

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

DECEMBER 2018 NEWS

CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER

No doubt you have noticed that things look a little different this month! We are transitioning to a different layout and delivery for the newsletter. For online viewers this should make reading a little easier and it will save time in the office preparing articles to print.

In order to save postage, time, and eventually paper, **this will be the last bulk mail newsletter**. We will have plenty of paper copies of the newsletter available on Sundays and in the office for you to take home throughout the month. If you are not able to make it to worship and online newsletters don't work for you, **please let me know** and I will make sure we still send a copy your way. You **must opt in** to continue receiving a paper copy in the mail. Please contact **Becca** in the office at 707.823.2484 or office@uccseb.org or by mail at **Community Church, 1000 Gravenstein Hwy N, Sebastopol, CA 95472**.

And if you don't get our email blasts and links to the online Newsletter and would like to sign up, just let me know and help us save some more paper!

THANK YOU

Thank you to the **Health and Safety Team** for their hard work in installing new signage around the campus and an AED in the Narthex! Thank you to **Larry Stallings** for cleaning out the shed, clearing brush from the parking lots, and starting our compost program! Thank you to **Gary Bachelor** for restarting the Safe Parking Program! Thank you to **Judy Peterson** and **Gary Bachelor** for coordinating the deep clean around the campus! Thank you to **Kim Buckman** for continuing to take care of all of the items on our list of repairs!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers for **Jim Jenkins' mother**, in failing health; Pat Furber's aunt **Louise**, recovering from a stroke; **Charles & Helen Williams**, relocating to Spring Creek Lodge; **Patty Foster**, with health issues; **John Simmons**, at Park View Post Acute; Joanne's son **David** and grandson **Will**, dealing with divorce and separation; **Glenda Elvy** in skilled nursing.

Condolences to the family & friends of **Jean Peterson**, who died October 25; and the family & friends of **Louise Wakefield**, who died November 17.



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WORSHIP, MEDITATION, & MEMBERSHIP

DECEMBER 2018 WORSHIP

Sunday Worship happens 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Children's Worship follows Children's Message most Sundays.

December 2 – 1st Sunday of Advent

We gather for multi-generational worship with Holy Communion. We light the first candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of "Wisdom." The chancel choir shares an offertory piece and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a Luke 21:25–36 entitled "The Time Being."

December 9 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of "Justice." Our Chancel Choir sings an anthem and Rev. Broadbent preaches on Luke 3:1–6 a sermon entitled "Good News for All Flesh."

December 16 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Today we light the 3rd Advent candle, the candle of "Love." Our Handbell Ensemble shares worship music and Rev. Broadbent preaches on Luke 3:7–18 a sermon entitled "Merry Christmas, You Brood of Vipers."

December 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Today we light the 4th Advent candle, the candle of "Peace." Our house band, Divine Connection, provides worship music and Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister for Children & Families, preaches a sermon on Luke 1:46–55 entitled "Filling the Empty, Emptying the Full."

December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 – Child-Friendly Service with Pageant

6:00 – Family-Friendly Service with Children's Message, Sermon, Choir, and Brass

8:30 – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Sermon and Handbell Ensemble

December 30 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

Today we gather for multi-generational worship to light all of the candles on the wreath one more time as a quartet sings Mary, Did You Know?"

COMING IN JANUARY 2019...

Epiphany, Twelfth Night Handbell Concert, Baptism of Christ Sunday, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Annual Meeting Sunday, New Members Join.

ADVENT OPEN CHAPEL MEDITATION

From December 6 through December 21 Faith Chapel will be open for quiet meditation from 10:00am–12:00pm each weekday. Come as you are, when you are able to take a quiet moment in the commercialized season to remember Advent. A simple advent wreath will be in the center of the space and prayerful reading materials will be available.



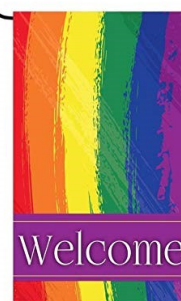
NEW MEMBER INTERACTIVE ORIENTATION JANUARY 13

We want to extend an invitation to all our visitors to learn more about the Community Church of Sebastopol, United Church of Christ and church membership.

