

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 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

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



Two Halves of a Whole

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

This year on September 10, Church begins an long experiment worship and faith opportunities all ages every This will require commitment from participants. begin at 10 a.m., Formation Hour at 11:15 a.m.



Launch Sunday, Community exciting year-to offer both formation for people of Sunday morning. flexibility and leaders and Worship will followed by Faith

Why are we doing this?

- Worship and Faith Formation are two halves of a whole. As an intergenerational community, we believe that children belong in worship with adults, and that adults benefit from quality faith formation opportunities as much as children do.
- Returning from the social isolation of Covid, people are longing to spend time with other people in meaningful ways beyond the worship hour.
- Change is good, although it can be hard. A new schedule will release new energies and glimpses of new growth for individuals and the whole community.

Who made this decision? The pastors, following conversations with worship and faith formation leaders, presented the idea to the 8 elected members of the church's Leadership Council, which approved it unanimously at its July meeting.

What will Sunday mornings look like?

- NURSERY will reopen to extend hospitality to parents and their children, infants through age 4.
- WORSHIP will end by 11:00 a.m. to enable a smooth flow from worship to Faith Formation Hour.

Sunday Morning Schedule starting September 17

10:00 – Worship

11:00 – Kinship Time

11:15 – Faith Formation Hour

Two Halves of a Whole continued...

- KINSHIP TIME at 11:00 will be a brief opportunity to visit with others and eat a healthy snack.
- COURTYARD BELL will ring at 11:13 a.m. to indicate the start of Faith Formation Hour.
- FAITH FORMATION HOUR will include multiple offerings:
 - * Childcare for infants through Age 4
 - * Wondering Circle, a version of the Montessori-based "Godly Play" program, for Kindergarten thru 5th Grade
 - * "Sacraments Class" and "Introduction to the Bible" for Grades 4 & 5 (Spring)
 - * "Introduction to Meditation" for youth and adults
 - * "Church Chat" on various topics for youth and adults
 - * "Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints" class for youth and adults
 - * Periodic Guest Speakers from the wider community

What can I do to make this a successful experiment for Community Church?

- Participate. Come to worship. Come to a Faith Formation Class. Come as yourself. Come as a family. Come as a couple. Bring a friend.
- Volunteer. Offer to lead a program or to assist the program leader.
- Donate. We are beginning once again to build momentum as a community. We need to be a congregation of generous givers to fund our talented staff, maintain our beautiful facility, and grow our life-giving programs.
- Commit. Make a commitment to your own spiritual growth, to strengthening your church community, to supporting other people. We need God and we need each other.

www.uccseb.org

Potluck Lunch on Launch Sunday, September 10

Can you say that 3 times fast?

Potluck Launch Lunch! Potluck Launch Lunch! Amazing. Yes, Let's do this!

To celebrate and welcome us all to the program year, we're going to have an all-church potluck lunch on Launch Sunday, September 10. Please bring a dish to share— either salad or dessert, ready to serve (pre-cut or pre-slice). Bread, drinks, plates, and silverware will be provided. Families, please feel free to bring items for your own children as needed. You can drop off your potluck item in Memorial Hall before worship.

Therefore! The Launch Sunday special schedule will be...

10:00 - 11:00 Worship

11:00 - 11:45 Faith Formation

11:45 - 12:30 Lunch in Memorial Hall

Huge thanks to **Kathy Matthies** and **Bobbie Johanson** for organizing set-up & clean-up. For more information or to help out, please contact **Bobbie** at bjohanse@sonic.net.

SEPTEMBER 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

September 3 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost / Gathering of the Waters

We gather for intergenerational worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We will also be gathering and blessing waters collected by members of our community on summer travels.

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [Romans 12:19–21](#) entitled, "Hate Has No World."

September 10 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Launch Sunday

On this first Sunday after Labor Day, we launch the program year of our church which lasts until the Sunday before Memorial Day in May. Our theme is "Community is Beautiful." The Chancel Choir debuts and

Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on [Matthew 18:15–20](#) entitled "Binding and Loosing."

September 17 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Today our Handbell Ensemble makes its debut, we receive the Neighbors in Need Special Offering of the United Church of Christ, and **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on [Matthew 18:21–35](#) entitled "The Limits of Forgiveness."

September 24 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost Outreach Sunday

This morning we will highlight our church's Outreach ministries including Safe Parking, Second Saturday Lunch, North Bay Organizing Project, and the Inter-Church Food Pantry. The Chancel Choir sings and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Matthew 20:1–16](#) entitled, "Better Than Fair."

