

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 2022 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 Congregational Care

Rev. Rachel Knuth

Handbell Ensemble Director

Karna Roa

Keyboardist

J. Althea

Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Luis Guzman, temp

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Reinventing Church

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent

About a year ago, I was on a “walk and talk” with a church member. We were reflecting on the past couple of years, and on how much had changed during the Covid-19 pandemic. “It feels like we are going to have to reinvent the church,” my companion said to me. I think they are right, but not only because of recent historical happenings. *Semper reformanda* was a Latin phrase coming out of the Protestant Reformation affirming that, to remain faithful and vibrant, the church must always be reforming. In other words, the church is always in the process of reinventing itself.

We’ve experienced a lot together as a congregation in recent years. We’ve celebrated baptisms, birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries. We’ve rewritten our Bylaws and elected leaders to new positions. We’ve marched in Pride Parades and formed Accompaniment Teams to support refugees. We’ve held vigils for victims of war and of racist and transphobic violence. We’ve offered thanksgiving to God for beloved ones who have died, and we’ve said goodbye to dear members who have moved away or who have decided to leave our congregation for a variety of reasons.



In August 2022, we may be at an inflection point in our reinvention. The pandemic seems to be waning, but who knows what new challenge awaits us? In January, our Associate Minister of Faith Formation let us know she was seeking a call elsewhere. Pastor Rachel assumed the role of full-time Acting Lead Minister while I was on a 3-month sabbatical. Since my return, we have been in a process of discerning what our staff structure would look like moving forward.

In May, a task force was formed by the Leadership Council to engage church members in a conversation about what our ministry and staff priorities should be in the years ahead. There was a strong feeling among those who participated that we not only want our church to survive the challenges ahead. We want to thrive. And there was a similarly strong feeling that we have a full-time ministry candidate in our midst who will help us thrive in the days to come.

AUGUST 2022 WORSHIP

- ◆ We worship in the sanctuary every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ Services live streamed on our church's YouTube channel & Facebook page.
- ◆ Weekly bulletin and announcements available at www.uccseb.org.

Summer Worship Theme: "We Welcome"

August 7 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Today we gather for worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 entitled, "Arguing with God."

August 14 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Today Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 12:49-56 entitled "On Behalf of the Eunuch." The Margulis Family provides special music.

August 21 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Following our summer "We Welcome" theme, Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Jeremiah 1:4–10 entitled "Prophets Come in All Ages." Garth Watson provides special music.

August 28 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost / All-Church Camp Weekend

This weekend some of our congregation will be worshipping under the redwoods in Occidental, led by Pastor Rachel, while others will worship in the sanctuary, led by Pastor Benjamin.

Coming in September... Gathering and Blessing the Waters of Summer, Holy Communion, Multi-Generational Worship, Launch Sunday, Mission Sunday



Thresholds

We release with care, Evelyn Bishop, who was born July 19, 1922, and died June 30, 2022. With thanksgiving for the person she was and the lives she touched, we pray God's blessing upon her family and friends as they grieve her loss, she will be missed.

**A Memorial Service for Evelyn Bishop will be held
Saturday, September 17 at 2:00pm.**

**A Memorial Service for Edythe Briggs will be held
Sunday, August 14 at 2:00pm.**

A Care Note from Pastor Rachel

Dear Friends,

As my role serving as Associate Minister is expanded and redefined, I want to share with you some of my thoughts about our care ministries. I will still be involved in congregational care, even if it isn't in my title. And there are a lot of ways we care for each other at Community Church— often behind the scenes. That's because most of our care ministries tend to happen in quiet moments between people, rather than in large-group settings. Care ministries will continue, because caring is something all of us— Ministers and lay people— do!

Pastoral Care— Pastor Benjamin and I both have a heart for pastoral care, and find great meaning and satisfaction coming alongside our members in times of distress, illness, and grief. Both Pastor Benjamin and I make pastoral visits a part of our weekly rhythm. These visits can include deep listening, prayer, end-of-life care, and visiting with family members— but generally it's a ministry of presence. Pastoral Care can happen in a lot of ways, like phone calls, prayerful emails or texts, home visits, or appointments in the office. If we can be of spiritual support to you, please let us know.

Care Teams— Visitation, Card-Writing, and Prayer Shawl Ministries are part of our Care and Fellowship Ministry Area, and are led by lay leaders. These teams of volunteers offer care and signs of support to our members in need of prayer, vulnerable elders, those who are ill, or in need of cheer. These are truly behind-the-scenes ministries— but some of you know of them because you've received a handmade prayer shawl, lovingly created and compassionately presented. Some of you know of them because you've gotten a card in the mail saying someone's thinking of you. Some of you know of them because you've received a phone call to prayerfully check in and hear how you're doing. These are teams with a quiet strength who make a difference.

