Salt & Light

Community Church of Sebastopol

February 2019 Newsletter

From the Pastor… What is Faith Formation?

By Pastor Benjamin

I met recently with our church's Search Committee to share what is meant by the term "Faith Formation." This is particularly important right now as we seek to call a new Associate Minister of Faith Formation, who will provide pastoral leadership to people of all ages, concentrating primarily on Children (Birth – 5th Grade), Youth (Grades 6 – 9), and their families, but also supporting Adult faith formation programs.

Simply put, Faith Formation is a newer way of talking about Christian Education with some important emphases:

- Faith Formation programs are meant to help form people of all ages and life stages in the Christian faith.
- Faith Formation includes education, but also happens in worship, through serving others, while making music, and by sharing fellowship in groups of any size.
- Faith Formation means that faith isn't something you either do or don't have; faith is nurtured over time and is a life-long process.
- Finally, Faith Formation is not just programs. People in the church are always being formed in the faith by the work (and play) of the Holy Spirit

To learn more about Faith Formation…

- Visit the United Church of Christ website: *www.ucc.org/education*
- Read about the work of John Roberto, the foremost expert: *www.lifelongfaith.com*
- Read "Faith Formation for Vital Congregations" by Marian Plant: *www.uccresources.com/products/faith-formation-in-vital-congregations-plant*

Focus Groups with the Search Committee for Associate Minister for Faith Formation

By Kristen DelMonte

The Search Committee for a new full-time Associate Minister for Faith Formation invites you to join one of our focus groups in February.

- Youth and Parents of Youth can meet with the search committee Sunday, February 10, 9:00 am in the Youth Lounge.
- Parents of Children (grades 5 and younger) can drop their children off in Faith Formation Hour classes and meet with the search committee Sunday February 24, 9:00 am in Faith Chapel.
- All others interested in Faith Formation can meet with the search committee following worship Sunday February 24, 12:00 pm in the Media Room.

We look forward to meeting with you and hearing your perspective!

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WORSHIP AND THE BALCONY VIEW

February 2019 Worship

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

February 3 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Today we celebrate Holy Communion and Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on Luke 4: 21 – 30 entitled "The Most Offensive Sermon Ever."

February 10 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany / Evolution Sunday

Today Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 5: 1 – 11 entitled "Fishing for People?"

February 17 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Today Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 6: 17 – 26 entitled "Beatitudes & Woeitudes."

February 24 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany / Seminary Sunday

Today our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Emily Syal, preaches a sermon on Luke 6:27 – 38 entitled "The Most Difficult Kind of Love."

Coming in March… Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, the first 4 Sundays in Lent, Daylight Savings Time begins (March 10), One Great Hour of Sharing special offering

Lenten Bread Bakers

The worship committee is seeking Bread Bakers to make the communion loaves for the Sundays during Lent. Contact Joanne Matson, *707.823.5249* if you would like to help.

The Balcony View

By Michael Ott, Moderator

The winter landscape is beautiful. Have you noticed how much more of the world is visible with bare limbs and branches not able to hide it? Landscape and structure normally hidden from view are suddenly revealed. This reminds me of how our Leadership Council feels at the start of 2019. We embarked on a new journey mid-year 2018 with a changed council format and new people in leadership positions. As we listened to each other and worked and prayed together, our understanding of where we are as a congregation and a vision of what we can be as a congregation is even now being unveiled.

The beauty of the winter landscape and the anticipation of spring stirs me to adopt a more positive view of our world. I am reminded of Robert Browning's optimistic Pippa's Song:

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his heaven—
All's right with the world!

The Leadership Council and I are extremely optimistic for 2019 and beyond. We have new leadership in Children's and Pastoral Care ministries, and the exciting prospect of a new Associate Minister of Faith Formation on the horizon. The congregation is increasingly involved in all sorts of passionate ministry in our church and in the wider community. Yes, God is in his heaven and with us as we continue to be moved by our faith to new and greater things in our church community.

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

Children Welcome in Worship (*Always!*), *and Especially this Spring*

Children's Worship is taking a break, from February through May.

Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are warmly included as full participants in worship--always!--and especially from February through May, when Children's Worship will be on "pause." To support the children's participation as they remain in worship, we'll be expanding the Worship Tools table, and supporting parents as they assist their children in engaging in the worship service. We'll also be opening the Nursery for children up through Kindergarten-age.

All adults, whether they are parents of young children or not, can be an ally to children in the pews. Being an ally can mean helping children follow along with the hymns, giving them encouraging smiles, and welcoming them as they bring their whole selves into the worship service. Be on the lookout for a blue card with "ways to be an ally to children" in your pew Bible.

Godly Play

Godly Play happens in Room 5 during the Faith Formation Hour, 9:00-10:15am. Godly Play is a Montessori-based storytelling method that engages children's imaginations and invites them to wonder about Bible stories. The children hear a story told with beautifully crafted wooden pieces, then "respond" to the story in art and play. After cleaning up and washing hands, the group celebrates with a "feast" (Gluten-Free matzoh crackers and water.) Children in Preschool through 3rd Grade are welcome to join the wonder circle!

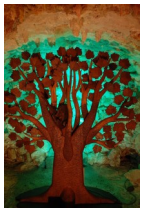
	Story	Storyteller	Door Helper
Feb 3	Parable of Great Pearl	Mike Ott	Leslie Wood
Feb 10	Parable of Sower	Ann Butterfield	Mike Ott
Feb 17	Parable of Leaven	Michael Ott	Ann Butterfield
Feb 24	Parable of Mustard Seed	Ann Butterfield	Mike Ott

February Faith Formation Class for 4th & 5th Graders

Calling all 4th & 5th Graders!

There will be a special Faith Formation class just for you in February! "Eating with Jesus" will focus on four stories from Luke:

- Feeding of the 5000
- Hospitality at Mary & Martha's
- The Parable of the Great Dinner
- Zacchaeus.



Each week we will be discussing a different story and maybe doing a little eating ourselves! No need to sign up ahead of time - just come to classroom 6 at the regular 9:00 Faith Formation hour.

Questions? Contact ***Julie Reimer*** at *childrensministry@uccseb.org.*

Conference Wide Youth Retreats in February

Blue Theology Retreat Middle School (grades 6-8) youth are now welcome to sign up for the Blue Theology Retreat happening on February 16-18 in Pacific Grove. This retreat is filling up fast! The sooner you sign up, the better. For information about how to sign up, please contact ***Emily***.

Feb Camp High School (grades 9-12) youth are now welcome to sign up for Feb Camp happening on February 16-18 at Monte Toyon. For information about how to sign up, please contact Emily.

Youth SALT (Serving And Learning Together) Trips Registration

Final Call to sign up to participate in the Middle School or High School SALT trips. Registration and deposits must be received by February 24th or you will not be able to participate. Contact ***Emily*** for more information, *youthministries@uccseb.org.*

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council met on December 16.

A summary of our discussion and action topics are described below.

Financial Reports: The overall financial picture is still healthy and the year is likely to end with a surplus. Some Memorial fund accounts have been inactive and it is possible that grants requesting funds from these accounts could be made to fund other projects.

Budget: The 2019 budget is close to being funded. The Budget Committee made several adjustments as noted last month (reducing the Associate Minister for Faith Formation package in 2019 to 5 months, reducing Pastor Rachel's time by 5 hours per week and having church volunteers take over campus landscaping). Also, the church received a special one-time pledge gift in December that would be included in the 2019 pledge total. The adjustments, the pledge gift and the availability of reserves not yet used would balance the 2019 budget.

Associate Minister for Faith Formation Search Committee: The committee has begun the search process and will meet with the Conference Minister in January. Meetings are planned with special groups to hear their needs and concerns. A revised draft of the job description was sent to Council members for review.

Articles of Incorporation: Our insurance company, Church West, has a legal team that is available to perform a no-cost review of any of our legal documents. With their help, the Council will bring our Articles of Incorporation up to date.

Administrative Processes: Our new Congregational Administrator Becca Emerson has made changes to the formatting of the newsletter and will now send the newsletter via email unless a mailed copy is requested. Copies will also be available in the church office and in the narthex during church services for those who want the print version. She is also phasing out the post office box and receiving all mail at the church's street address. She is reviewing how the various outside groups use our facilities. It was discovered that some groups have contracts and some do not. The goal is to make sure that all outside groups have contracts and are paying an appropriate, fair amount for the use of the facilities.