Coming in October... World Communion Sunday, Pledge Drive Kick-Off, New Members Join, Historical Sunday, All Saints/Souls Sunday

COMMUNITY is...
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COMMUNITY is...
COMMUNITY is...

Walk for Immigration Reform

Jonah Knuth

On Monday, August 7th, I attended the final day of a 40-mile walk for immigration reform. It was organized by Northern California Coalition for Just Immigration Reform, which is made up of dozens of immigrant rights groups including ALMAS LIBRES, a Sonoma County organization of immigrant and Indigenous women. You might have seen coverage of the walk in the Press Democrat.

The walk took place in an effort to urge Congress to pass the HR 1511 Bill which would give the opportunity of citizenship to anyone who immigrated to the U.S. 7 years or more ago. This would change the documentation status of roughly eight million immigrants living in the U.S. today. The walk was 40 miles long, emphasizing the fact that it has been almost 40 years since there has been immigration reform in our country. It started on Saturday with one group walking from Petaluma and another from San Jose with the goal of meeting together in San Francisco at the Federal Building. I was only able to attend the final day, which consisted of walking through Sausalito, across the Golden Gate, and into the city. I walked 12.5 miles that day, and I was tired by the end of it, but I found it energizing and inspiring because there was a mix of people from organizations around the Bay Area ranging from the National TPS (Temporary Protected Status) Alliance to members of Sonoma's Commission on Human Rights.

Walking through Sausalito, it seemed like many business owners were skeptical while almost all workers were supportive. At one point a business owner was disgruntled by our group, but we could see the kitchen staff waving to us and cheering us on. Walking across the bridge and through the city, many people agreed with our goal. I first heard about the walk from the North Bay Organizing Project, and I felt compelled to go because of the number of people this bill has the potential to help and the quantity of difference it would bring for each one of them.





Calling all Women!

You are invited to the 2023 Women's Retreat

**Friday, October 6 - Sunday, October 8
Westminster Woods, Occidental**

Theme: Honoring the Body

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt (Presbyterian Minister, who has retired from parish ministry and is working as a spiritual director and retreat leader.)

We are going to explore faithful ways to be good stewards of the bodies with which we were blessed. We will consider body image, cultural definitions of beauty, how our choices about our bodies affect not only our lives but the lives of others and our planet.

Join us for a meaningful weekend with workshops, singing, relaxing, getting to know other women in the church, taking walks, creative projects, playing games, and laughing!

[Click Here to Register](#) or fill out the form in the church office (deposit required). Deadline is September 22.

We hope you can come!

The Retreat Committee

Jane Huneke, Joyce Cox, Bobbie Johanson, Barbara Deedler, Joanne Feige, Nancy Shimetz, Marge Holland, Linda Roa

Women's Bible Study begins a new session on September 20.

During this study we will be looking at the Image of God (Imago Dei) in Scripture, beginning with Genesis and moving into New Testament texts from the Gospels and Romans. This will be more of a contemplative Bible Study in the style of Lectio Divina, whereby we can encounter the sacred within Scripture and increase our awareness of the presence of God in ourselves and all others.

We meet on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m., in Room 6 adjacent to Memorial Hall. For more information contact **Joanne Matson** 707-823-5249. Materials will be provided. Bring your Bibles!

A TRIBUTE TO APPLE PIES

Kathy Bell

On Behalf of the Apple Pie Team, I want to thank all of you who showed up to help with the humongous job of making 1,224 pies in 2 days!!! Thank you to the bakers, the makers, the slicers, the rollers, the boxers, the sellers and the BBQer's.... It really does take a village and we are so blessed with our Community Church Village!!!

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the Saints who marched before us. Thank you to **Bill and Ellen Stillman** for setting up the Fellowship Hall kitchen in a most efficient way to make Pie Crusts (side note... 1,224 pies mean 2,448 crusts since apple pies need a top and bottom!!!) Thanks to my Dad **Lloyd Lerum** for acquiring and maintaining all the machines it takes to pull this off for so many years! Each morning, before showing up at church, I would drive by the Pleasant Hill cemetery to ask Dad to keep the machines alive for another day...at the end of the day, I would again drive by to say, "Thanks Dad!" I have such vivid memories of Dad and **Jim Murakami**, then **Tom Larssen**, then **Dick Norton** and **Keith Blackstone** managing the heavy barrels of apples.

A big thank you to **Buck (Kim Buckman)** for being our new mechanical safety net!!! He gets the prize for best t-shirt this year – it read "I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU BROKE SOMETHING." Thank you to **Althea** who we have newly titled the "BOX QUEEN." If you would like to join the APPLE PIE TEAM and be part of the planning/leadership group for this fun event, please talk to any of us on the team...**Kathy Bell, Kathy Matthies, Bobbie Johanson, Denelle Tognozzi, Paula Berndt, and Beth Larssen.**





YOUTH NEWS!