There will be an interactive orientation with a simple lunch after church on Sunday, January 13 from 11:45 am – 1:45 pm, in our Fireside Room to find out more about the Community Church and what it means to become a member.

Please contact Becca, Congregational Administrator by January 10 if you plan to attend and let her know if you need childcare: 707.823.2484 ext.100 or office@uccseb.org.

New Members will be received into the church on Sunday, January 27.



NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP WITH INTEGRITY

By Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister



On January 27, we will receive new members into the life of Community Church. They will stand with others seeking to affirm their Baptism and join this local church making promises to participate in and support this fellowship of the beloved.

On that day, they will be asked to answer to the following, updated, versions of questions found in the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ:

Do you desire to affirm your baptism and to say, 'Yes, I want to participate in the faith and family of Jesus Christ?' 'I do.'

Will you resist the powers of the world which demean people and harm the earth, and do you desire the freedom to be fully yourself in Christ? "I will and I do, strengthened by your prayers."

Will you strive to deepen your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? "I will, relying on the Holy Spirit"

Will you attempt, by the grace of God, to follow in the way of Jesus as his disciple, to resist oppression and violence, to show love and justice, and to embody the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? "I will, with the help of God."

As a member of the church of Jesus Christ, do you intend to grow in the Christian faith, joining in the dynamic movement of God's people in this local congregation and as part of the global church by sharing in its joys and sorrows, listening to and learning from people older and younger, and by sharing your own gifts and perspectives so that together we may celebrate Christ's presence and serve this community and the world in Christ's name? "I do, by God's grace."

Further, they will make promises, along with other new members, to try to live into the following expectations that comprise a "Member in Good Standing" of The Community Church of Sebastopol, also known as "Membership with Integrity":

To take this church to be our faith community.

Endeavor to deepen spiritually in the Christian faith, accompanying the other members of this church in faithfulness and love.

To attend services of worship, and to observe the sacraments, as regularly as life allows.

To support the church regularly and generously from within our various financial circumstances.

To aspire to a leadership role, as each is able.

Serve faithfully as the church in the wider community, sharing with others the meaning and purpose of our covenant.

For those of us who are already members, we will be asked to commit to these promises along with our new members so that we might build together a community of deepening trust, faithful commitment, and palpable joy.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WHAT HAPPENS IN GODLY PLAY?

Godly Play is a Montessori-based storytelling method, and one of our modalities of Faith Formation here at Community Church. Children are welcomed into the sacred space (Room 5) to hear a Bible story, told slowly with wooden pieces. This awakens their imagination and builds their memory of Bible stories. They wonder about the story together and then are offered art supplies with which to respond. The group ends with a "feast" of gluten-free matzoh crackers and water. Godly Play is for children in Preschool-5th Grade, and happens on Sundays from 9:00am-10:15am in Room 5. Come join the wonder circle!

	Story	Storyteller	Door Helper
Dec 2	Advent I	Paula Berndt	Marge Holland
Dec 9	Advent II	Paula Berndt	Marge Holland
Dec 16	Advent III	Paula Berndt	Marge Holland
Dec 23	Advent IV	Paula Berndt	Marge Holland

There will be no Faith Formation Hour on December 30th.

WHAT'S IT LIKE IN THE NURSERY?

Safe and kind Nursery Attendants offer high-quality child care for our littlest churchgoers, infants -preschool age. The Nursery is open Sundays from September to May, 8:45am-12noon, in Room 4 (up the steps from the fountain).

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents are the primary faith formation teachers of their children! We encourage families to support their spiritual lives at home. When you come to church you can... help your child follow along in the bulletin, use your finger to follow the lines of hymns, and strive to actively engage your child in the service. Parents of children in Godly Play can ask about the story that was told, and look it up together in a Children's Bible at home.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT: CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4:00PM

Children will rehearse for the pageant Sundays after church—11:45am-12:45pm in the Sanctuary on December 9, 16, and 23rd (dress rehearsal). Parents, please provide a hearty snack for your child after church so that they are ready to get their Nativity groove on! For more information about the pageant, please contact Pastor Rachel: rachelknuth@uccseb.org.