Kindred Care Circles— All of our church members have been placed into 9 geographical groups, named after apples (like the Gravensteins and the Pippins). Originally, these were intended to be both social and care groups of neighbors who would gather for picnics, usher together, and provide care as needed. But, they haven't functioned in this way in a few years. I think it's time to re-invent this ministry. When I imagine what Kindred Care Circles could be, I imagine trained lay leaders who lead a robust and sustainable care program at our church. I would love to support a new cadre of engaged care leaders in their next juicy iteration. This has been an area of strength for a long time at our church, with many names, from a formal "Diaconate Board" to "Parish Care" to "Kindred Groups." I'm excited to support this program as it evolves again. (If you're interested or have ideas, call me or send me an email!)



Person-to-Person Relationships— Many of our church members follow the serendipity of the Holy Spirit in their care for one another. I've heard about impromptu flower delivery, soup drop-offs, meals being organized, phone calls, and sharing rides for vulnerable members to come to Sunday worship. These informal ways of caring are part of who we are as a community.

I am delighted to continue to support our congregation's networks of care with joy and compassion, and to discover new ways we will "in-reach" to one another.

Warmly,
Pastor Rachel

Confirmation: A New Class is Coming this Fall

By Pastor Rachel

When people ask me when I knew I wanted to be a Minister, I say, "when I was 12 years old, in my church's Confirmation classes." Confirmation inspired me! I loved the questions of Confirmation, the theology, and deep intellectual conversations with my Minister and classmates. At my ordination, my childhood Minister, Rev. Dan Durway, gave an impassioned "Charge." He was the one who opened up for me the whole world of theology, and who modeled for me what Ministry might look like. I am so grateful to have known him and studied with him as a young person. So I have a deep love for Confirmation, because it made such a difference in my life, and I have witnessed how it has impacted other young people, as well.

Confirmation is the main rite of passage for youth in the Christian church, a time when they think deeply about what it is they believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Bible, faith and doubt, peace and justice. "Confirmands" (or, students) spend time taking Confirmation classes to explore all these topics together. Often they are also assigned a mentor who walks with them as a trustworthy adult to "talk shop" with. At the end of the classes, Confirmands are invited to participate in a Confirmation Ritual in worship. During the Confirmation Ritual, they affirm the promises they (or their parents) made when they were baptized. They receive a blessing and their official church nametag. In some cases, Confirmands participate in Confirmation classes and choose not to be confirmed at that time, which after thoughtful reflection, is their decision. I believe that church is a place where, we may not have all the answers, but together we can ask the questions. Confirmation is a time when we "ask the questions."



One of the great benefits of Confirmation classes is the sense of connection and camaraderie among Confirmands and their mentors. Here are a few quotes from the last class of Confirmands, who were Confirmed in December 2019:

"What I liked about confirmation was having a great mentor and playing Lamps of the Lord." –Aaron Knuth

"What I liked about confirmation was the connection I made with the other participants and the leaders." –Marin Broadbent-Bell

And a few quotes from the 2019 class of Mentors:

"I loved going out for coffee with my mentee and comparing stories around being a teen in the 1970s and 1980s and today." –Susan Olson

"I was honored to be a confirmation mentor. We were not able to meet very often due to [my Confirmand's] busy schedule and then COVID draw backs, but I felt blessed to get to know him a little better and to pray for him in his journey." –Terri Harper

"What I enjoyed about being a mentor was connecting with some of the youth within our congregation. Witnessing their learning and faith was very heart warming for me." –Judy Bowman

“The obvious answer to this question is having the privilege to get to know [my Confirmand] and finding a common conduit with which to communicate: Sports. As a basketball coach for 35 years, I was continually reminded that my job was to use the game as a vehicle for teaching larger lessons for the game of LIFE!... [I liked] using sports analogies to convey the challenges that the Bible speaks to us about our lives.” –Roger Wilson

So, Confirmation is coming, hooray! Pastor Benjamin and I are delighted to reignite this program again, with a new class of Confirmands this Fall. Parents and Youth: Be on the lookout for details coming soon!



Collecting Water for Sebastopol Community Church at Montmorency Falls

By Lori Lapham

On June 11, 2022, my friend Joan and I set sail from Boston to Montreal on Holland America’s Zaandam. Although we explored the amazing port cities of Bar Harbor, Maine, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, there were no opportunities to find and collect water at feet level. How frustrating! It wasn’t until we disembarked in historical Quebec City, Quebec on a beautiful drizzling morning six days later, that I discovered a park fountain to collect the water. Yay! Little did I know that later, on our sunny afternoon bus tour to the Notre-Dame de Quebec Basilica-Cathedral and Montmorency Falls, that I would find a more natural source of water. I first saw these magnificent falls out the window, riding along the multi-lane freeway, quite a shock for a California girl who lives in drought country! Upon arrival, we had an hour to explore the falls that are taller than Niagra, yet not nearly as wide. There is a walking bridge that goes right over the falls, however, it is quite the steep climb, and due to limited time and fear factors, we remained happily at ground level. As we strolled closer to the falls, we realized that we could walk to the water’s edge at its flowing river. Immediately, I poured out the park water on the rocks, and refilled my bottle here. Success! Then, as I closed my eyes and listened to the rushing waters, breathed in deeply filling my lungs with the spray, and next watched how gravity forced the water over the cliff, I felt the presence, peace, and love of God. What an experience to behold in my memory. Forever.

