

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Birth Pangs – Hoping When It's Hardest

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

On November 25, Reign of Christ Sunday, the end of the Christian liturgical year, we will hear verses from the Gospel of Mark's 13th chapter, sometimes "the "little apocalypse." Despite the foreboding sound of *apocalypse*, the Greek word means simply "unveiling" or "the revealing of something new."

Imagine Jesus sitting with his disciples on the Mount of Olives. The sun is setting and they are looking out over the Garden of Gethsemane toward the city of Jerusalem and its temple. Earlier in the day, Jesus had pronounced a judgment on the temple, saying these buildings will not endure forever. Now, sensing his disciples' fear and wonderment, Jesus says, "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. These things happen, and many other things besides. But they are but the beginning of the birth pangs."

Birth pangs. Speaking into their perplexity and doubt, Jesus invokes birth. He encourages his disciples to hope when it's hardest, to labor through the contractions of a new world being born. They did not know how it was all going to turn out – did Jesus know? – but like a woman in labor, they were to breathe and trust, then to wait and, finally, to push.

As we approach the end of 2018 and endure another contentious election season with its "wars and rumors of wars," perhaps the sacred work of the church is to serve as a midwife, accompanying the earth, and all its inhabitants, as it labors to bring into the world the new thing that God is about to do (Isaiah 43:19).



NOVEMBER 2018 WORSHIP

Worship happens Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Children's Worship follows Children's Message except on Sundays with Multi-Generational worship

November 4 All Saints/Souls Sunday / Multi-Generational Worship with Holy Communion

We gather as a multi-generational community and celebrate the Lord's Supper. Portraits of loved ones adorn the chancel as we sing the Children's Worship Hymn-of-the-Month: "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." Our Associate Minister, Rev. Rachel Knuth, preaches a sermon on Ruth 1:1-8, entitled "Wherever You Go."

November 11 Gratitude Sunday

Today we conclude the public phase our Pledge Drive as our Chancel Choir sings an anthem to express gratitude to God for all financial pledges made in support of our 2019 local church ministry and wider mission. Our Lead Minister, Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. preaches on Mark 12:1-44 a stewardship sermon entitled "No Unnecessary Sacrifices."

November 18 Thanksgiving Sunday

Our Handbell Ensemble shares worship music and Rev. Broadbent preaches on Mark 13:1-8, a sermon entitled "Birthpangs."

November 25 Reign of Christ Sunday

The Chancel Choir sings and Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Revelation 1:4-8 entitled "Is, Was, and Is to Come."

Coming in December... 4 Sundays of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, Evening Service of Holiday Lament, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, First Sunday after Christmas



HOUSING FAIR NOVEMBER 4



The City of Sebastopol and the County of Sonoma will co-host a Community Housing Fair on November 4 at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center from 1:30 pm to 5 pm. The event is free of charge and open to all residents of the greater Sebastopol area to spread the word about

existing and new housing policies that help facilitate the creation of small dwelling units and home-sharing, and provides a venue for housing-related entities, such as Sonoma County Community Development Commission, to interact with the public about affordable housing resources and the wraparound services they offer. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with planners and public and private service providers. Free childcare and light refreshments will be provided.

UKULELE GROUP

The UkeStars will continue to meet on Fridays in the Fellowship Hall for their jam sessions and weekly practice from 10-11:30 AM. For information please call Vicki Reno at 827-3668 or email at vreno@comcast.net.



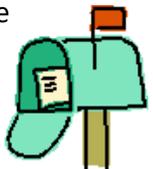
NAME TAGS

Please help your new congregational administrator, get to know each other better, and make it easier for others who don't know your name by wearing a name tag!



CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

We have updated **2018 Church Directories** 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.



What Shall We Bring, 2019 Pledge Drive By The Numbers

Gratitude + Generosity Team and Budget Committee

Number of Pledges

- 327 Current "Active Members" of Community Church
- 250 Number of households receiving pledge packets
- 143 Number of households making pledges for 2018
- 57 Percentage of household making pledges for 2018
- 160 Goal of households making pledges for 2019

Amount of Pledges

- 322,732 Dollar amount of pledges made for 2018 local ministry
- 369,000 Goal for dollar amount of pledges toward 2019 local ministry

14% increase 2019 local ministry goal over 2018 actual pledges

- 33,580 Dollar amount of pledges made for 2018 mission giving
- 41,000 Goal for dollar amount of pledges toward 2019 mission giving

