

# SALT & LIGHT

## COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

### JANUARY 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**  
 Rev. Brian Plaugher

**Pastor Emeritus**  
 Rev. Gene Nelson

**Handbell Ensemble Director**  
 Karna Roa

**Keyboardist**  
 J. Althea

**Congregational Administrator**  
 Becca Emerson

**Bookkeeper**  
 Julie Reimer

**Custodian**  
 Maria Mojica

#### 2020: COMING INTO VIEW

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

The year 2020. Can you believe it? Here at the beginning of a new year, of a new decade, we might discover a rather obscure Christian holy day that used to be more important than Christmas.

In the first three centuries of the Christian church, the third most important day of the calendar, after Easter and Pentecost, was Epiphany, the Feast of the Incarnation, on January 6. Epiphany signified several things all at once:

1. Birth of Christ – Early tradition held that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit on the same date as his eventual death, believed to be April 6, and that his birth happened 9 months later on January 6.
2. Arrival of the Magi – A tradition maintained in parts of Latin America, gifts are given not on Christmas but on Epiphany, el Día de los Reyes.
3. Baptism of Jesus – With no nativity story, Mark's Gospel claims that Jesus' public life begins at his Baptism by John in the Jordan River.
4. Miracle of Cana – According the fourth gospel, Jesus' ministry began at a Judean village wedding with the first of several "signs," the transformation of water into wine.
5. New Year – For some early churches, Epiphany was the beginning of the church year, marked by reading the first words of one of the Gospels.

The common meaning in all of these is the beginning of the manifestation of God's power, light, and love in the person of Jesus Christ.

As we enter a new year and decade as a congregation, we might reclaim some of the meaning of this ancient season. The word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek meaning "to shine forth" or "to come into view."

- What will "shine forth" in the coming year? Personally, politically, economically, environmentally, theologically, this has been a challenging time in the life of our nation and world. How might we as the church be witnesses to the inbreaking of a new way of being, of the power of God's love made manifest for the well-being of all?
- What will "come into view" for us as a congregation? As we move together into the next decade, how is God shaping us as a people to respond to the challenges and opportunities of our local and wider community? What new ways will the Spirit show us to "share the love of Jesus Christ and put our faith into action"?

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# WORSHIP & BALCONY VIEW

## JANUARY 2020 WORSHIP

*Sundays at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary*

*Nursery Care available for newborns through Kindergarteners*

### *January 5 – Second Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany Sunday*

On this "Twelfth Night," we gather for Multi-Generational Worship with Holy Communion on this eve of the Feast of the Epiphany, also known as Día de Los Reyes. Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on Matthew 2: 1 – 12, the story of the magi, entitled "Traveling By Night."



### *January 12 – Baptism of Christ Sunday*



Today we hear the story of Jesus' baptism found in the Gospel of Matthew. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism – a mother and son will be baptized today. Judy Kinsey will lead worship music on our Oscar Hallberg Memorial Organ.

### *January 19 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany*

On this Holiday Weekend honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our Associate Minister of Faith Formation, Rev. Lacey Hunter, preaches a sermon on John 1: 29 – 42 entitled "All That We Are."



### *January 26 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany / Annual Meeting of the Congregation*



On this Sunday of our congregation's Annual Meeting, we will welcome new members into our fellowship and our Associate Minister of Congregational Care, Rev. Rachel Knuth, preaches a sermon on Matthew 4: 12 – 23 entitled "Called Together."



*Coming in February...* Multi-Generational Worship, Holy Communion, Evolution Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday, and Ash Wednesday

## THE BALCONY VIEW... ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

By Michael Ott, Moderator

The annual meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday January 26, 2020. All active and associate members are invited to attend this business meeting which will take place after church in Memorial Hall. We will begin with a potluck lunch and then move into the business of the congregation. A full written report with an agenda, list of nominees for positions to be filled, and the proposed budget will be available no later than January 12. Please plan to join us for this very important meeting.

So what is in it for you? It is really important for church members to take the time to attend this meeting. Congregants have been nominated for membership on the Leadership Council and Nominating Committee and will be voted on by the congregation. You have a voice in approving the people who will lead us in the coming year and beyond. The 2019 financial report and 2020 proposed budget will be reviewed and voted on at the meeting. It is important for you to be aware of, understand and agree with how our pledge funds will be spent. Committee reports will be offered and it is important for you to hear what happens at our church away from the weekly church service. There will be a Time of Remembrance for our church members who have passed away in 2019. It is important to hold them in our hearts.

