

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2021 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

Handbell Ensemble Director

Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Congregational Administrator

Chris Chang Weeks

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Maria Mojica

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Lent: Practicing Covenant

By Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

"This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." – Jeremiah 31:33

It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that the entire Bible, with its abundance of narratives and genres and storytellers, is primarily concerned with one thing: "covenant." God speaks the heavens and the earth into being and makes provisions for all creatures. God calls all of it "good." And then, God comes to dwell in the midst of God's creation. The word covenant means "come together" (Latin: con+venire) and that's exactly what God did in the very beginning.

That, as we know, is not the end of the story. Not once, but many times, human forget their original blessedness, their primal connectedness, and they suffer the consequences of their own actions. By 6th chapter of Genesis, we learn that "the wickedness of humankind was great" and that "the thoughts of their hearts were only evil" (v.5). The humans God created and blessed could now only do violence. How does God respond? The text tells us: "it grieved God's heart."

What does God do with God's grief? God makes a fresh start and redoes creation. That's the story of Noah and his family, the animals, the ark, and the flood. Versions of a flood story were told by many ancient cultures. In the biblical version, after the

What does God do with God's grief?

flood, God makes a new covenant with all creation. God, often imagined as a warrior, hangs up God's own war bow and promises to lay off violence forever. God takes all responsibility: "As for me" (8:9). God changes God's own heart: "Never again" (8:11). God requires nothing of humanity: "I will remember" (8:15)

Far from the caricature of the angry God many people unfortunately relate to the Old Testament, this is a God intimately concerned with human and earthly history. This is a God overwhelmed with grief at human violence who intends to overcome it not with divine retribution, but with nonviolence signified by the bow in the clouds.

In another age, when the people Israel were suffering as a result of multiple pandemics – war, poverty, political in-fighting – the poet-prophet Jeremiah spoke of a new covenant, not written on tablets of stone or even sheets of papyrus, but on people's hearts, a covenant written by God's own hand. It seems that ever since

Page 1

Continued on page 5

MARCH 2021 WORSHIP

2021 Lenten Worship Theme: "Practicing Covenant: Turning Toward, Turning Away, Turning Round Right" Community worship happens Sundays at 10:30 a.m. online via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83296554538

You may also view the livestream at: https://www.facebook.com/uccseb

See weekly emails or visit www.uccseb.org for more details.

March 7 - 3rd Sunday in Lent - Exodus 20: 1 - 7

Today we share Holy Communion and Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister for Congregational Care, preaches as sermon on the Ten Commandments entitled "Love God, Love Neighbor, and Rest."

March 14 - 4th Sunday in Lent - Numbers 21: 4 - 9

Today we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering of the United Church of Christ and Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon called "When All You Have Are Snakes."

March 21 - 5th Sunday in Lent - Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

Today Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, will preach in conversation with Jeremiah 31:31-34. What has been written on our hearts this Lent?

March 28 - 6th Sunday in Lent - Mark 14: 1 - 15: 47

On this Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, Pastor Benjamin preaches on the story of Holy Week according to the Gospel of Mark. The sermon title is: "How the Light Gets In."

Coming in April... Easter Sunday, Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene Nelson preaches, Group process for Imagining the future of Music & Arts at Community Church



Church in the Wild Movie Night, Friday, March 12th at 7:00pm All-ages watch party on Netflix: "My Octopus Teacher"

"My Octopus Teacher" is an underwater nature documentary about a person who, in the midst of feeling unmoored and depressed, takes to diving in the kelp forest off the coast of South Africa. He dives without any equipment or wet suit, even though the ocean is as cold there as it is here in Bodega Bay. During his dives, he observes and begins to interact with an octopus. The movie is beautifully filmed, the suggested watching age is 6+, and the metaphors and struggles that unfold in the film are compelling for people of all ages.

Click Here to Watch the Trailer

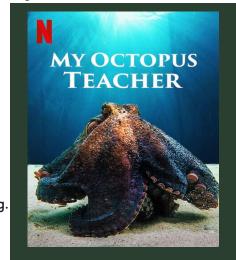
Click Here to check out a review from Common Sense Media

To participate in the watch party, you'll need to do 2 things:

- (1) RSVP to Pastor Rachel, so she can send you the link to the watch party.
- (2) Install TeleParty on your computer or device, so you can chat with other Church in the Wild moviegoers! Simply follow this link: https://www.netflix-party.com/ and click "Install TeleParty."

