

# SALT & LIGHT

## COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

### FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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

**Pastor Emeritus**  
Rev. Gene Nelson

**Handbell  
Ensemble  
Director**  
Karna Roa

**Keyboardist**  
J. Althea

**Congregational  
Administrator**  
Becca Emerson

**Bookkeeper**  
Julie Reimer

**Custodian**  
Maria Mojica

#### WHY YOU ALWAYS MARRY THE WRONG PERSON

By Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

On January 24, my parents celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. The first thing I thought when it dawned on me that my parents had been married for 50 years was, "Dang, I'm almost 50 years old." The second thing I thought about was the fact that their marriage almost didn't make it.

In the summer of 1978, my dad took me and my sister from Vermont to spend the summer in Phoenix with my uncle. I remember heat and saguaros and missing my mom. In September we returned to Vermont to a new apartment with bunk beds. My dad kissed us goodnight and goodbye before he moved to California, for good. They were officially separated.

Months of phone calls ensued. When my dad called to talk to us kids, he would speak briefly with my mom. Gradually the time they spent on the phone together grew longer and longer, each time with a bit more tenderness, even some cautious laughter. Then one night my mom said to my dad, "We're coming." "To visit?" "No, Matt, to stay." On March 1, 1979 we arrived in El Dorado, California to live in a church parsonage. One evening that summer, my sister and I went to sleep under the swamp cooler fan in the hallway. I remember hearing my parents talking softly in the kitchen. I realize now they were mending their marriage one word at a time.

The occasion of my parents' golden anniversary caused me to think about, "Why you always marry the wrong person." That is, no matter who you marry, they will let you down. They will turn out not to be the person you thought you were giving yourself to. After all, how can any of us ever live up to the idea someone else has of us, especially as we keep changing over the years? At some point, all marriages fail. Some of those failures are best allowed to play out. But for a marriage to last, as my parents' did, there will come a point of failure when both partners stop asking "Did I find the right person?" and instead ask themselves, "Am I ready to love the person I found, just as they are, and not as I wish they would be?" That kind of love is the love God has for all people, the kind of love embodied in the life and ministry, the death and resurrection of Jesus. In marriage, we get to practice God-love on a small scale, in relationship to this one other person we are blessed and challenged to be with.

This kind of love isn't only practiced in marriage. Friendships grant similar opportunities. The role of parenting, and grand-parenting, largely consists in learning to love the child you were given and letting go of who you expect them to be. A community like the church is the ultimate venue where this kind of love is put to the test. When we look around at each other, are we still asking, "Did I find the right group of people to be a part of?" Or have we reached the point where our relationship to each other changes? "God, grant me the grace and the strength to love each person as they are, not as I wish they would be, but just as you love them, now, and in every moment." We are bound to fail each other along the way, but there is a love deeper than our failures. This love makes a marriage, and it can make a church.

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# WORSHIP & BALCONY VIEW

## FEBRUARY 2020 WORSHIP

*Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary*  
*Nursery Care available for newborns through*  
*Kindergarteners*

### **February 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

On this first Sunday of the month, we gather for worship with Holy Communion and Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, explores Matthew 5: 1 – 12 in a sermon on the Beatitudes: "Learning to See the World Upside Down."



### **February 9 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany / Evolution Sunday**



Today the Chancel Choir sings an anthem and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Matthew 5: 13 – 20 entitled "The Science of Fulfillment."

### **February 16 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

On this Presidents' Day Weekend, the Handbell Ensemble shares worship music and Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister of Congregational Care, preaches a sermon on Matthew 5: 21 – 37 entitled "From the Heart."



### **February 23 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany / Transfiguration Sunday**



On this final Sunday in the season after Epiphany, Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, preaches a sermon on Matthew 17: 1 – 9 entitled "Jesus Bedazzled."

### **February 26 – Ash Wednesday**

Contemplative All-Ages Service with Imposition of ashes at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary



**Coming in March...** first 5  
Sundays in the season of Lent;  
weekly Communion; Lenten  
theme: "Lent is a time to  
\_\_\_\_\_"



## THE BALCONY VIEW... SEASONS OF TRANSITION



By Michael Ott, Moderator

At the Leadership Council's January meeting, Pastor Ben provided the Council an update on staff personnel transitions. As you know, both Becca Emerson and Gavin Bright are leaving their staff positions as they continue their life journeys. I consider this a major transition, and change can be difficult. Stanley Arnold wrote, "The essence of human life is change, but for too many of us, change does not excite, it disturbs. But if success is what we seek, we must make change a partner in our pursuit."