WHAT ARE THE CHILDREN AND ADULT LEADERS UP TO IN THE CHAPEL DURING CHILDREN'S WORSHIP?

After the Children's Message, the children walk together to the Chapel for Children's Worship, where they continue worshipping with music, prayer, Communion, and friends! One of the Pastors leads the group in the rhythm of the adult worship service, with lots of opportunities for movement and engagement. Children's Worship is for children in Preschool-5th Grade, and happens on Sundays at 10:45am in the Chapel. The group walks together and children return to their parents in the Sanctuary before the end of the service.



December's Music in Children's Worship:

Gathering Song: "Away in a Manger"

Hymn of the Month: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Communion Chant: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Art Inspiration in December: *Angels Appearing Before the Shepherds* by Henry Ossawa Tanner

	Minister	Musician	Shepherd
Dec 9	Pastor Rachel	Denelle T.	Jerry Coleman
Dec 16	Pastor Rachel	Vicki Reno	Yolan Christy
Dec 23	Pastor Kristen	Althea	Sheina Curtis

**There will be no Children's Worship on December 30th—children are welcome to remain in the Sanctuary with their families for multi-generational worship.*

OUR WHOLE LIVES/SEXUALITY & OUR FAITH

Congratulations to our 8th & 9th Grade OWL class -- when they wrap up their 26-workshop series the weekend of December 1-2nd, they (and their leaders!) will have devoted over 52 hours to sexuality education! We are immensely grateful for our trained volunteers Andy DelMonte and Kendall Tripathi-Clark, who have led this class.

Parents of children & youth in O.W.L. can strive to "be an askable parent" with open lines of communication. Check out the parent videos on plannedparenthood.org for more ideas.



HOLIDAY MISSION & OUTREACH

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

By Joyce Cox



Mission and Outreach is sponsoring the Alternative Gift Catalogs this year. It's the perfect gift for those who have enough material things, and can be mailed for the price of a postage stamp!

Examples; \$9 provides a textbook and a week of hot lunches for a child in Cambodia. \$1 provides 40 doses of medicine for people in Burma, \$17 provides 15 fruit or hardwood trees for a farmer in Central America.

Pick up a catalog, choose your gifts, put the order form in the "Adult Mission Trip" box in the office and pick up your cards on the church counter the following Sunday! Easy!! Your shopping is done and you have really helped folks in need around the world.

This year we have included an insert for Seeds of Learning. This is a local organization that works with people in the US and Nicaragua to build schools and learning centers. They also provide scholarships to enable more children to go to school. Due to the current political situation in Nicaragua, work groups are not being sent from the U.S. but Seed of Learning is trying to continue funding the learning centers and scholarship students. They can really use our help this year!

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

By Mike Ott



The Mission & Outreach Committee is once again sponsoring the Shoebox Ministry – shoeboxes will be filled with items suitable for both men and women.

Shoeboxes will be available for you to pick up on the 1st Sunday of Advent, December 2nd, following worship. The shoeboxes can be filled with necessities for a homeless person.

A list of items to purchase is located in each box, see below for the list. The box should be wrapped in Christmas paper and placed under the Christmas tree in the narthex. After December 16th members of the Mission & Outreach Committee will deliver the gifts to the Homeless Services Center in Santa Rosa.

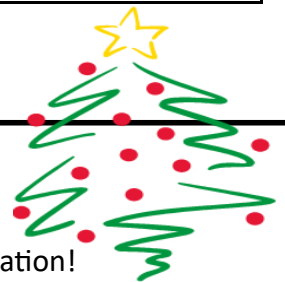
Our Shoebox Ministry gifts can be an important part in the life of a homeless person. Please fill your shoebox generously using "regular" size products (not "sample" sizes). It is important to stick to the list and include all the items as these gifts are opened in a group setting.

Shoebox Ministry Box Items

Toothpaste	Toothbrush	Pocket Comb
Deodorant	Washcloth	Shampoo/ Conditioner
2 Granola Bars (soft)	Hand Towel	Package of Tissues
Disposable Razors	Hand Sanitizer	Large Bar of Soap
1 Pair of Warm Socks	Hat/Scarf/ Gloves	Pen and Notepad
Shaving Cream	Chapstick	Box of Band Aids

GIFT CARD TREE

By Mike Ott



The Mission & Outreach Committee is once again sponsoring the Christmas Tree Decoration!