22% increase 2019 mission giving goal over 2018 actual pledges

Relevant Dates

- Nov 4 Last day to offer pledge cards during worship
- Nov 11 Gratitude Sunday – end of pledge drive's public phase
- Nov 12 Follow up phase - budget created with pledges received
- Jan 27 Annual Meeting, 2019 budget approved
- Jan 28 Budget permitting, Search Committee posts church profile, begins receiving profiles from candidates for Associate Minister for Faith Formation position
- Jan 31 Last day for Pastor Rachel as Associate Minister for Children & Families
- Feb 1 Budget permitting, first day for Pastor Rachel as Minister for Pastoral Care
- Feb 1 First day for temporary Children's Ministry Coordinator
- Jun 30 Last day for Emily Syal as Youth Ministry Coordinator
- July 31 Last day for Children's Ministry Coordinator
- Aug 1 Target start date for new Associate Minister

2019 Selected Projected Budget Numbers

- 33,280 12-month salary for half-time Minister for Pastoral Care
- 4,660 12-month pension benefit for Minister for Pastoral Care
- 33,280 6-month salary for new full-time Associate Minister for Faith Formation
- 4,660 6-month pension benefit for new Associate Minister
- 50,000 Housing Funds already available to assist new Associate Minister

2020 Projected Budget Numbers

- 66,560 12-month salary for full-time Associate Minister for Faith Formation
- 9,320 12-month pension benefit for Associate Minister
- 33,280 12-month salary for half-time Minister for Pastoral Care
- 4,660 12-month pension benefit for Minister for Pastoral Care



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our Leadership Council is responsible for administering the laws, traditions and day-to-day decisions that govern what happens at the Community church. Large items and small all fall under the guidance of these dedicated leaders. If you'd like to know what happens at a Council meeting, please come join them the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room. Meetings are open to all, questions and opinions are welcome and we're hoping that becoming more familiar with the Council's activities just might encourage you to consider becoming a Council member in the future! Please join us for our next meeting – November 28.

THE SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Leadership Council is Moving Forward! Thanks to all who participated in the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 7 to provide input and feedback on the proposal to proceed with the search for a Full Time Associate Minister for Faith Formation. A poll was taken at the conclusion of the meeting and the results were 49 church members supporting the search and 3 members opposing the search. Please read further for a recap of the meeting.

**Special Congregational Meeting,
Linda Inman, Leadership Council Member for Faith Formation**

We, on the Leadership Council, greatly value your input on this important decision and are committed to conducting the work of the Council with integrity, respect, and transparency.

First, an overview of how this proposal came to be.

In the spring of this year, Ross Galleto, who was serving as our part-time Youth Coordinator, announced his resignation. That created a staff vacancy. Emily Syal was hired as the new Youth Coordinator, but she is here only through the 2019 program year. So, despite having Emily for the moment (for which we are grateful), we're still looking at a staffing shortage in the very near future.

Coming up at the end of January, we will be faced with another vacancy. The one created by Pastor Rachel's transition to pastoral care. What's critical for us all to understand is that on February 1st, we won't have an Associate Minister for Children and Families. Efforts are being made to ensure there is an interim person to oversee the program through May 2019.

Given these new realities, we needed to come up with a strategy that would not only fill vacancies but one that would best position our church for the next 5-10 years. One of the first things we had to decide was whether to address these vacancies with part-time positions or one full-time position.

Consider the prospect of attracting a candidate of the caliber we want, who would, hopefully, commit to stay for an impactful amount of time...on a part-time salary. Someone with experience, leadership skills, creative programming ideas, and the ability to build and empower teams of people to work together in God's service. It became clear that we were looking for something -- someone -- bigger and bolder than what could be realized on a part-time basis.

Here is how the process played out.

The new Leadership Council was formed in April. In May, Reverend Broadbent hosted a one-day retreat for this new group to inform and guide us regarding the role and responsibilities of the Council. Our first official meeting took place on May 16th.

This is when the Council first learned of the upcoming staffing change for Pastor Rachel and Reverend Broadbent's proposal to address the resulting vacancy.

The initial reaction within the Council was excitement and energy mixed with concern and questions. I suspect that many of you have experienced a similar response.

Soon after the May 16th Council meeting, and with the support of the Council, Reverend Broadbent announced and published the proposal; that was in June. Then, in July and August, the Council held a series of listening/feedback sessions to provide more information, to answer questions, to hear feedback, and, to gauge the level of support for the proposal.

Questions and concerns were raised. Hopes, fears, and ideas emerged. The overall, verbal, response we received in the process was positive even amid concerns. The feedback gave us ample reason to move forward.

At the regular Council meeting in August -- after much consideration of the input we had received, and after a review of the new bylaws -- the Council passed a motion approving the proposal. This meant we were ready to move forward with forming a search committee.

