

# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### The Community Church of Sebastopol

United Church of Christ  
707.823.2484  
[www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)  
[office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org)

#### Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

#### Associate Minister

Rev. Rachel Knuth

#### Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

#### Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

#### Keyboardist

J. Althea

#### Handbell Director

Karna Roa

#### Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

#### Custodian

Keith Brown

#### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



### *Thinking About the End*

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

For Christians, November is a month to do some thinking about the end. After all, the Christian year ends every November on Reign of Christ Sunday. And it begins anew the following week on the First Sunday of Advent. Scriptures this time of year focus on a future that is both foreboding and promising. The judgment of the sheep and the goats. Wars and rumors of wars. The moon turning to blood. That kind of thing.

We do well in November to remember that the word "end" has multiple meanings. It could mean the edge of something physical as in the "end of a road." Or it could mean when an episode of time finishes such as the "end of an era." It could even mean the purpose of something as in "the chief end of existence."

In Christian theology, the word used to refer to thinking about the end is "eschatology." In Greek, eschaton means end. When Christians do eschatology, they think about the end and purpose of humanity, the world, and the whole creation. They also wonder where things are going and why they are going there.

In this season of government disfunction in the U.S. and heartbreaking war in Ukraine and the Middle East, there is a temptation to allow our eschatology to turn tragic. We worry about the future governance of our country, the future sustainability of our planet, and the future integrity of our humanity. Those are all very real worries. Which is why we need to rely on the best Christian thinking to provide us with an alternative eschatology of hope.

In the beginning, when there was nothing but chaos, God's spirit moved over the face of the deep. God spoke and creation unfolded into being. At each step, God looked and saw that it was good. Near the end of the unfolding, when God created the animals of the land, including humans, God looked at all of creation and saw that it was very good. God gave creation purpose and direction, directing the humans to garden the land and care for the creatures. In one of the most beautiful lines of scripture, we hear that "God walked in the garden at the time of the evening breeze."

That was the story of the beginning. What is the story of the end, the purpose, of humanity, the world, and all creation? For Christians, Jesus must be the interpretive key. In Christ, we find that God so loved, and loves the world, that God will not leave us to our own devices, that God chooses to come among us, enfleshed, to suffer what we suffer, and even to die at our hands. But death is not the end, but the doorway to resurrection, to rebirth, to newness of life, and not just for individuals but for all creation.

Continued on Page 2

## **Thinking About the End...** Continued from page 1

The final book in the Christian canon is a strange one. No one has ever fully understood the Book of Revelation, but the ending is clear:

*A new heaven and a new earth.*

*Death will be no more.*

*Mourning and crying and pain will be no more.*

*A new Jerusalem with gates that never shut.*

*The tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of the nations.*

*The non-violent, triumphant Jesus, says, "I am coming soon. I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."*

*(Revelation chapter 21, verses 1, 4 & 25, and chapter 22 verses 2, 12 & 13)*

This is a marvelous vision of the end, so different from the ones that currently operate in our culture and in our own minds. But this is the vision we are offered to embrace by faith. We can begin to make it our prevailing vision by praying the final word of the Book of Revelation, an Aramaic word, maranatha, which means, "Come, Lord Jesus, come." Amen and yes!

## **CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECTS**

**Christmas Gift Bags for Residents of Sam Jones Hall.** Each year, we join with several other groups to fill bags with a towel and items for personal care for the residents of the local shelter for people experiencing homelessness. There are 165 residents and the staff said they really look forward to the gift bags! It IS their holiday. Collecting 165 bags is a big task! Please try to do one or more and ask your friends or family to fill one. Please follow the attached list carefully and bring them to church anytime before Dec. 17, and put them in the Entry Hall. If you would rather donate money, please send it to the church by Dec. 8, so we will have time to shop.

**Warm Hats, Scarves and Gloves for the Christmas Tree.** This year we want to decorate the Christmas tree in the entry way with hats, scarves and gloves for the youth at SAY (Social Advocates for Youth). SAY works with teens and young adults who are experiencing homelessness. Often they are youth who have aged out of the foster care system and need a helping hand adjusting to adulthood.