This year we are requesting gift cards be given to support **Verity**, a local organization that strives to eliminate all forms of violence, with a special focus on sexual assault and abuse. Verity facilitates healing and promotes the prevention of violence by providing counseling, advocacy, intervention, and education in our community. Verity's crisis line is still the only one of its kind in Sonoma County, and it operates 24/7.

Please help Verity and the people they serve by donating \$25 gift cards from Safeway, Target or Trader Joes and placing them in the box by the Christmas tree in the narthex. These cards can be brought to church on December 2, 9 and 16. There will be a box with ribboned ornaments alongside – please place one on the tree for each gift card given. We hope to blanket the tree with ornaments!

PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION



FAITH IN ACTION TEAM (FIAT)

The Community Church of Sebastopol is a member of the North Bay Organizing Project. This is a multi-racial organization composed of 22 member institutions. Their purpose is to build leadership and grassroots power for racial, social, economic and environmental justice. There is a flyer in the entry way explaining the current work of the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) in more detail but below is a quick summary. Our Church's involvement is coordinated by the Faith in Action Team. Please contact one of us if you are interested in becoming involved in any of these issues or to join our team.

FIAT: Joyce Cox, Kathy Matthies, Judy Davison, Bernie Hovden, Vicki Mayster, Peggy Porter, Julie Davis

NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT UPDATE

By Joyce Cox

Voter Engagement; This fall our Latinx Student Congress and Integrated Voter Engagement teams have done direct voter engagement, registering 800 and doing 43 classroom presentations last spring.

Housing Task Force: Legal Clinics with Sonoma County Legal Aid are being held around the county to assist tenants. There is one scheduled at the Community Church in January 24 at 5:30 pm. Housing Task Force's next meeting is Monday November 12 at 6 pm at First Congregational Church UCC 2000 Humboldt St Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

The Environmental Justice Task Force is working to engage young people, people of color, low-income people, and environmental activists with an initial emphasis on developing knowledge about sustainable and regenerative ecologies and economies and the interconnectedness of humans and the natural world.

North Bay Rapid Response Network covers three counties: Sonoma, Napa and Solano and has trained Legal Observers and Accompaniment Teams ready if ICE raids occur in Sonoma County. Currently teams are doing outreach to make sure immigrants know about the hotline. To get involved contact **Joyce Cox** or **Judy Davison**.

The Immigrant Defense Task Force is working on the county draft plan for disaster preparedness to prepare a better response for the Latino community during the next disaster. They wrote a letter including recommendations after gaining verbal support from the Board of Supervisors and holding meetings with county officials, only to have their recommendations left out of the plan. They are still working on this issue.

NBOP strives to be a vehicle of light and hope and healing and reverence and longevity. We hold up biological and cultural diversity as the way forward.

BURST THE BUBBLE:

HUNGER IN SEBASTOPOL



We need volunteers to make 6 sack lunches for our local homeless one day a month and deliver them to the Sebastopol Christian church.

If you can participate in this program 1 Monday or 1 Wednesday each month please call **Ellen Stillman** at 707.823.5284. If you can participate 1 Tuesday a month please call **Chris Jenkins** at 707.829.2330. Put your faith into ACTION and help burst the hunger bubble in Sebastopol!

Help Burst the Hunger Bubble just by bringing non-perishable snacks and single serving food items like granola bars, fruit rolls, peanut butter, tuna, crackers, fruit cups, trail mix, top ramen, etc. to the church office. Visitors come in every day looking for a snack to get them through to their next meal.

MISSION WORK AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Second Saturday lunch, Showers, Bus Passes, Snacks, Warm Clothes, toiletries...

Several ways to help:

Volunteer 1-4 times per month to host shower guests, greet them, make sure they have a towel and any toiletries they need, and close up at the end of the shift. Contact **Becca** for more information 707.823.2484 or office@uccseb.org Cash or checks made out to Community Church and designated for homeless outreach are welcome.