Procedurally, everything was in place, but we realized there were still questions and concerns that, perhaps, had not been addressed. And that is what brings us here today. We're here for another chance to connect with you, to communicate with you, to get on board -- together -- about what we want the future of this church to look like. What do we envision?

Part of what we heard in the feedback sessions is that we long for a vibrant, robust, energized and engaging church community that strives to meet the needs of all ages -- children, youth, adults and our elder population. We want programs that provide nurture, knowledge and opportunities to serve our wider community as well as develop strong, capable leaders.

We want the beautiful and thriving children's ministry that Pastor Rachel has ushered into being to continue and to grow. We want our

youth to be seen, to be met, to be surrounded in love and safety, to be challenged and reassured.

We want our adult and elder members and friends across a broad spectrum of life's experience to join us in worship, fellowship, and in exploring what it means to each of us to be people of faith. And for all to be cared for and comforted in times of need.

That is what we heard from you. That is Faith Formation and that is a bold and exciting vision!

The concerns we heard from some of you and that we on the Council share with you...are not insignificant. In no particular order, the top three concerns are:

What happens to Rachel? We don't want to lose Rachel.
How are we going to find someone who can do all of that?
How are we going to pay for it in the face of major facilities needs?

In regard to Pastor Rachel, she has, through various means outlined her desire to shift her ministerial focus to pastoral care. She will speak to us again in just a moment. For now, I will simply say that the Council honors and respects the decision Pastor Rachel has made and we are committed to doing everything we can to keep her on staff in this important area of ministry.

Finding the right person... There's a sentiment out there that we might find someone who's great with youth but might not be able to meet the needs of the young children...or vice versa. Whatever combination you come up with, is there really someone who can do it all? I would say we're not looking for someone to DO it all. We're looking for someone with the right vision, commitment, leadership and communication skills to empower us to do what WE are called to do.

Next, this proposal is for a full-time position. We would be committing to this person's salary for the next 5-10 years or more. The first year, 2019, is manageable given that the earliest we would call a candidate would be in the Spring and our current financial position is quite strong. The ongoing financial capacity to support this position is up to all of us and will be borne out through our annual pledge drive that is about to kick off.

Finally, our facilities needs are of great concern. The current budget does have funds available for some of the repairs on the immediate slate. The scope of work for repairs to the sanctuary have yet to be determined and will, undoubtedly, result in a capital effort.

The fact that our facilities require our dedicated energy, action and resources does not diminish the very real needs of our church family. The fact that these challenges are upon us simultaneously is not what any of us would've hoped for, but this is where we are. Together with our ministerial staff, the Leadership Council, believes this is the time to act, to be bold, to lean hard into our faith and into the vision that we can do this!

Special Congregational Meeting Rachel Knuth

Earlier this week Nancy Shimetz, our Church Moderator, walked Pastor Ben and me over to the Chapel to look at a tree. And this tree is uniquely positioned so that part of its branches are covered by the walkway--in fact, most of what you can see of this tree as you walk by are its lovely green maple leaves. Maybe some of you know this tree?--if you walk toward the Chapel, you'll see it on the left. Nancy pointed out that the tippy top branches of the tree, the ones that reach above the walkway toward the sunlight, are already turning the red, yellow, and beautiful brown colors of Fall. The tree is beginning to collect information from the sunlight and rain, that its season is changing. I was reminded of Psalm 1, the one whose delight is in the Law of the Lord is "like a tree planted by streams of water, and yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither, whatever they do prospers." What I mean to say is, that our church, the Community Church of Sebastopol, is in many ways like such a tree.

We are a community that reaches out and listens to our members when we see a transition on the horizon. And that's what I understand that our Leadership Council has been doing since May--collecting information and anticipating a change of season. Like a tree that is nourished by streams of water, we plant ourselves with healthy intention and care for our community with our resources of time and money and love. I believe whole-heartedly that we are in an exciting time of growth, and that our Leadership Council is casting a vision to support that growth, with the creation of a Full Time Associate

Minister position. What this person would do is to offer staff support to Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Adult Faith Formation. Is that awesome? Yes!

I love this church and what I see is clearly best for this congregation, at this point is time, is a Full Time Associate Minister of Faith Formation.

I'm also clear within myself that I'm not available to apply for a full-time position right now. As you know, my "primary call" is to my family of six. I have found over the last several years that Children's Ministry programs peak at the same times throughout the year that my family life is very full. Although I have loved Children's Ministry and the beautiful children and families of this congregation, I have come to grips with the fact that it's become unsustainable for me to continue serving the church in my current role.

