

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2020 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

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Gene Nelson

Handbell Ensemble Director
Karna Roa

Keyboardist
J. Althea

**Congregational
Administrator**
Chris Chang Weeks

Bookkeeper
Deanna Euritt

Custodian
Maria Mojica



Church in the Wild: Awaiting the Unexpected

By Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

By the time you are reading this article, the season of Advent will have begun. Whenever Advent begins in November, it feels like it's snuck up on us, "like a thief in the night," as Jesus puts it. Advent is a time of watching and waiting, of counting time in anticipation of the incarnation, the decisive event in the history of the world, and witnessed by the church, when God's love incarnated in a person born in a stable in a town whose name means "House of Bread."

It is possible that this Advent will feel very different than any other we've experienced. After all, this past year has felt different than any other before it. We will be hanging on to the meaning of the word Advent, which means "beginning" or "coming." If we were ever ready for a change before, this might be the year we beg for it.

I appreciate the recent conversation with church members Joanne Matson, Sharon Fennema, and Pastor Lacey to discern an overall Advent theme and sub-themes for each of this year's Sundays. Sharon crafted the title: "Awaiting the Unexpected: Letters of Longing from the Wilderness." In these days of wavering light, we will be opening our hearts and unstopping our ears to hear voices from the wilderness that can help us imagine how we might go about the business of picking up the fragments of shattered expectations so that we can begin to build, by God's grace, a more just and equitable world. Some of these voices will be the familiar voices of our own culture, including local neighbors, and others will be the strange voices of biblical characters.

★ **On the first Sunday of Advent**, Isaiah the prophet picks up a fragment called "Dangerous Hope," the hope that God will show up, will get back in the game, will "come down so that that mountains will quake in your presence." (Isaiah 60:1)

★ **On the 2nd Sunday of Advent**, John the Baptist, from the wilderness, picks up a fragment called "Lonely Peace," the quiet trust that God's kin-dom of shalom will be ushered in by the one who baptizes with holy fire. (Mark 1:8)

★ **On the 3rd Sunday of Advent**, Mary of Nazareth sings a song of "Resistant Joy" that imagines a day and world when the lowly will be lifted, the sorrowful will be glad, and captives will be set free. (Luke 1:52)

★ **On the 4th Sunday of Advent**, an angel delivers a message of "Foolish Love," that a child will be born who will turn the world upside down to make a way out of no way. (Luke 1:26)

Whether the newness God promises sneaks in like a thief in the night, or eases in like crepuscular light, let's train our bodies, minds, hearts, and souls to await the unexpected and begin putting the pieces back together in life-giving ways. ☸

DECEMBER 2020 WORSHIP
"Awaiting the Unexpected:
Letters of Longing from the Wilderness"



Community worship happens Sundays at 10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.
See weekly emails or visit www.uccseb.org for details.

December 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent: PEACE – Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 & Mark 1: 1 – 8

Today we celebrate Holy Communion and light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of "Lonely Peace." Rev. Benjamin Broadbent preaches a sermon on Mark 1: 1 – 8 entitled "When Peace is Popular Again."

December 13 – 3rd Sunday of Advent: JOY – Isaiah 61: 1 – 4 & Luke 1: 46 – 55

Traditionally, today is known as Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of "Resistant Joy" when we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, the pink one. Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Isaiah 61 entitled "When Joy No Longer Eludes."

December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE – Luke 1: 26 – 38

Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of "Foolish Love." Today Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, leads the congregation in an instant pageant open to everyone.

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Today we gather for a candlelight service via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. We'll hear the Christmas story along with carols and handbells, concluding with candles in our own homes and singing Silent Night and Joy to the World.

December 27 – 1st Sunday after Christmas – Luke 2: 22 – 40

Today we continue in the season of Christmas and hear the story of Jesus' presentation at the temple in Jerusalem as a baby. In the story we meet two elders, Simeon, who sings a now famous song, and the prophet Anna, who gives the first Christmas sermon.

