

# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## OCTOBER 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 Plaughter

**Pastor Emeritus**  
Rev. Gene Nelson

**Handbell Ensemble Director**  
Karna Roa

**Keyboardist**  
J. Althea

**Congregational  
Administrator**  
Chris Chang Weeks

**Bookkeeper**  
Julie Reimer

**Custodian**  
Maria Mojica



### 2021 Pledge Drive: "Church in the Wild"

By Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister



In the Book of Exodus, with Pharaoh and his army breathing down their necks, the Israelites escape across of the Sea of Reeds. Relieved to reach the other side unharmed, the people sing and dance a song of triumph. After that fleeting moment of jubilation, reality sets in. The people are in unfamiliar, potentially dangerous territory. In their discomfort and uncertainty, they start to wax nostalgic about the life they left. "Slavery in Egypt wasn't that bad. At least we knew where we were and had enough food to eat."

Their complaints rise in volume, loud prayers that finally reach God's ears. And God responds not with capitulation, but with manna. It's fine, it's flaky, it's there every morning, and there's enough of it to last the whole day. But there's a catch. Gather no more than you need for the because leftovers will go bad. The manna teaches the people to trust God to provide on a daily basis.

*Manna teaches people to trust God to provide on a daily basis.*

We had planned for this year to be a stretch year for our congregation. In early 2018, we imagined expanding our ministry by calling a new full-time Associate Minister of Faith Formation. By the end of that year, we caught a glimpse of the possibility of adding the new position and a half-time Associate Minister of Congregational Care. In 2019, we realized this vision by calling Rev. Lacey Hunter to the full-time position and retaining Rev. Rachel Knuth in the half-time position.

In 2020, we were making the stretch to fund both positions for the entire year. And *This year was a stretch.* then the pandemic hit. While pledged giving has remained strong, our facility income, which makes up 18% of our budgeted revenue, has been reduced to almost zero. *2021 will be more so.*

TURN TO PLEDGE DRIVE Page 9

## OCTOBER 2020 WORSHIP

### We worship as a “Church in the Wild”

Community worship happens Sundays at 10:30 a.m. online via Zoom.

In-person Prayerful Gatherings by Kindred Group happen Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

See weekly email or visit [www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org) for more details.

#### **October 4** – World Communion / Blessing of the Animals / Pledge Drive Kick-Off

A lot happens in worship today. With the global Christian community, we celebrate World Communion Sunday. It is also the feast of St. Francis and we will be doing a blessing of the animals. And, we will kick off our 2021 Pledge Drive in support of the local ministry and wider mission of our congregation in the coming year.

#### **October 11** – 19th Sunday after Pentecost – Exodus 32: 1 – 14

Today is Access Sunday in our denomination, the United Church of Christ, and also Disabilities Awareness Week. As we continue our sojourn with Israel in the wilderness, Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon that might be called “Thank God for Moses!”

#### **October 18** – 20th Sunday after Pentecost – Exodus 33: 12 – 23

Today is Children’s Sabbath in the United Church of Christ. Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, preaches on the story of Moses in conversation with God on Mt. Sinai. Possible sermon title: “God’s Backside.”

#### **October 25** – 21st Sunday after Pentecost – Deuteronomy 34: 1 – 12

Today is Higher Education Sunday in the United Church of Christ. New members join today and Pastor Benjamin’s sermon, “I May Not Get There With You,” (based on a line from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s final speech) reflects on the story of Moses overlooking the Promised Land knowing he won’t cross over with his people.

**Coming in November...** Daylight Savings Time Ends, All Saints/Souls Sunday, Gratitude Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, First Sunday of Advent



### GAMES NIGHT!

#### **Sunday, October 18th at 7:00pm, on Zoom**

In September, when my second grader found out that there was going to be an evening of games with Kathy Bell and Brian Wetzel, he wanted to play. I was kind of hesitant to sign up, because I knew it would be word-games geared toward adults. But we tried it, and I’m glad we did, because it was so much fun. We broke into two teams and played a game where you try to get your team members to guess the words you’re thinking of. But even more than that, it was just great to connect with other church friends and see people and laugh. Technically, I helped my child play the game, but we had a great time-- and I know if you come to Games Night in October, you will enjoy it too! The October Games Night with Kathy and Brian is Sunday, October 18th at 7:00pm, on Zoom. Just keep an eye out for the sign-up on Realm or email me (Pastor Rachel) at [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org). All are welcome! Games Night is brought to you by the Congregational Life Team. ☼



**Balcony View. . .**  
**A WILDERNESS SEASON**  
By Michael Ott, Moderator

The Leadership Council's regular meeting was held on September 16 via Zoom video. We discussed many topics which were all surrounded by our theme of Church in the Wild.

"Wild" is a 2014 film based on Cheryl Strayed's 2012 memoir *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*. The story is about her determination to hike the Pacific Crest Trail after many personal problems left her life in shambles. Strayed is drawn to the Wild as a place of self-discovery and healing. She thinks she will find peace by being apart, but her journey becomes a series of interactions with people who also were counting on a wild place to find meaning for their lives. She finds caring people and scary people. Helpful and supportive people. Grandparents and Grandchildren. The Wild place drew her in, but people made the journey meaningful and worthwhile.

Church in the Wild provides us an opportunity to grow our faith - not alone, but together in new and different ways. Jenny Phillips, in *Jesus and Wilderness*, writes that "The wilderness of the Bible is a liminal space—an in-between place where ordinary life is suspended, identity shifts, and new possibilities emerge." The Wild can spur us to change our ordinary to extraordinary, shift our passiveness to action, and imagine the possibilities of generosity and enrichment of our personal spiritual lives and the expression of our changed selves into our wider community.