And so, in conversation with the Leadership Council, my Pastor-Parish Relations Team, and Pastor Ben, I have communicated that at the end of January, I will step away from my work as Associate Minister for Children and Families.

It would be my great delight and an answered prayer to be able to continue serving this congregation as Minister of Pastoral Care, beginning in February. As Minister of Pastoral Care, I would be able to offer staff support for our Visitation Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Kindred Groups, and support the Lead Minister in providing pastoral care for the congregation, as well as occasional preaching and worship support. As I think about how such a position would dovetail with my family life and sense of call, I believe that my work would not have the same seasonal peaks, and would also expand my skill set for ministry. Plus, I would love being able to continue this journey alongside you!

The tree outside our Chapel is sensing the shifting sunlight and preparing itself for a change of season.
May God bless the sunlight,
May God bless the season, the change, and our church's ministry.

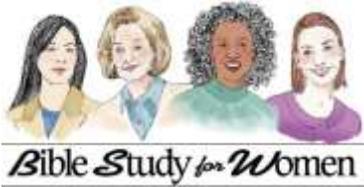


Celebrating a **in November**

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Gianna Gonzales | 14 | Connie Ayers |
| 2 | Judy Rice | 15 | Dale Philips |
| 3 | Wynne Longfellow | 16 | Ron Wessling |
| 4 | Brian Kautz | 17 | Ann Keller |
| 5 | Quinn Curtis | 20 | Audrey Margulis |
| | Daniel Arendt | 22 | Ellen Stillman |
| 6 | Mary Lou Hillberg | 23 | Mark Nelson |
| | Julie Seth | 24 | Keenan Foster |
| 7 | Elise Peterson | 25 | Karna Roa |
| 10 | Irene Bettendorff | 26 | Norm Stupfel |
| | Dan Rasmus | | Pete Emerson |
| 12 | Kristen DelMonte | 27 | David DeSantis |
| | Harry Simms | | AJ Felciano |
| | Pat Furber | 28 | Barbara Whitson |
| | Ben Broadbent | | Elan Sawyer |
| 13 | Debbie McCallum | 29 | Jan Kahdeman |
| | Warren Brisbin | | Stuart Mitchell |
| | | 30 | Amy Furber Dobson |



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays, November 7, 14, & 28 in the Fireside Room at 10 AM following the theme of Suffering and God:

Nov 7 Romans 12:9-21

God in Pain Chapter 5: Feeding the Enemy: An eye for an eye?? Seeking revenge; "The real enemy is not who pushes us down but whatever is inside that wants to push back."

Nov 14 Isaiah 41:9-11 – Hidden Suffering

Minstrel Man, by Langston Hughes

Nov 21 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 28 Matthew 26:14-25; John 13:21-35

God in Pain, Chapter 6: The Betrayer in our midst: The suffering and pain of personal betrayal

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

CALLING ALL NURSERY SUBSTITUTES!

We need to deepen our church's base of Nursery Attendant subs. Substitutes on a list are contacted on an as-needed basis when our regular Nursery Attendants are unavailable to cover a shift (8:45am-12noon on Sundays.) We offer an hourly wage for Nursery substitutes. Qualified candidates have a love for babies & toddlers, work well with a partner, are over 18 and obtain a background check with the church. If you are interested in being a sub in our Nursery, please contact **Pastor Rachel**: rachelknuth@uccseb.org.

HYMN REQUESTS



Minister of Music, Brian Plaughter requests that you take a few moments and jot down the titles of your favorite hymns to help with future worship planning. Please leave a note in the collection plate or let us know in the church office.

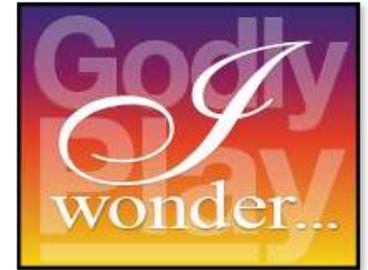
Your Name: _____

Favorite Hymns: _____

GODLY PLAY AT 9:00AM!

Godly Play continues during the Faith Formation Hour, 9:00am-10:15am, in Room 5. Godly Play is a Montessori-based storytelling method, and our program is for children Preschool-5th Grade. Every week, children hear a story, wonder about it, respond to it in art & play, and share a feast. Come join the circle!

Please contact Pastor Rachel:
rachelknuth@uccseb.org.

