

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

**The Community Church
of Sebastopol
United Church of Christ**

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Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J.
Broadbent

**Assoc. Minister for
Congregational Care**

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Minister of Music

Rev. Brian Plaughter

**Youth Ministry
Coordinator**

Emily Syal

**Children's Ministry
Coordinator**

Julie Reimer

Handbell Ensemble

Director

Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

**Congregational
Administrator**

Becca Emerson

Bookkeeper

Jennifer Halleck

Custodian

Maria Mojica

FROM THE PASTOR... YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE GOOD

By Pastor Benjamin

I was in college the first time I read Mary Oliver's poem, *Wild Geese*. In a poetry class, I read the line, "You do not have to be good." These words struck me as equally repulsive and attractive. Repulsive because I was working my butt off in school to "be good" – good in my classes, good in social circles, good at managing the meager budget I was living on. What do you mean, "you don't have to be good?" Isn't being good the whole point?

But "you don't have to be good" was also a glorious permission to be myself without having to perform or impress. Oliver's poem acknowledges the shared despair of being human, including the despair at never being good enough: "Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell you mine." Midway through the poem, she introduces a beautiful word, "meanwhile." We worry and compete, struggle and despair... "meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again."

This year during Lent we will be hearing some of the poetry of Mary Oliver, who "headed home" in January. Perhaps her poetry can help transform our understanding of Lent from a season of trying our damndest to get right with God to a season of "meanwhile." Stepping off the treadmill of self-preoccupation and comparison to others, perhaps this Lent you might be able to still your nerves enough to notice that "the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting – over and over announcing your place in the family of things."



**SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE EVENT
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Sonoma County Pride Event happens on June 1. Last year, we joined two other UCC churches in the parade and had so much fun. This year, we need 1 - 3 volunteers to coordinate our church's participation. If you feel inspired, contact Pastor Benjamin by April 15.



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WORSHIP AND THE BALCONY VIEW

MARCH 2019 WORSHIP

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

March 3 – Transfiguration Sunday

On this last Sunday of Epiphany, we gather for multi-generational worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Rachel returns, a jazz ensemble provides Mardi Gras-style music, and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 9: 28 – 36 entitled “Eight Days a Week?”

SEASON OF LENT

For the 40 days of Lent, we will be following the “Poetry of Lent” devotional available in booklet form in the Narthex. We will be guided by the poetry of Mary Oliver, who died in January, and by scripture readings from the Gospel of Luke.



March 6 – Ash Wednesday – 6:00 pm



Contemplative worship for all ages in the sanctuary. Come experience silences, candlelight, readings, and the imposition of ashes – ashes from last year’s Palm Sunday palms are placed in the form of a cross upon the foreheads or hands with the words: “Child of God, from dust you have come and to dust you shall return.”

March 10 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Daylight Savings time begins as we start our Lenten series with the story of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4: 1 – 13) and Mary Oliver’s poem, “Wild Geese.”



March 17 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Today we enter the story of Jesus’ lament over Jerusalem and hear the Mary Oliver poem “In Blackwater Woods.”

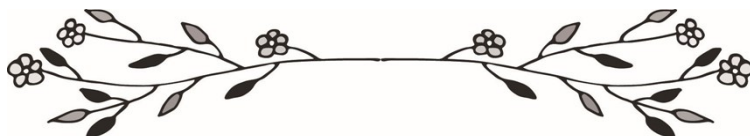
March 24 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Today our Minister of Music, Rev. Brian Plaugher, preaches on the Parable of the Barren Fig (Luke 13: 6 – 9) and we hear Oliver’s poem “Where does the temple begin, where does it end?”



March 31 – 4th Sunday of Lent

Today we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, Pastor Benjamin preaches on the parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son, and we hear the poem by Mary Oliver, “Some Questions You Might Ask.”



THE BALCONY VIEW... PREPARING FOR LEADERSHIP

By Michael Ott, Moderator

We recently listened to Pastor Benjamin preach about Jesus and the call of the first disciples. He said to Simon Peter “Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching people.” Ronald J. Allen writes that Luke uses this story to certify the leadership of Peter and the apostles. Jesus chooses these poor uneducated fishermen to follow Him and become leaders in His ministry even after Peter pleads unworthiness to be in His presence. Why them? Why us?