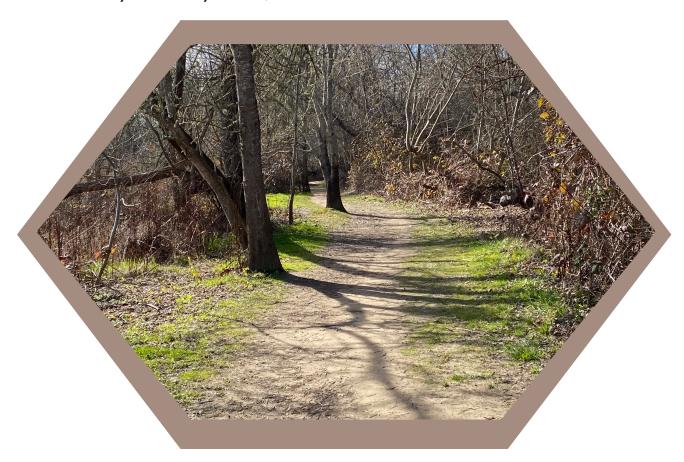
I suppose a 3rd thing you'll need to do is get comfy and make popcorn!

For more information, please contact Pastor Rachel: pastorrachel@uccseb.org



Faith Formation in the Season of Lent

By Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation



Lenten Faith Journeys

Sundays in March: 7th, 14th & 21th following worship during Kinship Time Inspired by our theme, "Church in the Wild," this year's Lenten Faith Journeys series invites the question, "Who are your wilderness companions? How are they journeying with you?" Who is inspiring you, guiding you, nourishing you, forming you in these extraordinary times? Maybe your companion is an author, artist, musician, organizer, leader, teacher, someone you know personally or not, maybe a human or being in nature or animal. Following worship, members of Community Church will offer brief responses to this prompt, followed by a time of conversation.

Sunday, March 7 - Elia DelMonte is a 6th grader at Twin Hills Middle School. She participates in band, piano, swim team, horseback riding lessons and soccer. Elia is an avid reader and is currently enjoying all of the Wings of Fire books. In her free time, she enjoys playing with her sister Erika and her dog Pesto. Elia has been a part of the Community Church since birth when she would sleep in her mom's office while her mom worked. Elia has participated in the Community Church Children's Choir, has been an acolyte and even played Mary in the Christmas Eve Children's pageant. Elia has also participated in the 5th/6th grade OWL program, Camp Caz, and is currently a member of the middle school youth group.

Sunday, March 14 - Bree Cassells is a Sebastopol native, mother of three, and sometimes English teacher. Bree grew up attending the Community Church on Christmas Eve and Easter, and used to serve as a Sunday School teacher.

Sunday, March 21 - To be determined.

Youth Group During Lent

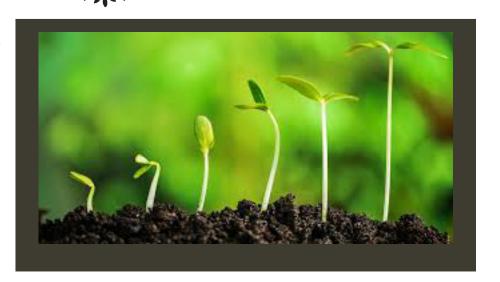
Youth groups will spend time each Sunday in prayer, discussion and collaboration as we create a Seven Last Words Good Friday Service. Youth members will be invited to express Jesus' seven last words through visual art, poetry, spoken word, reflection, music, movement, etc. Together, we will put together a series of videos that will be compiled into a meditation that folks can access online for Good Friday (April 2). Jesus' Seven Last Words

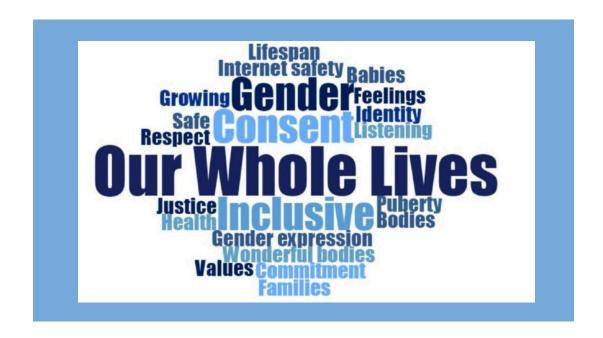
- 1. Luke 23:34: "Creator, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
- 2. Luke 23:43: Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
- 3. John 19:26–27: When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.
- 4. Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34: And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- 5. John 19:28: After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty."
- 6. John 19:30: When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- 7. Luke 23:46: Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Creator, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.



