

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Community Church of Sebastopol

United Church of Christ
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www.uccseb.org
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Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Associate Minister of Faith Formation

Rev. Lacey Hunter

Associate Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Handbell Ensemble Director

Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

Congregational Administrator

Chris Chang Weeks

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Luis Guzman

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Reinventing Church

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

Eager to begin worshipping in the sanctuary after a year and a half, some people had been asking, "How much longer will we be worshipping outdoors?" "I'm not entirely sure," I responded, "Because it's safer, we'll keep worshipping outdoors until the weather changes." Well, the weather changed in mid-October. It was chilly on October 17 and the forecast called for rain, so we made plans to return to the sanctuary on October 24. The best laid plans... The storm that came, referred to meteorologically as a "bomb cyclone," shut down power throughout Sebastopol. We had to cancel worship, this time not for fire or virus, but for wind and rain.

In chapter 38 of the Book of Job, God, after remaining silent for a long time, speaks out of a violent storm: "Pull yourself together, Job! Since you're so wise, where were you when I laid the foundations of the universe?" Apparently, God never learned active listening skills, but God's words are oddly comforting and motivating. When we moan that things aren't going our way, or that our suffering needs a clear explanation, God's words force us to accept that we exist within a grand, beautiful, and often terrifying mystery.

A church member recently told me, "It seems like we need to reinvent the church. Things aren't working the way they used to." I think that's true, and I think we can either resist or accept that truth. Resisting it would look like trying to get back to the way things used to be as quickly as possible. Accepting it would be to loosen our grip on the way things used to be, to find new capacities within ourselves, to invite new participation from others, and to be willing to experiment and risk failure within our new circumstances. Here's an example: throughout the summer, as many people joined our worship online as did in person. Two years ago, who would think that was possible?

"It seems like we need to reinvent the church. Things aren't working the way they used to."

In the Christian liturgical calendar, November marks a turning point. The year ends on Reign of Christ (aka Christ the King) Sunday and begins anew on the First Sunday in Advent. On Reign of Christ, the church celebrates, against significant contrary evidence, that all of history is leading to Christ. During Advent, the church remembers the first coming of Christ and anticipates the coming of Christ once again to make all things new. It seems to me that God is reinventing Godself all the time. Will the church have the courage to do the same? ❄️

NOVEMBER 2021 WORSHIP: "BEHOLD ALL THINGS NEW"

- We are worshipping in person Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- Services live streamed on our church's Facebook page.
- Services can be viewed later on our YouTube channel.
- See weekly emails and visit www.uccseb.org for more details.

November 7 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

As we gather and celebrate Holy Communion in our sanctuary for the first time in 20 months, we continue to receive pledges in support of our 2022 Local Ministries and Wider Mission. The Chancel Choir sings and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on Mark 12: 38 – 44 entitled, "Too Much to Ask."

November 14 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost / Gratitude Sunday

Today we conclude our 2022 Pledge Drive, offering gratitude to God for the resources we share for the flourishing of Community Church in the coming year. The Handbell Ensemble shares worship music, we commission a new ministry, and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Mark 13: 1 – 8 entitled, "Midwifing a New World."

November 21 – Reign of Christ Sunday

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we conclude the Christian liturgical calendar. The Chancel Choir sings and Rev. Lacey Hunter, Associate Minister of Faith Formation, preaches.

November 28 – 1st Sunday in Advent: "God's Dream of Hope"

Today Advent marks a new Christian liturgical year. Our Advent theme is "Sharing God's Dream." Today we will light the first candle in our Advent wreath and hear the story of "God's Dream of Hope" heard by Zechariah in Luke 1: 5 – 25.

Coming in December... God's Dreams of Peace, Joy, and Love; The Longest Night Service; Christmas Eve Services – Child-Friendly, Family-Friendly, and Traditional; Christmas Day; the First Sunday after Christmas



Are You a Little Bit Curious?

By Muriel Weaver

It wasn't a voluntary change.