Recruiting Committee and Team Members: The Nominating Committee's role has changed. It is now their task to find candidates for the Leadership Council and the Nominating Committee. Each Ministry Area team and committee is responsible for filling their own vacancies and deciding on terms of service. This includes conversations about who is staying or leaving and how many people are needed on their team/committee.

Annual Reports: Each committee or team chair is responsible for providing information about their team/committee's actions in 2018 and sending them to their Ministry Area Council member. Each Council member will provide the church office with a full 2018 report on their area by January 6.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held after church on Sunday, January 27. There will be a potluck lunch served. Agenda items will include Budget, Search Committee, Facility projects-past and future, and a Mission and Outreach report.

Care and Fellowship: Kathy Matthies will lead the organization of the potluck luncheon for the Annual Meeting. The Women's Retreat is scheduled in January. There have been 17 prayer shawls delivered. Care and Fellowship concerns to be addressed include reinforcement of Kindred groups and volunteer shortages for Sunday morning needs.

Leadership Council Report Continues on p. 5

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CONTINUED

Care and Fellowship: Kathy Matthies will lead the organization of the potluck luncheon for the Annual Meeting. The Women's Retreat is scheduled in January. There have been 17 prayer shawls delivered. Care and Fellowship concerns to be addressed include reinforcement of Kindred groups and volunteer shortages for Sunday morning needs.

Facilities: The shower floor replacement in Memorial Hall has been completed. The Memorial Hall kitchen renovation is complete. The hot water heater in Fellowship Hall has been replaced. The roses on campus have been pruned for winter. Tree limbs above the north stair entrance have been trimmed. The next project is to clean gutters. The Safety and Security Team will be creating safety check lists and coordinating with regional disaster leaders. There was a recent insurance review to ensure our facilities are adequately covered.

Faith Formation: Changes are coming with the CHILFFAT (Children's Faith Formation Team). The nursery will expand to include kindergarten age children. There will be no Children's Worship in the chapel this Spring. More worship tools available for children to use during church service as they sit with their parents now that Children's Worship will not happen during church service. Julie Reimer is new Child Ministry Coordinator and is developing some great ideas for the future. The Youth committee is having difficulty filling vacancies and Debbie McCallum is stepping down as chair. Adult Education will have a leadership vacancy with Gail Thomas leaving that chair position at the end of 2019. Contact Linda Inman if you have an interest in participating in or leading youth or adult ministries.

Finance: Council approved two grant requests from Memorial and Endowment funds. One request was for $3,320 to fund the floor project in Memorial Hall. The other request was for $500 for the AED's that were purchased and installed on the church campus recently.

Outreach: 40 gift cards were donated by the congregation to support Verity during Advent giving. 127 filled and wrapped shoe boxes were collected and distributed to Catholic Charities. Five more shoe boxes were given to second Saturday lunch guests. Fifty-seven of the boxes were prepared by Analy High and Hillcrest Middle School students under the direction of Josephine Nirmala.

A portion of the Christmas Eve offering went to Nueva Esperanza Church in Mesa, Arizona. The church helps as many as 130 migrant people weekly that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) can't keep in custody and deliver to their doorstep.

Personnel: Maria, our new custodian, received a glowing 90-day review.

Worship and Arts: A special concert by the handbell ensemble Velocity will be held in the sanctuary on January 6th at 4pm. Their performances blend a unique style of humor, scripting and handbell ringing at its best.

The congregation is invited to discuss these items as well as any other issues, concerns, ideas or appreciations to any of the Council Members. The Council Members are:

Nancy Shimetz – Moderator
Larry Stallings – Council Officer for Facilities
John Henel – Council Officer for Finances
Kathy Bell – Council Officer for Personnel
Bobbie Johanson – Council Member for Care and Fellowship
Linda Inman – Council Member for Faith Formation
Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts
Michael Ott – Council Member for Outreach

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

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 Care Card Ministry meets on the second Wednesday of the month and our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the third Monday of each month.

Wednesday, February 13 at 3:00 pm
Card writers meet in the Women's Fellowship office with your favorite pen. Thank you to the January card writers!