Please join us for the annual meeting, enjoy the potluck lunch and fellowship, and know that your attendance counts.

Please see below for the link to the December Council Minutes.

<https://uccseb.org/docs/2019-December-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

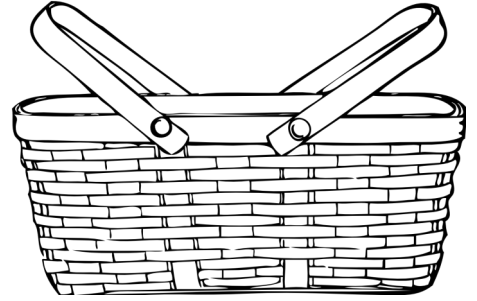


# POTLUCK & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

## ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK

By Bobbie Johanson, Leadership Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Come participate in our annual meeting on January 26, following the worship service. Come join in the fellowship. We will have a true potluck with (but dessert being provided so bring anything else.) Plan to stay, and if you have children please bring food your children will want to eat. Plates and silverware and drinks will be provided. We hope to see you there!



### NINE-TO-DINE

Nine-to-Dine is 9 people having dinner together as a potluck in each other's homes. If you've been wishing to share meals and conversation with new friends, Nine-to-Dine is for you! People who sign up for the Spring Nine-to-Dine program are placed into groups of 9-ish people, who meet monthly for a potluck. Every month, the Nine-to-Dine groups will receive a "Question of the Month" as a conversation-starter. In May, these groups dissolve, with new groups and the opportunity to sign up again in September 2020.

To participate, look for the sign-up sheet on the rainbow lectern in the Narthex, beginning Sunday, January 5th. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, January 15th. For more information, contact Pastor Rachel: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org).



### SPRING NINE-TO-DINE GROUPS

New Nine-to-Dine groups are forming in January! As Revelation 21:1 could say, "Behold! We are doing a new thing! The first Nine-to-Dine groups are falling away and new groups forming for Spring."



### PRAYER CIRCLE

We hold in prayer...

All people on a journey of healing, including Julie Davis & Warren Davis, and all people who struggle privately with illness.

All of our homebound members, including Charles Williams, Doris Rowe, Nancy Mathews, and Virginia Hughes.

All people who ache for a fresh start in the new year.

*God, bless these beloveds with healing, and surround them with your Spirit of comfort and tenderness, we pray. Amen.*



# FAITH FORMATION

## FAITH FORMATION: FAITH IN ACTION & MEDITATION

By Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation

### The Work of Christmas

*by Howard Thurman*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.



### For Deeper Reflection:

- \* What newness are you treasuring this year?
- \* What needs to be cleared away from your spirit?
- \* What does your "uncluttered" soul feel like?

### To Love January

*by Davi Walders*

I clasp January to me giddy  
with hope for its newborn  
cry that clears away the worn  
out year like so much tinsel

carted off to storage. I love  
January's uncluttered room, its  
freshly laundered calendar innocent  
and white beneath a pure blue sky

grazed by bone-clean trees. To love  
January is an acquired taste,  
like learning to let the tongue  
curl around the slow, sweet burn

of Tuaca's golden fire.  
I do not want to wait for April  
to fall in love, July to run with  
a salty sea, October to be crowned

in color. I want to drink it all  
in now when everything is possible  
and I and the world are infants again  
babbling, listening for birdsong.

## UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIPS

### Middle School, Grades 6-8 May 23-25

Learning from and serving with Housing Rights activists and community organizers in the Bay Area

### High School, Grades 9-12

Tentative Date: June 28-July 4

Sierra Service Project week of service in San Diego, repairing houses with the option to participate in a day trip to Tijuana, Mexico

# RETREATS

## 2019 MEN'S RETREAT

By Stuart Mitchell

This past October, 17 men from our church gathered together in Inverness at the Saint Columba Chapel and Retreat Center. It's a beautiful location and the former mansion has a rich and storied history and has been meticulously maintained. Definitely worth a beautiful road trip! Website: [stcolumbasinverness.org](http://stcolumbasinverness.org)

Coincidentally, one of our retreat participants Mat Keller, was raised in the home in the 1940s and also, by coincidence, was assigned the same room where he slept as a child!

The retreat leader was Rev. Matthew Broadbent, father of Pastor Benjamin and the theme was Three Great Questions.

