

SALT & LIGHT **COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**



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

707.823.2484 www.uccseb.org office@uccseb.org

Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Associate Minister of Faith **Formation** Rev. Lacey Hunter

Associate Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Minister of Music

Rev. Brian Plaugher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene Nelson

Handbell Ensemble Director Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Congregational Administrator Becca Emerson

Bookkeeper Jennifer Halleck

Custodian Maria Mojica

20 YEARS AND COUNTING By Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

When I started seminary, I did not want to be a minister. Growing up in a family of ministers – not only my dad, but my uncle and my grandfather – I was determined to be something else. When I got to Harvard Divinity School in the fall of 1995, I was there to study world religions and to get a credential to teach High School English. While I enjoyed these pursuits, by my second year I stopped resisting. God was calling me to ministry, whether I liked it or not.

Graduating with a Master of Divinity in 1998, I did a nationwide search which led me to The First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs where I began serving as Associate Minister of Children, Youth, and Families in August of 1999. (I would eventually accept a call to serve as that same church's Lead Minister, which I did for over 10 years.)

On the eve of November 7, 1999 I gathered with my extended family in my parents' home. My Service of Ordination would happen the next day at the church where I grew up, The First Congregational Church of Santa Cruz. Family members gave me various gifts that evening, but one surprised us all. I opened a wrapped frame from my grandfather that included his certificate of ordina-

"The more eloquent words are, the more they may obscure the Word, for the Word does not need eloquence to accomplish its work.

The pastor is a simple person.

She gains by giving. He leads by being."

-William C. Martin

20 years hence, still living out my call to ministry, now as Lead Minister of The Community Church of Sebastopol, here are a few things I've learned:

was a happy confirmation that where I ended up, I came by honestly.

tion. As I read aloud the words inscribed on it, we were all astounded to hear

the date of his ordination: November 7, 1943. 56 years later, to the day, it

Ministry is about being a servant and being a leader. Jesus modeled this.

All ministers are people, and all people are ministers.

- The health of one's ministry depends on the health of one's own spiritual life.
- The Holy Spirit mostly laughs at our agendas.
- The best remedy for work stress is to visit someone in the hospital.
- It's better to slow down well before you go over the cliff.
- The best part of ministry is the whole of it, for there are so many facets.
- Every week I pray, "God, take what I've done and make of it what I could never do on my own."
- The best advice I ever got came from my grandma: "Be yourself, dear."

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WORSHIP & PRAYER CIRCLE



NOVEMBER 2019 WORSHIP

Sunday Worship happens 10:30 am in the Sanctuary Nursery Care available for newborns through Kindergarteners

November 3 - All Saints/Souls Sunday

Daylight Savings Time ends today (fall back an hour!) and we gather for multi-generational worship to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Candles and portraits of loved ones who have died will adorn the chancel. Church member Wynneth Longfellow turns 100 today and Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister of Congregational Care, will be preaching.



November 10 - Gratitude Sunday

Today we pause with gratitude for God's generosity and conclude the public phase of our annual pledge drive in support of our 2020 local church ministry and wider mission. The Handbell Ensemble provides worship music and Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister preaches.

November 17 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Today we take time to bless 17 participants in our 5th and 6th Grade Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and our Faith class. Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, is preaching.



November 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance

On this Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary with members of the wider community to read the names of transgender people who were victims of violence in the past year. We will pray for transformed thinking in our culture.

November 24 – Reign of Christ / Confirmation Sunday

On this last Sunday in the Christian liturgical calendar, we will bless participants in this year's Confirmation Class. The Chancel Choir shares an anthem and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Colossians 1:11-20 entitled "May You Be Made Strong."



Coming in December... Candle-Lighting; Advent themes: Hope, Peace, Joy & Love; Advent Spiral; Longest Night Service; Christmas Pageant; Lessons & Carols





PRAYER CIRCLE

We Encircle in Prayer...

All people in a season of grief, including the family and friends of **Barbara Wilson** and **Mike Burton**.

All people healing from falls, including Judy Hawkins, Bill Hughes, and Sophie & Alan Sherman.

All people exploring questions of faith, including our Confirmation Class and their Mentors.

God, we ask your blessing on these beloveds, adding our prayer to your life-giving movement in the world. Amen.



ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

You are invited to bring a photo of a loved one or ancestor for an altar to honor All Saints & All Souls Sunday.

Please bring framed photos to the church office by October 31, so they may be arranged on a table with care.

Please plan to take your photos home after worship on November 3.