Leaders create an exciting vision of the future and motivate and inspire people to engage with that vision. I believe leadership begins with passion – passion about something you love, and love so much that you want to share it, grow it, engage others with it.

Pamela Cooper-White writes “God finds us where ever we are, whatever we are doing and shows us something, often with the very materials of our everyday lives and work.

What has God shown you to be passionate about? What has God given you that you can share? Can you bring that one passionate thing, lead it to our church and share it? Don’t be afraid. We are leadership-worthy. Why? Because Jesus is in the boat with us. As Moderator, it is my hope that leadership in our church will grow in abundance, in ways that we can’t now even imagine.



YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SALT TRIPS

By Emily Syal, Youth Ministry Coordinator

The season of preparing for our year-end SALT trips is upon us. Our middle school youth will be serving and learning from communities engaged in food justice work throughout the Bay Area over Memorial Day weekend. Our high school youth will be partnering with, serving, and learning from communities at Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota from June 21-29. Aren't our young people so amazing?!



Apart from marveling at our amazing youth right at this moment, you may also be wondering why I have chosen to call the year-end mission trips SALT trips. If you weren't wondering, I bet you are now!

SALT: Serving and Learning Together. I believe that serving and learning go hand-in-hand. It is important to learn why we are engaging in service. As our young people prepare for their trips, they will be diving deep into understanding the causes and conditions that have allowed for food injustice to arise. They will be engaging with our country's ongoing history of broken treaties and broken relationships with Native American peoples. By learning from communities who are suffering from food injustice, and learning from our Native American communities, service becomes less of a one-sided affair. Instead, it becomes a partnership.

Lilla Watson, a Murri (indigenous Australian) and advocate for indigenous rights has said, "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come here because your liberation is bound up in mine, then let us work together." I had our high school youth consider this quote as we were discerning where to go for the year-end SALT trip. I now leave it for you to ponder. Lilla's quote helps us to see service as less of a one-sided affair and instead helps us to understand service as a partnership aiding in the mutual flourishing of all people.

In preparation for their SALT trip to Standing Rock, the high school youth will be watching the film *Smoke Signals*, a film about two young Coeur d'alene Native Americans who head off on a road trip. They will be hosting a Congregational Dinner and Movie Night on Saturday, March 23rd! That's right! You will be invited to a wonderful night of dinner and watching *Smoke Signals* all hosted by our high school youth. After the film, the youth will help to facilitate a discussion. Please mark your calendars and come out to support our youth!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is coming this summer! Mark your calendars! Invite your friends, grandchildren, neighbors, etc. to come participate in a fun, action-filled week here at Community Church!



What: VBS (Vacation Bible School), formerly known as MADD Camp

When: June 17-21, 9am-12pm

Who: All children ages 4 years – 5th grade. Middle School & High School Student Volunteers needed, too!

Where: Right here at Community Church

More info to come soon. Check back next month for registration forms & information.

GODLY PLAY UPDATE

The children of Community Church continue to grow through play in the Godly Play classroom each week. Through stories and "work" (usually art time) the children explore well-loved Bible stories. We are blessed to have loving, dedicated, talented volunteers that selflessly give of their time to lead this class.

Do you love working with children? Would you be interested in learning more about volunteering with Godly Play? It's already time to start thinking about the next program year.

Contact **Julie Reimer**, Children's Ministry Coordinator, for more information about this wonderful volunteer opportunity.



LENT

PREPARING FOR THE FEAST

By Mike Ott

The season of Lent has arrived and with it our Faith Journey program – 40 years and going strong. For five Tuesdays during Lent, we join together for a soup supper and listen as members of our congregation present their faith journeys. It is beautiful how the presenters allow themselves to be so honest and vulnerable and how the audience enfolds the presenters with love and compassion.

The soup supper is a wonderful time of fellowship. The soup is perfect – simple, humble, warm, nourishing – maybe the most Christ-like of meals. Ryan Dueck, pastor of Lethbridge Mennonite Church in Alberta Canada, wrote that the Lenten soup supper is a statement of choice. “We choose not to eat as much or the same as we might during other times of the year as a way of remembering that we do not live on bread alone — to acknowledge, even in the context of abundance, that our deepest hunger is for God. For the future God is preparing for us is one of feasting and the celebration of friendship with God and neighbor.”

Please join us on March 12 and the following four Tuesdays for these wonderful Faith Journeys. They will make a difference in your life.