Donations of toiletries and shower items, tube socks, warm clothing, men's walking shoes, tarps, rain ponchos, back packs, insect repellent, sun screen, T shirts, underwear are all appreciated.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, & WOMEN'S RETREAT

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

By Chris Jenkins

All women of the church are invited to participate in Women's Fellowship to promote fellowship and service. Our Card Writing Ministry meets on the second Wednesday of the month and Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the third Monday of the month.

Wednesday, December 12 at 3:00 pm –

Card writers meet in the Women's Fellowship office with your favorite pen. Thank you to the October card writers – we hope to see you again!

Monday, December 17 at 10:00 am

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets in the Fireside Room to knit or crochet. Call Joanne Matson at 823-5249 or Chris Jenkins at 829-2230 for more information.

You are invited to join us for any or all of our activities – we'd love to see you!

ANNUAL WREATH SALES

By Jane Huneke

Fragrant wreaths made of fresh greens will be on sale after church on December 2nd and 9th for \$20. Come support the Women's Retreat and enjoy a beautiful wreath day season. These make great gifts for neighbors, co-workers, friends and relatives.



SEES CANDY SALES

By Jane Huneke

Come stock up on Sees candy for hostess gifts, stocking stuffers, or after dinner treats..... In the courtyard after church Dec 2, 9 and 16. We will have lb. boxes of dark chocolates, mixed selections, and nuts and chews. Other surprises may be on sale. This is a fundraiser for the Women's Retreat. Come check us out!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

By Joanne Matson

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays, December 5, & 12 in the Fireside Room at 10 AM following the theme of Suffering and God:

Dec 5 Chapter 8: The Suffering Cup: What exactly are we asking/saying when we commit to following the Way of Jesus? Scripture: Matthew 20: 17-28

Dec 12 (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, companion of the poor) Chapter 9: Take up Your Cross: Matthew 16:21-27: Denying Fear and Surrendering oneself to God.

December 19 - January 16: Winter Break. Bible Study resumes January 23

All women are invited to join the group. Questions? Please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.

2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT

JANUARY 18-20 AT WESTMINSTER WOODS

"Laughter is carbonated holiness" says Anne Lamott. Gather with a wonderful group of women to generate effervescence, deepen friendships and renew your spirit – plus a respite from our daily busy lives.

Theme: **Presence: Tending to What is Real**

The focus of our retreat is to get grounded and reconnected to what's real: God/Spirit/Source. We will nurture our souls and practice ways to more readily respond to the outrageous pain of our world with outrageous LOVE and actions.

Facilitator: **Shelia Denton.**

Sheila worked for 30 years at Westminster Wood as their Conference Coordinator. She has a diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction from SFTS, and is engaged in the Unique Self Coaching Collective (sponsored by the Center for Integral Wisdom).

Join us for a meaningful weekend with workshops, singing, time to relax, get to know other women in the church, hike in the beautiful redwoods and of course play games and laugh! Nothing is mandatory, the time is yours!

Facility; Westminster Woods is a lovely center in the redwoods between Occidental and Monte Rio. We will have 3 deluxe houses that sleep between 7 and 10 people, 1 small deluxe cabin sleeping 4 people, and forest camp cabins. Prices will vary according to accommodations. All rooms are shared. There is parking near each house and it's possible to drive or walk to the dining room and meeting room.

The fees are subsidized by our Candy Sale and Wreath Sales.

Fees are non-refundable after December 31st.

Scholarships are available for anyone who wishes to attend. They are limited to a maximum of \$135. Payment of your portion can be made monthly with final payment due May 2019. Those who receive a scholarship will be asked to participate in our fundraising events.

Contact Jane Huneke 795-5451.

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

JANUARY 18-20, 2019

Name _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Any special needs _____

FEES:

_____ \$185 Full retreat (Fri - Sun includes meals)

_____ Quiet house

_____ game house

_____ small deluxe cabin

_____ \$125 forest cabin (full retreat)

_____ \$70 Saturday Only (includes 3 meals)

Fees are not refundable after Dec. 31.