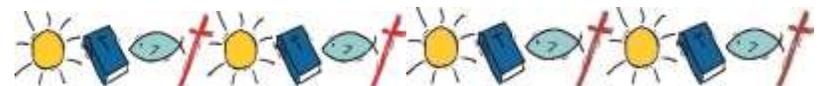


Date	Story	Teachers
9 am Nov 4	The Ark & Tent	Storyteller: Blythe Osner Door Helper: Larry Stallings
9 am Nov 11	The Ark & Temple	Storyteller: Blythe Osner Door Helper: Larry Stallings
9 am Nov 18	The Exile & Return	Storyteller: Blythe Osner Door Helper: Larry Stallings
9 am Nov 25	The Prophets	Storyteller: Blythe Osner Door Helper: Larry Stallings



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Registration Forms

Dear Parents/Guardians of families who participate in our children's programs - the Children's Faith Formation Action Team (ChilFFAT) is aiming to get an accurate roster of children in our children's ministries. Please fill out a Registration Form on the table in the Narthex and leave it in the labeled box. This will enable our team to communicate better with families (and do things like send birthday cards to your children!) Many thanks for filling out this important form! Questions? Contact: rachelknuth@uccseb.org.



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

We're off to a great start in Children's Worship, with guest musicians, gathering chimes, prayer, inspiring art, and Communion! Children's Worship happens after the Children's Message, when children (Preschool-5th grade) and adult leaders continue worshiping in the Chapel. Children's Worship participants return to the Sanctuary before the end of the worship service.

November Music in Children's Worship:

Gathering Song: *Alleluia*

Hymn of the Month: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Centering Prayer Song: *Eat This Bread*

November Art Inspiration: "Embrace of Peace" by George Tooker

Nov 4 Multi-Gen Worship in Sanctuary

Nov 11 Minister: Pastor Rachel

Musician: Denelle Tognozzi Shepherd: Jerry Coleman

Nov 18 Minister: Pastor Jean Boal

Musician: Chris Jenkins & Althea

Shepherd: Terri Harper

Nov 25 Minister: Pastor Rachel

Musician: Judy Hawkins & Rachel Melone

Shepherd: Yolan Christy

JOIN AN AWESOME TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS!

If you are an adult interested in joining the teams who work with our



Godly Play and Children's Worship programs, the Children's Faith Formation Team (ChilFFAT) welcomes your participation!

We're looking for both long-term and short-term volunteers to help sustain our programs. The Children's Faith Formation Team (ChilFFAT) offers training and

information for volunteers. All volunteers who work with children are required to complete a background check. Please contact **Pastor Rachel** for more information about joining our children's program as a volunteer: rachelknuth@uccseb.org



WINTER IS COMING! ... ADVENT IS ON THE HORIZON

Advent Workshop

Our annual tradition of gathering the Sunday after Thanksgiving to prepare for Advent continues on November 25, after Worship. Come and enjoy turkey soup and fellowship, craft a

lovely Advent Wreath for your home, and prepare your spirit for the Advent season! Space is not limited, but we do need your RSVP by November 15th so that the Children's Faith Formation Team and our caterer can set a place for you at the table. RSVP to Becca Emerson in the Church Office.

In order to support the Advent Workshop, we need at least 12 volunteers to step forward by November 11th. Volunteers may sign up for food preparation & craft setup (Sat. 11/24) and for food & craft cleanup (Sun. 11/25). Please sign up using the clipboard in the Church Office, or contact Becca Emerson during church office hours.

Advent Spiral

Save the date for our annual Advent Spiral, December 2 at 5pm in the Chapel. Come and center-down with this silent meditative walk, sponsored by the Children's Faith Formation Team. There will be soft musical accompaniment by Jon Gonzales while each person walks with an apple-candle to the center of the spiral. People of all ages welcome! Please sign up using the clipboard in the Church Office, or contact Becca Emerson during church office hours.

Christmas Pageant

Calling all cast members for a Christmas Pageant, December 24, 4pm! If your child or grandchild would like to participate in our Christmas Pageant this year, please RSVP to Pastor Rachel (rachelknuth@uccseb.org) by November 25th, letting her know:

- Your child's top three choices of parts (Shepherds, Angels, Wise Ones, Joseph, Mary, Donkey, Barn Animals).
- Your child's availability to attend all of the rehearsals
- Your child's preference to have a speaking/non-speaking part

Save the dates for Christmas Pageant Rehearsals: December 9, 16, 23, after church in the Sanctuary.



18TH ANNUAL
**COMMUNITY
 THANKSGIVING
 DINNER**
 November 22

On Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018, join us in Memorial Hall as we help host the 18th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. With the help of Roger & Linda Collins, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner has grown more and more each year and we want to make 2018 the biggest and best yet! Here is how you can help: Call the church office at 823-2484 to sign up to work a 2 hour shift on either Wednesday, November 21 or Thursday, November 22. We need prep work, cooking, serving and cleanup – and there is no age limit – everyone can pitch in!