Coming in January... Epiphany, Dia de los Reyes, Baptism of Christ Sunday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Ecumenical Sunday, Annual Meeting Sunday



This year's Advent & Christmas programs
at the Community Church of Sebastopol

For more information, see weekly all-church emails or visit uccseb.org.

Sunday Worship

All are invited to worship online via Zoom every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Sharon Fennema and Joanne Matson lend their creativity to Advent candle-lighting liturgies on the theme "Awaiting the Unexpected: Letters of Longing from the Wilderness."

Holiday Items Drive-Thru

On the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in Advent, December 6 & 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., you are invited to drive through the church's back parking lot for these items:

- Evergreen wreathes, in support of our annual Women's Retreat
- Alternative gifts in support of a global non-profit organization
- Christmas bags, in support of our church's Homeless Outreach ministry
- Advent Journals, created by the Congregational Life Team

Self-Guided Walk around the Church Campus

Created by Kathy Bell and Brian Wetzel, this self-guided spiritual practice will be available throughout the month of December. Based on a Camp Caz tradition, participants visit various stations with Advent and Christmas themes, a combination of fun and contemplation. Don't forget your mask!

Public Advent Candle Wreath

Kathy Matthies will install a large public advent candle wreath on the church along Gravenstein Highway, visible to drivers passing by. The candles will be "lit" in order to mark the passage of time through Advent in preparation for Christmas.

Advent Book Study

Join Rosemary Manchester and Deanna Euritt in a lively and engaging read of Cheryl Strayed's book "Wild."

Advent Wilderness Kits

Pastor Lacey, along with the Children's Ministry Team the Youth Ministry Team, are creating these kits, one for every member of our youth ministry. These will be handed out at the Drive Thru event and delivered to homes.

A Living Nativity

Coordinated by Joyce Cox, people are invited to sign up for a 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. shift on December 12, 13, 19 & 20. Be a shepherd or an angel, one of the magi, Joseph, or Mary. Families or individuals encourage to participate.

The Longest Night

With Pastor Rachel on sabbatical, Sharon Fennema will lead this service via Zoom on December 20. This contemplative worship opportunity will honor the many strong feelings we experience during the holidays while surrounding them with Christ's light and the warmth of caring community.

Christmas Caroling

This year, our Handbell Ensemble will be visiting homebound members and care facilities in Sebastopol. They are memorizing several favorite carols to bring joy into the season.

Christmas Pageant

For all ages, our pageant will happen in worship via Zoom on Sunday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m., led by Pastor Lacey. Everyone who wants a part can have one.



All Ages, Interactive Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20, 10:30am on Zoom

This year we will celebrate Community Church's first ever live, virtual Christmas pageant and we need everyone to help tell the story! On the night Jesus was born, it took all people and beings, heavens and stars, to proclaim the goodness of God's love breaking into the world and dwelling among us. Everyone has a role to play, a gift to bring. Who are you in the story of God's unfolding love? Come wonder, pray, sing out and enter into the sacred mess of God among us. Questions? Contact Pastor Lacey at pastorlacey@uccseb.org

Balcony View. . . SHELTERING IN A PLACE

By Michael Ott, Moderator

The Leadership Council's regular meeting was held on November 18 via Zoom video. Our advent ministry this year is shining a light on the faces of houselessness, welcoming the congregation into a conscious awareness that housing inequity is happening to good people and that there are ways to help and share with the less-fortunate. Indeed, access to housing and shelter has become a world-wide issue.

As a consequence of the reality of houselessness, the Outreach Committee, led by Peggy Porter, has researched a shelter option that could be built and maintained in our church parking lot. These micro-shelters are named Conestoga Huts. They have been used as a quick shelter option for individuals and couples who are temporarily experiencing houselessness. The huts offer a basic level of security and relief to people in need. These hard-shelled, insulated shelters are inexpensive and durable, capable of being constructed by a group of a few volunteers with a wide range of construction experience. Their modular design makes them easy to be assembled, disassembled, and refurbished, and they can also be transported.