FAITH JOURNEYS

Tuesdays in Lent
7:00-8:00 pm
in Faith Chapel

March 12—Becca Emerson
March 19—Rachel Melone
March 26—Beth Larssen
April 2—Julie and Russ Reimer
April 9—Gail Thomas

LENTEN WORKSHOP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

By Julie Reimer

Join us for a fun, kid-friendly, brand-new event! The Lenten Workshop will be immediately following worship on March 10 in Fellowship Hall. Come and spend an hour “getting your craft on”.

Pizza & salad lunch included
Multi-generational crafts and Lenten activities for everyone!



Activities will include Easter Egg Dyeing, journal decorating, boo boo bunny, goose mask, cheerio bird feeder crosses, and more!

RSVP to Julie Reimer, Children’s Ministry Coordinator, by March 3 (so we know how much pizza to order!)

Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up. Questions? Want to volunteer? Contact **Julie** in the church office or by email at childrensministry@uccseb.org.

COMMUNION BREAD IN LENT

During Lent we will be celebrating communion each Sunday in Worship. If you are a baker and would like to provide the communion bread for a Sunday in Lent, contact **Joanne Matson** at 823-5249.



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY—JANUARY 2019

Financial Report: For the third year in a row, we finished with more cash than we started with. We received approximately 96% of operating pledges. Wider mission pledges, income from facilities and plate collections were higher than anticipated. Expenses were under what was projected in the 2018 budget. There were several factors for the lower expenses. Utility costs were reduced due to the installation of energy efficient lighting being installed and other facility improvements. Personnel costs were reduced due to changes in staff.

Budget: The members of the Budget Committee (John Henel, Kathy Bell, Jennifer Halleck, Larry Stallings and Pastor Broadbent) presented a balanced budget for 2019, and it was approved to present the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Associate Minister for Faith Formation Search Committee: The Search Committee is moving ahead with the search process. They will be meeting weekly to create a profile, to be completed by the end of February. The committee met with Daniel Ross Jones from the UCC conference office and received suggestions and guidelines on how to proceed with the search.

Pastors' Housing Allowance: The Leadership Council approved that \$50,000 of Pastor Broadbent's annual salary and Pastor Knuth's entire salary be designated as Housing Allowance.

Staff Transitions: Julie Reimer has been shadowing Rachel to observe her duties. Julie will be prepared to assume her role as Children's Ministry Coordinator in February.

Men's Retreat Contract: The Leadership Council approved the Men's retreat contract.

Bylaws: The temporary provisions that were placed at the end of the revised bylaws in order to adjust lengths of initial terms for Council Officer and Members and Nominating Committee Members were approved to be automatically removed from the Bylaws upon election of the 2019 Leadership Council and Nominating Committee.

Communication/Announcements: Possible Leadership retreat ideas were discussed. Further discussion and brain storming on retreat topics and participation will occur in the near future.

Care and Fellowship: The Women's Retreat will take place the weekend of January 18-20 at Westminster Woods.

Facilities: Church members are planning the Sanctuary beam restoration project. There will be AED training in February, funded by Memorial and Endowment. Numerous closets around campus are being cleaned out. Plans are underway to replace the Media room carpet. Trees near the power lines will be trimmed. Landscaping work is being performed by a team of church members. Gutters have been cleaned on several buildings on campus.

Faith Formation: Several wonderful activities are happening, all details in Salt & Light and the weekly bulletins. Recruiting volunteers is an ongoing issue.

Finance: See above for the financial and budget report.

Outreach: The Director of Verity expressed came to the January Mission and Outreach Committee meeting to express her gratitude for the gift cards received from the congregation. The Christmas Eve offering was divided between the UCC Christmas Fund and the Nueva Esperanza Church in Mesa, Arizona.

Personnel: New personnel are integrating into the staff team and performing well.

Worship and Arts: The Christmas eve services were well attended. The guest Handbell choir concert on January 6 was well attended and included several non-church people.

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

Michael Ott – Moderator

Kathy Bell – Council Officer for Personnel

John Henel – Council Officer for Finances

Larry Stallings – Council Officer for Facilities

Joyce Cox – Council Member for Outreach

Linda Inman – Council Member for Faith Formation

Bobbie Johanson – Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER & PRAYER SHAWLS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

By Chris Jenkins

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical celebration held each year on the first Friday in March. Women around the world believe that praying together about social issues leads to ACTION to make life better for all. We all use the same order of worship, honoring the authors as much as possible.