It was more like the upheaval of a Job experience.

After a long, difficult illness, my husband died, and as with Job, I lost riches, home, land, friends, health and family. Then God spoke out of the whirlwind. The Voice I heard came through this church community, through my participation in art, through new friends and a deepening spiritual life supported strongly by Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina was a simple, quiet way to listen to scripture being read and being open to what was being spoken, only to me. Sometimes only one word was enough. It was so different to being in church the way I was used to. Beautifully simple and powerful, it took me out of my shattered life into a realm of quiet joy, in spite of grief. Others I know, not so hurting as I found peace and inspiration for their lives in the pace where they personally struggled--home, relationships, business, church, and ministries. We left our gatherings smiling. When the group I sat with weekly from the Journey Center disbanded at the beginning of Covid, I definitely missed the benefits.

Now, Lectio Divina is here at Community Church and I can pick up the strands, sit quietly with others while scripture is repeated and we can "head what the Spirit is saying to the Church," to me in particular, at that moment, on that day.

Are you at least a little curious?

Please come be with us.

Sundays at 9:30 in the Narthex.

Only 30 minutes, well worth it. ☸

Sunday Morning Spiritual Practice Offering:

Lectio Divina

9:30-10am in the Sanctuary Narthex

Every Sunday morning October - November 21.

Faith Formation: Children's Church & Youth Group

by Pastor Lacey

We've been trying something new this season. Each Sunday morning, rain or shine, young people K-12 have been gathering outside at the church for Children's Church and Youth Group. We're trying out a new curriculum called, Mini Revolutions by Illustrated Ministry. Mini Revolutions is an intergenerational curriculum that invites participants to practice the rhythms and experience the seasons of the church year through the revolutions of the weekly scriptures and the liturgical calendar (Advent, Epiphany, Lent...) The Christian Church follows the circular nature of the liturgical year in a revolution like the earth orbits the sun. Through scripture, embodied and creative activities, micropractice (simple daily spiritual practices), and prayer, this curriculum empowers each person to embrace their own mini revolutions each week. In addition to this curriculum, we are weaving in our own traditions and activities. Curious what kinds of practices and conversations emerge during this time? Here's a look at a Sunday gathering.

Movement Moment

We begin with everyone — children, youth and leaders — gathering in a wide circle. How we first gather changes from week to week. Sometimes Community Church's Choral Director, Andy Del-Monte, gathers us in song and movement. Sometimes we play a game. Sometimes we share a simple mindfulness practice from the children's book, *Mindful Moves: Kid-friendly Yoga and Peaceful Activities for a Happy, Healthy You* by Nicole Car-doza.



Connecting

Following our movement moment, we move into smaller peer groups. K-5 gather together and 6-12 gather together for a time of check-in and connection. In youth group this takes the form of sharing highs and lows from the week.

Scripture

In peer groups, we read aloud and act out the short scripture passage for the day. A recent scripture that we explored was Mark 10: 17-22 – the story of the man who asked Jesus how he could inherit eternal life and Jesus tells him to sell all of his possessions and give his resources to the poor. Through conversation and art, we share what surprises and moves us in the story. A question the curriculum invited us to ask was: The man felt like he was missing something he needed in his life, even though he said he lived a moral life. To live a moral life means to follow rules in your life based on what you believe is right and fair. What morals do you live by?

Activity

To help us experience this scripture more fully, the activity for the day invited us to explore how the man in the story clung to his possessions too tightly and how we each have experienced this kind of



Continued on page 5

Care Note from Pastor Rachel

Dear Friends,

Having lived in the Midwest and spent time with family there, I've learned the story of the demise of a famous ship, the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, which sank in Lake Superior in November 1975. At one point my whole family knew (most of) the words to Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." So in November my mind tends to wander back to that terrible storm that caused rogue waves to whip up and sink a heavily laden ship with a highly experienced captain. If you want to learn more about the history of the Edmund Fitzgerald, I recommend this quirky video on Caitlyn Doughty's YouTube channel, "Ask a Mortician."