The implementation of Conestoga Hut-living in Eugene, Oregon has demonstrated that these structures provide a viable alternative to mainstream housing options and are a quick way to relieve communities of the immediate need for accessible and stable housing.

The Committee has reached out to the City of Sebastopol to investigate whether the construction of and living in one or two of these Conestoga Huts on church property would be allowed. We have applied for a master planning review and the City is currently arranging a pre-application conference with Planning, Building, Fire, Police and other relevant City Departments. We are hopeful that this conference will be scheduled in early December. If approved, our intention would be to purchase the plans and materials for one or two shelters and invite the congregation to engage in both financial and sweat equity to achieve the construction of the shelters.

This equity-based work, focused and intentional, illuminate core values that shape our congregation and mission. What beauty can emerge from this? ❁



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2020

The Leadership Council met for our regular meeting via Zoom teleconference on November 18. A summary of discussions and actions are highlighted below.

Financial Report: The financial report was presented. October ended at negative \$44K. We await the loan forgiveness of PPP funds which is roughly equal to our shortfall YTD. Pledge revenue continues to hold strong for operating funds, but cannot make up for the lack of Facility, Plate and Other Gifts revenue. All Revenue is \$63K below budget YTD. Expenses are below budget, but that is a good thing. When the PPP funds cancel out our YTD negative balance, we still have \$23K in reserves that we can tap. If we average less than a \$12K loss in each of the last 2 months, we could finish the year even.

Budget Update: The Budget committee is working on balancing the budget with the current pledge totals and projected expenses for the coming year. Pastor Ben is in the process of composing a letter to send out to members and

Advent Blessings from the Congregational Life Team

The Congregational Life Team made its debut this Fall as a new team intended to connect our church members around programs that support their spiritual and emotional health during covid isolation. They've organized programs and connective experiences like Games Nights, Book Discussions, Wine Tasting, Blessing of the Animals, and Anam Cara care phonecalls. And in December, they invite you to nourish your spirit with the following opportunities:

Walk on the Wild Side

Come to the church during Advent for a self directed "Church in the Wild" solo hike around the church campus. The walk will include prayer stations throughout the campus, all outdoors, and you can journey at your own pace. With gratitude for Kathy Bell and Brian Wetzel, of the Congregational Life Team, for creating this beautiful wandering way. Please keep an eye on your email for more information.



Advent Devotionals from the Outreach Team: Look to your email every Sunday evening in Advent for a message from the Outreach Team, with daily scripture and prayer.

Five Phone Calls: Make five phone calls during the Advent Season to connect with other church members. Simply pick up the phone and call someone, ask how they are holding up through everything, listen with love, and tell them that you miss them or hope to meet them in the months ahead. We encourage you to choose 3 people you know well, and 2 people you don't know well or at all. If you need a directory, contact Congregational Administrator, Chris Chang Weeks: office@uccseb.org. For more information about the Congregational Life Team, contact Pastor Rachel: pastorrachel@uccseb.org. ❄

Make Noonday Prayer part of your Advent Intention



If you haven't joined a Noonday Prayer gathering yet, Advent is a wonderful time to check it out. Noonday Prayer is a half-hour of quiet reflection and intercessory prayer every Tuesday at 12noon. You can expect to hear a devotional, sink into nourishing prayer with others, and have an opportunity to share the prayers of your heart.

We are grateful for Rev. Deanna Euritt, who will be leading Noonday Prayer while Pastor Rachel is away on sabbatical. Deanna is an ordained Minister in the UCC as well as an accountant and CPA who consults with non-profits. She brings a deep well of spirituality combined with practicality to her work, and we are thankful for her excellent leadership of Noonday Prayer in the coming weeks.