We look forward to seeing you soon & Friends are always welcome!

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"

Date	Topic	Location
September 10	Welcome, Welcomed, and Welcoming!	Meet in Youth Lounge
September 17	Outdoor games at Ragle	Meet at Lions Grove Picnic Area (up from the softball field)
SATURDAY September 23 8:30 - 1:00	Service Project: California Coastal Cleanup Day	Meet at the church, drive to the beach, dropped off at the church
October 1	Chill Games Night Bring a Friend Night	Meet in Youth Lounge
October 15	M.S.: Pool Party H.S.: Messy Party * wear clothes you can throw away	Wiser Home Knuth Home
SATURDAY October 28 (likely 9-12-ish)	Service Project: TBD	TBD
November 5	M.S.: Labyrinth & Art Project H.S.: Holy Darkness: Labyrinth & Stargazing	Knuth Home
November 19	M.S.: Something Pumpkin H.S.: "Friendsgiving" Iron Chef Competition. *Bring a Friend Night	Meet in Youth Lounge
SATURDAY November 25 (likely 9-12ish)	Service Project: TBD	TBD
December 3	M.S. Dance Off H.S. Movie Night	Meet in Youth Lounge
December 17	M.S. Christmas Party H.S. "Relaxtify" Comfort Food, Candle Prayers, and a Sound Bath	Meet in Youth Lounge

introducing...

...the 2023-24 High School Youth Leaders



Dawson Bell

Fun Fact: Dawson can play the harmonica and the guitar at the same time!

Emily Bell

Fun Fact: Emily is more comfortable in the water than on land. She loves surfing, swimming, boogie boarding, kayaking, and jumping into any body of water.



Daniela Kingwill

Fun Fact: Daniela speaks 5 languages: German, Italian, French, Spanish and English.

Pastor Rachel

Fun Fact: Rachel sewed her own prom dress in high school.



introducing...

...the 2023-24 Middle School Youth Leaders



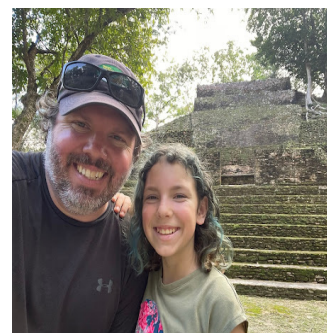
Andrea Card

Fun Fact: Andrea had a pet pot-bellied pig named Beau Duke



Craig Allender

Fun Fact: Craig helped design/engineer Main Street at Disney Shanghai.



Beth Larssen

Fun Fact: Beth tap danced on stage at the Spreckles Performing Art Center in 2001.



Pastor Rachel

Fun Fact: Rachel won a school-wide headstand competition in third grade.



For more information about Middle and High School Youth Groups, please contact **Pastor Rachel** at pastorrachel@uccseb.org.

2024 YOUTH SALT TRIPS



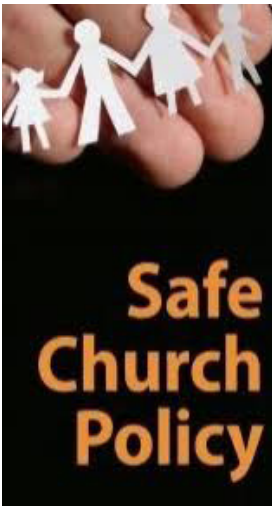
Save the dates for our 2024 Service And Learning Together (SALT) Trips

Middle School: *likely May 25 - 26, 2024

High School: June 8 - 16, 2024

More information coming to families soon!

Contact: **Pastor Rachel** at pastorrachel@uccseb.org.



Safe Church Policy Trainings (choose 1): **September 19, 6-8pm (byo dinner) - Media Room** **October 1, 12:30-2:30 (byo lunch) - Media Room**

At Community Church of Sebastopol, we strive to create a safe environment for all. Our Safe Church Policy is posted on our web site, and you can also [Click Here](#) to read our Safe Church Policy.

In addition to requiring livescan background-checks, we also require that all staff and volunteers who work with children, youth, and vulnerable adults complete a Safe Church Policy Training, which must be renewed every 2 years. If you attended the Safe Church Policy Training last spring, you are good for now. But! If you are a volunteer with children or youth, and have not yet attended a Safe Church Policy Training, it's time!