The bigger the transition, the more difficult it is. My prayer is that the transition will go smoothly and that all of us will be supportive of Gavin and Becca as they leave, and supportive of the new tech team and congregational administrator when they arrive. Don't assume or expect the new staff members to be like Becca and Gavin. They no doubt will have different strengths and gifts to offer, with a style all their own.

You may wonder, "Does the Bible have anything to guide us through a healthy transition?" Deuteronomy 31, through the story of Moses handing the leadership baton to Joshua, teaches us that for a healthy transition, God's people need to trust Him in the change. It is important at all times, but especially in a time of change, to know that God is present with us. He is the one great unchanging constant in life!

Azani Shelise writes of seasons of transition - a time where you experience sudden or significant change. It's a time where new things are happening spiritually, naturally, mentally, or emotionally. Seasons of transition often require greater faith – Don't get scared, get bold in your faith. With faith, our congregation can embrace this personnel transition with excitement and anticipation for what God may have in store for us.

<https://uccseb.org/docs/2020-January-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>



# CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## "HOW TO TALK TO SOMEONE WITH ALZHEIMER'S" BY MALIA WOLLAN

*I am always learning new ways to offer compassionate pastoral care, and want to share with you excerpts from an article that I found useful, reprinted from The New York Times Magazine, January 5, 2020.*

—Pastor Rachel  
[article]

"I don't think anyone's ever won an argument with a person with Alzheimer's," says Ruth Drew, who worked as a counselor in a hospital's geriatric psychiatric ward before becoming a director with the Alzheimer's Association, where she oversees the 24-hour 1-800 help line. ... "Everything you know about persuasion and logic you have to put on the shelf," she says.

Be patient, calm, and kind. You cannot predict how the plaques and tangles in an Alzheimer's patient's brain will change him or her: A taciturn mother becomes chatty, a father forgets his daughter, a prim grandmother takes up obscenities.... Some people die within a year of diagnosis, and others live with the disease for decades. Approach someone with Alzheimer's from the front. If the person doesn't recognize you, say your name. Position yourself at eye level and connect with the person as he or she is, right now, before you. "Treat them with the respect that a lifetime of experience on this earth deserves," Drew says.

The disease slows the brain. Speak clearly. Use words sparingly. Gesture more. If you want to offer coffee, instead of blathering, place two cups of coffee on the table and beckon toward the empty chair. "Coffee?" As language comprehension begins to fail, you'll need to become something of a detective, looking for other cues like facial expressions, grunts and sighs that hint at needs or states of mind.

Some 5.8 million Americans currently live with Alzheimer's, a figure projected to more than double by 2050. Even when patients can no longer speak or recognize family members, they still need human connection. Drew likes to encourage the families she works with to think about how to show that bond in ways that don't rely so heavily on language. Hold their hand. Play their favorite song. Take them outside to feel the wind on their face. Sing to them. One man Drew knows shaves his father's face for him. "It's something they both enjoy," she says. "They don't need words."



## ASHES TO ASHES



Join Pastor Rachel for a ritual of burning the past year's prayer cards and palms on Sunday, February 23rd at 12 noon in the courtyard by the fountain. Together we will place the prayer cards on top of last year's dried palms from Palm Sunday. We will pray and sing as we burn them. The ashes will then be collected and used in the Ash Wednesday service a few days later. All are welcome to gather with Pastor Rachel around the fire. For more information, contact Pastor Rachel: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org).

## SPRING 2020 NINE-TO-DINE

Spring 2020 Nine-to-Dine

Dining groups have formed, and gatherings are beginning for the Spring!

For folks participating in the Nine-to-Dine program, the February "Questions of the Month" are... drumroll please...

1. What's one thing people might not know about you?
2. What draws you to Community Church?
3. How does God's Light shine forth in your life?

For more information about Nine-to-Dine, contact Pastor Rachel: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org).

## KINDRED GROUPS

February

2—Granny Smiths usher

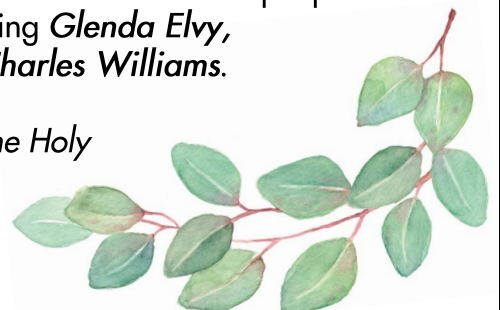
23—Romes Usher



## PRAYER CIRCLE

We hold in prayer... All people in a season of grief, including the families of **Bill Barrow**, **Ron Feige**, and **Cliff Bright**. May God's love surround them. All people healing from illness, including **Sam Dowdney** and **Marna McKenzie**. May the healing light of Christ journey with them on their path to wellness. All people who are housebound, including **Glenda Elvy**, **Doris Rowe**, and **Charles Williams**.