Monday, February 18 at 10:00 am
Meet in the Fireside Room to share patterns, build fellowship and knit or crochet prayerfully together. Call ***Joanne Matson*** at *707.823.5249* or Chris ***Jenkins*** at *707.829.2230* for more information.

Please join us – we'd love to see you!

Women's Bible Study

By Joanne Matson

All women are invited to join the weekly Bible Study in the Fireside Room, Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

The February schedule is:

Feb. 6: Resume Study of God in Pain: **Chapter 10**: Unless a Grain of Wheat: the redemptive power of suffering. Page 61; Scripture: John 12: 20-33

Feb. 13: God in Pain, **Chapter 11:** The Dress Rehearsal: Trusting Resurrection. Page 66; Scripture: John 11: 1-44; Psalm 121.

February 20: **No Bible Study**

Feb 27: **Chapter 12:** Surviving Crucifixion: How is resurrection woven into our lives? 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; page 71

Contact ***Joanne Matson,*** 707.823.5249 with questions.

Mission & Outreach Right Here at Community Church

By Becca Emerson

Before working as Congregational Administrator at Community Church I didn't know how much happened outside of Sunday mornings. I had heard a bit about showers and snacks, I knew about the special offerings and shoe boxes, and I knew some 12-step groups met in some of our rooms. I was shocked to find out how much happens during the rest of the week at Community Church. Did you know:

- We host dozens of 12-step group meetings each week from AA to Al-Anon, FA to CODA, Women's groups, Young Adult Groups, early morning groups, and late evening groups. I have heard on more than one occasion that lives have been saved in those meetings on our campus.
- We provide shower facilities, towels, and basic toiletries to many un-housed and under-housed people three mornings each week including those traveling through, a family with a baby, people on their way to work, people camping wherever they can find a spot out of the rain, people living in a car, and people living in a room with no access to a shower.
- We give out bus passes to anyone who comes in and asks for one and there are regulars who come in once or twice a week and others who just need a little extra help this week.
- We have a self-serve cupboard in the office with snacks, socks, and rain ponchos for people to access any time the office is open and there are some people who rely on that cupboard to fill in the gaps.
- We host a Safe Parking Program of referred guests from Catholic Charities. We currently are full with four overnight parking guests who have been vetted to ensure that our space and our other guests are all safe.
- We rent our facilities to Non-Profit Organizations at a greatly reduced rate to hold fundraisers and community events making their work in the community more effective.

If you have ever wondered if Community Church is walking the talk, then come spend a week volunteering in the office!

OFFICE & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter and Bulletin Submissions

If you have something you would like to have published in the March Newsletter, please submit a full article (100 words or less) in final draft form by February 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.

Office Hours

The office is open Monday—Friday, 9:00am-2:30pm.

This month the office will be closed on February 18 in observance of President's Day.

Malone Family Adventure

The Malone Family (with all four daughters) will be hiking the 2000+ mile Appalachian trail. Their goal is service, education, and adventure. Hear how you can be involved February 1 at 6:00 pm in Memorial Hall. To learn more, visit their website at *www.awaking-dreams.com*.

Thank You

Thank you to the ***Facilities Team*** for their enthusiasm for all projects, big and small that keep our campus in good condition! Special thanks for the crew of ***Tom Terry***, ***Roger Wilson***, ***Kim Buckman***, and ***Larry Stallings***, who spent a day cleaning out a big buildup of debris in our gutters. Thank you to ***Steve Beck*** for volunteering to enter the attendance in the database every week in the office! Thank you to ***Bobbie Johanson*** for coordinating ushers throughout the month of January and being super punctual with updates for the bulletin! Thank you to ***Sharon and Dennis Olson*** for overseeing the fellowship hour each Sunday to the delight of many! Thank you to ***Karna*** and ***Linda Roa*** for arranging to host the Velocity Bell Choir in worship and for a fantastic concert! Thank you to ***Bruce Matson*** for keeping the church van alive one more year! Thank you to ***The Safe Parking Team*** and especially ***Gary Bachelor*** during an extra eventful month!