Please choose one of the upcoming training dates: September 19, 6-8pm or October 1, 12:30-2:30pm. We'll be in the Media Room, and you're welcome to bring your own food to eat during the training.

There are also new laws in the State of California in effect, that require our staff and volunteers who work with children and youth to complete a Mandated Reporter Training module. This is about a 90-minute online course that can be completed on your own time. Our Leadership Council is in the process of pulling together a team to oversee the Mandated Reporter Training process. Please be on the lookout for more information about that!

For more information contact **Pastor Rachel**: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.



... to **Jeff Wilson**, for volunteering time on July 26 to fix the wireless handheld receiver.

... to **Keith Brown**, for his care of the church facility as our custodian in his first three months.

... **Alan Murakami**, for being our guest speaker on August 6.

...to the Apple Pie team (**Kathy Bell, Kathy Matthies, Bobbie Johanson, Denelle Tognozzi, Paula Berndt, and Beth Larssen**) for their meticulous planning of and tireless dedication to another Apple Pie event.

...to **Marge Holland** for being quiet as a mouse and preparing our Sanctuary for Sunday's Worship Service every week.



SOMETHING NEW IS HERE!



Generous donations to the Undesignated Memorial fund and gifts honoring Tom Larssen have made this compassionate gift of improved accessibility and welcome possible.

The new bench is for everyone's use. Thank you to all who attended the informal dedication on September 13.



Thresholds
We release with care...

...**Kathleen ("Kathie") Mayhew**, church member, who died August 10.

May God's comforting Spirit and the love of our community surround Frank Mayhew, and their whole family as they grieve.

September BIRTHDAYS

September 3	SOPHIA BROADBENT-BELL	September 14	FRAN RASMUS
September 3	DAVID KILPATRICK	September 15	PAULA PEARCE
September 4	GREG DAVIS	September 15	HENRY KNUTH
September 5	CHRIS STOLL	September 15	DERRICK PELTON
September 7	KARNA DAWSON	September 16	JOSHUA HOVDEN
September 7	JANE HUNEKE	September 18	ADELYN CHIANG-ANGULO
September 7	WILL WHITEHORN	September 19	REENA BURTON
September 8	CATHERINE REZNIK	September 21	JUDY HAWKINS
September 9	RENEE MURAKAMI	September 23	CARLEEN MADSEN
September 9	TONY SUCHESTON	September 23	JULIE REIMER
September 10	GREGG YAYLIAN	September 23	HENRY ALLEN
September 10	MICHELLE BOWMAN	September 26	SPENCER ALLEN
September 11	SHEINA CURTIS	September 26	DREW THOMAS
September 11	ROBYN PITTS	September 26	KELLY ALLEN
September 12	TOM TUCKER	September 28	MARKUS WISER
September 13	KATHY BELL	September 29	EDWIN WILSON
September 13	MANIE STEYN	September 29	JONAH KNUTH
September 13	RORY STERLING	September 30	CARMEN YEAGER



Faith Formation Hour
Sundays at 11:15
You have some awesome options, check it out!



Wondering Circle

Montessori-based storytelling in the spirit of Godly Play
 A class for children: K-5th Grade
 Room 5

Date	Story
September 10	Circle of the Church Year
September 17	The Holy Family
September 24	Parable of the Good Shepherd



Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints

Reflecting on people who used their faith to work for the good of everyone
 A class for Youth & Adults
 Room 6

Date	Holy Troublemaker	Leaders
September 17	Bayard Ruston: What is Holy Troublemaking?	Pastor Rachel & Jonah Knuth
September 24	Fr. Broderick Greer: Talking with our Sacred Texts	Blythe Osner & Abbey Sawyer



Beginning Meditation

Learning to meditate with Dr. Mary Culberson, contemplative and Jungian psychotherapist
 A class for Youth & Adults
 Chapel

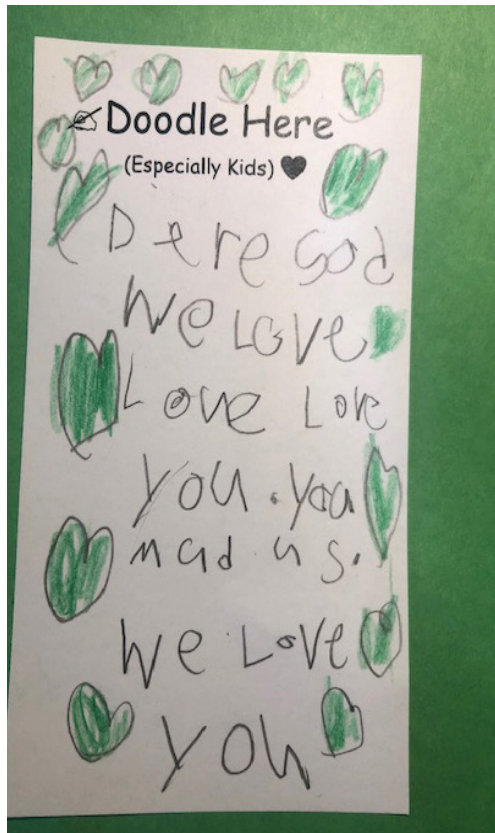
September 10 - October 15: Beginning Meditation – drop in any week to learn and practice meditation
 October 22 - November 26: Going Deeper with Meditation – for those ready to sink into practice.