**Alternative Gifts.** If you are wondering what to get your friends and family, let us help! We will have Alternative Gift catalogs available. An alternative gift is a charitable donation designated in honor of someone else. Gift recipients receive a description of the gift made in their name and a card. You can turn in your order at church and pick up your cards and inserts the following Sunday. Here are a few examples: \$6 provides seeds for a woman farmer, \$14 provides food or therapy for a Ukrainian refugee, \$20 provides 30 books for a Donkey Mobile Library in Ethiopia.

**NOVEMBER 2023 Worship**  
*Fall Worship Theme: "Community Is..."*

**Worship Details:**

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

**November 5 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Today we recognize our members who joined over 30, 40, and 50 years ago. Our Chancel Choir, directed by **Andy DelMonte** sings and **Rev. Benjamin Broadbent**, Lead Minister preaches a sermon on Joshua 3:7–17 entitled "Community Is... Reenacting Baptism."

**November 12 – Gratitude Sunday**

Today we conclude our Pledge Drive to gather at least 140 pledges to raise \$440,000 in support of the 2024 Local Church Ministry and Wider Mission of our congregation. Our Handbell Ensemble, directed by **Karna Roa**, shares music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on Matthew 25:1–13 entitled, "Community Is... Being Foolish Together."

**November 19 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost**

Today our a small ensemble share worship music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on Matthew 25:14–30 entitled "Digging in the Dirt."

**November 26 – Reign of Christ Sunday**

On this final Sunday in the Christian liturgical year, the Chancel Choir sings and **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on Matthew 25:31–46 entitled, "More Than Meets the Eye."

**Coming in December...** Beginning of the Christian Liturgical Calendar, Season of Advent, Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve, Feast of the Incarnation



## 30, 40 & 50-YEAR MEMBERS

On November 5, we honor all those who have been members for 30, 40, 50 or more years. These people are living icons of faithfulness to God and commitment to a community that exists to serve others in Christ's name.

### 50+ Year Members

Charles Williams	01/01/1940
Margarette Murakami	10/19/1960
Marilyn Lerum	01/01/1962
Norm Stupfel	10/04/1964
Judy Stupfel	10/04/1964
Carmen Yeager	10/04/1964
Joanne Feige	04/07/1966
Norma Taddeucci	04/17/1966
Diane Krautner	03/23/1967
Paula Berndt	04/03/1969

Harry Polley	03/09/1980
Jean Polley	03/09/1980
Linda Roa	03/09/1980
Joyce Cox	03/22/1981
Judy Peterson	03/22/1981
Hal Roa	03/22/1981
Lori Babcock	04/12/1981
Barbara Nichols	03/21/1982
Dennis Olson	03/21/1982
Sharon Olson	03/21/1982
Julie Davis	04/04/1982
Lynn Deedler	10/24/1982
Barbara Deedler	10/24/1982
Dave Madsen	10/24/1982
Carleen Madsen	10/24/1982
Kathy Manchester	10/24/1982
Roger Wilson	10/24/1982
Mike Moore	03/20/1983
Dianne Moore	03/20/1983
Jim Jenkins	10/23/1983
Chris Jenkins	10/23/1983

### 40 - 49 Year Members

Emily Davis	12/23/1973
Ginny Embry	12/23/1973
Daphne Cripps	03/31/1974
Jan Sweeney	10/06/1974
Beth Larssen	12/15/1974
Nancy Shimetz	04/06/1975
Joanna Caldwell	12/14/1975
Bob Holland	10/03/1976
Marge Holland	10/03/1976
Dick Zimmer	10/03/1976
Luanne Buchanan	12/12/1976
Eva Norton	12/12/1976
Doris Rowe	01/01/1977
Jeff Pearce	03/09/1978
Gene Nelson	10/08/1978
Betty Nelson	10/08/1978
Pam Oakes	10/08/1978
Pat Furber	11/27/1978
Edwin Wilson	04/08/1979
Jean Boal	10/28/1979
Jeff Boal	10/28/1979
Nancy Lee	10/28/1979
Peggy Porter	10/28/1979
Paula Pearce	10/28/1979
Dan Porter	11/11/1979
Chris Dawson	03/09/1980
Lisa Dawson	03/09/1980