I read that words translated as "wilderness" occur nearly 300 times in the Bible. The wilderness is a locale for intense experiences. There is a psychology as well as a geography of wilderness, a theology gained in the wilderness. God knows that the Wild can transform us.

Tiffanie Butts, in an article entitled *Faith + Encouragement*, writes that "a wilderness season is a make or break kind of season. You'll be tempted to go back to your past, not because it's good, but because it's familiar. This is a new place with new challenges, and you may not know how to handle them. It will be tough, but if you want to progress in God's plan for your life, it's necessary." We can all seize the challenge and the opportunity to operate in the Wild, get more focused and intentional in our faith and come out of the Wild closer to God than ever before.✠

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## **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2020**

The Leadership Council met for our regular meeting via Zoom teleconference on September 16. A summary of discussions and actions are highlighted below.

**Financial Report:** The financial report was presented. Pledges are strong; Wider Mission is losing ground. Plate and facilities revenue are down. Casa de Bambini is paying half rent, \$1100/month. This report does not yet take into account the PPP loan of \$45,000 (until it is forgiven) or the \$23,000 from reserves that was included in our planning last fall to balance the 2020 budget. Outreach Committee has been holding off spending their allotted funds for now.

**Budget Committee Update:** The budget committee is making an initial review of budget numbers. By the end of the month forms will be distributed for committee chairs to work on the next year's budget requests. They will be asked to consider our churches mission and values in the budget requests.

**Council Meeting Attendance:** There was discussion about church members attending council meetings. In person meetings have always been open to members. Our current teleconferencing meetings have not addressed church member participation. It was agreed that a policy will be written and reviewed at the October meeting.

**Conestoga Huts:** Peggy Porter, Outreach Committee member, gave a presentation on Conestoga Huts, an inexpensive and durable shelter option for the houseless and requested Council endorse a plan to pursue the concept. The idea is to build two huts with window and locking door, each to fit in a parking space at our church. The cost is

## **Anam Cara: Soul Friend Phonecalls**

By Pastor Rachel



The Congregational Life Team has begun a new outreach (or we shall say, “in-reach”!) among elders in our congregation. The team has heard a strong desire in the congregation to make sure our elders are connecting with the church in this time of separation, especially among those for whom technology may be a challenge. In response, Rev. Deanna Euritt, who is on the Congregational Life Team, has stepped forward to make “Anam Cara” ;phone calls to these elders. Anam Cara is a Celtic phrase for “Soul Friend,” and in our church’s context, implies that the phone calls between Deanna and our elders is more than just a social call-- it’s an opportunity to ask, “how is it with your soul?” Anam Cara invites a deeper conversation. This in-reach is specifically directed to folks in their 80s and 90s who live alone, and are not on the church’s Visitation list. These are people who would “normally”

attend worship but who may find themselves increasingly isolated at this time. We are grateful for Deanna’s commitment to this ministry, and look forward to seeing how the Anam Cara program goes-- if there is a large response, we may expand and recruit and train more Anam Cara callers. For now, if you’re in your 80s or 90s and live alone, you should have already received a call from Deanna, offering to participate in the Anam Cara “Soul Friend” program-- but if you haven’t, or for more information, please contact Pastor Rachel: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org). To learn more about Deanna’s background, check out Pastor Rachel’s interview with her below. ✿

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### **Who’s Who in the Pew Wild: Interview with Rev. Deanna Euritt**

Pastor Rachel: *What brought you to Community Church of Sebastopol?*

Deanna: I was a member of First Congregational Church in Sonoma for many years when Rev. David McCracken was the Pastor and I loved that congregation. It was hard to move on to another congregation after I moved to Marin from Sonoma. So I stayed connected to that church which worked well, since my work continued to span both Sonoma and Marin Counties.



Rev. Deanna Euritt

When I moved to Rohnert Park in 2013, I visited the three closest UCC churches in the area and decided to join Community Church of Sebastopol. It seemed to be a very vibrant, progressive church. I knew some of the pastors and members and loved the friendly worship services. I also loved the feel of a country setting which the church campus radiated, especially the courtyard full of gorgeous roses! After a few visits, it felt like home!

Pastor Rachel: *You are an ordained UCC Minister and Spiritual Director, who’s also a CPA-- How do you notice/live into both the contemplative and the practical in your life?*

Deanna: My no-nonsense upbringing in Iowa provided me with a very grounded and practical foundation. I can be very focused on the task at hand, yet also take the time to reflect on the deeper, spiritual meanings we discover in everyday life. As a young adult, I struggled to choose a college major—should I become a social worker and help others with emotional and basic life problems or become an accountant so I can put bread on the table?

The practical side of me won out and I became a CPA, but I eventually made the journey from Arizona to California to attend seminary in San Anselmo. I became ordained and served in church ministry and then hospice chaplaincy. More recently, I directed a social services nonprofit which supported low income families and homeless people. The different aspects of my professional life have helped me to maintain a practical/spiritual balance in my personal life.

I love the discipline of my accounting and business training, as it has enabled me to manage the administrative parts of both my work and personal life. But my greater passion has always been to seek spiritual answers to existential questions--something that began when I was a young child. My work as a hospice chaplain for 12 years further stoked my curiosity about the Divine and the continuum of our spiritual journey and the cycle of life.