Lake Superior, on a calm day, has a depth clarity of over a hundred feet. This means that when the lake is calm, boulders appear to be just below the surface even though

they're much further down. Martha Lundin, a Minnesotan and genderqueer writer of children's nonfiction books, grew up near Lake Superior. In their recent article, "Siren Song: The Storm that Sank the Edmund Fitzgerald," they write:

"In late Fall, the lake's surface water is still relatively warm. So when Arctic air from Canada descends, it collides with the warmer air hovering over the lake, and massive low-pressure systems build. For a time, the winds scream and whip the lake into a jagged frenzy, creating rogue waves. A rogue wave is any wave that is twice the size of surrounding waves. They rise out of large bodies of water when the currents and winds push several waves together to become one. These monster waves can exert a breaking force many times greater than what a laker vessel can sustain....

And the wind that whips up these terrible waves? Sailors call it the Witch of November."

Lundin goes on to talk about what it means to name something "witch" and how they think about "bodies of water" in relation to their own genderqueer body. They go on to talk about bodysurfing Lake Superior with their brother as a child, and the full story of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, and they left me thinking about all kinds of metaphors: How a calm water surface allows us to see more clearly and more deeply; How emotional reactions can well up within all of us unexpectedly; How grief can overwhelm even the most experienced captains who are used to navigating the waters of loss.

One thing that caught my attention, was the little tag-line after the conclusion of Lundin's writing. It says, "More than thirty lighthouses guide ships along eastern Lake Superior's treacherous coastline."

Wow, thirty lighthouses. It seems that the sailors have resourced themselves with the proper tools so that they can navigate safely in those waters.

Some of the questions I'm holding this November are-- When there's a stormy sea, where is my lighthouse? How can I climb up into the tower and see clearly? What needs a light shined on it? What tools do I need to resource myself with to navigate in healthy ways?



Faith Formation, Continued from page 3

tightness in our bodies and spirits. "When we feel strong emotions, our muscles tense up. We may not realize it, but this tension can make it difficult to think about how we feel or how we should react to a situation. Practicing letting go can help us find peace." The practice of "letting go" invited us to see how different emotions felt in different parts of our bodies. First, we imagined what anger feels like in our bodies by squeezing our fists as hard as we could for 10 seconds. Then for 20 seconds, we slowly realized the clench while offering the meditation, "Jesus, I give you my anger." This practice continued to our forehead, jaw, legs, and feet, each with their own emotion to practice feeling and letting go of.

Closing Circle

As our time together ends, we all come back to our wide circle for a closing prayer. A long-held tradition of Community Church is to close youth group with the Serenity Prayer, so that young people learn it over time. Through repetition, we hope it becomes a prayer that folks can know in their bodies and spirits, when they need inspiration and guidance.

MicroPractice

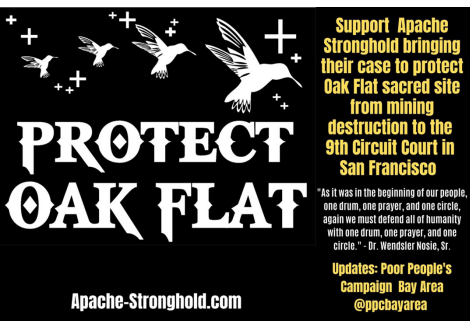
Each Sunday afternoon, children and youth families receive an email with a "micropractice" that the whole household can share with one another throughout the week. ☼



Faith Into Action: Our Stories

A reflection on the movement to support the Apache Stronghold

By Judy Hawkins



OAK FLAT is located in central Arizona's Tonto National Forest, near the town of Superior.

It has been Apache land since before the US existed, and was taken by force. Later, our government promised the land to its people. It is, and has always been, the center of the Apache Sacred Ceremony. Today, our government wants to turn it into a copper mine, destroying forever the sacred center of Apache land. This is a violation of the 1852 treaty with the Apache people.