*May the peace of the Holy Spirit be a constant presence for them.*





# FAITH FORMATION

## FAITH FORMATION AT COMMUNITY CHURCH By Pastor Lacey, Associate Minister of Faith Formation

Over the past few years, Community Church has made a cultural shift from separate Christian Education programs to ministries of Faith Formation. So what is this shift and what is this emerging ministry of Faith Formation? One way of understanding the shift is that often times Christian Education emphasizes curriculum and study as the foundation of discipleship-making while Faith Formation takes into account the full spectrum of meaning-making, life-shaping opportunities in the Church, understanding that Worship, Study, and Ministry (ie. justice ministries, hospitality and outreach, mission, etc.) are all foundational places for formation. Rev. Dr. Paul Bramer, a scholar of Christian Formation writes that, "Jesus wanted people formed for the kingdom of God, imaging God in their actions and attitudes, bearing fruit to the glory of God, fulfilling our first and deepest purpose." In this way, Faith Formation is the spiritual journey—the practices, values, ways of being that shape individuals and communities as Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Four pillars of Faith Formation that I have witnessed in our community are Scripture & Story, Justice, Service, and Play. How are we being called to take on each of these pillars as spiritual practices, as ways that we deepen and ground our faith and put our faith into action?

### Scripture & Story

How do we read, meditate, pray with, embody, and creatively explore scriptures and other texts that guide our faith lives? Who are the voices we are not hearing from and what change does that require of us?

### Justice

How do we cultivate spiritual practices and skills for justice-making in the world? How do our rituals and sacraments sustain us and embody God's kin-dom on earth?

### Service

How do we show up for one another? How are each of our unique gifts and leadership capacities empowered to be the fullness of who God has called us to be?

### Play

How do we embody the delight, foolishness, and wonder of God incarnate?  
How do we open ourselves to the unexpected, co-creative energy of the Spirit?



## ALL AGES CHURCH DANCE

A Youth Group Fundraiser, Friday, March 27, 7-9 pm in Memorial Hall. Everyone is invited to this fundraiser for our middle and high school youth groups' summer Service and Learning Trips. Come for dance lessons from the Nordquist Dance Company, Slab Dance (caller led dancing) led by Kathy Bell, free dance DJ'd by the youth group members, and a silent auction including a 24 week session dance class with Nordquist & more.



# 2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT



MARCH 20-22  
BISHOP'S RANCH, HEALDSBURG



**THEME:** When Women Gather: Passing on Spiritual Wisdom from Generation to Generation

**Co-Facilitators:** Rev. Lacey Hunter and Dr. Sharon Fennema

## **Theme:**

History teaches us that women are often the tenders of spiritual wisdom, learning from previous generations, cultivating practices of spiritual nurture for their own day, and passing on those practices and insights to future generations. On this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's Retreats at Community Church, this year's retreat will explore the spiritual wisdom that has been nourished and passed on from biblical, historical and contemporary s(heroes) as sustenance for our own journeys of faith and action. What did these women do to cultivate their own spiritual lives and the spiritual lives of their communities? What do they teach us about faith and doubt and our vocations in the world? What visions do they and we cast for the spiritual flourishing of future generations? You are invited to bring a picture or an image of a s(hero) who has been important for your faith journey or who has offered you a model of spiritual leadership that compels you for use in our retreat. All women and female-identified people are welcome to participate.

## **Facilitator Bios:**

**Sharon Fennema** is Assistant Professor of Christian Worship and Director of Worship Life at the Pacific School of Religion and Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. As a liturgical scholar, practical theologian and creative worship designer, Dr. Fennema's teaching and research addresses the intersections of critical, race, postcolonial and gender theories with embodied spiritual practices, from worship to protest, as practices which form identity and perform theology. She is the creator of many worship resources featured on the UCC website as well as in the book *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship* and is the author of several articles including "Postcolonial Whiteness: Being-With in Worship" in *Liturgy in Postcolonial Perspectives: Only One is Holy* and "The Forgetfulness of Gentrification and the Pilgrimage of Protest: Re-Membering the Body of Christ" in the journal *Review and Expositor*.