Pastor Rachel: *What scripture or spiritual practice has sustained you in a time of wilderness-wandering in the past?*

Deanna: I began a practice of reading scripture daily when I was in Arizona. Although I was not always consistent with my practice, I started most mornings lighting a candle, giving thanks, reading scripture, offering prayers and asking God my numerous questions—and I had many! When I was restless or stressed, I found that walking meditations served me better. This was especially true after I moved to California and often wandered miles along newly discovered hiking trails.

Writing songs and reflective writings have also been an important part of my spiritual practice. I keep a daily journal and have dozens of old journals stacked up in my closet from years of recording reflections, questions, and musings.

Two very important times and scripture passages come to mind: When I was leaving Arizona to attend seminary, I sold my house and was leaving behind an ended relationship, my beloved Beagles, and many good friends. I was also recovering from a very serious illness. At times it was heart-wrenching. I spent a lot of time reading passages from Matthew that comforted me, such as Matthew 6:34 when Jesus instructed his followers, “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.” And, Matthew 19:29 when Peter lamented that he and the other disciples had given up everything, Jesus said, “And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or fathers or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.” These passages seemed to have both literal and spiritual meanings, which offered new perspectives each time I read them.

Another important passage comes to mind when I think about my hospice ministry: Psalm 139:7-18 which I believe speaks to the ongoing continuum of our spiritual lives prior to our birth, during our short snippet on this earth, and after our death as spiritual beings reunited with our Creator. Verse 7 begins with, “Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” In verse 16, the Psalmist declares that God knew him before birth and had a plan for his life, “Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” A place without God does not exist; we cannot flee from God; and death does not have the final word!

Pastor Rachel: *We are celebrating a Blessing of the Animals in worship on October 4th-- What pets do you have, and what do they mean to you?*

Deanna: Glad you asked! I have two darling adopted doggies, Charlotte and Georgia. They are sisters and believed to be a Pug/Cattle Dog mix who just turned 7 years old this year. They have a lot of energy and bring me great joy as well as a whole new perspective about what it means to be the human member of the pack! I just launched a website blog to share the funny and rich stories about our journey together. I hope you can check it out! <https://dog-tales.blog/>

Pastor Rachel: *What does the concept of Anam Cara (Soul Friend) mean to you?*

Deanna: John O’Donohue – an Irish poet, philosopher, author & priest wrote about soul friends in a book he wrote over 20 years ago--“Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom”. He writes:

“In the Celtic tradition, there is a beautiful understanding of love and friendship. One of the fascinating ideas is that of a soul-friend; the old Gaelic term for this is anam cara. Anam is the Gaelic word for soul and cara is the word for friend. Anam cara in the Celtic world was a “soul friend.” . . . “In the early Celtic church, a person who acted as a teacher, companion, or spiritual guide was called an anam cara.”

To me, having or being an Anam Cara, is a way to connect with another person to explore and consider the deeper spiritual significance of our everyday lives. The Soul Friend relationship is about trust, respect, hearing the other, and perhaps reflecting back the experiences of the heart. The sharing can be like holding up a mirror so the other may see more clearly the spiritual treasures they possess. Soul Friends often discuss everyday happenings in their lives, but also reflect upon the deeper meaning of their lives including joys and sorrows or concerns. Soul Friendship provides a safe place to share important experiences, hopes, fears, and beliefs without judgement or advice. Anam Cara relationships create a sacred vessel which holds their sacred sharing and can be a mutual, teaching/learning experience. ❀

## Who is St. Francis, and what is his connection to the Blessing of the Animals?

St. Francis was born in the small town of Assisi, Italy in 1182, the child of a rich fabric merchant and wealthy Frenchwoman. In his younger years, Francis sold fancy fabrics and velvets in his town, and had a reputation of enjoying lavish spending. But one day after finishing a business deal, a beggar came and asked him for alms. Francis was so moved that he ran after the beggar, took off his own cloak, and gave all the money in his pockets to the beggar. His father was furious, but it was the beginning of Francis' conversion to a life devoted to poverty. Many of the stories about St. Francis center around his love for nature and animals, and his dedication to the poor. In one story, when the people of the town of Gubbio were being plagued by a wolf, Francis went and spoke to the wolf and asked him to leave the people of Gubbio alone. The wolf relented and the townspeople were safe. In another story, he asked his friars to stand and wait for him to preach to the birds. He believed that nature itself is a mirror of God, that the sun and moon, birds and trees are the brothers and sisters of humankind. In the Roman Catholic and Episcopalian traditions, the Feast Day of St. Francis is October 4th, a day when many churches observe a blessing of the animals. His feast day is the inspiration for our Blessing of the Animals in (Zoom) Worship on October 4th. ☸



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### Blessing of the Animals in Worship, October 4 at 10:30am

*'Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.*

*Every single creature is full of God, and is a book about God.*

*Every creature is a word of God.*

*If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature,  
even a caterpillar would never have to prepare a sermon,  
so full of God is every creature'*

--Meister Eckhart, a 13th century Christian mystic



A celebration and blessing of our animal companions will take place in worship on October 4th. As we recognize our interdependence with all creation, we lift up our animal friends. Many of us have the experience of being loved unconditionally by a pet or companion animal. These dear ones can model for us what holy love, companionship, care, and compassion can look like. They can also remind us of our role in caring for habitats and endangered species in the wild.