### 30 - 39 Year Members

Bobbie Johanson	02/12/1984
Curt Nichols	02/12/1984
Bill Phillips	02/12/1984
Dale Phillips	02/12/1984
Gail Thomas	05/13/1984
Kathy Bell	06/09/1985
Diana Wilson	06/09/1985
Marylou Hillberg	11/09/1986
Marilyn Foster	03/15/1987
Becky Wessling	03/05/1989
Morgan Thomas	05/14/1989
Suzanne White	10/26/1989
Jane Hynes	10/29/1989
Julie Seth	10/29/1989
Judy Davison	02/25/1990
Karna Dawson	04/01/1990
Karna Roa	04/01/1990

## 30, 40 & 50-YEAR MEMBERS cont...

### 30 - 39 Year Members cont...

Lorilee DeSantis	03/17/1991
Susan Nestor	06/16/1991
Joella Falkingham	10/27/1991
Elise Lovejoy	10/27/1991
Deidra Warner	03/29/1992
Helen Olson	04/01/1992
Dale Dougherty	10/18/1992
Nancy Dougherty	10/18/1992
Kathleen Matthies	10/18/1992

Taylor Davison	01/01/1993
Andrea Card	01/01/1993
David Peterson	03/07/1993
Paula Matzinger	03/07/1993
Dorothy McKoin	03/07/1993
Muriel Weaver	03/07/1993
Tom Dilley	06/13/1993
Pat Dilley	06/13/1993

We pray that these members would continue to nurture, and to be nurtured by, this church, even as many new members find their way to Community Church and strive to grow in faith as engaged members of Christ's body.

## Joyeux Noël

A French Christmas with Sonos

### Joyeux Noël

**A French Christmas with Sonos Handbell Ensemble**  
**Guest artist, mezzo-soprano, Ellen St. Thomas**

**Saturday, November 25, 2:00 PM**  
**Community Church of Sebastopol**  
**1000 Gravenstein Highway N.**  
**Sebastopol, CA 95472**  
**Free Concert, no reservations required**



**An opportunity will be given to donate to Sonos.**

Sonos Handbell ensemble will present a new holiday program Joyeux Noël at Community Church! Our own **Karna Roa** is a member of this professional ensemble. The concert includes carols from historical regions in and around France as well as a few other Sonos favorites.

## Christmas Gift Bags for Residents of Sam Jones Shelter

A joint outreach of the Community Church, Stone Creek Zen Center, and Sequoia School

You are invited to fill a reusable shopping bag with the items on the list below. Please use full size items and include everything on the list. (Hints: 1. There is a Dollar Tree by Food Max and Ross on Sebastopol Road and Stony Point in Santa Rosa. Saves a LOT of money! Dollar Tree has almost everything. Ross has nice towels and Food Max has nail clippers and tweezers (in a set for \$2.99-front of store, far L.) 2. You can split the list with a friend.)

Leave filled bags by the tree in the entry hall of the church by December 17. There will be ribbons by the window near the tree. Please tie one to the handles of your bag to indicate who it is for.

Pink – woman

Blue – man

Green – gender neutral

If you need us to shop for you, please send a check to the church office before Dec. 8. Please be sure to indicate that it is for a "Christmas Bag." The men's list costs \$35 and the Women's List - \$40. Gender Neutral List - \$40.

There are 165 residents at Sam Jones Hall. The lists were put together with the help of the staff at Sam Jones. The staff and residents deeply appreciate your help! This IS the holiday for the residents. Please include a card or note of good wishes.