**Rev. Lacey Hunter**, who uses pronouns she/her/hers, and bro, serves as the Associate Minister of Faith Formation at Community Church of Sebastopol. Lacey's vocational passion is exploring what teachings, rituals, songs, stories, and images live in our bones and rise up in our spirits and how all of that forms us a kin-dom makers with the Divine. Pastor Lacey also serves as the Team Lead of Justice & Witness Ministries for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC.

## **Facility:**

Bishop's Ranch is a lovely retreat facility on Westside Road in Healdsburg. We have room for 30 overnight participants. There are two room options. There are 9 two-person rooms with a private bath in the **Lodge** close to the dining room and meeting room. There are two **cottages** which are a longer walk to both the dining room and meeting room. Each has two bedrooms with three to a room and a shared bathroom for 6.

Retreat fees include 2 nights, 5 meals and the facilitators. The fees are subsidized by our Candy Sales and Wreath Sales.

**Scholarships** are available for anyone who wishes to attend. The participant must pay a minimum of \$70. Payment of your portion can be made monthly with a final payment due August 2020. Those who receive a scholarship will be asked to participate in our fundraising events.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION**  
due by Feb. 29

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Requests \_\_\_\_\_

Any special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Fees:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Lodge (actual cost \$370)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$225 Cottage (actual cost \$355)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Saturday only, includes 3 meals  
(actual cost \$125)

**Fees are not refundable after February 29**

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is the total registration fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (no less than \$50) The remaining balance to be paid no later than March 10 unless arrangements are made with Marge Holland.

Please make checks payable to

**The Community Church**

with a notation on the memo line: **Women's Retreat**

**Transportation:** I am interested in carpooling \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

\_\_\_I will be driving and have room for \_\_\_ more people

\_\_\_I would like to have a ride

Please return this form with your money to

Marge Holland

8949 Barnett Valley Rd., Sebastopol 95472

Or to the Women's Retreat box in the church office

For more information, please contact:

**Jane Huneke** jane.huneke1@gmail.com  
707.795.5451

**Joyce Cox** b-j-cox@att.net  
707.829.0750





# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT COMMUNITY CHURCH



Christmas Eve



New Members



Annual Meeting





# MUSIC TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MUSIC

By Linda Roa, Leadership Council Member for Worship & Arts

Come, join us for a musical afternoon!

February 16, 3:00 pm at Community Church

We will be featuring pianist and composer John Halle on our newly refurbished grand piano. John is currently touring the U.S. (please see his biography below).

Additionally we will offer selections by our own choir, directed by Brian Plaughter and our handbell ensemble, directed by Kar-na Roa.



This is a fundraiser for our musical instruments: pianos, handbells, and organ. All of our instruments are aging and in need of repair. A freewill offering will be collected with a suggested \$10 donation. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

\* \* \* \* \*



Pianist and composer **John Halle** recently retired from an academic career which included faculty positions at Yale and the Bard College Conservatory of Music. In this capacity, he taught some of the younger generations' most celebrated composers including winners of the Pulitzer Prize and Academy Awards.

Halle's professional musical career began in the late 1970s as a pianist in San Francisco where he performed jazz with Eddie Henderson, Sonny Stitt, Mark Levine, Freddie Hubbard and many others. He has also performed works by Bach, Beethoven, Ravel and Debussy in solo recitals in Berkeley, New York, Cambridge and in accompanying his wife, the violinist and violist Marka Gustavsson and his son Benjamin, a double bass player.

He is currently embarked on a fifteen city tour where he will present and discuss his own works for solo piano as well as works by Bach and Debussy.

# COMMUNITY HISTORY

## THANKSGIVING MEAL HISTORY

By Karin Seder

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner began with Roger Collins – he had an idea to cook a meal for anyone in need. His idea has become a Thanksgiving tradition, serving thousands of turkey dinners from Memorial Hall over the past 19 years.

Roger passed away unexpectedly in January 2019, but his family, the Community Church family, and community members pulled together to continue this great tradition.

Key committee members include Linda Collins, Gary & Denelle Tognozzi, Karin & Brad Seder and Leslie Washington with help from over 50 community volunteers of all ages.

Pacific Market played a big part by donating all the turkeys and to-go supplies and the Sebastopol Odd Fellows provided a sizable donation.

Volunteers delivered 395 meals throughout Sonoma County and approximately 450 meals were served in Memorial Hall.

We were also committed to reducing our waste by serving meals in Memorial Hall on real plates, using real utensils, cups and glasses. Food waste and compostable materials were separated from recycling and garbage for proper disposal.