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PEACE

FAITH FORMATION

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER? by Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation



November is one of my favorite times of the year in the Christian liturgical calendar. The lectionary fills up with prophetic scriptures, often life-altering, world turning upside-down apocalyptic texts, as we turn towards Christ the King Sunday and the reign of God's kin-dom on earth. I find these scriptures hope-full and a grounding source of wisdom as we discern what it means to be faithfully formed by God's radical Love and in the way of Christ. As we head towards the end of this Christian year, I wonder, what guides your movements towards the coming of God's kin-dom? What practices, ways of being, and life-sustaining resources dwell in your bones, ready to rise up in creative co-action with God? Who are the ancestors that shape you and how are you and we part of their unfolding stories? These are some of my favorite faith formation questions, and I am eager to have these conversations with all of you!

To help us all more fully sink into the deep ministries of Faith Formation, I am planning to arrange, with your help, a series of conversations throughout the next year. Children, youth, parents and guardians, to accommodate your family lives, I'd love to come by your homes for a cup of tea, snack or a meal, and share in these important and tender questions. What do you want your children and families to know in their bones? Let's schedule a time to talk!

Additionally church, I will be holding several Pastor Chats throughout the coming year, so that we can share stories and wonder together about the vibrant future of Adult Faith Formation at Community Church.

I look forward to gathering with you in these holy conversations.

Yours on the way, Pastor Lacey



ADVENT EVENTS

Children's Worship begins again in the season of Advent. Following the Children's Message, all children are invited to continue worshiping in the sanctuary or journey to Faith Chapel for a special time of worship together. Children's Worship will be held on Sundays December 8, 15, and 22.





All Church Advent Workshop, Sunday December 1 immediately following worship in Memorial Hall. Stay tuned for more information about this multi-generational potluck and Advent wreath making practice.



Advent Spiral, Sunday December 8, 5:30pm in Faith Chapel



Christmas Pageant

Christmas Pageant rehearsals, Sundays December 8, 15, 22, 11:45am-12:45am Christmas Pageant, Tuesday, December 24, 4pm





BALCONY VIEW, LONGEST NIGHT, NINE-TO-DINE



THE BALCONY VIEW... THE EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY By Michael Ott, Moderator

At our October meeting, Nancy Shimetz, a member of the Nominating Committee, presented an exploration of the "ideal" competencies and composition of a Leadership Council in advance of selecting candidates to fill future Council positions. The ideal attributes suggested by the Nominating Committee include:

Visionary - Sees "the big picture."

<u>Task Master</u> - Turns abstract ideas into concrete action.

<u>Closer</u> – Ensures that all the "T's are crossed and the I's are dotted".

<u>Specialist</u> – Brings specific expertise to the group. <u>Investigator</u> – Researches and gathers external resources and information.

<u>Historian</u> – Provides historical background information and is familiar with large numbers of the congregation.

<u>Engineer</u> – Critically assesses ideas and suggestions.

<u>People Person</u> – Ensures all opinions are considered and that all issues incorporate the "human element".

I wonder what attributes Jesus looked for in choosing his disciples. None of the chosen twelve was a scholar or rabbi. None had extraordinary skills. They were neither religious, nor refined, they were ordinary people. Yet Jesus chose them to spread the gospel – to Lead the Way.

Peter was a gregarious, natural leader, a spokesman for the twelve. Perhaps a People Person? Andrew worked in the background – An Engineer or Specialist? Nathanael, the disciple Bartholomew, was skeptical at first, but he followed along anyway. He may have been an Investigator. Christ's disciples, taken as a whole, may well have exhibited all the attributes that the Nominating Committee believes are critical for our leadership.

The point for me is that Community Church has the opportunity to call on the same people as Jesus did to become our leaders - ordinary people willing to Lead the Way towards the extraordinary for our congregation.



https://uccseb.org/docs/2019-October-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf





SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 21ST THE LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The Advent Season is often marked by hope and joyful expectation, with families and our church community gathering to celebrate the radical in-breaking of Christ in our midst. But the merriment of the season can often overshadow the pain and sorrow many people experience this time of year, when grief and sorrow stand in stark relief.

All are invited to join Pastor Rachel for a prayerful and intentional worship service, on the longest night of the year. The Longest Night, Saturday, December 21 at 4:00 pm in Faith Chapel.



NINE-TO-DINE: PEOPLE CONNECTING— FOOD IS EATEN—THE SPIRIT MOVES!

By Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister of Congregational Care

Our Fall program of Nine-to-Dine had a strong turnout in October, with groups looking forward to their November gatherings.

The November Conversation Questions are...

- What has delighted or surprised you this past month?
- Where and when do you get your best ideas?
- What nourishes you during challenging times in your life?