Last year the service was written by the women of Surinam and was hosted by our church. Pastor Ben, Pastor Rachel and 10 women from our congregation participated in the service. During the reception afterwards, it was wonderful to share fellowship with visitors from Santa Rosa churches.

This year the service was written by the women of Slovenia. From the time the sun rises in the Pacific until it sets in the last place on earth, women and men are praying together, using the same words and thoughts.

This year World Day of Prayer will be held at First Methodist Church Santa Rosa, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa at 1:00-3:00 PM. Please come join this ecumenical celebration with worship service and reception following.

Call **Chris Jenkins** at 707.318.2482 for more information.

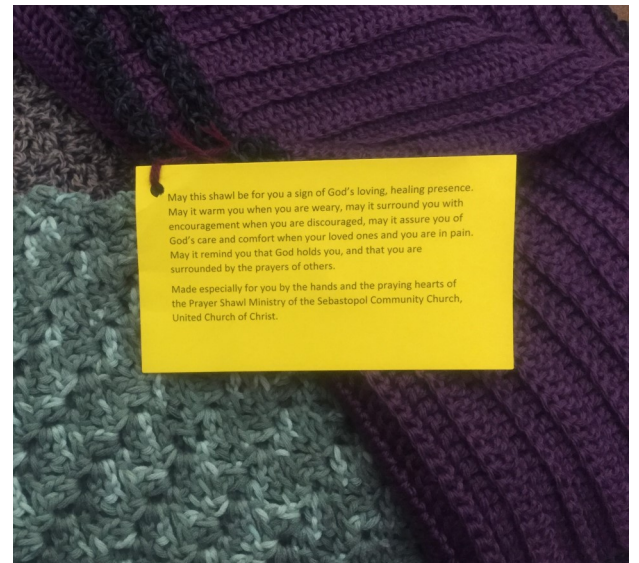


PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

By Joanne Matson



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is one of the newer outreach ministries here at Community Church. Pastor Ben instilled the idea in the minds of several members of Women's Fellowship about a year ago; using the model of the vibrant Prayer Shawl Ministry at Pastor Ben's former congregation, we decided we could do this!



It has now been a year since our beginning gathering. We meet once a month at the church to knit and crochet together, share ideas and help each other. But most of the work on the shawls is done alone, prayerfully and quietly. As the shawls are finished, they are put aside to be blessed by the community, then are ready to pass on to those who need support, comfort, and the caring knowledge that they are remembered with prayer and blessing.

Do you knit? Crochet? Need to keep your hands busy? Come and See: the third Monday of every month, Fireside Room, 10:00 a.m.



BIRTHDAYS, PRAYER CIRCLE, A THANK YOU & WHO'S WHO

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

The Newsletter continues to evolve and you may have noticed a few more changes this month. Make sure you take a look at our list of upcoming events on the last page. Please consider sending an article about some aspect of our church ministries that you have been involved in so that others can read about it. Are you a member of one of the musical groups? Do you volunteer at Second Saturday Lunch? Have you been touched by participating in the visitation ministry? Do you volunteer with one of the youth groups? Is Godly Play one of your favorite times of the week? Write an article for the *Salt & Light* and tell us all what it means to you! Contact **Becca** at 707.823.2484 or office@uccseb.org for more information.

THANK YOU FROM NANCY SHIMETZ

Thank You to everyone for the wonderful gift presented to me at the Annual Meeting last Sunday. It is a solid bronze, artisan crafted plaque with the words *Trust in Me* in the middle of a cross. It is hanging in a location where I will see it frequently and enjoy the deep meaning and beauty of it. Again, I want to say it was a privilege and a blessing to serve as your Moderator/Grand Poobah this past year. Again, thank you!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3	Connie Blackstone	20	Joyce Cox
4	Pam Kruse	22	Taylor Davison
5	Denelle Tognozzi	25	Kathy Smith
	Krista Kalembe	26	Josephine Weigel
6	Ross Galletto		Elliot Butterfield
	Laura Emerson		Erin Butterfield
9	Julie Davis		Joshua Bradley
10	Leslie Wood	27	Jim Lerum
11	Joella Falkingham	28	Helen Williams
	Curt Nichols	29	Margarette Murakami
14	Michelle Brueggemann		Rich McChesney
15	Luis Quezada		
16	Cecilia MacKillop		
17	Lori Babcock		
18	Lloyd Lerum		
	Karyl Clendenen-Drennon		
	Jerry Coleman		
	Tami Hinckley		