September 2023 Events at Community Church

September 3	14th Sunday after Pentecost , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Associate Minister PPRT, 11:15 am, Classroom 6
September 4	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
September 5	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
September 6	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
September 7	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
September 9	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am, Fountain Courtyard
September 10	15th Sunday after Pentecost , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Wondering Circle, 11 am, Classroom 5 Church Chat, 11 am, Fireside Room Introduction to Meditation, 11:00, Chapel Adult SALT, 11 am, Classroom 6 5-6th Grade OWL Parent IChild Orientation, 11:15 am, Youth Lounge Launch Lunch Potluck, 11:45 am, Memorial Hall Middle School Youth Group, 4 pm, Youth Lounge High School Youth Group, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
September 12	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Facility Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room Finance Committee, 11 am, Classroom 6 Lead Minister PPRT 4 pm, Fireside Room Personnel Committee, 5 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
September 13	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary Workshop, "How to Lead Wondering Circle," 5pm, Classroom 6
September 14	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
September 15	Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline

Events Continued on page 15

September 17	16th Sunday after Pentecost , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary 5th-6th Grade OWL, 10 am, Youth Lounge Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Wondering Circle, 11:15 am, Classroom 6 Intro to Meditation, 11:15 am, Chapel Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints, 11:15 am, Youth Lounge Middle School Youth Group, 4 pm, Ragle Ranch Park High School Youth Group, 5 pm, Rangle Ranch Park
September 18	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 am, Fireside Room
September 19	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall G & G Team, 5pm, Fireside Room Safe Church Policy Training, 6 pm, Media Room
September 20	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
September 21	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
September 23	Middle & High School Youth Service Project, 9 am, Beach
September 24	17th Sunday after Pentecost , Worship Service, 5th-6th Grade OWL, 10 am, Youth Lounge Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Church Chat, 11:15 am, Fireside Room Wondering Circle, 11:15 am, Classroom 6 Intro to Meditation, 11:15 am, Chapel Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints, 11:15 am, Youth Lounge
September 26	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
September 27	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary Associate Minister PPRT, 5 pm, Fireside Room
September 28	Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room



Grounds Team debuts ADOPT-A-PLOT

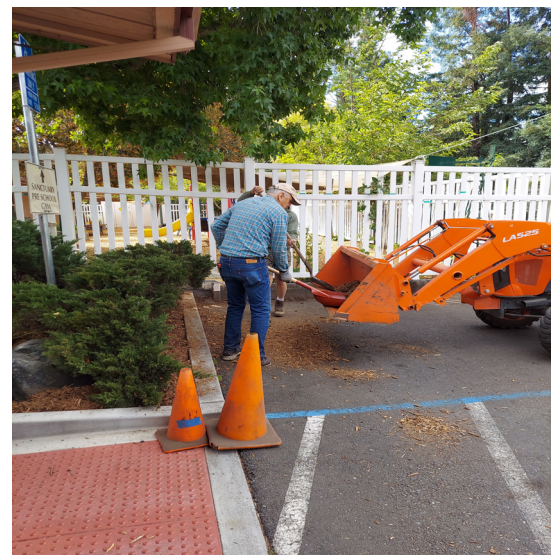
Jane Huneke

The Grounds Team is starting a new program called ADOPT- A-PLOT. Family and friends can “own” a small portion of the garden and tend it whenever the unwanted weeds pop up. This wouldn’t take much time and the plots would be manageable. If you are interested in adopting a plot, please contact **Jane Huneke** jane.huneke1@gmail.com. Many hands make light work. Thanks for participating!



MORE NEW HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR CHURCH CAMPUS

More than two days and 30+ volunteer worker hours were used to mulch the empty garden area on the north side of the roses. A little mulch was also spread around the tree and planter near the entrance. Please be mindful not to walk over the mulch or allow children to play there. A special thank you to the Facilities Committee and the Grounds Committee for working together to make this happen.



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