CLICK HERE at noon on Tuesdays to join Noonday Prayer, or use the following Zoom login: Meeting ID: 867 1569 5181, Passcode: 222069. There will not be Noonday Prayer on December 29th, the week between Christmas and New Year's, when church programs rest for a week. For more information about Noonday Prayer, contact Pastor Rachel: pastorrachel@uccseb.org. ❄

The Longest Night: A Special Worship Service in a Season that can Magnify Grief



As we move into Advent and the anticipation of Christmas, it can be a complex time fraught with loss as we remember those whom we have loved and lost. It's important to approach tender places in our hearts with gentleness and care, attending to loss, slowing down to honor memories of our loved ones who have died, and the feelings we experience. You are invited to join a special Longest Night worship service on Zoom, December 20th, led by Rev. Dr. Sharon Fennema and

her co-conspirators of care. For more information, please contact Sharon Fennema: sharonfennema@yahoo.com. ❄

Advent Week 1 | Hope begins Sunday, November 29

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. - Matthew 25:35

Advent Reflection: Tattered gloves, outstretched hands, a soul in need, and the gift of hope that comes when someone reaches back. We all reach out in need sometimes and when someone reaches back our despair gives way to hope.

When whole communities lift up those in need among them, the whole community is lifted up. Especially during this advent season of hope and peace and joy and love, let us reach out to those in need among us; let us bring the gift of hope to someone's outstretched hands and the gifts of peace, joy, and love into our community and our world.

The Samuel Jones Hall (SJH) Homeless Shelter, located at 4020 Finley Avenue Santa Rosa CA, provides shelter and services to persons experiencing homelessness. Your Christmas Gift bag will bring needed items, hope, and joy to one man or one woman who is reaching out in need.

Faith in Action Practice: Reflect on your own or with your household about why you are engaging in the Samuel Jones Christmas Gift Bag ministry this year? Write a card that you will eventually add to your bag. ❄️



Advent Week 2 | Peace begins Sunday, December 6

"Because the needy groan, I will now rise up," says the Lord; I will place them in the safety for which they long." – Psalm 12:5

Advent Reflection: The image is entitled "Homeless Jesus", a sculpture designed by Timothy Schmalz, a Canadian sculptor and devout Catholic. It depicts Jesus as a homeless person, sleeping on a park bench. His face and hands are obscured, hidden under a blanket, but crucifixion wounds on his feet reveal his identity. The sculpture is a visual translation of the Gospel of Matthew passage in which Jesus tells his disciples, "as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me."

Can you imagine Jesus sleeping on a park bench? Ignored. Cold and hungry. No one offering to provide a place for his head. Can you imagine someone sleeping on a park bench today – making it their home - who may have the gentleness, grace and goodness of Jesus? Someone's son or daughter. Perhaps someone's mother or father. Cold and hungry, with no place else to go. When the needy - humans with sacred worth and dignity - groan, we must rise up and make them safe. Let us be grateful for the opportunity to do so.

Faith in Action Practice: Gather all the items for your Christmas gift bag. Spend time decorating your bag and pray with each item as you put your bag together. Deliver bags to church on either Sunday, Dec. 6, 13 or 20, between 1-3pm. ❄️



Advent Week 3 | Joy begins Sunday, December 13

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. - Isaiah 58:10

Advent Reflection: Home is not always a dwelling place that offers shelter from the world. Sometimes it's a place of dwelling in the heart that offers shelter in the world. Sometimes home is a sense of fulness and belonging. Through community media, arts, and education the Poor Magazine Homefulness Project brings together disadvantaged people of all ages, creeds, and colors all around the world.



Silenced voices are heard and the downtrodden are lifted up and celebrated as a light in the darkness. As you gaze at this image, can you remember a time when you were welcomed by just one or many; when your voice mattered and your presence made a difference? Feel for just a moment that sense of unbounded joy in being seen, in being heard, in being welcomed and valued. That is homefulness – the home created when our hearts and souls find acceptance and belonging in the world.

In what ways did Jesus create homefulness for people in His life? In what ways does your family, your home, or communities-of-caring in your life create homefulness for you? How can you help create that kind of homefulness in the life of someone who has been disenfranchised, marginalized, or undervalued and cast aside in your community?