Come to worship (on Zoom) with an animal companion (stuffed animals welcome), photo of an endangered species in the wild, or a found item like a bird's nest or honeybee wing. If you are remembering a beloved animal that has died, you may wish to bring a photo or a sprig of rosemary for remembrance. In this special worship service, we will remember St. Francis, bless the animals, and celebrate Communion. ☸

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### Communion Bread Recipes



As you prepare for Communion in your home, you're invited to deepen your connection to community through our church's bread recipes. Joanne Matson, who prepares our Communion Table (pre-covid), shares this recipe: [Click here for our traditional bread](#). And Rachel Melone, who prepares our gluten-free Communion bread, shares these two gluten-free recipes: [Click here for our usual gluten free sourdough](#), or [click here for a gluten free yeast bread](#). Our congregation celebrates Communion on the first Sunday of every month (this month: October 4th). Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. ☸

## **In-Person Prayerful Gatherings**

For the next several Sunday evenings in October, Pastor Benjamin and Pastor Rachel continue to lead small, in-person Prayerful Gatherings at the church. If you've been longing for face-to-face connection and a time of prayer, please sign up and come to a Prayerful Gathering.

When you arrive, the group will greet each other, read scripture, and sink into prayer together. If it feels organic and juicy to you, your Prayerful Gathering group is welcome to continue meeting for prayer and community on a regular basis.

The gatherings are organized by Kindred Group (see dates below). You'll receive an email inviting you to sign up on Realm, or you can contact your Kindred Group Leader or a Pastor to sign up. If you don't see your Kindred Group listed below, it's because your group met in September! You might like to sign up to join the "Windfall Group" on October 18th, that's the group that is open to anyone who couldn't make a previous gathering of their Kindred Group. To keep everyone safe and follow county guidelines, we're limiting each gathering to 12 people, masks required, please bring your own (covid-safe) chair if possible. For more information about Prayerful Gatherings, contact Pastor Rachel: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org).

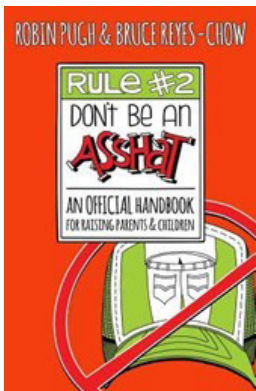
October 4: Gala (Fountain Courtyard), Granny Smith (Bell Tower Courtyard)

October 11: Rome (Fountain Courtyard), Honeycrisp (Bell Tower Courtyard)

October 18: Baldwin (Fountain Courtyard), Windfalls (Bell Tower Courtyard)✿

## **Life Lessons Book Discussion: Don't Be An Ass-Hat**

Join Pastor Rachel and Nicole Whitehorn in a conversation about the book, *Don't Be An Ass-Hat*, October 25 at 5:00pm on Zoom. If you're ready for a slightly irreverent but overall solid parenting or grandparenting handbook, from a progressive Christian perspective, this is the book for you. Presbyterian Minister, Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow and his wife, Robin Pugh (Bay Area people!), have written a thoughtful and grounded book for caregivers of children of all ages. As they say in the introduction to the book, "while this book is framed around passing on life lessons and life hacks to the children in our world, it is also meant to be a set of reminders about how we as adults should live in the world." The book is a series of 101 suggested rules for life, including "Rule #14: Forgive Others," "Rule #65: Scream As Needed," and "Rule #79: Understand your Privilege." Pastor Rachel has several copies of the book on hand for purchase, or you may order the book from Sebastopol Copperfields Bookstore. You have all of October to read the book, then join the conversation on Zoom. (Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87425183839?pwd=Tk8rTE5DVjBXTUtkYkIHQjYrcDJKQT09>, Meeting ID: 874 2518 3839, Passcode: 622150) For more information, or for a book scholarship, contact Pastor Rachel: [pastorrachel@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorrachel@uccseb.org).✿



## October Birthdays

2 Laura Steyn  
4 Spencer Babcock  
4 Lynn Deedler  
4 Justine Farley  
4 Ed Gaylord  
4 Will Plaughner  
6 Laurie Mitchell  
6 Annie Nelson  
6 Ava Whitehorn  
7 Bret Felciano  
7 Laura Jame  
7 Libby Plaughner  
8 Co Dungca  
8 Linda Roa  
8 Lori Lapham  
8 Jan Sweeney  
9 Chris Evans  
9 Linda Mollenhauer-Meyskens  
10 Dakota Blackstone  
10 Gloria Given  
11 Linda Inman  
13 Gerri Doody  
13 Suzanne White  
14 Dianne Moore  
14 Birgit Quezada  
14 Larry Stallings  
16 Elyse Mengle  
16 Nicole Porter  
16 Bob Shimetz  
17 Ryan Wilson  
18 Helen Sokolis  
20 Steve Beck  
20 Kaydin Berndt  
20 Gavin Bright  
20 Janice Humphries  
20 Ben Rasmus  
21 Leslie Warren  
22 Katie Dougherty  
23 Ann Butterfield  
23 Michael Ott  
23 Gretchen Vincent-Brisbin  
24 Emma DelMonte  
24 Maryellen Taylor  
24 Ethan Trevino  
26 Jonah Gonzales  
26 Kay Warren  
28 Megan Buckley-Cutting  
28 Betty Nelson  
29 Kate MacKillop  
29 Shawna Smith

## FAITH FORMATION: Formed for Care

Field Notes from Pastor Lacey

These wilderness days are calling us into deeper relationships and practices of collective care. How can we live more fully as kin with one another and with all of God's created world? This month's faith formation offerings explore this kin-dom calling to tend to one another through a range of practices including multigenerational prayer partners, Safe Church training for all volunteers who work with children and youth, a discussion group on race, youth outdoor service opportunity, prayer flag art project, and more. Continue reading to learn more about how each of these opportunities seek to nourish our communal relationships and our relationship with God.