Apache Stronghold to protect Oak Flat was in San Francisco on the 21st of October. Many people, including the Poor People's Campaign, met at the Federal Building (7th and Mission), to show support for the movement to stop the copper mine from being built in Oak Flat. It is said that if the government wins this lawsuit, that all forms of religious expression and freedoms will be put to the test, and are in peril of being lost in favor of government progress.

The government should never be allowed to destroy Oak Flat. If the government took over St. Patrick's Cathedral, the court decided today that would be a substantial burden to the practice of the Catholic religion. Now it must decide if the same burden applies to Oak Flat, and the Apache Sacred Ceremony.

To destroy such a sacred place is a violation of religious freedom and of Apache human rights. I stand with Apache Stronghold to safeguard religious freedom for all in this country. It is vital to me that the freedoms I enjoy and the privilege to practice my religion remain inviolate, and that all people are afforded that same privilege. Then, America truly would be great. ☼

Corrine Kauwe

August 10, 1930 - October 1, 2021

We remember with care, beloved church member Corrine Kauwe, who died in October at the age of 91. Corrine was loved by so many for her gentle kindness, warmth, and steadfast faithfulness.



Corrine was born in Pu'unene, Maui to Rev. Emeterio and Feiza Centeno. She was raised in the Pu'unene sugar plantation's Filipino camp during the Great Depression and World War II. After high school, she attended University of Hawai'i and was crowned Miss Filipino her sophomore year. In 1953, Corrine moved with her husband and two young sons to San Francisco on a 13-hour prop plane flight. They had three more children, and eventually settled on a farm near Santa Rosa, where they grew vegetables and fruit trees, raised animals, and lived off the land. She loved her family.

Corrine's family share these stories about her, while on a recent family trip to Hawai'i:

"Her favorite thing to do was go to the beach. She said many days she would be on her way to school and decided she would rather be at the beach. When asked how she got away with this, she said her friend worked in the attendance office and always marked her present. Of course this ended one day when the office called her mother and asked if my mom was OK because she's been out for a very long time.

Her love for the beach never ended, as she got older she continued on many trips to Hawaii where she would visit with many family members including her sister and late brother.... She loved flowers with the yellow hibiscus being her absolute favorite. She loved poi and poke, lomi salmon and of course spam. Most recently on her last trip she got to eat lots of papaya, poi and poke. She was not allowed to eat spam due to the high sodium content! If I only knew we had a few more weeks with her, I would have let her eat whatever she wanted."

In 1971, Corrine joined Community Church of Sebastopol, where she remained an active and engaged member for the rest of her life. After her Remembrance was published in an all-church email in October, many folks in our church community expressed their own memories of Corrine. Here are a few:

"Her life was at times touched by loss, but she always had a kind and gentle word for everyone around her."

"She was a lovely lady and it was evident by her visits, notes, donations, even after her move, that her church, our church, was an important part of her life. What a wonderful example she was for all of us."

"I find myself particularly affected by her death because she was able to be so gracious and generous from far away during the pandemic. That was a real gift to many, and me in particular."

"I think the last time I spoke to her was probably late spring. She was truly gracious and always appreciated my calls. If I left a voicemail she usually called me back right away and we had lovely chats during her stay with her family in Michigan."



Our prayers are with Corrine's family, including her surviving children, Joseph Jr, David, Francine, Corrine (Nani), and her 13 children and 11 great-grandchildren. May the Spirit cover them with comfort and peace in this season of loss. ☸

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY - October 20, 2021

Summary of decisions and agreements made during the Leadership Council Meeting:

- ◆ The Leadership Council voted to reinstate Bethany Nelson as an active member of the church.
- ◆ Approval of Minutes: M/P Larell to accept the September 16, 2021 minutes.
- ◆ **Financial Report:** John reported that we ended September with a negative result of \$21k. Local ministry pledges are still doing well, with 102% of expectations. Wider Mission Pledges continue to come in a bit low at 89%. Facilities are picking up with more Basketball groups and also, 12 step programs starting to pay. Rotary is still late with their large rent payment. All Revenue is at 91% of budget. Expenses are slightly under budget by 97%. We have not tapped into the \$64k allowed reserves yet. We also have FICA credits pending, which should come in by the end of the year.
- ◆ **Anti-Racism Updates:** Larell reported that she has visited a Peace & Justice Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama. The memorial is dedicated to the legacy of enslaved Black people as well as people terrorized by lynching. The names of the lynching victims are engraved there.
Lacey reported that the UCC has several new ministries emerging. She brought up that Pastors are required to participate in an anti-racist training every 3 years. There will also be a zoom workshop called "O&A Next" focusing on what's the next step after proclaiming to be Open & Affirming. There was discussion on announcing the November 16th Zoom to have a watching gathering and discussion afterward.
- ◆ **Budget Process:** Pastor Ben and John led a discussion on how the Budget process operates. Eighty percent of the Budget is actual operations, while 20% is aspirational.
The planning should actually start in June with visions and conversations with each Council Area and their teams/committees. John has sent budget forms to Council members. The Gratitude & Generosity team gets their visions and values from the Leadership Council. Council members need to send out the forms to their teams/committees to gather information and budget requests. John is going to contact the 8 members of Council to discuss budget challenges for the 2022 year.

Continued on page 11



Thresholds

Births: We Welcome with Love...

...Emma, Grandchild of John Henel and Julie Smith, born August 25, to proud parents Tess and Vince

+

Deaths: We Release with Care...

...Corrine Kauwe, August 10, 1930 - October 1, 2021

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To include a Threshold announcement in next month's Salt&Light, please contact Pastor Rachel by the 15th of the month: pastorrachel@uccseb.org.



Care Note, Continued from page 4

tightness in our bodies and spirits. "When we feel strong

In the month of November, we hold in reverence All Saints Day, a time to remember our losses. And it's a month where generosity and gratitude are celebrated in our congregation. We'll be entering Advent at the end of the month. So when we move through these weeks that invite us to healthy grieving, giving and gratitude, and preparation, what will be our lighthouses, yours and mine? How might we be lighthouses for one another? I'm looking forward to being with you, in stormy seas and in calm, looking for the light, and sometimes being the light, together. ❁



Conestoga Hut Build Brings The Community Together

Many thanks to everyone who helped build the Conestoga Huts over the weekend of Oct 16. Chris Dawson was the head builder and Scott Carlson, John Henel and Peggy Porter were the other lead builders for the sections. Judy Davison contacted the local press and we had coverage from the Press Democrat and West County Times and News. The two Conestoga huts will have its first occupants within a month.

Thank you to Chris, Scott, John, Peggy, Linda Roa, Nancy Schimetz, Gene Nelson, Joyce Cox, Warren Brisbin, Bernie Hovden, Kathy Matthies, Judy Peterson, Bobbie Johanson, Scott McGinnis, Marin Broadbent, Tyler Wiltehorn, Owen Thomas and Judy Davison. 🌱



Read about the Conestoga Hut project in the Press Democrat and West County Times and News.



September 21, 2021

Hello from Paradise,

We're enjoying our time here in Paradise. We had a short tour of the area. It's sad to see the devastation and the loss of so many homes and trees—stumps everywhere.

Our job was to paint the interior of this house which we completed today with two coats of paint throughout. Some folks went to a distribution center to unload many palates of goods from Costco and organize them in a warehouse. Costco donates goods to the folks who have lost everything.

The group photo shows us with the homeowner. It's such a blessing for us to help these folks.

Linda Roa



A Beacon of Hope in Times of Great Need
Hope Crisis
Response Network
DISASTER RESPONSE

Women's Retreat October 9, 2021 at Westminster Woods

Theme: We Make the Way by Walking: Finding Hope With Each Step

Facilitated by Dr. Sharon Fennema and Rev. Lacey Hunter



Men's Retreat, October 16, 2021 at Church

By Larry Stallings

The men of our church community gathered on October 16 to share a one half-day retreat. Twelve of us met to reflect and discuss the spirituality of the 12 Steps. We reviewed the history of the 12 steps from their inception in the late 1930's to their worldwide use today. The broad application of the steps can be seen in the variety of 12 step groups that meet at our church. Prior to COVID, we have 32 groups meeting weekly in our rooms.