### Man's List

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Lg. Bar of Soap
- ☐ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ☐ Pocket comb
- ☐ Pk. of Tissues
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Chap stick
- ☐ Good quality Disp. Razors
- ☐ Shaving Cream
- ☐ Mug microwavable
- ☐ 2 candy bars
- ☐ Disinfectant Wipes
- ☐ Deck of Cards
- ☐ Nail Clippers and Tweezers
- ☐ Shower towel
- ☐ Net scrubby

### Woman's List

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Lg. Bar of Soap
- ☐ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ☐ Brush & mirror
- ☐ Pk. of Tissues
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Chap stick
- ☐ Good quality Disp. Razors
- ☐ Net Scrubby
- ☐ Mug microwavable
- ☐ 2 candy bars
- ☐ Disinfectant Wipes
- ☐ Hair Ties
- ☐ Nail Clippers and Tweezers
- ☐ Shower towel
- ☐ Coloring book
- ☐ Markers or Colored pencils

### Gender Neutral (neutral colors & odors)

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Lg. Bar of Soap
- ☐ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ☐ Brush & comb
- ☐ Pk. of Tissues
- ☐ Toothbrush
- ☐ Toothpaste
- ☐ Chap stick
- ☐ Good quality Disp. Razors
- ☐ Shaving Cream
- ☐ Mug microwavable
- ☐ 2 candy bars
- ☐ Disinfectant Wipes
- ☐ Black hair ties
- ☐ Nail Clippers and Tweezers
- ☐ Shower Towel
- ☐ Sudoku Book
- ☐ Net scrubby

# YOUTH NEWS!



Youth Groups meet twice a month on Sunday nights: 4:00 - 5:30pm Middle School Youth Group  
5:00 - 7:00pm High School Youth Group  
(5:00 - 5:30pm is a shared meal with both groups together)



Once a month on a Saturday morning: Both Youth Groups join together for "Service Saturdays" Friends always welcome!

November 5	M.S.: Labyrinth & Art Project  H.S.: Holy Darkness: Labyrinth & Stargazing	Knuth Home
November 19	M.S.: Somethin Pumpkin  H.S.: "Friendsgiving" Iron Chef competition + Bring a Friend Night	Meet in Youth Lounge
SATURDAY November 25 (likely 9-12-ish)		Look for ways to be of service over the TG weekend (i.e., set the table, make a side dish, lead a prayer)

## SALT Trips Fundraiser November 19 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Sebastopol Grange

Youth: Please plan to bring your handmade items to the church, starting on Sunday, November 5, so they can be sold at the Seb Grange, in support of our SALT Trips. Porch drop-offs will be accepted at the Curtis home through Friday, November 17.

Maybe you're thinking: Fire Cider, T-Shirt Bags, Elderberry Syrup, or Preserved Lemons.

Maybe you're thinking: Cookies, Lavender Sachets, or knitted socks.

The answer is: YES! Make all of that and then come sell it! (You can also ask the talented people in your own family to create something too— we're really looking for each youth family to contribute items to be sold.)

Contact: Sheina Curtis [hisheina@gmail.com](mailto:hisheina@gmail.com)

Fans of Youth: Come check out what we have for sale at the Grange and pick out your stocking stuffers!

All proceeds go to our Youth SALT (Service And Learning Together) Trips. In 2024, our Middle Schoolers are headed to San Francisco, and our High Schoolers are going to Tijuana. Thank you for your support!





### **We love a good beach cleanup!**

On September 23 our Youth Groups participated in the annual California Coast Cleanup Day, a state-wide effort at beaches up and down the state. Our group gave thanks to God by taking 3 good breaths, remembering that 2 came from the ocean, and then proceeded to pick up trash. They filled their buckets with cigarette butts (1 cigarette butt pollutes 130 gallons of water) and plastic water bottles. And then they used hand sanitizer and ate lunch on the beach. Huge

thanks to the Leaders and Youth who participated! Two of our Youth Leaders, Andrea Card and Kathy Bell, were quoted in the Press Democrat– Check out the Article!.