Faith in Action Practice: Spend time exploring these resources to learn from houseless folks about creative solutions to the housing crisis: Poor

Magazine and the Homefulness Project, Youth Spirit Artworks, and Conestoga Huts. ✿

Advent Week 4 | Love begins Sunday, December 20

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room available for them. –Luke 2:6-7

Advent Reflection: Can you imagine this encampment as a representation of the Christmas Story, the barn in Bethlehem where a manger is the only room available for Jesus to lay his head? Can you imagine that the faces on the mural are angels adoring and protecting Jesus, or perhaps the faces are Mary and Joseph adoring the Christ child?

We wrap our gifts at Christmas to hide the surprise inside. We often wait impatiently for the opportunity to open them. Mary wrapped the most special gift of all – Jesus – keeping him warm and safe. When we unwrap the love of Jesus, we open our capacity to give to those who need our care and generosity. Our gift bags will brighten the season of the Sam Jones residents who receive them. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians that there are varieties of gifts, but from the same Spirit. There are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. God blesses our giving, service and activity through the gifts we bring to those in our community. It is our unwrapping of Jesus's love and care for the benefit and blessing of those who need them.



Faith in Action Practice: As we head towards Christmas, what commitment(s) will you make to help house God's presence among us? Write/draw your commitments and put them somewhere you can see them each day. ✿

We Hold in Prayer...

December Birthdays

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



... All people who are isolated and alone this Advent & Christmas Season, especially our elders and vulnerable homebound members, and those who have lost loved ones in the past year;

...All people in a season of grief, including Sophie Sherman, following the death of her husband, Allen Sherman, Luanne Buchanan, following the death of her husband

Sid Buchanan, Yvette Morris, following the death of her friend Dion, Rhonda Matheny, following the death of her Mother, Elayne (Tough) Matheny, and Stuart, Laurie, & Char Mitchell, following the death of their beloved dog, Orson;

...All people who are recovering from illness and injury, including Garth Watson, on a healing journey, Maria Mojica, healing from a fall, Bill McMillon, confronting cancer, and Mary & Jerry Coleman, confronting cancer.

Let us pray: Holy One, we pray your Presence surround these beloveds this Advent & Christmas Season. Step into the moments of their lives when they hurt the most, that they may feel your comfort and Love holding them. Help them to know that they are not alone-- they are held, held in the light of our community, and held in your holy light of healing and care. For in the person of Christ, you know pain and suffering, hope and resurrection, and you lead us into life. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray, Amen. ✠

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Associate Minister of Congregational Care



The women's retreat committee is continuing our tradition of the sale of fresh holiday wreaths this year. Wreaths **MUST** be pre-ordered and will be available for drive through pick up in the church parking lot on December 6th and 13th between 1-3 pm. Wreaths are limited to 30 on December 6th and 20 on the 13th so sign up soon by contacting Joyce Cox b-j-cox@att.net or Jane Huneke jane.huneke1@gmail.com before December 6th. Cost of the wreaths is \$20. All profit will reduce the cost of the women's retreat. Thanks for supporting the women of the church. ✠

LC MEETING SUMMARY

Continued from Page 4

friends of the church describing where we stand with the pledge drive and the budgeting process. It is the hope that the letter will encourage people to increase their pledge or make a pledge.

Employee Handbook Policy Change: Pastor Ben reported that churches are exempt from participating in unemployment insurance. Council approved the motion to add the following item to "Termination of Employment" section of the Employee Handbook: "Churches are exempt from the requirement to pay unemployment taxes in California. Therefore, employees who are terminated are ineligible for unemployment benefits."

Burbank Heights and Inter-Church Food Pantry Boards: Pastor Ben reported that the church is affiliated with and has members on both the Burbank Heights and Food Pantry Board. He recommended that the Bylaws of each of those organizations be reviewed to make sure that they are being followed and to provide accountability. It was agreed that Pastor Lacey and Joyce Cox will contact Nancy Shimetz (nominating committee chair) to reach out to and check in with the current board members from our church.