WHO'S WHO IN THE PEW: MEET JULIE REIMER



As your new Children's Ministry Coordinator, I thought I'd take a minute to tell you more about myself. I moved to Sonoma County about 2 1/2 years ago with my husband Russ. Russ grew up in the Sacramento area, but CA is new for me. I grew up in Minneapolis and Denver and after Russ and I got married, his Air Force career took us to several different places. We settled in the Cleveland area to raise our children, Austin, 23, and Addison, 20. I started my career as an accountant, but after taking time off to raise my kids, I ended up changing careers and went to work for Avon Lake United Church of Christ in Avon Lake, OH as the Director of Christian Education. My favorite part of the job was working with the children. While working there, I regularly presented the Children's Message, taught both adult and children's classes, ran the summer VBS, supervised the 5 Sunday School rooms at each service and coordinated special children's events. In addition, I helped start weeknight programming for both children and adults as well as a 4th & 5th Grade Youth Group.

Upon arriving in Sonoma County, it took my husband and me about a year to find a permanent house and a little bit longer than that to find our church home. I feel so very lucky to have found Community Church - this is such an exciting, growing congregation! The campus is always hopping and the worship service is inspiring! And now I get to work here - lucky me!

During the summers, my family lives in a cabin on the Russian River, near Guerneville and the rest of the year, we live in Rohnert Park. I enjoy hiking, paddle boarding, reading, yoga and traveling. If we haven't met yet, please introduce yourself!

PRAYER CIRCLE

Prayers for **Virginia Hughes**, in hospice care; **Dick Norton**, undergoing cancer treatment.

Condolences to the family of **Barbara Zimmer**, who died February 24; the family of **Don Schilling**, who died February 15; the family of **Evie Welsch**, who died in late January.

EVENTS IN MARCH AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

- March 1 **World Day of Prayer Event**, 1:00 pm at First United Methodist Church
Youth Movie Night, 6:00 pm in the Youth Lounge
- March 3 **Transfiguration Sunday**
Tamale Fundraiser Lunch, 12:00 pm in Memorial Hall
- March 6 **Ash Wednesday**
Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room—Chapter 13
Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Men's Group, 7:00 pm in Faith Chapel
- March 9 **Youth Saturday of Service**, 10:00 am
Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall
- March 10 **1st Sunday of Lent**
FIAT, 9:30 am in the Women's Fellowship Office
Lenten Workshop, 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
Pastor Chat, 12:00 pm in the Fireside Room
ChilFFAT, 4:00 pm in the Youth Lounge
- March 11 **Mission & Outreach**, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room
- March 12 **NBOP Clergy Caucus**, 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
L.M. Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 4:00 pm in Fireside Room
Faith Journey, 7:00pm in Faith Chapel
- March 13 **Women's Bible Study**, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room—Chapter 15
Card Writing Ministry, 3:00 pm in the Women's Fellowship Office
High School Youth Group, 7:00 pm in the Youth Lounge
- March 17 **2nd Sunday of Lent**
- March 18 **Prayer Shawl Group**, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room
- March 19 **Health & Safety Task Force**, 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room
Faith Journey, 7:00pm in Faith Chapel
- March 20 **Women's Bible Study**, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room—Chapter 16
Leadership Council, 6:30 pm in the Media Room
- March 23 **Smoke Signals: Congregational Movie Night with Dinner**, 5:00 pm in Memorial Hall
- March 24 **3rd Sunday of Lent**
- March 27 **Women's Bible Study**, 10:00 am in the Fireside Room—Chapter 19
- March 28 **Faith Journey**, 7:00pm in Faith Chapel
- March 31 **4th Sunday of Lent**

Sundays at 9:00 am—Faith Formation Hour

- ◆ Godly Play, *Pre-School-Grade 5* in rooms 5 & 6
- ◆ Middle School Youth, *Grades 6-8* in the Youth Lounge
- ◆ Lenten Bible Study, *Adults* in the Fireside Room

Sundays at 10:30 am—Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 4:45 pm—Handbell Ensemble rehearses in the Sanctuary

Thursday at 7:15 pm—Chancel Choir rehearses in the choir room

Fridays at 10:00 am—Uke Stars meet in Fellowship Hall



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