### **And in October...**

#### **Our Middle Schoolers had a Pool Party (thank you to the Wiser Family!)**

#### **Our High Schoolers had a Messy Party:**





## Women's Wonderful Weekend at Westminster Woods

by Bobbie Johanson

On October 6 -8, Presbyterian minister, **Joanne Whitt**, facilitated a retreat entitled, Honoring the Body. 32 women participated on Saturday and 17 spent the night, Friday and Saturday. We were happy to welcome 9 women who were coming to a retreat for the first time. The weather was comfortable under the beautiful redwoods. We got to introduce ourselves by sharing an adornment that had special meaning to us. There was laughter and tears as we learned more about each other through poignant sharing.

We had presentations by **Joanne**, small group discussions and large group share outs. Interesting videos created by Dove soap showed how advertising and the media portray unachievable standards for beauty which can be harmful to girls and young women. The take-aways for me were to be thankful for our five senses and grateful for what our bodies CAN do. Health and emotional well being should be our focus, not our appearance. Think about what we can accomplish at whatever age or condition we are experiencing. We had wonderful examples of 2 nonagenarians in our group who garden for our church on weekly basis.

As with all our retreats there was time set aside for art, games, walks, talks and even naps. This Bible verse was on our pillow with a chocolate, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? ...Therefore honor God with your bodies." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. We concluded on Sunday with a Worship Service featuring communion. Connections were made and fellowship was deepened.

Thank you to **Maria Culberson** for leading the singing and **Joy Richards** for registration. Thanks also to our committee headed by **Jane Huneke** and **Joyce Cox**, and joined by **Joanne Feige, Marge Holland, Bobbie Johanson, Barbara Deedler** and **Nancy Shimetz**.

Each year we hold fundraisers that help offset the cost of the Women's Retreat. Please note the dates and items available below:

### Fresh Wreaths and See's Candy

This year Women's Retreat will be selling Wreaths and See's Candy during Advent.  
Please help support scholarships for our retreat!

**Locally Make Fresh Wreaths -- Available Nov. 26, Dec. 23 and Dec. 10.**

**See's Candy -- Available Dec. 3, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17.**  
**Buy early for the best selection!**



## **A Communi-Tea of Women**

- Bobbie Johanson, LC Member for Care & Fellowship



**Attention:** Women of the Church! A new Women's Discussion Group is coming to a church near you!

**What:** An opportunity for women to connect and deepen friendships

**When:** Saturday, November 4, 2-4 pm

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Who:** All women are welcome, people of all ages and life-stages.

**How:** We will gather for tea, homemade cookies and TALK, sharing our thoughts, experiences, and ideas in the large group and small groups.

**Why:** After our Women's Retreat last month, people expressed a desire to get together soon and more often to grow in fellowship. (You do not have to have come to a retreat to participate.)

**Topic:** How do you deal with stress/anxiety? Please bring a favorite Bible verse, prayer, saying or practice that you use to calm yourself that you are willing to share with the group. (You are always welcome to pass if you do not want to share).

**Details:** Bobbie will organize and run our first gathering. Please wear your church name tag if you have one. Bring paper or journal and pen if you want to take notes. Please come and help us plot a course for when, and how often you would like to meet. You do not have to come every time to be a part of things. Each meeting will have a new topic. Of course, the more you attend, the more you will get to know other women.

**Hope:** That the women of our church will create and sustain an ongoing discussion group. Our program will be under the Women's Fellowship Ministry umbrella. Hopefully this will become a vibrant program with shared leadership. Let us celebrate that the pandemic is over and get together!

**Feedback:** Please let me know if you intend to come. If you can't make this one, let me know if want to be involved in the future. Would a different time or day help? You are welcome to drop in last minute if you can't commit now.

Contact: **Bobbie Johanson** \* 707 494 9599 \* [bjohanse@sonic.net](mailto:bjohanse@sonic.net)



Hope Crisis Response Network, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6393  
Santa Rosa, CA 95406  
877-936-4673  
[www.hcrn.info](http://www.hcrn.info)

Our Friends at Community Church of Sebastopol,

Thank you so much for your service trip to Butte County! Your team donated 432.5 volunteer hours across multiple projects. That equates to over \$16,300 in donated labor value!