### Prayer Partner Practice

These many months of sheltering-in-place can be isolating and overwhelming. It can be hard to reach out for prayerful support. One blessing of being a church family is that we can turn to the power of prayer to help us connect and care for one another. A prayer partner is someone who commits to holding you in their prayers each day.

We know that most relationships are taking place entirely on screens now and sometimes we need a different way to connect. That's why the Children's Faith Formation Action Team is creating a Prayer Partner Practice that will pair a child, youth or entire household with another church member who will send you prayer cards in the mail. Your prayer partner will pray for you and send you words of encouragement. You are not required to reply to communications, but are welcome to do so if you would like. This ministry is intended to be an encouragement and support to you, reminding you that someone is praying for you and your specific needs.

If a child or youth member signs up to receive prayers, we encourage grown ups in the household to engage with the prayer cards as well. Please list all people who would like to be matched with a prayer partner.

Click the link to sign up for a Prayer Partner: <https://forms.gle/7wmoUvREF-sTLudN58>

or contact Pastor Lacey at [pastorlacey@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorlacey@uccseb.org)

### Children's Ministry

Members of the Children's Faith Formation Action Team will be delivering October Wilderness Kits between October 1-4. These kits include art materials for play and prayer and discussion topics to help households deepen their faith lives and make meaning throughout each week. There is no wrong way to use your wilderness kit! These are for you, whenever you need them!

**October's Godly Play Story:** The Ten Commandments

**Save the Date:** Children's Zoom Movement Time  
Sunday October 18 after worship @11:45am-12pm  
led by Julie Reimer and Pastor Lacey



Liam Stone holding his prayer flag



## 2021 PLEDGE DRIVE

Continued from page 1

If this year was a stretch, 2021 will be even more so. We will depend almost entirely upon the generous financial gifts of members and friends of Community Church who love and support the local church ministry and wider outreach of this congregation.

Beginning October 4, we are asking the members and friends of Community Church to pledge a total of \$375,000 to our 2021 local church ministry and an additional \$39,000 to our wider mission for a total of \$414,000. Along with cutting some expenses and leveraging prior years' reserves, reaching this goal amount will help us to maintain the ministries we have been working to support for the past several years. It will be a stretch. It will require sacrifice. There

*In our sojourn of uncertainty, manna is daily bread from God that sustains us.*

is no doubt that, collectively, we have the resources to do it, even in a challenging time such as this.

After hearing the story of the manna in the wilderness, it's easy to stop wondering about it. The truth is that the manna lasts for forty years while the Israelites wander. It sustains them through many experiences and only ceases when the people cross over the Jordan

River into the place that God has promised to lead them. In their sojourn of uncertainty, manna is the daily bread from God that sustains the people. As a "Church in the Wild," we, too, are uncertain of many things. But we know we have each other and we know that God has promised to sustain us with the gifts of daily bread. ❄

### Youth Ministry

Regular Meeting Times (except when hosting monthly, small, outdoor in-person gatherings)

- Middle School Youth Group: Meets 4-5pm Sunday evenings on Zoom
- High School Youth Group: Meets 7-8pm Sunday evenings on Zoom

**October's Theme:** Deepening Solitude & Playful Wandering

**Guiding question/principle for this month:** "What you turn your attention to grows."

**Opening ritual this month:** Gratitude – Each week we will turn our hearts toward gratitude by lighting a candle and reflecting on what we are grateful for.

**Scripture for the month:** Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 – the Ten Commandments

**Justice and Service this month:** Learning about and engaging in different practices of caring for the earth

**Play this month:** 24 No Tech Challenge and a games day ❄



Youth Fall Wilderness Kit

### All Church Faith Formation Offering

**Book Discussion: So You Want to Talk About Race**

By Ijeoma Oluo

Zoom, October 8th through 29th, Thursdays @ 7-8pm

All are welcome.

Support your local bookstore- 6 books are on hold at Copperfields for Community Church.

Peggy Porter will be leading an informal discussion on the issues of race as laid out in this easy to read, compelling and comprehensive book. We'll break the book into four sessions to help us begin to discuss privilege, affirmative action, police violence and more. "I have learned so much from this book and would love to talk with you about it. Please join me." -Peggy

RSVP to receive the Zoom link.

Contact either Peggy Porter at pporter501@gmail.com or call 707-291-6353 or Pastor Lacey at pastorlacey@uccseb.org or call/text 971-344-5378

**So you  
want  
to talk  
about  
race**

Ijeoma Oluo

## LC MEETING SUMMARY

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and durable shelter option for the houseless and requested Council endorse a plan to pursue the concept. The idea is to build two huts with window and locking door, each to fit in a parking space at our church. The cost is approximately \$1000/hut. The hope is that Catholic charities would oversee the vetting of individuals eligible for inhabiting the huts. After discussion, Council voted to endorse the concept.

**Our Conference's Wider Mission (OCWM):** Conference Leadership has asked what our OCWM contribution to the wider settings of the church will be for 2021. For 2020, we pledged \$12K to OCWM. The conference is asking all members to increase their giving this year. Council endorsed pledging the same amount as last year for now with the intent of increasing the pledge amount if giving exceeds our 2021 budget.

**Gratitude & Generosity Team Update:** The G&G Team has prepared pledge packets and have delivered them to Council and Staff members. A drive through Blessing/Pledge Packet Pickup will be held October 4 in the church parking lot.

**Marketing Team Update:** The Marketing Team has created 3 sub-groups - 1.Design and Graphics; 2. Process; and 3. PR and Social Media.

