

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 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



We Welcome

By Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister

*"Don't forget hospitality, for some have
entertained angels without knowing it."*

Romans 8:26

This summer our worship will be guided by these words: "We Welcome." Extending hospitality has been a central Christian practice Christianity since the day Jesus invited the first disciples to join his ministry (Mark 1:17). Jesus' hospitality was rooted in the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah who invited strangers into their tent and later learned they were angels in disguise (Genesis 18).

As an Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation in the United Church of Christ, Community Church of Sebastopol has gone through a thorough process to discern and adopt these covenant commitments:

- ◆ We cherish, honor, support and serve each other and the world, in all our diversity. We thank God for the diversity among us.
- ◆ We affirm that every person has worth as a special and unique creation made in God's image.
- ◆ As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response, we seek to embrace justice and to stand with all who suffer discrimination, isolation, and alienation.
- ◆ In this spirit, our family of faith is open to all. We welcome and affirm people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, age and gender.
- ◆ We encourage all people to participate fully in every aspect of our church's life and ministry, sharing in worship, fellowship, membership, and leadership.
- ◆ We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which continue to enrich us as we journey together in this community of faith.

This rich articulation of our congregation's values and beliefs has become more important in the current political climate wherein vulnerable people fear for their safety and liberty. Each Sunday this summer we will lift up a different phrase of our Open & Affirming statement and consider it in the light of scripture and the movement of the Holy Spirit. We begin on June 5, Pride Sunday, as we reaffirm our commitment to be not only Welcoming and Open to, but fully affirming of our LGBTQ+ siblings in Christ. This commitment requires collective action, but it is also a source of shared joy. ✨

JUNE 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"

June 5 – Pentecost Sunday / Pride Sunday / Music Appreciation

Today is Pentecost, 50 days following Easter Sunday. This is also the weekend of the Sonoma County Pride Event. We tell the story found in Acts 2 of the great wind that created new conditions of radical equality. We celebrate Holy Communion and bless our Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensemble as they share special pieces.

June 12 – 1st Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday

Today we continue our summer worship series, "We Welcome," focusing on our Open & Affirming covenant. Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on John 16: 12–15 entitled "Never, Now, and Always."

June 19 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost / Father's Day

Today a guest musician shares musical pieces and Rev. Rachel Knuth, Associate Minister, preaches a sermon on Luke 8: 26–39 entitled "In Our Right Minds."

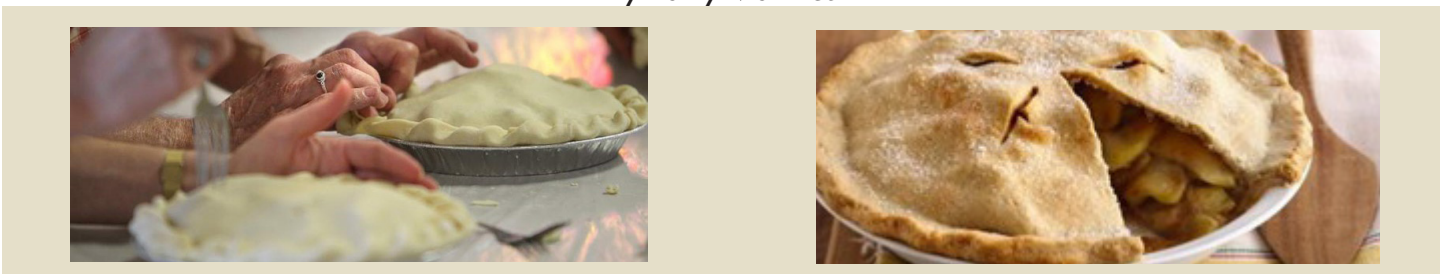
June 26 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Today we enjoy a guest musical offering and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on Luke 9: 51–62 entitled "Keeping Your Hand on the Plow."