If you are not available to work on either of those days, another big help to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner is to donate food items or cash. Non-perishable food items can be brought to church on Sunday, November 11 & 18 (potatoes, onions, canned goods, etc.) Checks can be made out to the Community Church with a notation in the memo line: Thanksgiving Dinner.

Who is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner? Anyone who might find themselves eating alone, or may not have the energy or funds to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner is invited. In fact, everyone is invited to our Community Thanksgiving Dinner to share a meal with our neighbors.

Dinners are served from 1-5 PM. We can also arrange for meal delivery or transportation to and from the dinner. Call the church office at 823-2484 to make arrangements.



**NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH:
 A SUBVERSIVE ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday Evenings during Advent
 Led by Pastor Benjamin

Faith Chapel, The Community Church of Sebastopol

Guided by the work of Walter Brueggemann, Pastor Benjamin will lead a 4-week Bible Study on Isaiah 9:6 for those seeking to explore a "sub-version" of the Christmas story, a version that speaks underneath the superficial version touted by dominant culture.

The primary resource, "Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study," by Walter Brueggemann, is not required but may be ordered through Sebastopol's own Copperfield's Books, or online.

4 Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Faith Chapel

- November 27 – "Wonderful Counselor"
- December 4 – "Mighty God"
- December 11 – "Everlasting Father"
- December 18 – "Prince of Peace"

To offer the class, Pastor Benjamin is asking that, by November 18, at least 8 people commit to attend all four sessions. Additional participants are welcome to attend one or more sessions.



WOMEN'S RETREAT WREATH SALES

This holiday season enjoy fresh greens from California in a lovingly hand-crafted Christmas Wreath offered by the Women's Retreat Committee. All proceeds will help with retreat scholarships. Look for more information soon!

GRIEF SUPPORT

Grief Counselors Harry & Susanna Simms are available on an on-call basis to help with the pain of grief. Losing a loved one, whether it be a recent loss, or from years past, can be difficult to process. Please contact Harry or Susanna at 707.829.7769 to make arrangements to meet in either a group setting, or one on one.



ALTERNATIVE GIFTS

Mission & Outreach will be passing out the Alternative Gift Catalogs in November. The catalogs will also be available in the entryway and in the church office.



The Alternative Gifts International is a collection of products or services that allows you to donate in honor of your gift recipient. When you make a purchase from the Alternative Gifts catalog, you receive a gift card to present, explaining about the alternative gift you have purchased in their name. Through your Alternative Gifts purchase you can honor your gift recipient by giving someone in desperate need a flock of chickens, eye surgery, a month of care for an orphan or clean water, all given in their name. Pick up a catalog and let your imagination go!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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, November 14 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, November 19 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!

MEN'S GROUP MONTHLY MEETING: NOVEMBER 7

Please join us on the first Wednesday of the month. We meet at 5:30 pm for dinner & discussion in the Media Room. The group will engage in a series of prayer, study, and common action. No reservations needed – see you on November 7. Contact *Larry Stallings* with any questions 650.283.0941. Sign up on Sundays on the clipboard in the church's Narthex, or during the week in the Church 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.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 16.

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 16.





MISSION & OUTREACH

The committee for Mission & Outreach meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. You may contact our Mission & Outreach team by email: outreach@uccseb.org.

The next meeting for Mission & Outreach will be on November 12 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. Become part of something big – join Mission & Outreach!

Snack Bags

Mission & Outreach invites you to participate in our Snack Bag program where we provide snack items to those who might not know where their next meal is coming from. Single servings of crackers, peanut butter, juice, tuna, canned fruit and other snack items, can be brought to the church office.

Saturday Table

On the second Saturday of each month, Mission & Outreach serves lunch in Fellowship Hall to our local homeless population. In addition to offering a hot meal, we also offer showers and bus passes. If you would like to contribute to this effort, there are several ways to help:

- ❖ Cash and check can be made out to the Community Church and designated for the homeless lunch
- ❖ Soaps, shampoos and conditioner in sample or motel sizes
- ❖ Thick tube socks, sweat shirts, jackets, etc.
- ❖ Men's walking/athletic shoes or boots
- ❖ Tarps, rain ponchos, back packs
- ❖ Disposable razors and shaving cream
- ❖ Packaged toothbrushes & toothpaste
- ❖ Hand sanitizer, Chapstick, insect repellent and sun screen
- ❖ "Baby Wipes" or similar product

Winter rains and cold weather are just around the corner and we need a supply of warm coats and socks – the items that are in the greatest demand. If you have small tent or sleeping bag to donate, we can find a good home for those items as well. Items do not have to be new, but they must be usable and clean. Look for the collection bin in the church entry to drop off your donations. Monetary donations should

be left in the church office. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249 or the church office at 823-2484.