Care and Fellowship: Pastor Rachel is making sure that her teams and committees are covered while she goes on her Sabbatical leave.

Facilities: The commercial ovens and heating systems have been repaired in Memorial Hall. Tree limbs threatening the roofs in Fellowship Hall and our school have been trimmed. Gutter cleaning will start this month. Health and Safety will meet again in January. A work day was held on November 7 to remove overgrowth on the east side of the church. Homeless debris has been removed. Several new volunteers have committed to helping on grounds projects a couple times a month. We are very grateful for this assistance.

Outreach: A master planning application for the Conestoga Huts Project was sent to the City of Sebastopol. The various departments are reviewing the request and have set up a zoom meeting with the church on December 1.

Faith Formation: Another Safe Church Training will be held on Saturday November 22 from 1-3 PM on Zoom.

Personnel: The Personnel committee continues to search for a new bookkeeper.

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:

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
Larell Fineren – Council Member for Faith Formation
Bobbie Johanson – Council Member for Care and Fellowship
Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts
Denelle Tognozzi-Clerk ☸

Faith Formation: Putting Advent Into Practice

Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation

This Advent and Christmas season, we will spend time listening to, learning from and journeying alongside different voices in the wilderness – the voices of ancient prophets like Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary, as well as the voices crying out in the wilderness today. This year's Christmas Bag Giving supports residents at the Santa Rosa Samuel Jones Hall Homeless Shelter by providing folks with resources for basic needs. Through this practice of giving, we are invited to take up our commitment to "put our faith into action" by paying attention to the voices of our kin who are experiencing houselessness, offering mutual aid, and deepening our awareness of the housing crisis and how we can participate in creative solutions.



The Outreach Team, in collaboration with Faith Formation ministries, has put together a series of Advent meditations to accompany us in this important ministry this season. Every Sunday night in Advent, you will receive an Advent Practice email that will include reflections about houselessness in biblical and modern times along with a weekly faith in action practice. You can also find these weekly meditations in this newsletter. These offerings are for you to engage with how you feel called. You may wish to use them as guides for a daily advent candle practice at home. You may wish to invite others to join you in conversation and action. However you participate, we hope these meditations will nourish your spiritual life this Advent and draw you nearer to the presence of God among us. Thank you to Laura Phearsal and Mike Ott for crafting each of the Advent Reflections that are part of the meditations, and to Joyce Cox and the Outreach Team for organizing this ministry opportunity and partnership.

One of the faith in action practices is to put together a Sam Jones Christmas Bag. As you do so, we invite you to thoughtfully decorate the shopping bag that contains the items, to pray with each item as you add it to the bag, and to make a card offering good wishes and blessings. If you are interested in putting together a bag, here's how:

- Decorate a shopping bag or use a gift bag and fill it with the items on the list below. Please use full size items and include everything on the list. Drive through the church parking lot and drop the bag(s) off at Fellowship Hall on Sunday Dec 6, Dec 13, or Dec 20 between 1:00 and 3:00 pm.
- If you would like the Outreach Team to shop for you, please send a check to Community Church of Sebastopol by December 4 with a notation for Christmas Gift Bag Ministry (all donations will be used to purchase needed gift bag items). The men's list costs \$33. Women's List \$37.

