

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 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
Maria Mojica, on leave

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Beyond Binary

By Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

– Galatians 3:28



This year, Trinity Sunday was June 12. I preached a sermon called “Beyond Solitary and Binary.” In the Christian theological understanding, I suggested, God is not a solitary figure off on a cloud somewhere, a lonely king on a throne dictating truth without consultation. Neither is God binary, that is, a matter dualistic contrasts between good and evil,

light and dark, male and female. God is not either/or. In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle Paul proclaims that “in Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male or female.” Christ reveals to us a God beyond binaries, a Trinitarian God, a dynamic relationship rather than a static solitary being or a binary choice of opposites.

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need to move beyond settled binaries, especially when it comes to gender. Whereas many of us used to think only in terms of male and female, we are now offered more possibilities that match the lived experiences of people. Yes, there are male and female, but there are also other possibilities when it comes to gender identity and expression. To clarify:

- Gender identity refers to one’s internalized, deeply felt sense of being male, female, both, and neither.
- Gender expression is external and encompasses everything that communicates our gender to others: clothing, hairstyles, body language, etc.

Recently, someone asked me, “Why do we have to keep talking about gender in church?” That is a very good question. Here are a few responses:

- Because gender is something we all have experience with. You could even say we are all experts in how gender functions in our own lives and wider world.
- Because our cultural understanding of gender is evolving, and the church

JULY 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"

July 3 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Today we gather for worship including the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Jenna Canfield will offer special music. Our guest preacher is Rev. Sandy Rosen, retired U.C.C. minister, member of Community Church and mom of our former Associate Minister, Rev. Lizann Bassham. Sandy's sermon will focus on "Welcoming the Aging Process."

July 10 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Today Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on Luke 10:25-37 entitled "Acting as a Neighbor." Denelle Tognozzi and Jules Dantin sing a duet as our special music.

July 17 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Following our summer "We Welcome" theme, Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 10:38-42 on welcoming and affirming different abilities entitled "The Better Part?"

July 24 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on Luke 11:1-13, exploring what it means to affirm people of all ages, entitled "Why Scorpions Don't Make Good Gifts for Children."

July 31 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Continuing the "We Welcome" summer series, Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 12:13-21 addressing wealth inequality entitled "Keeping an Empty Barn."

Coming in August... Holy Communion, Multi-Generational Worship, Apple Pie Fundraiser Weekend, TransAction, All-Church Camp Weekend

Women's Bible Study: Putting our Faith into Action

By Joanne Matson & Norma Watson

We are all saddened, angry, and in grief again over the recent violence in Uvalde, Texas. As we pondered the presence of the Spirit during Bible Study, we were all aware that there are 19 children who no longer breathe. There are families whose breath is punctuated by sobs. Yet we are also aware that the spirit of the Holy God is moving among us. The question is "How do we Put our Faith into Action." How can we do this within our limited physical capabilities? Bishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador often told his people "All of us can do something".

We began that "something". By signing and sending a letter to our Representative in Congress, Jarrod Huffman. While he is totally supportive of Serious Gun Control Laws, we wanted to voice our support of his efforts and let him know of our expectations. Following this we intend to pester those senators who are undecided. The wheels of change move slowly. But we have to start somewhere.

Everyone can write a letter or postcard; Just say what you feel; put it in your own words. You do not have to feel powerless! Are you sick and tired of hearing the same song. Are you tired of being told by our leaders that Prayers and thoughts are with the victims of gun violence? We are; we feel we have power to facilitate change; we all have the power. Recalling the timeless words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world."

If you would like names of key senators to contact, please ask us, Norma Watson - 707 827 3372, and Joanne Matson- 707 823 5249. ☸

The Leadership Council Approves Our Church's Community Covenant

By Pastor Rachel

This May, the Leadership Council approved a new Community Covenant for our congregation to try out for one year. The covenant is very much like "group agreements" made at a retreat, only it's a covenant for the whole church.

Community Covenant

We Strive to:

- ⚙️ Speak face to face: direct communication is best when we have a challenging issue or concern.
- ⚙️ Bring our best and assume others are bringing their best.
- ⚙️ Stay curious about each other and recognize that conversation can be a natural way that humans think.
- ⚙️ Do our best to slow down: to take the time we need to manage ourselves, and to listen.
- ⚙️ Focus on problems, ideas and solutions, not people.
- ⚙️ Recognize conflict can be healthy when there is a respectful exchange of diverse ideas.
- ⚙️ Recognize that mistakes are how we learn.
- ⚙️ Offer and receive grace and forgiveness.