Coming in July... Holy Communion, Multi-Generational Worship, Guest Preacher, Guest Musicians

Get Ready to Bake Apple Pies

By Kathy Matthies



When: August 12-14

As we come out of the 'COVID FOG,' we are ready to BAKE APPLE PIES!!! 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 SignUp Genius to schedule your very needed volunteer time. Invite your friends. It is a great way to introduce them to our Church! ❄️

Purpose & Connection

By Rev. Rachel Knuth

Last week an underground irrigation pipe broke in my family's chicken barn. We realized it when we saw a lot of



mushy water and couldn't find a drip anywhere. My beloved spouse turned off the watering system and dug all the way down to a pvc pipe that had cracked a few feet underground. The problem was not that we have beefy hardcore chickens who broke the pipe, but because the pvc was pretty old. We watched YouTube videos to try to figure out a solution, which involved replacing a "T" pipe. Did you know you need special glue for this? Did you know you can watch thousands of videos about irrigation pipe repair?! Amazing!

One thing I notice about online instructional videos is that anyone of any age can make a "how-to" video to teach someone, and experts can be any age. Need

help understanding your smartphone? Find a teenager! Want to learn how to make poached eggs? Find a grandparent! As David Csinos, professor and founder of Faith Forward writes, "Learning is not a one-way street in which the old pass on knowledge to and nurture skills in the young. Rather, since we all possess particular abilities regardless of our age, we all have something to learn from one another."

I believe that the future of the church is intergenerational. I know that sounds like a buzz-word. But what I really mean, when I envision a fully intergenerational church, is that people of all ages are learning and growing as they engage in ministry together. And that could look like lots of things! It could look like a youth partnering with an adult to lead a team. It could look like people of all ages attending programs because they're interested in the topics. It could look like an all-ages mission trip. The point is that human beings grow through relationships. And as we strive to be followers of Jesus, we are all apprentices to the way of Jesus and we all have much to teach and to learn from one another.

When I look around our church, I also think we're already doing intergenerational ministry in some places. When we have children and elders in hairnets rolling out dough during our Apple Pie Event, that's intergenerational. An adult might teach a small child how to pinch the crust to make it beautiful, and a teenager might have an idea to streamline the production, and a grandparent might stand around the kitchen telling knock-knock jokes with a second grader. Another place we are intentionally intergenerational is during worship— we sing, pray, and participate as a holistic community. And being together on Sundays is one of the only places some of us interact with people of generations outside our own. That is something to celebrate!✿

All Church Weekend Under the Redwoods

When: August 26-28

Where: Westminster Woods in Occidental, <https://www.westminsterwoods.org/>

Save the date for this all-ages weekend together for fellowship, fun and breathing in the Holy Spirit with nature. We will also have a Saturday only option if you are not up for staying overnight. More information and how to sign up to follow soon with an email RSVP via SignUp Genius.





You slimed onto this sidewalk,
Following an instinct,
Oozing toward a scent.
Or, you ended up here by mistake,
Your mistake.
Congratulations! You make mistakes that are yours and yours alone.
When I first glimpsed your slithering mass,
I flinched,
Then immediately softened, basking in all your glory.
I took a picture,
Wanting to remember how beautiful you were in your no-shell vulnerability.
Birds circled overhead. You gave them no heed.
More treacherous are the wandering walkers, the BMX swervers, the garden poison peddlers.
A bell rings, a crossing guard appears.
Here come the hoardes of 4th graders.
Will they be mindful? I don't know. That is for them to decide.
I find a piece of bark and a stick.
I'm ready to transport you to the closest agapanthus,
But then I stop.
I can't save you,
Can't cover you in armor that isn't mine to give.
That doesn't mean I don't care –
I swoon over your opulent stickiness.
I trust you to be yourself.
You got yourself here,
And you can get yourself out.
And if an errant tire tread should find you,
In my estimation,
It will be the world's loss.
But your demise will be sweetly your own,
As will mine.

Poem and photo by Pastor Benjamin on his recent sabbatical

Gathering the Waters of Summer

This summer, we are asking all members and friends of the Community Church of Sebastopol to bring back small samples of water from your travels. For example, if you go to Oahu, bring back a few ounces of Hawaiian ocean water. If you go tubing on the Russian River, bring back some water from your float. If you go to Europe, bring back water from one of those fancy fountains they have over there. If you go to a French restaurant in Santa Rosa, bring us back some water from your drinking glass.

Use a simple, small container like a sample size shampoo bottle. Bring it to the church office and leave it with an attached note telling us who you are and where you collected the water. On September 4, we will bless all of the gathered waters of summer and use the collected water, after disinfecting it, in baptisms over the coming year. This will be a fun way to share our summer adventures with each other and a way to offer thanksgiving to God for the waters of the world that sustain us and bring us joy.