_____ Enclosed is the total registration fee

_____ Enclosed is a deposit of \$ _____

(no less than \$50)

Remaining balance to be paid no later than Jan. 11

Transportation: I am interested in carpooling

Yes

No

_____ I will be driving my car and have room for _____ more people

_____ I would like to have a ride

Please make checks payable to The Community Church with a notation in the memo line ; "Women's Retreat"

Please return this form with your money to Marge Holland:

8949 Barnett Valley Road, Sebastopol 95472

For more information please contact:

Jane Huneke jane.huneke1@gmail.com 795-5451

Joyce Cox b-j-cox@att.net 829-0750



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXCITING HANDBELL NEWS!

By Linda Roa

Our Community Church Handbell Ensemble under the direction of Karna Roa will be joined by several "professional" ringers to collaborate with Pacific Edge Voices for a Holiday Concert: **A Rose in Winter**

Pacific Edge Voices is based in Berkeley and is a premier Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble, best known for extensive diverse repertoire of high quality choral *a cappella* music. Dr. Lynne Morrow is the Music Director of Pacific Edge Voices. She is also the Music Director of the Oakland Symphony Chorus as well as directing the Voice and Opera/Music Theatre programs at Sonoma State University. We feel very honored (and I might say a bit nervous) to be working with these talented people!

We would love to see some familiar faces at one of the two concerts in the Bay Area. The performances are at 7:30 pm:

Thursday, December 6, 2018

The Green Room, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
And

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley



From the Pacific Edge Voices:

Ring in the Season with us! Our December Holiday Concert features works by Bruckner, Messiaen, Boyce, and Larsen, for which we will be joined by the Joyful Bells handbell choir. (That's us!)

For tickets, visit: www.pacifiedgevoices.com or call (415) 392-4400



THANK YOU!

By Karin Seder

Dear Friends,

There have been so many highlights over my years working at the Community Church, but the most important to me will always be the people. From the very beginning I felt a connection to the congregation and very welcomed - this was the place I was meant to be. As much as I loved my job, I am very sure I am also going to love retirement! As I write this note, my husband and I are in Chile, seeing the sights and working as volunteers for an international motorcycle race - you never know where retirement is going to take you! At the Sunday celebration I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with you - no goodbyes, just a 'see you later.' I was truly amazed by your generosity, a wonderful surprise that will add to the fun in my retirement plans! Thank you also for the cards, heartfelt words, and hugs - it was a good day for hugs!

Karin Seder

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Jean Polley	12	David Peterson	21	Lorilee DeSantis
	Nicole Whitehorn	13	Elizabeth Thomas	24	Suzanne Albin
3	Christopher Petersilge	14	Steve Kellner		Bruce Matson
4	George Drennon		Marquesa Weigel	27	Dylan Lamm
	Linda Good	15	Colby Mayster-Buman		Paula Matzinger
6	Victoria Nelson	16	Sawyer Melone	28	Mat Keller
7	Alvin Hukins	18	Lange Look		Josie Malone
	Emma Steyn	19	Jack Dunlap		Luke Purcell
10	Ginny Embry		Shawn Nichols	30	Joanna Caldwell
11	Jim Jenkins		Patty Raney		
	Kendall Tripathi-Clark	20	Dick Zimmer		



FROM THE OFFICE

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

In December we will grace the church chancel with beautiful Memorial Poinsettias in 6" foil wrapped pots. Please fill out the form below and bring it to the church office or leave in the collection plate with your check. The cost is \$12 per poinsettia plant with checks made payable to the Community Church.

Given in Memory of

- or -

Given in Honor of

Given by

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ poinsettia plants.
(\$12 each)

_____ I will take my plant home

_____ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 11.



NEWSLETTER AND BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

If you have something you would like to have published in the January Newsletter, please submit a full article (100 words or less) in final draft form by December 15 to **Becca** at *office @uccseb.org* . If you have an ongoing announcement you would like repeated, keep it fresh and send new content each month.

Bulletin Announcements should be submitted in final form (35 words or less) by Wednesday each week in order to be included in the Sunday insert. Contact **Becca** at 707.823.2484 or *office@uccseb.org* for more information.