How this work came about:

Last November the Leadership Council commissioned a Task Force (Kathy Bell, Bob Curtis, and Pastor Rachel) to explore the possibility of adopting a Behavioral Covenant for our congregation. This idea arose from conversations in the LC about how we want to communicate with one another within our community. And not only communicate, but what values we want to stand on, especially when there are disagreements or conflict. Our larger "gotcha" culture does not support relationship-building across differences. Can we be a place that does things differently, with hope, and grace for difference?

The Task Force explored examples of how other churches have created covenants, read *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations* by Gilbert Rendle, and researched ideas presented in *A Sure Foundation*, a document created by the United Church of Christ to support pastor-congregation relationships.

Throughout the spring, the Task Force hosted a series of Listening Circles, to hear from church members their thoughts about what might be included in a covenant at our church. The Task Force took this feedback, along with their previous research, and created a draft covenant. They presented it to the Leadership Council in May, when it was approved.

Next Steps:

The Leadership Council invites our whole congregation to apply this covenant to all aspects of our life together for the next year. You can help!

At your next team meeting (Bible Studies, Card-Writing, Grounds Team... etc!), we invite you to take a moment to read the Community Covenant out loud, and consider what parts members of your group likes best, and which lines might be hardest to live into. The LC wants the whole church to be aware of the Community Covenant, and to think about how it might support our life together.

Next summer, the LC intends to circle back and ask "how did it go" to have a Community Covenant? Were there times it was relied upon? What happened when it wasn't being lived into? Were people able to come back to it? What needs to be modified or updated?

As the cow and dolphin swim in the sea, we too can be a community where we can be different and in relationship. May the Spirit move through us as we live into our new Community Covenant— each fully our selves, each fully in community. ⚙️



High School Youth Mission Trip to Paradise, California

By Pastor Rachel

Six youth (Owen, Reece, Dimitri, Marin, Noe, and Abbey) and three adults (Kathy Matthies, Bobbie Johanson, and me) traveled to Paradise, California to help with rebuilding from the Camp Fire in 2018. Our group worked with host organization, Hope City, who set us up at two work sites— the home of a person who'd lost his house in the fire, and a food distribution center near a church in Magalia. We worked hard, and we played hard— enjoying each other's company and learning from our surroundings. There was a board game called A-Z and there was a french-fry sandwich and there was a lot of laughter. We also watched the Ron Howard documentary on the Camp Fire, which brought the tragedy of Paradise into focus. The next time you see them at church, I encourage you to ask

our youth and adult

volunteers about their experience of the trip! I am grateful to have been able to spend time with this group, and especially grateful to our youth and adult volunteers who chose to spend a week of their summer in service to our larger community.

Here is a story from our trip, it's an excerpt from Pastor Rachel's sermon on June 19:

We had a good week. We watched the Warriors win on Thursday night. I want to tell you that our group enjoyed each other and represented our congregation well in the community. And the town of Paradise is an interesting place. Talk about a town learning again how to create "home" after tragedy. Talk about an economy struggling from disaster.

There are many stories I hope you'll get to hear from our Youth, but I'd like to share just one with you this morning. It was our first



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day on a job site, and on our way through town, our group had noticed the plethora of American flags, sprinkled with yellow "Don't Tread on Me" flags. We were not in Sebastopol any more. Some of our young people were worried for their own safety, worried that their humanity might not be recognized. None of us were sure what the homeowner would be like— would he be bigoted and would we have to learn how to be kind to a suffering person no matter how his views might differ from ours? That was seeming like a tall order. There was

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High School Mission Trip Continued from page 4

definitely anxiety brewing in the group. But as we walked onto the deck that we would spend the next few days staining, out came Phil Foto. He had dog tags on from his service in Vietnam, and a hat with camo. He welcomed us to his home, and thanked us for coming. I could tell there were wary feelings in the group. Phil Foto invited us inside his home, where he showed us the few items he was able to save from the fire— old photographs of him playing in a military band— pictured with VP Hubert Humphrey, the President of South Korea, and others. On his wall was his collection of concert t-shirts, including bands we knew, like Kiss, Pink Floyd, and Ozzy Osbourne. Our group was starting to warm up to Phil Foto. He showed us his 1960 yearbook, and where one of his famous school-mates had signed it— a person named Steve Martin.

And then it happened. He described how he helped put on the Pink Floyd concert at the Berlin Wall, and he said, “I don’t believe in walls— I tear them down.” And then he handed our young people actual pieces of the Berlin Wall, two small chunks. He said, “I like to build bridges wherever I go.”

The Holy Spirit moved that day. And isn’t that why we go on trips like this, to get out of our comfort zones, encounter difference, and be transformed through acts of service? In that moment, Phil Foto made a difference in our lives. Our youth saw his humanity, and he saw theirs.