**Safe Return Task Force:** The Task Force hosted seven listening circles. The Task Force is in the process of reviewing the listening circle comments and will be providing feedback to the congregation soon.

### Ministry Staff Update:

/// Pastor Lacey – Wilderness Kits have been made and delivered to all Youth. The first Zoom youth group meeting for the year was held. Peggy Porter is going to lead a book study for adults on "So You Want to Talk About Race." Lacey and Larell Fineren will lead a safe church session on October 3 for all who work with children and youth.

/// Pastor Rachel – Lots of home visits and phone calls. Congregational Life team is offering several opportunities for connection such as game night, bingo, book study, blessing of the animals, wine tasting, soul friends phone calls, and a spirit walk around the church campus.

/// Pastor Ben – Leading Kindred group in-person prayerful gatherings and organizing annual performance reviews. Ben has been involved in pastoral care, leading Sunday worship – working out the technology that allows our on-line worship to occur, and training others. Also working with the men's group about a book study.

**Facilities:** The repainting of Fellowship Hall is complete.

**Worship and Arts:** Copies of sermons are being mailed to 21 people each week.

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

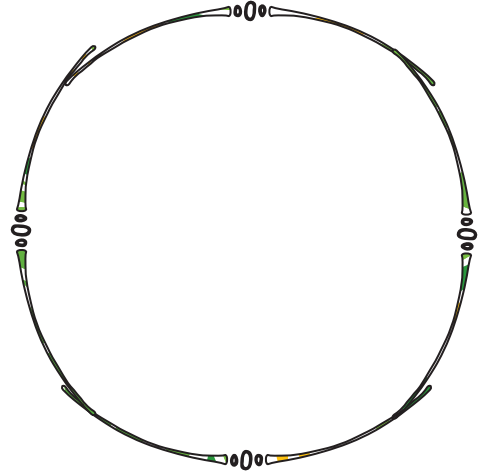
Bobbie Johanson – Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts☸

## Listening Circles

*The Safe Return Task Force: Garth Watson, Kathy Bell, Mike Ott, Chris Chang Weeks, Rev. Rachel Knuth, Rev. Lacey Hunter, Rev. Benjamin Broadbent*

In the month of September, the Safe Return Task Force offered seven Listening Circles to which all members of the congregation were invited. Most of the circles were via Zoom but one was offered in person. Overall, 36 people participated. Each session began with a video presentation describing the ways in which the congregation, including staff and volunteers, has modified the way we are doing ministry during the pandemic. Discussion followed and feedback was recorded. Below are some things we heard followed by some responses.



### **“God has a history of taking people through tough things.”**

Yes, it’s important to keep telling these stories of perseverance in the wilderness time we live in now.

### **“When will the Safe Return Task Force re-evaluate the February re-opening?”**

Great question. The Safe Return Task Force will continue transparent communication about its process and any plans for re-opening and will make a recommendation to the Leadership Council to make a decision with ample time to prepare for whatever comes after February.

### **“Care and Fellowship is a big deal right now.”**

Yes it is. Much of our attention to our most vulnerable in our church community goes unseen and unheard. Pastors and lay visitors are regularly contacting congregation members to offer comfort and encouragement during this time away from each other. If you know of someone who might appreciate a contact, please let one of the pastors know.

### **“More focus on community-wide connection.”**

Connecting with our local community is really important while all of us are feeling the physical and emotional effects of being isolated during the pandemic. Many of our teams and committees are working on projects that center around the community, including the Outreach Committee’s expanded Advent “Shoebox Ministry” which will highlight the need for greater housing equity while sharing resources with people who are struggling financially.

### **“Can the chapel be opened for small group prayer services?”**

We continue to believe that safety concerns preclude the use of a small room like the chapel. We are reviewing the use of larger indoor spaces and alternative outdoor spaces for small group gatherings, especially as the weather grows colder. We hope that offering venue choices will make it easier for church members to form their own small gathering groups.

### **“I believe that people’s spirits are lifted by in-person ministry and discussions, particularly those who live alone or are isolated by the pandemic.”**

Indeed. Kindred Group Prayerful Gatherings and other small group gatherings including Women’s Bible Study, Men’s Discussion Group, monthly in-person youth activities, weekly work overseen by the Grounds Team, and other periodic on-site gatherings.

### **“I’d really like to see more Covid-safe (masks, outdoor, with distance) small group meetings in person.”**

The Prayerful Gatherings will meet through October. These gatherings are organized by Kindred Group, with encouragement to continue meeting in small groups for prayer. Both the Fountain and Bell Tower Courtyards are available to reserve for small groups who want to gather. A meeting space may be reserved by contacting Chris Chang Weeks, our Congregational Administrator, at [office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org).

## **Fellowship Hall Painting Project**

By Jane Huneke



The Adult Mission Trip to Redding was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Instead, these hard working folk turned their skills toward up grading and repairing the church. Our thanks go out to Kim Buckman, Judy Peterson, Linda Roa, Tom Terry, Joyce Cox, Dale Phillips, Nancy Shimitz, Larry Stallings, Roger Wilson, Scott Carlson, Peggy Porter and Jane Huneke. Many volunteer hours have been put in to painting and repairing Fellowship Hall and the overhang by Memorial Hall, and painting the new roof repair outside the sanctuary. Also, the grounds committee of Barbara Whitson, Lois Michelsen, Marna McKenzie, Muriel Weaver and many of the people listed above meet weekly on Tuesday at 9 am to keep our landscaping looking good. When we are finally able to gather again as a congregation, you can appreciate how well these dedicated members have taken care of the facilities and grounds for all our enjoyment. Thank them when you see them. Their work has made a world of difference.