Questions: Contact Joyce Cox, Council Representative for Outreach, at b-j-cox@att.net or Pastor Lacey at pastorlacey@uccseb.org ☼

List for Men

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Lg. bar of soap
- ☐ Band Aids
- ☐ Shampoo/Cond.
- ☐ Pk. of Tissues
- ☐ Nail Clippers
- ☐ Washcloth
- ☐ Good quality disposable razors
- ☐ Warm Socks
- ☐ Pocket comb
- ☐ Chapstick
- ☐ Shaving Cream
- ☐ Mouth Wash
- ☐ Deck of Cards
- ☐ 2 candy bars
- ☐ Disinfectant wipe
- ☐ Shower Towel



List for Women

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Lg. bar of soap
- ☐ Band Aids
- ☐ Shampoo/Cond.
- ☐ Pk. of Tissues
- ☐ Nail Clippers
- ☐ Washcloth
- ☐ Good quality disposable razors
- ☐ Warm Socks
- ☐ Comb or folding brush with mirror
- ☐ Chapstick
- ☐ Net Scrubby
- ☐ Mouth Wash
- ☐ Coloring book with pens or pencils
- ☐ 2 candy bars
- ☐ Disinfectant wipe

Welcome to the New Bookkeeper



We are happy to announce that Rev. Deanna Euritt has agreed to become our new bookkeeper effective November 30th. Deanna has an interesting mix of education which includes a B.S. in Accounting and an M.Div. in Theology. She was a CPA auditor in Arizona earlier in her career prior to attending seminary at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo. Following ordination, Deanna was ordained in the UCC Nevada-California Conference at Fairfax Community Church.

Deanna served as an associate parish minister in a large UCC congregation in Duluth, Minnesota. She later returned to California and served for 12 years as Spiritual Services Manager at Hospice by the Bay. Following this position, Deanna served for an additional 12 years as Executive Director of Novato Human Needs Center, a large nonprofit serving low income and homeless people and immigrants. She retired from full-time service December, 2017. She currently offers consulting services to local nonprofit organizations and is a certified Quickbooks ProAdvisor.

Deanna has been a member of our congregation for six years and offers volunteer pastoral care services through the current Community Life Team. Deanna is delighted to serve in both capacities. She also enjoys working on her new dog blog at www.dog-tales.blog featuring her two sweet, mixed-breed, rescue dogs. 🍷

Cheers!



The Community Church's first-ever wine-tasting with Winemaker Andrea Card was a great success! Many thanks to Andrea for sharing her expertise with us and answering both fun and technical questions about wine, wine-making, and how this year's wildfire season impacted grapes in our region. Big thanks to Andrea, her sister Amy Furber Dobson who helped with Zoom logistics, and her Mom Pat Furber who supported this event as a member of the Congregational Life Team.

This event was sponsored by the Congregational Life Team, a team focused on creating connections in our church community during the time of covid. For more information about the Congregational Life Team, contact Pastor Rachel: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.