That’s how people ultimately get set free— through seeing each other’s full humanity. Jesus wants the demon-possessed man to stay where he is as a witness to the fact that it’s possible to be fully who you are, in your own home, without losing your sense of self and without requiring others to give up who they are.

So now our youth and adult leaders have come home— home to this economy, to the advantages and disadvantages our own community has to offer. But because they come home different, having witnessed and experienced all that they shared in Paradise, all of us are changed. Thank you for going to Paradise, and thank you for coming home. ❁



Mini Mission Trip a Resounding Success

by Bobbie Johanson



Beth Larssen and I are proud of the seven youth who participated in the Pride Parade and activities at our church on June 4 and 5. Sophia Broadbent-Bell, Avy Card, Elia Del Monte, and Noe Margulis marched in the parade and were happy to have the crowd join in singing "This Little Light of Mine." Our church made the front page of Sunday's Press Democrat with the beautiful 15' x 30' banner made by Kathy Matthies.

We then enjoyed lunches provided by our Mission and Outreach team in the southeast corner of Courthouse Square. We met there with the minister

from the Santa Rosa UCC church and met some of girls from their church. We hope to do things together with their church in the future.

We went to the Museum of Sonoma County to see the exhibit of Ansel Adams' photos of the Japanese internment camp at Manzanar. This helped give background to the discussion with Margarette Murakami back

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Beyond Binary, Continued from page 1

should be conversant with this wider movement.

- Because transgender and gender queer people are currently targeted by individuals and institutions that wish to do them harm and as an Open & Affirming congregation, our church is called to create a safe and welcoming place for all.

- Because members of our own church community are transgender, gender queer, or gender fluid and they do not necessarily know that their church community embraces and loves and respects them as they are.

In August, I will be leading a 3-session class called transACTION: A Transgender Curriculum for Churches. The stated goal of the class is to prepare a congregation "to offer a welcoming environment to any transgender people who walks through our doors." Here is an outline of the three sessions:

- August 7 – Session I: How do we get to understanding?

Topics: What is gender and how have society's expectations of gender changed? Who are transgender people? What are the basic definitions transgender-related terms? How does gender identity differ from sexual orientation?

- August 14 – Session II: How do we get to acceptance?

Topics: What are the biblical references to transgender persons? How do churches respond to transgender people? How are we as a congregation prepared to have a transgender person as part of our worshiping community? What is our own awareness, or lack of awareness, and exposure to transgender people?

- August 21 – Session III: How do we get to welcoming?

Topics: How can we make our congregation a place where transgender feel welcome to worship and to participate fully in our community, sharing their gifts and graces? How can we help members of our community feel blessed to have transgender people in our worship space and meeting places? How might we take our welcome of transgender people beyond the doors of our church?

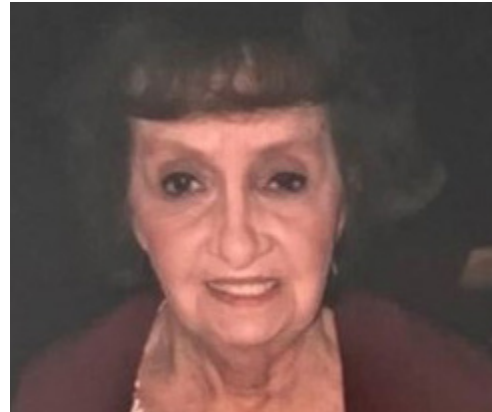
All are welcome to attend the first session, but you will need to register to attend the second and third sessions since they build upon the first. We will be meeting in Faith Chapel. Please look for an email to register for the class through Realm or RSVP by sending me and email at pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org.

Thresholds



Welcome with love, Celeste Elizabeth Hole, born smoothly at home on May 20, 2022, 10 lb, 4 oz! We ask God's blessing upon her parents, Allie & Ryan Hole, and big sisters Juliet, Bridget, and Josie.

We release with care, Carol Dickerson Holder, who was born May 17, 1932 and died June 18, 2022 with her family surrounding her. May God's blessing be upon her family and friends as they grieve her loss, she will be missed.



We release with care, Edythe Briggs, who was born January 15, 1925 and died June 23, 2022 after a short time in hospice care. 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.