Children's Ministries

Lenten Wilderness Kits for children K-5 will offer materials for growing flowers, pictorial seed journals and prayer rocks to paint, each as practices to help us care for others and turn our hearts towards God. Godly Play Lent Stories will be available each week on the church's Youtube Channel, accompanied by wonder questions. And children's art and movement time will be hosted on zoom on Sunday, March 21, 11:45am-Noon.





Taking Flight: An Online Our Whole Lives (OWL) Curriculum for 8/9th Grades

March-May 2021, Facilitated by Andy DelMonte and Pastor Lacey Hunter In the midst of COVID, the United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalists have created "Taking Flight," a series of resources and plans for communities to host components of Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education programs online, as well as protocols to help create a safe, confidential experience for participants. We are excited to share that this means we can now host Taking Flight for 8th and 9th grade folks in our community. Participants will gather online 1 hour a week, March-May, to engage in this important work.

Not sure what Taking Flight/Our Whole Lives is or why this ministry is so important to our community? Here's a brief introduction: As Christians, we believe that our whole selves—mind, body, and spirit, are part of God's beloved creation. Therefore, sexuality—how we live in our bodies and in relationship to one another, is an important and sacred source of insight for every individual and community. Our Whole Lives draws upon ritual, practices of self-worth and self-care, and values of justice and inclusivity to create a holistic approach to faith and sexuality education. The goal of OWL is to nurture well-informed, empowered youth who feel good about themselves and their bodies. Participants of OWL gain skills, resources and insight for how to live as sexual beings from a place of "self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusivity."



Lent: Practicing Covenant

Continued from page 1

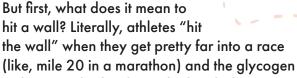
day, God has been about the business of overcoming the distance humans have placed between themselves and the one who created them, every one of them, and called them blessed and good.

This Lent, in the midst of multiple pandemics, we are "practicing covenant," turning toward the hard places of the world where God is found grieving; turning away from the habits of privilege and comfort; and turning round right, in the words of the Shaker hymn, to find ourselves in that simple place, "the valley of love and delight," where there is no separation between God and the blessed creation. How this story turns cannot be found in any book, not even the Bible. But it is already written down somewhere: every heart. Have you read yours lately?

Care Note from Pastor Rachel: Hitting the Pandemic Wall (so...maybe try some more carbs?)

Dear Friends,

Have you hit the pandemic wall?
Many of us are feeling down
and unmotivated as this time of
physical separation drags on.
Even with hope on the horizon as
covid cases decline in our county,
I have been hearing from quite
a few folks who feel cranky and
out of sorts, or even depressed
and disconnected from everything. If this is you, you are not
alone, and I have a few ideas
you might try.





Statue of the "Tired Man" by Jozsef Somogyi

in their muscles has been depleted. They sometimes try consuming some quick carbs to replenish their muscles and finish the race. It got me to thinking... what are the metaphorical "carbs" we might need to consume right now, as we confront the (hopefully) last few miles of the pandemic race? What will give you life-giving energy during this phase, the next few months?

Here are a few "high-carb" suggestions:

- Put something fun on your calendar that you can look forward to-- something that has no other purpose but "fun." It could be something you do every day, like sky-gazing for pleasure, or a weekly treat like going for ice cream downtown. It could even be a bigger plan for camping or a trip or house exchange that stays within your covid safety precautions. Whatever it is, the trick is to put it in your calendar so you have something to look forward to on the horizon. In faith terms, we might call this sabbath rest.
- Go outside and be in nature for big chunks of time each day. A recent Wall Street Journal article asks "Is Two Hours Outdoors the New 10,000 Steps?" As we spend more time on computers and looking at screens, we may need to be more intentional about being outdoors. You can get an app to remind you to go outside. But you could also set a timer, or drink your morning coffee outside, or plan to walk before dinner (whatever it is, just remember to leave your laptop inside!). You might accompany this with a reading of Psalm 1:1, "They are like trees planted by streams of water..." and plant your self in God's creation.
- Try Yoga. Check out Yoga with Adriene on YouTube. You can stay in your morning jammies and try her 11-minute morning yoga routine, or check out her many other classes, Click Here for "Yoga for Uncertainty" or Click Here for "Yoga for Complete Beginners."
- Dance Furiously! As Alice Walker says, "Hard times require furious dancing." Turn up the music in your house and dance to three of your favorite songs. Let your body feel the rhythm and move with it. If you're on Face-