This is more than a community outreach project that serves meals, it brings people into the community and offers everyone the opportunity to serve. From our cooks, to our volunteers on the serving line, to our delivery people, our dishwashers and clean-up volunteers, everyone contributes to the success of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner.





# OUTREACH, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, & BIRTHDAYS

## GAMES AND GLOVES!

By Michael Ott, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair

The Mission and Outreach Committee received very positive feedback regarding the shoeboxes delivered to the Sam Jones Hall shelter over the holidays. They appreciated that the items were high quality and full sized. We heard that two items are of continuing need – **warm gloves and games**.

So to celebrate Valentine's Month, the Mission and Outreach Committee is sponsoring **GAMES AND GLOVES!**, a chance for the congregation to continue our generous and spirited giving to the homeless in Sonoma County.

We are requesting your donations of warm gloves and all kinds of games – cards, board games, puzzles, coloring books, chess sets, and more – from Sunday January 26 through Sunday February 23. Used games and puzzles are OK if they have all the pieces. The donations can be placed under the big red heart poster in the Sanctuary lobby. The Committee will deliver the items to Sam Jones Hall at the end of February.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of Mission and Outreach!



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 4  | Terry Beck        |
|    | Nathan Knuth      |
| 5  | Laura Pearsall    |
|    | Larell Fineren    |
| 11 | Kathie Mayhew     |
| 12 | Charlie Hidalgo   |
| 14 | Jennifer Halleck  |
|    | Sandy Hendrickson |
|    | Kiley Clark       |
| 15 | Brian Wetzel      |
|    | Martha Kautz      |
|    | Joan Carter       |
| 16 | Parker Warner     |
| 17 | Bella Emerson     |
| 19 | John Henel        |
| 22 | Theresa Weigel    |
| 23 | Jean Boal         |
|    | Judy Davison      |
| 24 | Sophie Serman     |
| 26 | Margaux Jame      |
| 27 | Nancy Mathews     |
| 28 | Erika DelMonte    |

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

By Joyce Cox

Please come a program on Environmental Justice: Care for the Earth Sunday, February 23, 9:00-10:15 am in Faith Chapel.

Featuring Tayse Crocker and Pastor Benjamin

Tayse Crocker will be our guest speaker. Tayse is working with the North Bay Organizing Project on their 2 year project focusing on Environmental Justice. Come and hear what is being done here in Sonoma County. Pastor Benjamin will lead a discussion on how caring for the earth is putting our faith into action.

This event is one of a three part series to inform the congregation about the work of the North Bay Organizing Project's campaign - Roots, Roofs and Refuge. Part two will focus on housing and part three on refugees. Watch for them in the upcoming months!





# EVENTS IN FEBRUARY AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Feb 2 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
High School Youth Group Mission Trip Discussion, 12:00 pm, Youth Lounge
- Feb 5 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room  
Men's Group, 7:00 pm, Faith Chapel
- Feb 8 Second Saturday Lunch, 12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Feb 9 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Faith In Action Team, 9:30 am, Women's Fellowship Office  
ChilFFAT, 12:00 pm, Media Room  
Visitation Team, 12:00 pm, Media Room  
Youth Ministry Team, 1:30 pm, Youth Lounge
- Feb 10 Mission & Outreach Committee, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Feb 11 Facilities Team, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room  
Lead Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 4:00 pm, Fireside Room
- Feb 12 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room
- Feb 13 Card Writing Ministry, 11:00 am, Women's Fellowship Office
- Feb 15 NCNC Feb Camp
- Feb 12 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  
Associate Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Rachel), 12:00 pm, Fireside Room  
Fundraiser Concert, 3:00 pm, Sanctuary
- Feb 17 Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 am, Fireside Room
- Feb 18 Health & Safety Team, 1:00 pm, Faith Chapel
- Feb 19 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room  
Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
- Feb 23 Transfiguration Sunday  
Nominating Committee, 11:50 pm, Fireside Room  
Ashes to Ashes, 12:00 pm, Fountain Courtyard
- Feb 25 Shrove Tuesday
- Feb 26 Ash Wednesday  
Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 pm, Sanctuary



## February Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am—2:30 pm

Office will be closed February 3 and 17

## Coming Up in March

- Lent
- Faith Journeys
- Women's Retreat, Mar 20-22
- All Church Dance, Mar 27



## Sundays at 9:00 am—Faith Formation Hour

- ◇ Godly Play, Preschool-5th Grade in Classroom 5
- ◇ Middle School Youth, 6th-8th Grade in the Youth Lounge
- ◇ 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

Thursdays at 7:15 pm—Chancel Choir rehearses in the Choir Room

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

The Community Church  
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