February Birthdays

4	Nathan Knuth
	Terry Beck
5	Laura Pearsall
7	Barbara Wilson
11	Kathie Mayhew
14	Sandy Hendrickson
	Jennifer Halleck
	Kiley Clark
15	Joan Carter
	Martha Kautz
	Brian Wetzel
17	Bella Emerson
19	John Henel
	Donna McPherson
23	Jean Boal
	Judy Davison
24	Sophie Sherman
26	Pam Ammondson
	Margaux Jame
27	Nancy Mathews

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for ***Glenda Elvy,*** recently hospitalized; ***Barbara Wilson***, in skilled nursing beginning treatments for cancer; ***Barbara Zimmer***, facing a recurrence of cancer; ***Muriel Weaver,*** recovering from surgery; ***Jim & Chris Jenkins***, grieving the death of Jim's mother; ***Corrine Kauwe***, recovering from hospitalization; ***Lynn Deedler***, recovering from knee replacement surgery, ***Ross Galleto***, deploying oversees; ***The Honduran Immigrant Family***, recently arrived in Sonoma County.

Condolences to the family & friends of ***Roger Collins***, who died January 10.

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 ***3rd Sunday after Epiphany*** **8:45 AM** Nursery Care **9:00 AM** 4th & 5th Grade Sacraments **9:00 AM** Faith Formation - see below **10:30 AM** Community Worship **10:45 AM** Children's Worship **12:00 PM** Annual Meeting	28	29	30 **10:00 AM** Staff Team **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study	31 **4:30 PM** Women's Retreat Committee **7:15 PM** Chancel Choir	1 **10:00 AM** UkeStars	2
3 ***4th Sunday after Epiphany*** **8:45 AM** Nursery Care **9:00 AM** Faith Formation - see below **10:30 AM** Multi-Gen Worship w/ Holy Communion **11:45 AM** SALT Trip Informational Meeting **11:45 AM** Search Committee	4	5	6 **10:00 AM** Staff Team **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **4:45 PM** Handbell Ensemble **7:00 PM** Men's Group	7 **7:15 PM** Chancel Choir	8 **10:00 AM** UkeStars	9 **11:30 AM** 2nd Saturday Lunch
10 ***Evolution Sunday*** **8:45 AM** Nursery Care **9:00 AM** Faith Formation - see below **9:00 AM** Search Committee Focus Group Youth & Parents **10:30 AM** Community Worship **11:45 AM** Search Committee **12:00 PM** Pastor Chat **4:00 PM** CHilFFAT Meeting	11 **7:00 PM** Mission & Outreach	12 **4:00 PM** L.M. Pastor-Parish Relations Team	13 **10:00 AM** Staff Team **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **3:00 PM** Card Writing Ministry **4:45 PM** Handbell Ensemble	14 **7:15 PM** Chancel Choir	15 **10:00 AM** UkeStars	16 Blue Theology Retreat (Middle School) Feb Camp (High School)
17 ***6th Sunday after Epiphany*** Blue Theology Retreat (Middle School) Feb Camp (High School) **8:45 AM** Nursery Care **9:00 AM** Faith Formation - see below **10:30 AM** Community Worship **11:45 AM** Search Committee	18 Church Office Closed **10:00 AM** Prayer Shawl Group	19 **7:00 PM** Health & Safety Task Force	20 **10:00 AM** Staff Team **4:45 PM** Handbell Ensemble **6:30 PM** Leadership Council	21 **7:15 PM** Chancel Choir	22 **10:00 AM** UkeStars	23
24 ***Seminary Sunday*** **8:45 AM** Nursery Care **9:00 AM** Faith Formation - see below **9:00 AM** Search Committee Focus Group Parents **10:30 AM** Community Worship **11:45 AM** Search Committee	25	26	27 **10:00 AM** Staff Team **10:00 AM** Women's Bible Study **4:45 PM** Handbell Ensemble	28 **7:15 PM** Chancel Choir	1 **10:00 AM** UkeStars	2

Faith Formation Hour @ 9 am Sundays

- Godly Play, Pre-School-Grade 3, Room 5
- Feb Faith Formation for 4th & 5th Grade, Room 6
- Middle School Youth, Grades 6-8, Youth Lounge
- Sunday Bible Class, Adults, Fireside Room

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