During the retreat, we matched scripture readings to the steps and their value in developing Christian Spirituality. Each step was reviewed and discussed as to how it might contribute to our individual spiritual journey and bring harmony to our daily lives. We shared lively discussions and practical applications of the principles. A huge part of the joy we experienced was seeing each other again, even with masks on. We recalled the promise of our Lord when he said when two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them and indeed that promise held true. If you are interested in joining the Mens Group, please contact Warren Brisben at 707.483.4461 for more information.

LC Meeting , Continued from page 7

◆ **Budgeting Values and Planning:** Pastor Lacey led a discussion about the Budgeting process model. The Council broke into small groups and brainstormed about how an increase or decrease in a budget line, for instance, Facilities, would affect our church. There were visions and hopes shared. The overall vision is for our facility to be:

- Welcoming
- Beautiful
- Safe
- Functional
- Sacred
- Accessible for all

Some of these visions are financial and some are more “people” motivated.

It was agreed that the Visioning process should start in the summer to properly prepare for the Budget discussion. The process needs to be shared with the congregation so they understand how important the Budget is for the operation of the Church. Input from the congregation should be encouraged and welcomed.

Engaging Congregation with Budget: Pastor Ben and Robert opened a conversation of how the Council can engage the congregation with the budget process and challenges. Some of the suggestions were:

- Encouraging conversations with church members about the budget.
- Inviting the congregation to after church Fireside room chats.
- Finding ways to answer the question “What are we raising money for?”
- Being available to explain and answer questions about the budget

Quick Announcement: Pastor Ben announced that we will be returning to the Sanctuary for indoor worship on this Sunday, October 24. The service will also be available via Zoom.

Larell closed the meeting with a prayer

The meeting was adjourned by Robert

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

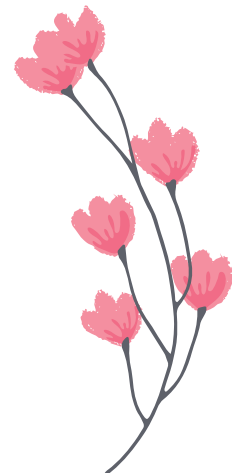
Joyce Cox – Council Member for Outreach

Larell Fineren – Council Member for Faith Formation

Kathy Matthies – Council Member for Care and Fellowship

Linda Roa – Council Member for Worship and Arts

Danelle Tognozzi - Clerk✠



Why Do We Give?

The testimony by members who give may well inspire us as we consider our annual pledge for 2022. Having lived through a year of fires, drought and a pandemic, we are reminded about what is important to us, and support the church in sustaining our lives, our values and our community.

Bobbie Johanson

I am happy to support our church financially because I want to make sure it stays strong. It is through personal giving by our members and friends that our doors remain open and our staff gets paid. Our congregation has supported me and my family for over thirty-five years as a place to grow in faith and fellowship. It has given me opportunities to put my faith into action by serving our church community and the wider world. I am particularly proud of our Youth Ministry and Disaster Recovery Mission Trips. And of course I enjoy playing handbells, singing in the choir and Women's Retreats and so much more.



As Chair of the Gratitude and Generosity team I invite all of you to start thinking prayerfully about your pledging and giving. Please join me in keeping our church strong through this unusual time of pandemic with all its challenges.