July Birthdays

1 Donald Hendrickson	1 Donald Hendrickson	10 Isaac Trevino	18 Joy Richards
1 Allie Hole	1 Allie Hole	11 Bob Best	19 Evelyn Bishop
4 Harper Malone	4 Harper Malone	11 Eva Norton	19 Diane Krautner
5 Sandy Rosen	5 Sandy Rosen	11 Margot Dowdney	19 Dorothy McKoin
6 Maria Gordon	6 Maria Gordon	13 John Sweeney	19 Charles Williams
6 Eian Galleto	6 Eian Galleto	14 Dawson Bell	20 Jane Hynes
8 Nancy Lee	8 Nancy Lee	14 Chris Jenkins	22 Tamar Knuth
8 Andrew Liput	8 Andrew Liput	15 Roman Foster-Justus	24 Barbara Nichols
8 Ryan Hole	8 Ryan Hole	15 Hosanna Bauer	25 Hal Roa
9 Norma Watson	9 Norma Watson	16 Norma Taddeucci	25 Marna McKenzie
9 Paul Feige	9 Paul Feige	17 Luanne Buchanan	25 Chris Dillard

Mini Mission Trip Continued from Page 6

at church where Henry Allen joined us. Margarette grew up in Sebastopol and was taken from her home at age eleven to go with her family to Camp Amache in Colorado for three years. It resonated with our kids when she said they had to leave their pets behind. We learned that Margarette and her husband Jim were instrumental in getting the United States to give reparations to our Japanese citizens who were illegally forced to “evacuate” their homes during the war.

Next we worked with Larry Stallings to pull weeds in front of the church along Hwy. 116. Larry works every Tuesday with the gardening crew and helped us by providing tubs, tools, and gloves. We made a difference by filling eleven tubs with foxtails, wild berry vines and weeds of many kinds. Henry headed home after that.

Tamar Knuth and Alina Peterson were able to join us in time to prepare an authentic Japanese meal that Beth had envisioned. Marie Cotton gave a hand with her expertise in making miso, donburi, and inarizuchi. The kids chopped nine different kinds of vegetables and cooked their own choices of veggies, meats, and tofu to top their bowls of rice. After cleaning up, everybody got to keep their soup bowl, rice bowl and mini bento box that Beth purchased in Japan town in San Francisco.



Then we finished off the evening with sweet snacks, fun and games in the Youth Lounge and even in the dark Sanctuary. At midnight we did our meaningful sharing of wow (highlight), pow (low point), and how we saw the face of God that day. The eight of us slept in the Youth Lounge and enjoyed the sound of rain. The couch was pretty comfy.

Elia was the liturgist for Sunday morning worship and Avy and Noe were greeters and ushers. Sophia and Alina helped serve communion while Beth and I sang in the choir, and I played handbells. Whew!

Before COVID our mini mission trip was usually a 2-night trip away from home to do service, often in a big city like San Francisco for middle schoolers. With Rev. Hunter leaving in January, we looked into what we could manage on short notice and decided to stay local and open it up to high schoolers as well. It was a whirlwind of activity but the best part was the growth in fellowship and the fun that was had being together. COVID exposure kept three kids from joining us but did not prevent this important traditional event from happening. It is said it takes a village to raise children well and our church is just such a village. Hallelujah! ❀

Apple Pies To Support Camp and Youth Mission Trips **Save the date: August 12-14**

As we come out of the ‘COVID FOG’ we are ready to BAKE APPLE PIES!!! AND plan a return to an All Church Camp Weekend. This is our church’s 50th Anniversary of baking pies to help support outdoor ministries and youth mission trips. This is a very special event for all ages, and we have been baking pies since 1972. So, get out your calendars and put this down. We will be baking pies the weekend of August 12th through the 14th. For this year we will again be selling solely from our church and not at the fair. We will have the Drive through window at Memorial Hall and the booth set up in the Danmar parking lot for slices with ice cream. We will need lots of volunteers for this event. So, watch for sign ups – coming soon through email with a sign-up through REALM and the church bulletins to schedule your very needed volunteer time. Invite your friends. It is a great way to introduce them to our Church!

Events in July 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 on our online calendar at <https://uccseb.org/Calendar.php>.

July 1	5/6 OWL Class, 9 a.m., Chapel
July 3	4th Sunday after Pentecost, Sandy Rosen preaching, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 4	Independence Day, Church Office Closed
July 5	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m. Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom Men's Discussion Group, 6:00 p.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 6	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
July 7	Women's Fellowship Card Writing Ministry, 3 p.m., Women's Fellowship Room
July 9	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 10	5th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 12	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 Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
July 15	Salt & Light Newsletter deadline
July 17	6th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 17- 23	Junior High Camp Tamarack
July 18	Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
July 19	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m. Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
July 20	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room Leadership Council, 6:30 p.m., Media Room
July 24	7th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
July 26	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m. Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
July 27	Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
July 31	8th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard

**All Church Camp
Weekend (Aug 26-28)
Early Bird Registration:
July 15
Regular Deadline: July 30**

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