Your team has played a part in seeing Butte County fully recover from the Camp Fire of 2018.

Thank you so much for your hearts of service, and we look forward to your next trip.

-The HCRN Team



## Wondering Circle

Children K - 5th Grade  
During worship, after the Children's Message

Children are welcome to travel over to Room 5 after the Children's Message, to wonder about the story of the day.

We're looking for a few more adult volunteers to help deepen our bench--if you are willing to follow the Spirit's nudges toward *Wonder*, please contact **Pastor Rachel** [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org). We have a set rhythm that easy to jump into, with minimal prep!

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## SAVE THE DATE: JOYFUL NOISE CONCERT

December 17 in the Sanctuary

Headlining Musicians: Benjamin Mertz and Melanie DeMore



By Donation: All Proceeds benefit the **Sebastopol Inter-Church Food Pantry**

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## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

November 20 - evening (time TBD)

Interfaith Service at the Unitarian Church of Santa Rosa. Join your heart with our interfaith friends as we remember those who have died by violence in the past year because of transphobia.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Jianna Gonzales	November 13	Helen Olson
November 3	Gladys Chappell	November 13	Kristina Dillingham
November 4	Katherine Dowdney	November 14	Tom Terry
November 5	Daniel Arendt	November 15	Dale Phillips
November 5	Quinn Curtis	November 17	Marilyn Foster
November 6	Marylou Hillberg	November 17	Ann Keller
November 6	Julie Seth	November 19	Mary Doherty
November 7	Elise Peterson	November 20	Noe Margulis
November 10	Dan Rasmus	November 23	Mark Nelson
November 10	Irene Bettendorf	November 25	Karna Roa
November 12	Pat Furber	November 26	Norm Stupfel
November 12	Harry Simms	November 27	Lesley Bagley
November 12	Kristen DelMonte	November 27	Emily Bell
November 12	Jeff Pearce	November 28	Barbara Whitson
November 12	Benjamin Broadbent	November 28	Abbey Sawyer
November 12	Matt Witterman	November 28	Jon Gonzales
November 13	Debbie McCallum	November 29	Jan Kahdeman
November 13	Warren Brisbin	November 29	Stuart Mitchell



**Feed Your Soul  
at Faith Formation Hour  
Sundays, 11:15 - 12:15**

**Guest Speaker & Church Chat**

An opportunity for conversation and learning about current topics led by

**Pastor Benjamin**

Youth & Adults

Fireside Room (Church Chat)

Sanctuary (Guest Speakers)



November 5	Guest Speaker & Multi-Media Presentation: <b>Annie Bacon</b> (Sanctuary)	<b>Annie Bacon</b> is the Executive Director of Seeds of Learning, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving educational opportunities in rural Latin America. Our congregation has a history of sending teams to Nicaragua and other countries with SOL (see below). To learn more, visit: <a href="http://www.seedsoflearning.org">www.seedsoflearning.org</a> .
November 12	Church Chat: "How to Listen to a Sermon" (Fireside Room)	Drawing on his doctoral work in homiletics, <b>Pastor Benjamin</b> will offer some frameworks that may be helpful in listening to sermons.
November 19	Church Chat: "Intro to Family Systems Theory" (Fireside Room)	Both of our pastors have studied family systems theory which explores how each of us function within our families of origin and, by extension, every system of which we are a part, even our local church community. <b>Pastor Benjamin</b> will be using <b>Jack Shitama's</b> book, "If you Met My Family, You'd Understand."
November 26		No Church Chat today. <b>Pastor Benjamin</b> will be away today. Look for a three-part Advent series starting December 3.

Guest Speaker  
November 5  
Subject: Seeds of Learning  
Speaker: Annie Bacon

"Seeds of Learning is a non-profit organization dedicated to better educational opportunities in rural Latin America. We work with North and Central Americans to build and equip schools in Nicaragua and El Salvador, educate kids and adults, and promote cultural understanding." (from their website)

Seeds of learning is a local organization that is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. Our church has sent several groups to Nicaragua to build classrooms and our Outreach Committee donates to them almost yearly. You can see a good video of their work on their website.

