, 9 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- May 21      7th Sunday of Easter, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary  
              Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5  
              Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
              Church Chat, 11:45 a.m., Chapel  
              Associate Minister's PPRT, Fireside Room  
              Kinship/ Flower Team Appreciation Brunch, 12:30, Fellowship Hall
- May 23      Grounds Team, 9 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
              Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- May 24      Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
              Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6  
              Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- May 25      Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
              Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- May 27      8th-9th Grade OWL Overnight, 9 am
- May 28      Pentacost Sunday, Worship Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary  
              8th-9th Grade OWL, 10 am, Chapel  
              Wondering Circle, 11 am, Room 5  
              Kinship Time, 11:30 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
- May 30      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
              Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- May 31      Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
              Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6  
              Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary



The sun was warm but the wind was  
chill.

You know how it is with an April day

When the sun is out and the wind is still,

You're one month on in the middle of May.

But if you so much as dare to speak,

A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,

A wind comes off a frozen peak,

And you're two months back in the middle of March.

--Robert Frost



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



# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent  
Lead Minister  
[pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org)

Rev. Rachel Knuth  
Associate Minister for Congregational Care  
[pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org)

[www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)

[office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org)

707.823.2484