Nine-to-Dine is people sharing a meal together in each other's homes, for fellowship and connection. The next opportunity to sign up for Nine-to-Dine will be in January, for the Spring program—all are welcome!





MEN'S RETREAT





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OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER By Karin Seder

In November 2000 the late Roger Collins began a Thanksgiving tradition in Sebastopol that has grown and thrived and become a community wide tradition over the past nineteen years.

This year on November 28 the 19th annual Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings will be served to hundreds of local folks in Memorial Hall. A group of dedicated volunteers delivers meals to those who cannot make it to the dinner in person, and an even bigger group of seasoned and new volunteers will come together to prepare, serve, and clean up. You are invited to join Linda Collins as she and community volunteers cook a tasty meal that will serve folks who may not otherwise have the funds or ability to cook a Thanksgiving meal, a meal that is always more enjoyable with a community of friends.

Volunteers are welcome to sign up by contacting *Karin Seder* at 707.322.6672 or *KarinSeder@gmail.com* for a 2 hour shift on either Wednesday or Thursday. Food donations can only be accepted through November 17 but your monetary donations are always welcome. Checks can be made out to the Community Church with a notation for "Thanksgiving Dinner" and left in the offering plate or sent to the church office.



GIVE ALTERNATIVE GIFTS THIS YEAR! By Joyce Cox, member of Mission & Outreach

Here is a great idea for your holiday shopping! An Alternative Gift is a nontraditional way of giving. It's a meaningful gift that will help someone in need. You pick a project from the catalog and give your friend a card and description of the project. Alternative Gifts International carefully chooses ongoing projects that will help lift people out of poverty. They choose established organizations and make the commitment that 90% of each donated dollar is directed to the cause you choose.

Here are a few examples from this year' catalog. Think of what might be meaningful to your friends and family;

- \$14 send 30 books to Ethiopian children
- ♦ \$1 provides 40 doses of medicine to children in refugee camps in Burma.
- \$6 provides care for an unemployed timber elephant.
- \$3 provides 2 baby chicks for women in need along the Nile River.
- ♦ \$31 provides dental care for a needy child in the U.S.

We will be handing out Alternative Gift Catalogs starting on November 24. You can select your gifts, turn in your order to the church office and pick up your cards, with inserts describing your gift, the following Sunday on the counter in the office. Please pick up a catalog and prayerfully consider how your gift giving could impact the lives of people in need.







SHOEBOX MINISTRY By Jerry Coleman & Peggy Porter







Fill a shoebox with toiletries or put adult scarves, hats, or mittens on the tree for a shelter less person this Christmas.

The Mission & Outreach Committee is once again bringing the Shoebox Ministry to Community Church. Empty shoeboxes are made available in the church entryway beginning December 1 and anyone can pick one up and join in the spirit of giving. Just follow the list provided and fill the boxes with necessities for unhoused people. Once the box has been filled, it can be wrapped in gift paper and returned to the church. A week before Christmas, members of the Mission and Outreach Committee deliver the collection of gifts to the Catholic Social Services where they are later distributed in a group setting to people in need. The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to participate and brighten someone's Christmas.



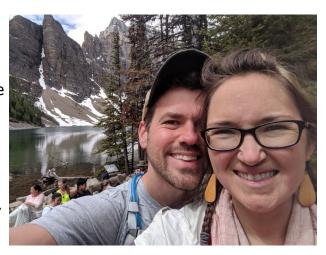
אַ WHO'S WHO, CAMP CAZ BOOK & BIRTHDAYS 🖳 🖖



Who's Who in the Pew: Matt Melone

Matt's been living in Sonoma County for three years and attending Community Church for most of them. Before moving to California, Matt served as an Army Ranger and later an intelligence officer in Iraq and Germany. He now works in tech, but

his real passions are for storytelling/ writing novels and getting his hands dirty at the family homestead, where he raises sheep, poultry and rabbits. He married up to his beautiful wife Rachel, and they now have two boys, Jude and Sawyer, and one girl, Ruby.





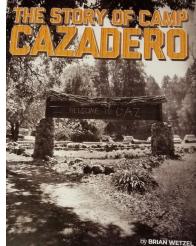
Special Reading with Brian Wetzel By Kathy Bell

FINALLY!!! The book we have all been waiting for is here!!

"The Story Of Camp Cazadero" is written by Brian Wetzel and he will be introducing the book Sunday, November 24th from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in Faith Chapel. Join us and enjoy some readings from the book. Brian will share about the journeys of diving into the history of this very special place we call 'CAZ'!!

Camp Caz has been a special part of the lives of generations of children and youth summer campers as well as generations of Community Church family campers.

Books will be available for sale at the event for \$40. Great idea for Christmas Gifts!!!







NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Jianna Gonzales
- 2 Judy Rice

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- 3 Wynneth Longfellow
- 4 Katherine Dowdney
- 5 Daniel Arendt
 - Quinn Curtis
- 6 Marylou Hillberg
 Julie Seth
- 7 Elise Peterson
- 10 Dan Rasmus
 Irene Bettendorff
- 11 Linda Inman
- 12 Pat Furber
 Harry Simms
 Kristen De**/**Monte
 Benjamin Broadbent
- 13 Debbie McCallum Warren Bri**s**bin Helen Olson Robyn Pitts
- 14 Tom Terry
- 15 Dale Phillips
- 17 Ann Keller
- 19 Mary Doherty
- 20 Tyler Porter Audrey Margulis
- 22 Ellen Stillman
- 23 Mark Nelson
- 24 Keenan Foster
- 25 Karna Roa
- 26 Norm Stupfel Pete Emerson
- 28 Barbara Whitson Elan Sawyer Jon Gonzales
- 29 Jan Kahdeman Stuart Mitchell



EVENTS IN NOVEMBER AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Nov 1	Granny Smith Kindred Group Gathering, 6:00 pm
Nov 3	All Saints / All Souls Sunday
	Associate Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 12:00 pm, Fireside Room
	Rome Kindred Group Gathering, 12:30 pm
Nov 6	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room
	Men's Discussion Group, 7:00 pm, Faith Chapel
Nov 7	Nominating Committee, 1:00 pm, Faith Chapel
Nov 9	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Nov 10	Gratitude Sunday
	Faith In Action Team, 9:30 am, Women's Fellowship Office
	ChilFFAT, 12:00 pm, Media Room
Nov 11	Mission & Outreach, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room
Nov 13	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room
	Facilities Committee, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
	Gratitude & Generosity Calling Night, 6:00 pm, Fireside Room
Nov 14	Card Writing Ministry, 11:00 am, Women's Fellowship Office
Nov 17	23 rd Sunday After Pentecost
	High School Youth Group, 6:00 pm, Youth Lounge
Nov 18	Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 am, Fireside Room
Nov 19	Health & Safety Team, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room
	Lead Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 4:00 pm, Fireside Room
Nov 20	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room
	Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
Nov 24	Confirmation Sunday/Reign of Christ Sunday
	Visitation Team, 12:00 pm, Fireside Room
	OWL Information Session, 12:00 pm, Faith Chapel
Nav. 20	Camp Cazadero Book Reading, 4:00 pm, Faith Chapel
Nov 28	Community Thanksgiving Meal, Memorial Hall
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Monday-Friday, 9:00 am—2:30 pm Office will be closed November 4, 28 & 29

November Staff Schedules

November 14—18 Benjamin is away











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Coming

Up in December

December 1 Advent Workshop

December 8 Advent Spiral

December 21 Longest Night Service

December 24 Christmas Eve Services, 4:00, 6:00 & 8:30 pm

TOY

PEACE

Emmannel: God With Us

Sundays at 9:00 am—Faith Formation Hour

- Godly Play, Preschool-5th Grade in Classroom 5
- OWL, 5th & 6th grades in Faith Chapel
- Middle School Youth, 6th-8th Grade in the Youth Lounge
- Adult Bible Study, *Adults* in the Fireside Room

Sundays at 10:30 am— Worship in the Sanctuary

Tuesdays at 4:00 pm—

Handbell Ensemble rehearses in the Sanctuary (beginning August 20)

Thursdays at 7:15 pm—

Chancel Choir rehearses in the Choir Room

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



POINSETTIAS



TO HONOR AND REMEMBER LOVED ONES AND SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

This is a time to dedicate a poinsettia and honor a child, grandchild, wedding anniversary or other special event, or to remember a loved one who has died. On the Third Sunday of Advent, December 22, and on Christmas Eve the poinsettias that have been ordered will grace the Chancel. You can pick up your poinsettia after the 8:30 pm service on Christmas Eve to bring home to enjoy. Each plant is \$15, and multiple dedications can be made for one plant. Please use one form for each plant you wish to order.





Please fill out this form and return it to the church office by Sunday, December 1.

Dedication to be printed in the bulletin on December 22:



		ν ,
In Honor of:		
	Name of Person or Event	
In Memory of:		
	Name of Person or Event	
Dedicated by:		
Please use a separate form for	each poinsettia.	
Cost \$15/poinsettia.		

I will pick up my poinsettia on Christmas Eve



I will not pick up my poinsettia, please share it with someone who is home bound _____











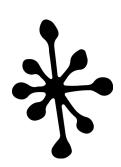
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