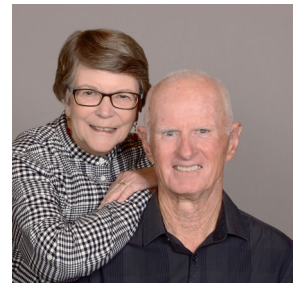
Larry Stallings

Pledging continues to change for me as I get older. I donate weekly now. In the past, I have assisted in ministry areas I was interested in. In the last few years I have been challenged to assist in areas I never considered before. Some areas of ministry are not attractive or much fun. Sometimes it is even boring such as washing towels for our shower program. The Holy Spirit has taught me to not just serve where I want to, but be quick to say yes to serving where I'm needed. I have made new friends and learned more about God's kingdom by saying yes to ministries I used to ignore.



Bob and Marge Holland

When Bob and I moved to Sebastopol 45 years ago, we knew no one in the area and I found a baby sitting coop so I would be able to find child care when needed. We were also looking for a church that we could both feel comfortable attending and it happened that many of the coop members were also members of the Community Church of Sebastopol. I was invited by Beth Larssen to a Women's Fellowship meeting and Bob and I attended a church service the following Sunday. It was like finding a home. Our lives have been centered around the church community since then.



We started giving a small amount to the church when we joined and as we became more involved our donations increased. The youth groups forged strong friendships for our sons which continue to this day. We have both volunteered on many committees throughout the years and have many close friends within the church. The church is our family.

Getting to worship in person again has been like coming home, both spiritually and communally. The church is so much a part of our lives and I can't think of a better way to invest our money.

Jeff and Jean Boal

We give to the Community Church now because we have received and continue to receive. When we were trying to feed a young family and could only drop a few nickels in the offering plate but we could give some of our time. Over the early years we witnessed our children in church youth groups and Camp Caz flourish and develop their own values of



“loving others”. We realized we were blessed by this church’s work so we started pledging, making the church’s work part of our budget. Not only did our children benefit but Jean and I did as well. As many know, Jean felt called to ministry because of her volunteer outreach church work, for the less fortunate here in our community and those she met while on youth mission trips. My involvement was with various committees and being able to share and implement ideas on how to strengthen today’s as well as tomorrow’s ministries of the church’s. We moved away for several years to Weaverville where Jean answered a call to be the minister of a small church. Her change in health brought us back home to this vibrant and welcoming congregation! We continue to give because we continue to receive.

Hal and Linda Roa

Pledging to Community Church of Sebastopol enables us to have a community of fellow believers who strive to hear God’s word and to help others by taking action through our mission work such as supporting the Inter-Church Food Pantry, taking both youth and adult mission trips to areas struck by disaster, helping to curb homelessness with safe parking, showers, and Saturday lunches. Our dollars provide for the strong leadership in our church of ministers and musicians as well as education programs for our children and adults. ❁



Our Lead Minister’s Upcoming Sabbatical

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, will be taking a paid 3-month sabbatical February 1 – April 30, 2022. The Leadership Council approved this plan according to the Call Agreement, and in recognition of Rev. Broadbent having completed 5 years of ministry at Community Church on August 1, 2021. Besides an opportunity for rest and rejuvenation, Pastor Benjamin will concentrate on developing a practice of writing by adopting a daily writing routine, attending multiple writing workshops, creating an online platform, and submitting various articles for publication.

In the months leading up to February 1, staff and church leaders are working collaboratively to anticipate pastoral and administrative duties needing coverage. Rev. Rachel Knuth will increase her position from half-time to full-time during the sabbatical period to focus on worship coordination. The budget cost of this increase will be \$10,598. Additionally, 3 guest preachers, one for each month of the sabbatical will cost \$600 total.

According to the United Church of Christ publication, “A Sure Foundation: Resources for the Relationship Between Pastors and Congregations,” there are important benefits to a sabbatical, not only for the pastor, but for the congregation:

- Encourages longer pastorates.
- Refocuses ministry.
- Contributes to a pastor’s spiritual growth.
- Prevents burnout.
- Establishes new patterns for work and self-care.
- Promotes congregational self-sufficiency and capacity building.