Interfaith Food Pantry

The Interfaith Food Pantry is in need of food distribution volunteers for Saturdays.

This opportunity requires a commitment of only 2 hours a month. Working at the pantry is a great chance for individuals and families to participate in a much needed local charity. All those interested can contact Mission and Outreach at outreach@uccseb.org or Mark Albin at 707-829-1492.



Shoebox Ministry

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

Shoebboxes 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. 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

Our tree will be also be decorated – the Mission and Outreach Committee is working on what those decorations will be. Stay tuned for future announcements!

Neighbors In Need

The Community Church of Sebastopol Neighbors in Need special offering in support of justice work in the United Church of Christ totaled: \$1,988. Thank you to all who participated!

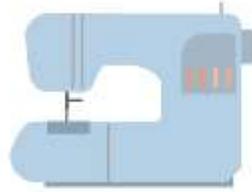
Sewing Machines in Zambia

Our Mission and Outreach team worked together with Erin Butterfield to send funds for sewing machines to a community in Zambia. Erin writes with an update:

Hi all,

Firstly, I want to thank you so much for your generosity and commitment to this project.

One electronic sewing machine and one foot operated sewing machine have been purchased by the school in my village in Zambia. The PTA and community agreed to contribute the supplies to the project if the



school purchased the machines. I have not yet received pictures of the supplies for pad making, but I have received confirmation that they've been procured. This is amazing and it's going to make a huge difference for the girls and women in the community!!

Below are some excerpts from various people who have been in contact with me throughout this project:

-The rural girl child will improve their livelihood and it will be a milestone for this school.

-Thank you for your caring and support always manifested to this school. Your usual cooperation and support is highly appreciated dearest teacher of all seasons. We appreciate your church and your community in California and thank God for them.

-Thank you so much for this gesture extended to us and we are assured of your love and passion you and your church in America have for this school community and general community and we will go as discussed and planned.

-Keep it up and May God the Almighty continue to be blessing you and your family and church goes in all daily endeavors. Thank you so much Ba Erin, may God the Almighty Father reward, compensate and reward you positively dearest teacher.

They are clearly very blessed and grateful! Also here are some pictures of the machines. Sorry for the low quality.

Thank you so much again, and stay in touch!!

With gratitude,

Erin

NEW STAFF, NEW SCHEDULES

By Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

This fall we've had two significant staff changes. At the end of August, Keith Blackstone, our Church Custodian for the past 8 years, retired. And at the end of October, Karin Seder, our Office Manager for the past 18 years, retired. Big losses for our congregation! However, thanks to the hard work and wisdom of our Personnel Committee, we have hired two very capable replacements. I'd like to introduce you to these new staff people and share some new schedules.

Church Custodian

Maria Mojica began as our Church Custodian at the end of August. Maria lives in Santa Rosa, has four children, and brings over 12 years of experience as a professional cleaner. In her short time with us, she has organized our custodial areas and provided both routine and detail cleaning to many parts of our facility. She is still in the process of becoming acquainted with our rather vast campus, but she learns quickly and takes pride in her work. Maria is bilingual in Spanish and English, a great skill for the diverse population we serve.

New Custodian Schedule:

Friday – Tuesday in the afternoons and evenings, generally 12:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Congregational Administrator

Becca Emerson trained with Karin during the month of October. Becca is a member of our church and lives in Santa Rosa with her husband and four kids. Becca has professional experience in two other churches and brings to us a knowledge of computer systems, non-profit administration, and interfacing with the public. We are changing the title of the position from "Office Manager" to "Congregational Administrator" to accurately reflect the scope of the responsibilities.

New Office Schedule:

Starting in November, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.



OWL

OUR WHOLE LIVES/SEXUALITY & OUR FAITH

8th & 9th Grade OWL continues with Co-Facilitators Andy DelMonte and Kendall Tripathi-Clark on the following dates and times.