Book you may request to join the private group "Dancing Resilience," a 20 minute dance party several times a week, led by a trauma movement specialist. The description of the group says, "We have been dancing a few times a day since March 14, 2020. Now more than 1300 dances. There is enormous pain, upheaval and change unfolding... dancers suggest this is a time for real transformation. We dance with pain and hope. We

dance toward equity, justice and health. We acknowledge there is a long way to dance. Hard times require furious dancing. Come dance."



And if metaphorical carbs aren't working, sometimes you have to let your companions hold you up for a mile or so. This could look like asking a friend to call you every week, or reaching out to connect with a counselor or your doctor. It could also look like contacting a Pastor for spiritual support, my email is pastorrachel@uccseb.org. If you or someone you know needs help, call 1-800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. You can also text HOME to 741-741 for free, 24-hour support from the Crisis Text Line.

In Community,
Pastor Rachel
Associate Minister of Congregational Care



Monday Evenings in Lent: Virtual Chapel for Intercessory Prayer March 8, 15, 22 at 5:00pm

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all God's people." -Ephesians 6:18



You're invited to join Pastor Rachel for a moment of confidential, one-on-one prayer. If you have a private prayer concern, a prayer you'd like to lift up for someone you care about, or just want to pray quietly with a Pastor, you are welcome to drop into this space. Every Monday during the Season of Lent, Pastor Rachel will open a Zoom "Virtual Chapel" from 5:00-5:40pm. As you sign on to the Zoom, you'll be placed in a Waiting Room, and then admitted individually. While in the Waiting Room, you may wish to use the time to slow down and breathe, perhaps light a candle. When it's your turn, you will have up to 5 minutes to share prayer concerns with Pastor Rachel, pray together,

and receive a parting blessing. You may drop in to the call anytime starting at 5:00, with the last call taken at 5:35. For more information, please contact Pastor Rachel: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.®

	March Birthdays		
1	Jamie Lerum	17	Lori Babcock
1	Maya Malone	18	Sonja Leake
3	Connie Blackstone	18	Karyl Clendenen Drennon
3	C.J. Hudlow	18	Lloyd Lerum
4	Pam Kruse	18	Tami Hinckley
4	Michal Stachnick	18	Jerry Coleman
5	Denelle Tognozzi	18	Jane Austin
5	Krista Kalemba	19	Neil Gorsuch
5	Hope Madden	19	Jude Melone
5	Susan Olson	19	Bree Cassells
6	Ross Galleto	20	Joyce Cox
6	Laura Emerson	21	Eliana Curtis
6	Steve Trivunovic	22	Carter Bell
9	Julie Davis	22	Taylor Davison
10	Leslie Wood	23	Nao Noguchi
11	Kendall Dawson	23	Esme Arendt
11	Joella Falkingham	23	Bridget Hole
11	Curt Nichols	25	Kathy Smith
11	Elena Larssen	26	Josephine Nirmala
11	Genna Rocha	26	Josh Bradley
12	Avy Card	26	Olivia Stoll
12	Owen Thomas	26	Elliot Butterfield
12	Reece Thomas	26	Erin Butterfield
13	Ruth Ann Midi	27	Jim Lerum
14	Michelle Brueggemann	29	Rich McChesney



30

30

30

31

Margarette Murakami

Emmett Burton Young

Lois Michelsen

Zoe Dillard

For the last 9 years, a dedicated group of Community Church folks deliver six bag lunches to the Sebastopol Christian Church three days a week. The program is coordinated by Chris Jenkins along with the Sunrise Rotary.

- Monday lunches are made by Peggy Porter and Norma Watson.
- Tuesday lunches are made by Chris Jenkins, Pat Furber, Norma Taddeucci, and Sharon Olson
- Wednesday lunches are made by Ellen Stillman.

A huge thanks to all these volunteers (and to Mary Coleman who was part of the Tuesday gang) for this amazing outreach that goes on all year long even through COVID. Their work is a blessing to the homeless population of Sebastopol.

Contact Chris Jenkins at 318-2482 if you would like to volunteer to make bag lunches for this outreach program.