Pastor Mathew was a wonderful facilitator and exhibited great warmth, intelligence, and a sense of joy through his singing and overall leadership. Delicious meals were prepared by the participants and we enjoyed getting away for the weekend, building relationships, reflecting on our faith journey, and enjoying the local geography.

Thanks to Warren Brisbane, Pastor Ben, Pastor Mathew and the other retreat organizers and participants.



We certainly look forward to next year! Please join us.



## 2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT

By Jane Huneke



Save the date, March 20-22, 2020 for the 40th annual Woman's Retreat, held at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg. Our facilitators this year are Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, and Dr. Sharon Fennema who will lead us in the theme of:

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

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.

*Registration forms will be available starting January in the Church Office and online. Come develop friendships with the wonderful women of this church and enrich your spiritual journey at the same time.*

# WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

## THANKS FOR SHOEBOXES AND WARM CLOTHING!!

By Joyce Cox, member of Mission and Outreach

This year we collected 104 shoeboxes (including 38 from Hillcrest School) which we delivered to the Homeless Shelter at Sam Jones Hall in Santa Rosa and to folks at our 2nd Saturday lunch. Everyone we saw at the shelter was **very** grateful! Thank you for making their holiday brighter!!

We delivered 127 items of warm clothing to the Sebastopol Christian Church for distribution to the local homeless people who come there for bag lunches. They distribute 70 bag lunches each weekday. Our church and others help make the lunches. If you would like to help with lunches, contact Chris Jenkins. So, thank you for the 37 neck warmers, 25 scarves, 4 pairs of gloves, 32 hats and 29 pairs of socks!!

Many people's holiday will be a little easier, merrier and warmer because of your generosity!



## ALTERNATIVE GIFT SUCCESS!

By Joyce Cox, member of Mission and Outreach

This year our congregation gave \$2,414 in Alternative Gifts through Alternative Gifts International. Many people around the world will benefit from your generous giving! Thank you for your support of these projects.



Advent Worship



Advent Work-



# NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT TALK

*UUCSR*



*547 Mendocino Ave,  
Santa Rosa. CA 95401  
January 18th 2020  
4pm-6pm*

## *Thomas Linzey Rights of Nature and community rights talk*

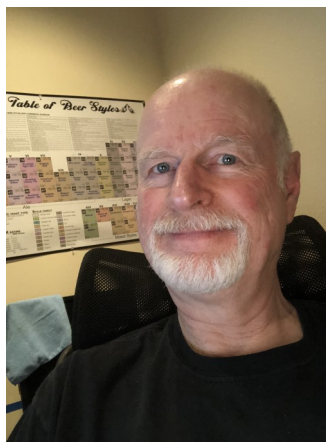
*Translation and childcare provided!  
Suggested donation of \$25-\$10 per  
person for event. No one will be turned  
away due to lack of funds.*

# WHO'S WHO & BIRTHDAYS

## WHO'S WHO IN THE PEW: JOHN HENEL

*Q: How long have you been in Sonoma County/involved at Community Church?*

A: With my wife and our three young children, we moved to Sebastopol in July 1998. Having been out of any church life since college years (grew up Methodist, along with my family very involved in the local church - Linden, NJ), both my wife and I wanted our kids to have the benefit and influence that a church can offer as they grew up. After a little "church shopping" we picked The Community Church for a deeper commitment. I joined in 2001 (or 2002?), with Julie joining later. The strong youth programs was a huge draw for us.



*Q: Where were you before coming to Sonoma County?*

A: We had spent 20 years in the East Bay in several locations, the last 10 in the hills of Richmond before the move. Grew up in Linden, NJ.

*Q: How are you involved at Community Church?*

A: Can't say exactly why, given my engineering background, but since very early on, I have served in several financial capacities - Memorial & Endowment and Trustees for many terms, and now on Leadership as Treasurer. I have worked on countless budgets. Also involved with technical issues at the church, website development, setting up WiFi. Served as the on-site Project Manager, signing off on all change orders for development of Pilgrim Center. I look forward to the yearly Adult Mission trip wherever it takes us.

*Q: Would you like to mention anything about family?*

A: Wife is Julie Smith. Tess (31) married to Vince, they live in Denver. Nina (25) lives with her boyfriend Sean in Seattle. Alec (25) lives with his girlfriend Audrey in Santa Rosa. Yes, Alec & Nina are twins. Alec is a cook at Willi's Wine Bar in Santa Rosa, check it out. We are so much looking forward to everyone being at our home for Christmas this year.