8th & 9th Grade OWL Schedule:

Date	Session	Time	Topic
Sunday, 11/4*	Session 17	12-2pm	18. Consent Education
Sunday, 11/11	Session 18	12-2pm	Pornography Workshop from Sexuality & Our Faith
Sunday, 11/18	Session 19	12-2pm	19. Sexually Transmitted Infections
Sunday 11/24	Thanksgiving Break	No Class	

*Parent Preview Class also meets in the Chapel on Nov 4th, 12-2pm

**Youth News – J-Walking in November:
Doing Justice the Jesus Way**

Middle School Youth Group
(Grades 6-8)
Sundays 9:00-10:15AM
Youth Lounge

High School Youth Group
(Grades 9-12)
Nov 7
Time and Location TBA

LGBTQ+TEEN & ALLIES

Gather for Board Game Nite, Fri, December 7, 7-9 pm in the Media Room. Snacks, beverages and fun! All teens welcome. Sponsored by our local Girl Scout troop. Contact **Jennifer** for more info: 707.696.2424.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers for Barbara Nichols' niece **Shannon**, recovering from illness; **Barbara Zimmer**, recovering from surgery; **Judy Stupfel**, recovering from hand surgery; **Cindy Stearns**, recovering from cancer-related surgery; **Yvette Morris**, recovering from illness; **Glenda Elvy** in skilled nursing; **Dick Norton**, facing cancer treatments; and for all those effected by natural disasters, now and in the past.

Condolences for the family & friends of **Babetta Wilson**, who died October 6; the family of **Bob Gordon**, who passed away recently and whose service will be held November 18 at 2:00pm.

Congratulations to **Daniel Garcia & Mallory Boggs**, married in October; **Bernie Hovden & Alicia Sanchez** on the arrival of a granddaughter, **Vida**, born October 13 to **Salvador & Rebecca**.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Muriel Weaver** for her artwork on our bulletin covers, her display in the narthex, and for preparing our visitor bags! Thank you to **Joanne Matson** for her weekly help in the office – such a treat! ☺ Thank you to **Barbara Wilson, Barbara Deedler, Jerry Coleman, Norma Watson, and Irma Bachelor** for washing our shower towels. ☺. Thank you to **Jane Austin** for cleaning and stocking the pews each week in preparation for Sunday Worship. ☺ Thank you to **Keenan & Patty Foster**, and **Bob Holland** for their continued garden care! ☺

Dear Friends,
Once again Betty and I want to thank Pastor Benjamin, the Leadership Council and all of you for the great honor you conferred upon me in naming me Pastor Emeritus. I continue to be deeply moved by your kindness and by the wonderful welcome we received on the 14th, both from church members whom we knew and from new church members we met for the first time. The Community Church has always held a special place in our hearts and now a new chapter opens in our relationship. For that we are both so very grateful.
Faithfully,
Gene and Betty

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8th/9th Grade OWL Retreat 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 9:00 AM K/1 Grade OWL 10:30 AM Community Worship-New Members Joining 10:45 AM Children's Worship 12:00 PM Karin's Farewell Luncheon	29	30 5:00 PM Budget Committee	31 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	1 5:00 PM Stewardship Calling Night 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	2 10:00 AM UkeStars	3
4 All Saints/Souls Sunday Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 10:30 AM Multi-Gen Worship & Communion 12:00 PM 8th/9th Grade OWL & Parent gathering 12:00 PM Pastor Chat 12:00 PM Youth Ministry Team	5	6 Election Day	7 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble 5:30 PM Men's Dinner & Discussion Group	8 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	9 10:00 AM UkeStars	10 11:30 AM 2nd Saturday Lunch
11 Gratitude Sunday 8:45 AM Nursery Care 9:00 AM Faith Formation Hour - see below 9:30 AM FIAT 10:30 AM Community Worship 10:45 AM Children's Worship 11:45 AM Pastor-Parish Relations Team 12:00 PM 8th/9th Grade OWL	12 7:00 PM Mission & Outreach	13	14 10:00 AM Staff Team 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 3:00 PM Women's Fellowship Card-Writing Ministry 4:30 PM Handbell Ensemble	15 6:00 PM Stewardship Follow-up Calling Night 7:15 PM Chancel Choir	16 10:00 AM UkeStars	17 10:00 AM Remembrance of Donna Tappan 10:00 AM Fall Gathering of Golden Gate Association, UCC, San Carlos
18 Thanksgiving 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 12:00 PM 8th/9th Grade OWL 2:00 PM Bob Gordon Memorial Service	19 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	20 7:00 PM Health and Safety Task Force	21 10:00 AM Staff Team	22 1:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner	23 10:00 AM UkeStars	24
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 12:00 PM Advent Workshop	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

Faith Formation Hour @ 9 am Sundays

Godly Play, Pre-School-Grade 5, Rooms 5 & 6
 Middle School Youth, Grades 6-8, Youth Lounge
 Sunday Bible Class, Adults, Fireside Room

Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 4