15

15

15

16

Luis Quezada

Ethan Kauffman

Mirabelle Kauffman

Cecelia MacKillop

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 2021

The Leadership Council met for our regular meeting via Zoom teleconference on February 17, 2021.

Summary:

- Discussed and approved conestoga huts
- ♦ Debriefed Annual Meeting
- ♦ Introduced new members of the Leadership Council.
- ♦ Felt more connected as a Leadership Council
- ♦ Discussed recycling kiosk
- ♦ Reviewed the church governance structures and policies
- Monitored the financial situation

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:

Robert Curtis – Moderator
Kathy Bell – Council Officer for Personnel
John Henel – Council Officer for Finances
Tom Terry – Council Officer for Facilities
Joyce Cox – Council Member for Outreach
Larell Fineren – Council Member for Faith Formation
Kathy Matthies – Council Member for Care and Fellowship
Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts
Danelle Tognozi - Clerk®



Making Beautiful Things Out of Dust



Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40-day journey of Lent. This year, Community Church offered two opportunities to lean into our common mortality and to remember that every breath is an extravagant gift from a living and loving God. During the noon hour, cars of singles, couples, and families drove through the back parking lot to receive an ashen sign of the cross on their forehead or hand with the words: "Child of God, remember: from dust you have come and to dust you shall return." As Pastor Rachel and Pastor Benjamin imposed ashes, Dorothy McKoin played a handbell tree, filling the breezy air with the sounds of wind chimes and hymns.

At 5:30, an online service was held, led by Pastor Lacey and Sharon Fennema. It featured musicians from the Pacific School of Religion and poetry by Jan Richardson. The sign of the cross was made with the invitation to remember our connection to people who have served us, to communities to which we belong, and the earth of which we are all a part. We closed with a song by Michael Gungor and these words: "You make beautiful things out of the dust. You make beautiful things out of us."

Events in March 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.

3, 5	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
March 1 March 2	Virtual Chapel: Intercessory Prayer, 5:00 p.m., Zoom Election Polling, 7:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
	Men's Discussion, 11:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
March 3	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Bell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary
March 4	Bell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:15 p.m., Zoom
March 6	NBOP Issues Assembly, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
March 7	Lent III Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom
	Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom
	Lenten Faith Journey Series, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
	Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
	High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
March 8	Virtual Chapel: Intercessory Prayer, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
March 9	Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
	Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
	Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Ben), 4:00
	Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
March 10	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom
	Bell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
	Mission & Outreach, 7:00 p.m., Zoom?
March 11	Bell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
	Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
	Chancel Choir, 7:15 p.m., Zoom
March 12	Card Writing Ministry, 1:00 p.m., Zoom
March 13	NCNC-UCC Special Meeting, 10:00., Zoom
	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
March 14	Lent IV Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom
	Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom
	Lenten Faith Journey Series,, 11:30 a.m., Zoom
	Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom
	High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
March 15	Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline
	Virtual Chapel: Intercessory Prayer, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
March 16	Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom
	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
	Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom
	Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Ben), 4:00
	Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
	Page 10

March 17 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Bell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary Leadership Council, 6:30 p.m., Zoom Bell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary March 18 Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom March 21 Lent V Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Zoom Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., Zoom High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Zoom March 22 Virtual Chapel: Intercessory Prayer, 5:00 p.m. March 23 Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:00 p.m. Zoom Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom March 24 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Bell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary March 25 Bell Ensemble, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m., Zoom Chancel Choir, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Zoom March 28 Lent VI Palm/Passion Sunday, 10:30 a.m.,

Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Zoom Middle School Youth Group, 4:00 p.m., High School Youth Group, 7:00 p.m., Noonday Prayer, 12:00 p.m., Zoom Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m. Zoom Taking Flight, 8-9th grade, 5:00 p.m. Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Zoom Bell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Suspended until further notice:

Showers

March 30

March 31

UkeStars



One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings

Bible Study, 9:15 a.m., Zoom

This Lenten Offering is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. It supports the disaster, refugee, and

March 14 and 21

development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.





Sebastopol, CA 95472 1000 Gravenstein Hwy North The Community Church



SALT & LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent Lead Minister pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org 707.823.2484 ext.102

Rev. Lacey Hunter Associate Minister of Faith Formation pastorlacey@uccseb.org

Rev. Rachel Knuth Associate Minister of Congregational Care rachelknuth@uccseb.org

office@uccseb.org www.uccseb.org