You are always invited to come Tuesday mornings to help with the gardening - bring gloves, mask, and your favorite gardening tools. Stay tune for some October Saturday fall clean up opportunities. Dates to be announced.☸

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### ***Make Your Vote Count on Election Day, November 3***

With so much controversy swirling around the upcoming Presidential Election, it is understandable that many of us are feeling anxious about the voting process. Here are some facts to ease our minds. Vote-by-mail ballots will be sent to all active, registered voters. There is no need to sign up to receive a ballot in the mail for the November election. Ballots will be sent out on October 5th. You can return your ballot by mailing it, by using a secure 24/7 ballot drop box, or by dropping it off at any in-person voting location while they are open.

The secure 24/7 ballot drop box in Sebastopol is located at Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 282 S High Street.

There will be two in-person voting locations in Sebastopol:

- ✓ Sebastopol Community Center, 390 Morris Street
- ✓ Gold Ridge Fire, Station One (Hessel), 4500 Hessel Road

In-person voting locations will be open from Saturday, October 31 to November 3. Specific hours have not been published at the time of this publication, but polls will be open a minimum of 8 hours/day with extended hours from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day (November 3). Please note that the Community Church will not be a polling place this year.

California Council of Churches IMPACT provides recommendations for the numerous ballots. As people of faith, we are encouraged to actively participate on these and all issues that affect our democratic process and moral perspectives. Click [here](#) for more information.



## LISTENING CIRCLE

Continued from Page 11



**"I think there should be more emphasis and more organization and communication put into telephone groups and other ways people can keep in touch and help each other, and would like a consolidated effort put into this."**

Yes, the telephone is making a resurgence! Some groups of this nature have formed "organically" among members, and thought is being put into how this might be extended to include congregants that are being left out. While the pastors can support such an effort, it will require willing volunteers to assume leadership roles to set up, organize and monitor phone groups.

**"I am in favor of some kind of in-person or gathering or service. For example, 9-to-Dine was a success. There could be a 9 to meet-in-the-courtyard."**

We could revive "9-to-Dine" as "9-not-to-Dine but to gather for socially distanced conversation." They could choose to meet via Zoom or in person.

**"I'd really like to see our Youth Groups meeting in person as much as possible."**

Our Youth Groups are currently meeting in person once per month. Additional volunteer youth leaders would make it possible to offer more frequent in-person gatherings.

**"How will it work in winter? Is the ventilation in Memorial Hall good enough to gather a small group wearing masks?"**

Great question, we can look into this. We will continue to follow guidelines, with our most vulnerable members in mind.

**"I do not understand Realm-generated emails and find it difficult to use."**

Realm is not a perfect communication tool. Staff and lay leaders are still learning how to use it most effectively. A newly formed Communications Team is looking at all of our church's means of communication and will make recommendations on how to reach more people and making it easier to become and stay connected.

**"I have long-term financial concerns for the church."**

You are not alone. These are uncertain times for all of us, and for our church as a whole. The good news is that our congregation is entering this uncertain time with a relatively healthy financial outlook. Our 2021 Pledge Drive kicks off on October 4. Based on generous pledges from church members, the Budget Committee will be developing a 2021 budget for consideration by the Leadership Council. The Council is committed to supporting the mission of the church with the resources available while being realistic about what's possible.

### More things we heard:

- Purchase tents for outdoor gatherings during rainy season
- Gather member emergency contact information in the case of an evacuation
- Assess safe ways to re-engage the shower program
- Increase opportunities for small in-person gatherings, including outdoor services, drive-thru blessings, youth group gatherings, outdoor Christmas candlelight service with organ amplified into courtyard, access to church buildings ex. chapel open for prayer?
- All-church postcard when we do fully re-enter
- Increase forms of support and affinity groups, eg. common interest small zoom groups
- More budget communication to whole church
- Provide community resources to congregation: therapists, mental healthcare, online meditations, and prayers
- Uplift mental health awareness in worship
- Picture directory assignment: pick 5 people you have not talked to since shelter-in-place and call them ☎

## **Events in October 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.

- October 1 Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom  
Organ Rehearsal, 1:00, Sanctuary  
Gratitude & Generosity Team, 4:30 p.m., Zoom  
Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom
- October 3 Safe Church Training, 1:00 p.m., Zoom
- October 4 World Communion/Blessing of the Animals, 10:30 a.m., Zoom  
Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom  
Kindred Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom  
Pledge Drive Kick-Off, 1:00 p.m., parking lot  
Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom  
Kindred Group Prayerful Gathering, Gala and Granny Smith, 5:00 p.m.  
High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- October 6 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus  
Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom  
Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
- October 7 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
- October 8 Organ Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary  
Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom
- October 9 Card Writing Ministry, 1:00 a.m., Zoom
- October 10 Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m. Bell Tower Courtyard
- October 11 19th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Zoom  
Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom  
Kindred Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom  
Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom  
Kindred Group Prayerful Gathering, Rome and Honey Crisp, 5:00 p.m.  
High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- October 12 Health & Safety, 6:00 p.m., Offsite
- October 13 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus  
Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom  
Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Ben), 4:00 p.m., Zoom  
Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- October 14 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard  
Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom  
Congregational Team Life, 2:00 p.m., Zoom
- October 15 Salt & Light Newsletter deadline  
Safe Return Task Force, 11:00 a.m., Zoom  
Organ Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary
- October 18 20th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Zoom  
Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom  
Kindred Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom  
Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom  
Kindred Group Prayerful Gathering, Baldwin, 5:00 p.m.  
High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom



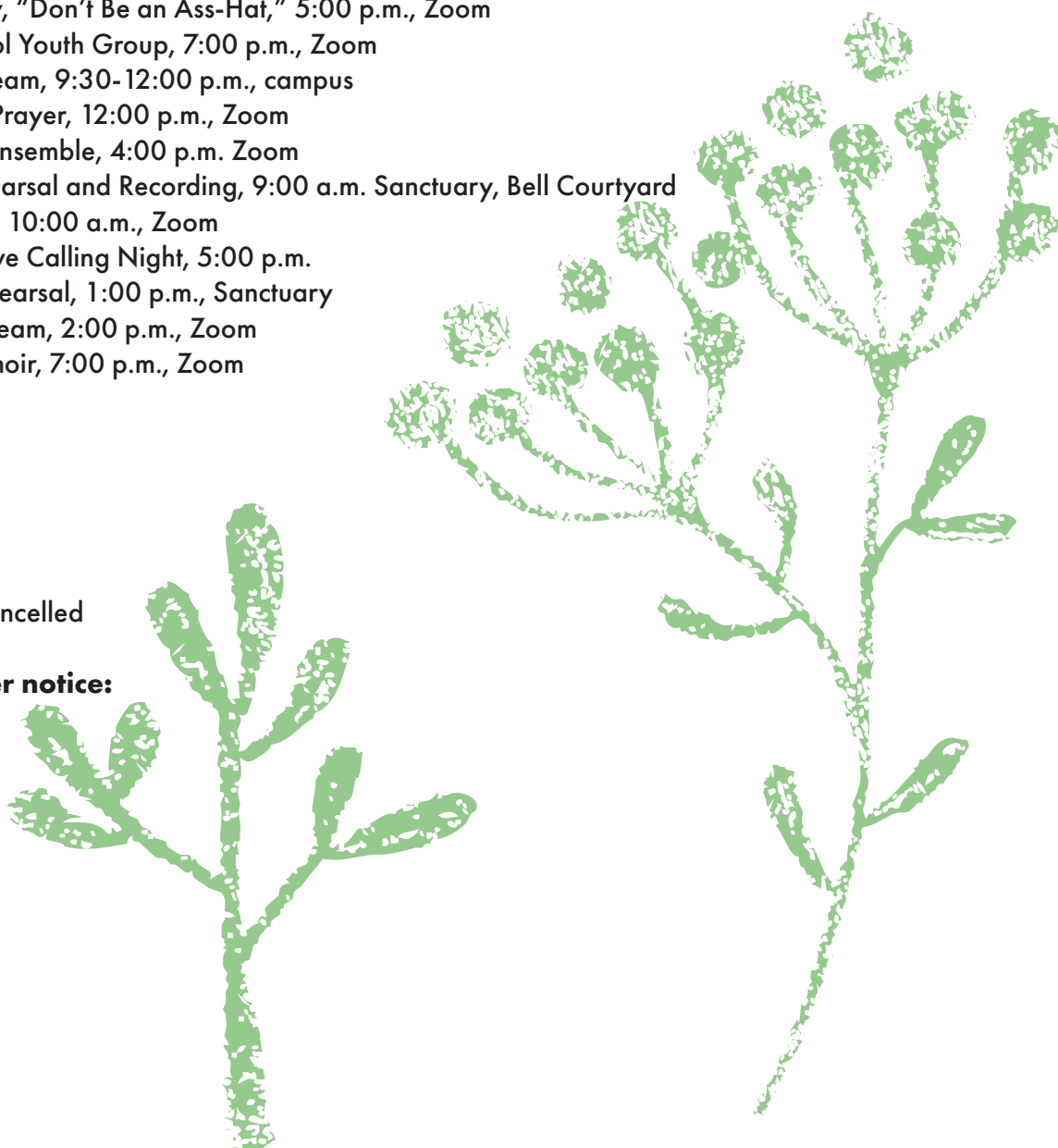
October 20 Games Night, 7:00 p.m., Zoom  
 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus  
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom  
 Health & Safety, 1:30., Off-site  
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m., Zoom  
 October 21 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard  
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom  
 October 22 Organ Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
 October 23 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom  
 Women's Bible Study, 10:00, Fountain Courtyard  
 October 24 NCNC Gathering, Zoom  
 October 25 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:30 a.m. Zoom  
 Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom  
 Kindred Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom  
 Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom  
 Book Study, "Don't Be an Ass-Hat," 5:00 p.m., Zoom  
 High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom  
 October 27 Grounds Team, 9:30-12:00 p.m., campus  
 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom  
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom  
 October 28 Piano Rehearsal and Recording, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary, Bell Courtyard  
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom  
 Pledge Drive Calling Night, 5:00 p.m.  
 October 29 Organ Rehearsal, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
 Visitation Team, 2:00 p.m., Zoom  
 Chancel Choir, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

#### Event Changes:

- Men's Retreat - Cancelled

#### Suspended until further notice:

- Showers
- UkeStars



The Community Church  
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North  
Sebastopol, CA 95472



# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent  
Lead Minister

[pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org)

707.823.2484 ext.102



Rev. Lacey Hunter  
Associate Minister of Faith Formation

[pastorlacey@uccseb.org](mailto:pastorlacey@uccseb.org)



Rev. Rachel Knuth  
Associate Minister of Congregational Care

[rachelknuth@uccseb.org](mailto:rachelknuth@uccseb.org)

[www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)

[office@uccseb.org](mailto:office@uccseb.org)