Please come on November 5, 11:15 a.m., after worship, to hear more about the work of this wonderful organization that our church is involved in.

This small, local organization has huge Accomplishments over 25 years.

- 99,611 learning center visits
- 1,541 Scholarships awarded.
- 69 Partner communities
- 243 Educational rooms built.
- 4,661 volunteers





## Intergenerational Open Gym

Open to All Ages

Hosted by Scott McGinnis and Bob Curtis

Memorial Hall

Come and play in the gym! We have a few basketballs and you can join at your own pace.

We're looking for a few more **adult volunteers** to help deepen our bench— if you're willing to follow the Spirit's nudges toward Play, please contact **Pastor Rachel**:  
pastorrachel@uccseb.org.

## Meditation

With Mary Culberson

In the Chapel

Explore new depths in meditation, as part of a community practicing together.



## Write Your Own Blessings

For Youth & Adults

In Room 6

Facilitated by Pastor Rachel

A series of 4 workshops, where you'll write your own blessings for various occasions, seasons, and life phases. There will be prompts that go with the topic each week but you're free to let the Spirit move you in the moment as you are writing. There will be time for quiet, and time for sharing, in each session. Drop-ins welcome each week. All materials will be provided but if you have a favorite pen, journal, or supplies you like, feel free to bring them.

**November 5 – Little Blessings** – Using ordinary life situations (making dinner, folding laundry, procrastinating, feeding animals, facing a grouchy neighbor, etc...) we'll write short blessings to support daily life.

**November 12 – Blessings for when the Road is Hard** – Our focus this day will center on blessing those in distress (even when it's us).

**November 19 – Blessings of Gratitude** – With gratitude in our hearts, we'll write blessings of thankfulness – a great time to write your Thanksgiving Table Blessing.

**November 26 – Turnings, Endings, & New Beginnings** – As we come to the end of the church liturgical year, we'll write blessings of release, for when things come to an end, and blessings for going forth anew.

## November 2023 Events at Community Church

November 1	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary Pledge Drive Calling Night, 6 pm, Fireside Room
November 2	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall Women's Retreat Meeting, 4 pm, Fireside Room Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
November 4	Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fellowship Hall
November 5	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS</b> , 2 am
November 5	<b>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b> , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary 5th/6th Grade Owl, 10 am, Youth Lounge Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various Locations Middle School Youth Group, 4 p.m., Knuth Home High School Youth Group, 5 p.m., Knuth Home
November 6	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
November 7	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
November 8	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
November 9	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
November 11	Second Saturday Luncheon, Noon, Fellowship Hall
November 12	<b>24th Sunday after Pentecost</b> , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary 5th/6th Grade Owl, 10 am, Youth Lounge Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various Locations
November 14	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Facility Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room Finance Committee, 3 pm, Classroom 6 Personnel Committee 4 pm, Fireside Room Lead Minister PPRT 5 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
November 15	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
November 16	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall

Events Continued on page 17

November 18	Youth Fundraiser at the Grange, 9 am, Sebastopol Grange
	Jerry Coleman Memorial Service & Reception, 2 pm, Sanctuary
November 19	<b>25th Sunday after Pentecost</b> , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
	5th/6th Grade Owl, 10 am, Youth Lounge
	Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
	Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various Locations
	Middle School Youth Group, 4 p.m., Youth Lounge
	High School Youth Group, 5 p.m., Youth Lounge
November 20	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
November 21	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
	Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus
November 22	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
	Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
	Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
November 23	Happy Thanksgiving, Office Closed
November 24	Office Closed
November 25	Sonos Concert, 2 pm, Sanctuary
November 26	<b>26th Sunday after Pentecost</b> , Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
	5th-6th Grade OWL, 10 am, Youth Lounge
	Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
	Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various Locations
November 28	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
November 29	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
	Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
	Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
November 30	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
2 A.M.**



**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR WHEN YOU GO TO  
BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT**

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



# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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