Adult Mission Trip to Paradise September 25-30

Join the work group to Paradise, CA, on Sunday, September 25, after church, and return on Friday, September 30, in the late afternoon. We will be working with a wonderful group called Hope Crisis Response Network (HCRN) to rebuild homes that burned in the Camp Fire. HCRN is a non-profit organization, dedicated to helping communities impacted by disaster. No experience is necessary. Every task (big or small) will in some way help a family get back into their home. There is an informational meeting on Sunday, August 21, 9:30 a.m., in the Chapel. You can pick up an application in the church office. For more information contact Joyce Cox.

August Birthdays

1	Marin Broadbent-Bell	10	Craig Sterling	26	Rachel Melone
1	Caroline Cassells	12	Gina Scribner	27	Pam Oakes
2	Emily Nestors	12	Lucas Trevino	27	Ruby Melone
2	Sam Nestors	13	Susan Wahl	28	Alex Wilson
2	Dan Porter	13	David Lennox	28	Lisa Atwater
3	Bobbie Johanson	13	Francine Crook	29	Kevin Caldwell
3	Harry Polley	15	Sohni Yaylian	29	Yolan Christy
3	Marcel Coder	15	Rachel Knuth	30	Judy Bowman
3	Chloe Madden	15	Jocelyn Nelson	30	Roger Klein
3	Elizabeth Schultz	15	Juliet Hole	31	Scott Carlson
4	Peggy Porter	16	Elias Galleto		
4	Liam Stone	16	James Buchanan-Curran		
4	Al DeBella	17	Suzanne Gordon		
5	Norman Broadbent	17	Andy Berndt		
7	Austin Presley	20	Alicia Pelton		
7	Tobin Arnold-Peterson	21	Lynne Tripathi		
8	Kathy Manchester	22	Doris Rowe		
8	Hugh Huffman	22	Tim Allen		
9	Chris Dawson	22	Ed Pineda		
9	Jeff Johanson	24	Ella DelMonte		
9	Victoria Mayster	24	Monica Goodell		
10	Brian Deedler	25	Joanne Feige		



I am pleased to announce that the Leadership Council, based on extensive feedback from the congregation, has decided to expand the scope of Rev. Rachel Knuth's position from half-time to full-time beginning August 1. Her title will be, simply, "Associate Minister." She and Leadership Council members will spend some weeks clarifying the details of her new job description, but it will include an emphasis on Faith Formation for all ages and continuing to coordinate our church's Care Ministry.

Having known and worked with Pastor Rachel for the past six years, I am confident that she can help us navigate the reinventing-the-church work that lies before us. She is a creative thinker who is willing to experiment and try new things. Serving as Acting Lead Minister was a brand-new thing for Rachel, and she served this church faithfully and well. The experience helped her to trust that she could take on full-time responsibility without jeopardizing her family life.

Community Church, I feel good about where we are right now, coming out of a pandemic. We have a talented staff team, motivated lay leaders, generous givers, a beautiful facility, and congregation that is learning what it means to love God, neighbor, and self. It's true, change can be hard, but it can also be exciting, and reinventing the church can be meaningful, and fun.

Events in August at Community Church

Options for in-person and live-stream worship services. Meetings are held in person or hybrid. All gatherings must meet the County Health guidelines. Check for updates online at <https://uccseb.org/Calendar.php>.

- August 2 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
Men's Discussion Group, 6:00 p.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- August 3 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- August 4 Women's Fellowship Card Writing Ministry, 3 p.m., Women's Fellowship Room
- August 7 9th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
TransACTION, 12 Noon, Chapel
- August 9 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
Facility Committee, 10 a.m., Fountain Courtyard
Pastor Parish Relations Team (Pastor Ben), 4:00 p.m., Fireside Room
Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- August 10 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- August 11 - 14 Apple Pies Prep and Sales
- August 11 Personnel Committee, 4:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- August 13 Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- August 14 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
TransACTION, 12 Noon, Chapel
Edythe Briggs Memorial & Reception 2 p.m., Sanctuary, 3 p.m. Bell Tower Courtyard
- August 15 Salt & Light Newsletter deadline
Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- August 16 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
- August 17 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Leadership Council, 6:30 p.m., Media Room
- August 18 Chancel Choir Researsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
- August 21 Adult Mission Trip Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Chapel
11th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
TransACTION, 12 Noon, Chapel
- August 23 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
- August 24 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- August 25 Chancel Choir Researsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
- August 26-28 All-Church Camp Weekend, 4:00 p.m., Westminster Woods
- August 28 12th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- August 30 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom

**All Church Camp
Weekend (Aug 26-28)
Deadline has been
extended to August 2**

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