*Q: What do/did you do in your career or work life?*

A: Graduated from Cornell University in 1974 with a biochem degree. Then spent the next 3 years bartending, followed by 4 years running a drywall business with a friend. Sheet rock is hard work. Then time to get more serious, so with a little more education, I became a software engineer in 1981. Had a fabulous career for 25 years, retired from Cisco in 2006.

*Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?*

A: Racquetball 4 days a week, home projects, some travel, visit family all over, work on lots of spreadsheets, some hiking. Volunteer work at the church. Volunteer at wine competition, paid in wine, so I had to build a wine cellar.

*Q: Tell me something about yourself that others might not know.*

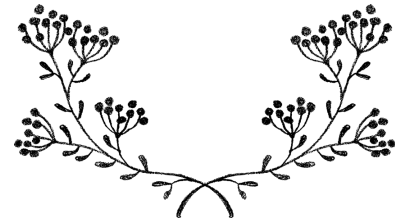
A: We invented a new name for our kids—Henelsmith. No hyphens. Only 3 on the planet. And now down to 2 because Tess changed her name when she got married.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Gary Gordon	
4	Tom Dilley	
5	Pat Dilley	
	Marian McDonald	
6	Marge Holland	
	Diana Wilson	
7	Marlene Hooper	
8	Susan Nestor	
	Sharon Olson	
	Kim Buckman	
12	Virginia Hughes	
	Gail Thomas	
14	Logan Stanley	
	Vicki Reno	
15	Julie Smith	
	Edythe Briggs	
	Brenda Flynn	
16	Destiny Stone	
17	Rhonda Matheny	
	Randy Stanley	
	Joan Martin	
19	Beth Trivunovic	
20	Dylan Arendt	
21	Steve Bradley	
23	Joanne Matson	
	Loren Brueggemann	
	Jane Rasmus	
25	Bill McMillon	
26	Paula Berndt	
	Glenda Elvy	
28	Garth Watson	
29	Emily Davis	
	Martha Rowlands	
	Yvette Morris	
30	Alan Murakami	
	Gene Nelson	
31	Peg Anderson	

# EVENTS IN JANUARY AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Jan 5     *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany Sunday*  
*High School Youth Group New Year's Gathering, 12:00 pm, Youth Lounge*
- Jan 6     *Epiphany*
- Jan 8     *Men's Discussion Group, 7:00 pm, Faith Chapel*
- Jan 9     *Card Writing Ministry, 11:00 am, Women's Fellowship Office*
- Jan 10    *Kindred Group Leaders, 12:00 pm, Fireside Room*
- Jan 11    *Second Saturday Lunch, 12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall*
- Jan 12    *Baptism of Christ Sunday*  
*Faith in Action Team, 9:30 am, Women's Fellowship Office*  
*New Member Orientation, 12 pm, Media Room*  
*Associate Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 12:00 pm, Fireside Room*  
*ChilFFAT, 12:00 pm, Youth Lounge*  
*Granny Smith Gathering, 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall*
- Jan 13    *Mission & Outreach, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room*
- Jan 14    *Lead Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 12:00 pm, Fireside Room*
- Jan 15    *Facilities Team, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room*  
*Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room*
- Jan 16    *Lenten Worship Planning, 6:00 pm, Fireside Room*
- Jan 18    *NCNC Mid-Winter Middle School Retreat*
- Jan 19    *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*  
*High School Youth Group MLK Jr. Movie and Discussion, 12:00 pm, Youth Lounge*  
*Granny Smith Gathering, 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall*
- Jan 20    *Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 am, Fireside Room*
- Jan 21    *Health & Safety Team, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room*
- Jan 26    *Annual Meeting Sunday / 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*  
*Annual Meeting of the Congregation, 12:00 pm, Memorial Hall*
- Jan 29    *Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am, Fireside Room*



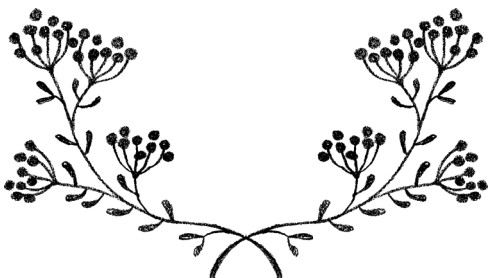
## January Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am—2:30 pm

Office will be closed January 1—January 3

## Coming Up in February

- NCNC Feb Camp for High Schoolers, Feb 15-17
- Ash Wednesday, Feb 26



## 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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