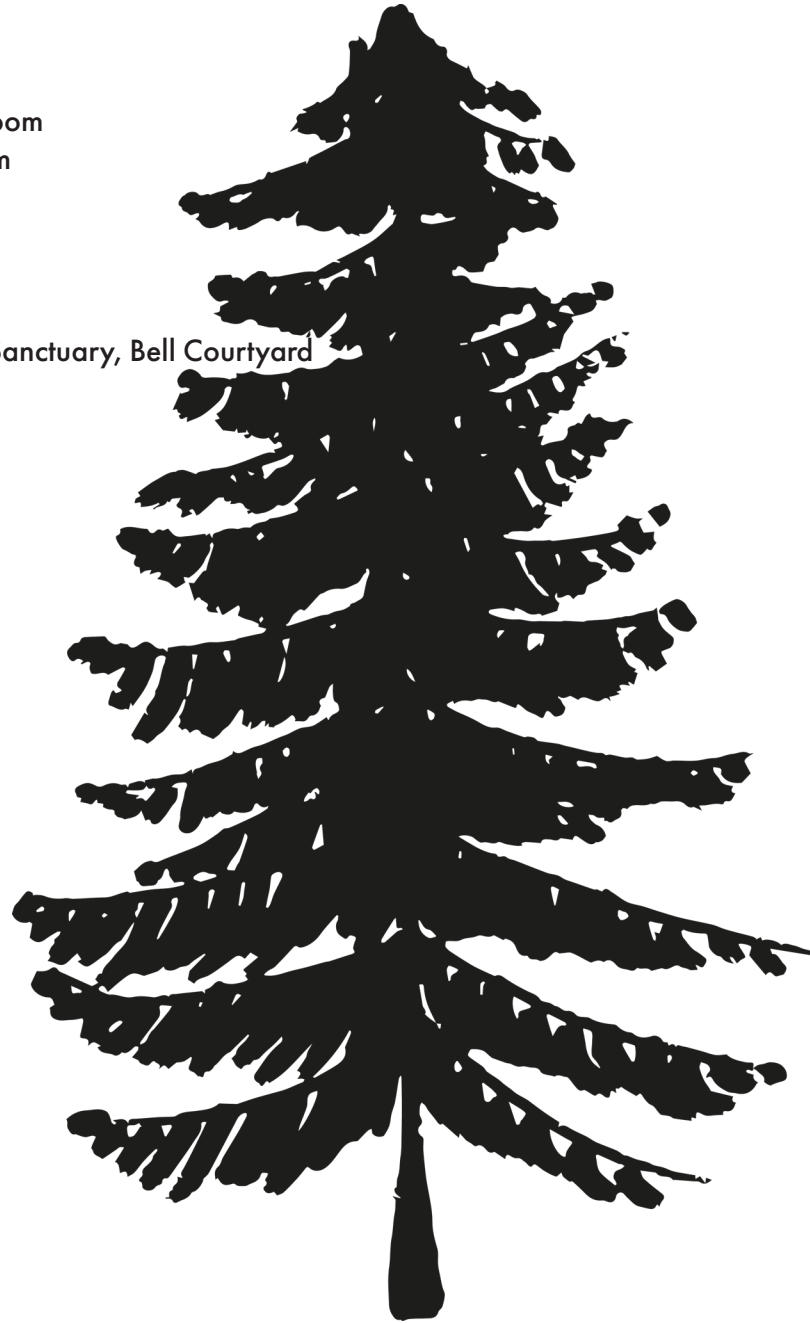


Events in December at Community Church

Most in person gatherings at Community Church are suspended. Check our online calendar at <https://uccseb.org/Calendar.php> for updates when changes are made to the Shelter-in-Place order for Sonoma County.

- December 1 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
 Pastor Rachel on sabbatical through January 4, 2021
- December 2 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
 Men's Group, 6:30 p.m. Fountain Courtyard
- December 3 Marketing Team meeting, 3:30 p.m., Zoom
 Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom
- December 6 Advent II: Peace Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom
 Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
 Holiday Items Drive-Thru, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. parking lot
 Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
 High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- December 8 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
 Mission & Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- December 9 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
- December 10 Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom
- December 11 Card Writing Ministry, 1:00 p.m., Zoom
- December 12 Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- December 13 Advent III: Joy/Gaudete Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom
 Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
 Holiday Items Drive-Thru, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. parking lot
 Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
 High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- December 15 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
 Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Ben) 4:30 p.m., Zoom
 Salt & Light Newsletter deadline
- December 16 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
 Leadership Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Zoom
- December 17 Marketing Team meeting, 3:30 p.m., Zoom
 Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom
- December 18 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Fountain Courtyard
 Leadership Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Zoom
- December 20 Advent IV: Love Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom

Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom
 Christmas Pageant, 10:30 a.m., Zoom
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
 Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
 High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
 December 22 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
 December 23 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
 Piano Rehearsal & Recording, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard
 December 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 p.m, Zoom
 December 25 Christmas Day
 December 27 Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom
 Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
 Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
 High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
 December 29 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
 December 30 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
 Piano Rehearsal & Recording, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard
 December 31 New Year's Eve



The Community Church
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North
Sebastopol, CA 95472



SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent
Lead Minister

pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org

707.823.2484 ext.102



Rev. Lacey Hunter
Associate Minister of Faith Formation

pastorlacey@uccseb.org

Rev. Rachel Knuth
Associate Minister of Congregational Care

rachelknuth@uccseb.org



www.uccseb.org

office@uccseb.org