UPDATED DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE

The latest version of **the Church Directories** are available in the church office – come pick one up! And if you have any changes in your contact information, please let **Becca** in the church office know: *office @uccseb.org* or 707.823.2484.

WEARING NAME TAGS

Whether you are brand new to Community Church or have been here for decades, please help your new congregational administrator and new members learn your name by wearing a name tag in worship and during the fellowship hour! Visitors and friends can find blank name badges and a marker on the guest book podium as you walk in the front door.

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Reign of Christ Sunday 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 10:30 AM Community Worship 10:45 AM Children's Worship	26	27 6:00 PM Pastor's Advent Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM Leadership Council	29 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	30 10:00 AM UkeStars	1 8th/9th Grade OWL Retreat
2 Advent I 8th/9th Grade OWL Retreat 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 10:30 AM Multi-Generational Worship w/Holy Communion 5:00 PM Advent Spiral	3	4 6:00 PM Pastor's Advent Bible Study	5 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble 7:00 PM Men's Dinner & Discussion Group	6 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	7 10:00 AM UkeStars	8 11:30 AM 2nd Saturday Lunch
9 Advent II 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 9:30 AM Faith in Action Team 9:45 AM Visitation Ministry 10:30 AM Community Worship 10:45 AM Children's Worship 11:45 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	10 7:00 PM Mission & Outreach	11 4:00 PM Lead Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team 6:00 PM Pastor's Advent Bible Study	12 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 3:00 PM Women's Fellowship Card Ministry 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble	13 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	14 10:00 AM UkeStars	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 Advent III 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 10:30 AM Community Worship 10:45 AM Children's Worship 11:45 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 3:00 PM Children's Concert	17 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 6:00 PM Pastor's Advent Bible Study 7:30 PM Health & Safety Task Force	19 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble 6:30 PM Leadership Council	20 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	21 10:00 AM UkeStars	22
23 Advent IV 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 10:30 AM Community Worship 10:45 AM Children's Worship 11:45 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Child-Friendly Pageant Service 6:00 PM Family-Friendly Lessons & Carols 8:30 PM Traditional Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Day	26 10:00 AM Staff Team 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble	27	28 10:00 AM UkeStars	29
30 1st Sunday After Christmas 8:45 AM Nursery Care 10:30 AM Community Worship	31	1	2 10:00 AM Staff Team 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble 7:00 PM Men's Group	3 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	4 10:00 AM UkeStars	5

Faith Formation Hour @ 9 am Sundays

Godly Play, Pre-School-Grade 5, Room 5

Middle School Youth, Grades 6-8, Youth Lounge

Sunday Bible Class, Adults, Fireside Room

Dec 6 – Dec 21 Faith Chapel will be open 10am-12pm for Advent Meditation

The Community Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: Please do not delay

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FROM THE PASTOR...

HOLIDAY CHEER FOR VIPERS

By Pastor Benjamin



Imagine opening a beautiful Christmas card and inside you find this cheery greeting from John Baptist: "You brood of vipers!" In her book, "Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ," Fleming Rutledge pleads with Christians to keep John the Baptist in Advent and to avoid rushing to sing Christmas carols and proclaim Jesus' birth prematurely. "There is no good news, no gospel of Jesus Christ," she writes, "without John the Baptist."

"Brood of vipers" is a good Advent phrase which resists the false cheer of the secular shopping holiday. These harsh words remind us that there is harshness in the world despite our attempts at frivolity. That harshness – let's call it "evil" – isn't found only somewhere else or among other people. As Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote, "the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being."

Advent is a season of apocalypse, which means "revealing." When we allow scripture to address us as "vipers," we might remember the original viper in Genesis who talked the first humans out of their original blessing. Haven't we done the same? Forgotten our elemental blessedness. Treated others in a way that disregards their blessedness. Ignored our calling to be different, a light shining in the darkness.

Christmas is surely coming. As the church, let's abide in the Advent mood a while. Let's speak truths that don't jive with the constant dirge of "buy more, do more." Let's attend to our grief and conflicted feelings. Let's kindle a hope that does not depend on everything being perfect. Our hope, the one great hope of the world, according to Christian faith, is the one who is coming, surely coming, and coming soon, but not here yet.