As our congregation gathers pledges in support of our 2022 Local Ministry and Wider Mission budgets, consider that your pledge will enable this sabbatical and will support the overall health of our congregation and its pastors. ❁

November Birthdays

- 1 Jianna Gonzales
- 3 Gladys Chappell
- 4 Katherine Dowdney
- 5 Daniel Arendt
- 5 Quinn Curtis
- 6 Marylou Hillberg
- 6 Julie Seth
- 6 Anasuya Floan
- 7 Elise Peterson
- 7 Luis Guzman
- 9 Howard Bredesen
- 10 Dan Rasmus
- 10 Irene Bettendorff
- 10 Jim Davis
- 12 Pat Furber
- 12 Harry Simms
- 12 Kristen DelMonte
- 12 Jeff Pearce
- 12 Benjamin Broadbent
- 13 Debbie McCallum
- 13 Warren Brisbin
- 13 Helen Olson
- 13 Kristina Dillingham
- 14 Tom Terry
- 15 Dale Phillips
- 17 Marilyn Foster
- 17 Ann Keller
- 19 Mary Doherty
- 20 Tyler Porter
- 20 Noe Margulis
- 20 Will Wheeler
- 21 Bennett Davison
- 22 Ellen Stillman
- 23 Mark Nelson
- 25 Karna Roa
- 25 Allie Buchanan-Curran
- 26 Norm Stupfel
- 26 Pete Emerson
- 27 Lesley Bagley
- 27 Emily Morgan
- 28 Barbara Whitson
- 28 Abbey Sawyer
- 28 Jon Gonzales
- 29 Jan Kahdeman
- 29 Stuart Mitchell
- 30 Amy Furber-Dobson



Thank you Denelle and Gary Tognozzi, Roger Wilson, Larry Stallings, Judy Peterson, Jane Huneke and Tom Terry for helping to trim the tree limbs around the property for fire abatement.

The work saved the church thousands of dollars in professional tree work. The project took about four days to complete—from tree trimming to removal of debris.



Events in November at Community Church

We are gradually reopening at Community Church. Worship services in the sanctuary have commenced. Check our online calendar at <https://uccseb.org/Calendar.php> for updates.

- Nov 1 Facilities Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. Fountain Courtyard/Fireside Room
- Nov 2 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Men's Discussion Group, 11:30:00 p.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Nov 3 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Youth Lounge
Women's Bible Study, Fountain Courtyard
Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
G&G Calling Night, 6:00, Fireside Room
- Nov 4 Card Writing Ministry, 3:00 p.m., Women's Fellowship Rm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m. Choir Room
- Nov 5 CoHo Workshop, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Nov 7 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Rev Ben Broadbent Ordination Anniversary (1999)
Lectio Divina Practice, 9:30 a.m., Fireside Room
Children & Youth Formation Hour, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard & Memorial Hall
Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
Kindred Group Leaders, 12:15 p.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- Nov 9 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Pastor Parish Relations Team (Ben), 4:00 p.m., Zoom
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Nov 10 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Outreach Committee, 5:00 p.m. Fountain Courtyard, Zoom
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day, Office closed
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m. Choir Room
- Nov 12 Coho Workshop, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Nov 13 Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- Nov 14 Gratitude Sunday, 25th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard
Lectio Divina Practice, 9:30 a.m., Fireside Room
Children & Youth Formation Hour, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard & Memorial Hall
Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- Nov 15 Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline
- Nov 16 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Nov 17 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, Classroom 6
Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Leadership Council, 6:30 p.m., Media Room
- Nov 18 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard
- Nov 21 Reign of Christ Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Lectio Divina Practice, 9:30 a.m., Fireside Room
Children & Youth Formation Hour, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard & Memorial Hall
Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- Nov 23 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Nov 24 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, Classroom 6
Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving Day, Office closed
- Nov 27 Corrine Kauwe Memorial Service, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Nov 28 1st Sunday in Advent, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Children & Youth Formation Hour, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard & Memorial Hall
Kinship Time, 11:45 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- Nov 30 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Sanctuary

The Community Church of Sebastopol
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SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

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