With questions, contact Pastor Benjamin at 719.238.5347 or pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org. ☸



Welcome Joy Richards, Our New Congregational Administrator

Chris Chang Weeks is retiring at the end of May. She is leaving the office in the capable hands of Joy Richards.



Joy comes to us with extensive experience in Office and Event Management. Having worked in a church office in Long Beach, CA, she is also familiar with the administrative workings of a church setting. Relatively new to this area, she has been looking for a new church home after COVID and feels that this position was an answer to prayer.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, CA, Joy and her family left Southern California and moved to Grass Valley to raise their children. After 17 years, they migrated to Reno, NV. Having endured many cold, snowy and icy winters, they moved to Santa Rosa to escape the harsher winters and to be closer to their youngest granddaughter.

Joy married her high school sweetheart, David, and they have two daughters and one son. They have been doubly blessed with 5 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. Wanting to give back after having been in the foster care system as a child, Joy and her husband held a foster care license in Los Angeles and Grass Valley. They have had as many as seven children at one time. Joy currently lives with her husband, David, her youngest son, Matthew, her youngest granddaughter, Pollie Joy and her 12-year-old mini dachshund, Greta.

There is no greater joy than spending time with her children and grandchildren. In her spare time, Joy likes to crochet, knit, read, fish and country line dance. She also spends a lot of time making cards. She puts extra love into every card, creating each one with a particular person in mind. ☸

Hallelujah! Youth Mission Trips Are Back!

by Bobbie Johanson

After Rev. Lacey Hunter left in January, Kathy Bell, Bobbie Johanson, Beth Larssen, and Kathy Matthies have stepped up to serve as leaders of the Youth Program. They have combined middle school and high school youth in twice a month activities that are offered at various times so that different youth can attend because of sports, work, and family commitments.

The Youth Program will have two special events happening this month to culminate the program year. On Saturday, June 4th, our youth will be joining our congregation's entry in this year's Pride Parade in Santa Rosa, which honors our LGBTQ community. Our Mission and Outreach committee will be providing bag lunches. We will visit with youth from the Santa Rosa UCC church and have invited them to join us to visit the Sonoma County Museum's exhibit of Ansel Adams' photographs of California's Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp during WWII. We will then head back to our church for a special time with church member, Margarette Murakami, where she will share about her time growing up in Sebastopol and being sent off to a camp in Colorado with her family. We will then do service by weeding on our church campus. Beth will lead in helping the kids prepare an authentic Japanese dinner and she and Bobbie will stay overnight in the Youth Lounge supervising fun and games. The next morning, after breakfast and our closing circle, the youth will help lead worship as greeters and ushers.

An out-of-town high school Mission Trip will take place from June 14-18, in Paradise, CA. Nine high school youth will be commissioned to represent our congregation in our first trip away in three years. Kathy Matthies will serve as driver, cook and leader with Bobbie Johanson and one other adult. The group will help rebuild homes lost in the fires and assist at a distribution center for donated items.

You will hear more about this trip from attendees at a date to be determined. We are so excited to be able to provide these special opportunities for our youth to do service and grow in fellowship and faith. ✨



Save the Date! June 4, 2022

'WE ARE FAMILY' at the Community Church of Sebastopol and we need participants to march in the parade representing our church. More information to come, but if you would like to help or participate with the planning and decorating, please email **Kathy Matthies** at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com ✨

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Comprehensive Sex-Ed Starts in June

by Brooke Bell



The Community Church of Sebastopol is excited to offer Our Whole Lives: Sexuality & Our Faith (OWL) program for 5th and 6th graders. This is a comprehensive sexuality curriculum that values human sexuality as a sacred gift. We welcome both church and wider community members to join our OWL program - we see it as part of our church's commitment to promoting justice and peace in our world.

The OWL program is important for our current 5th and 6th graders because of the physical and emotional changes they are experiencing. These formative years are crucial in gaining knowledge, values, and skills to express their sexuality in life-enhancing ways and to do this in a safe, positive, and grounded environment.

We are offering this in a weeklong format this summer. This shift is occurring since the Covid-19 pandemic restricted our ability to train facilitators and gather safely during the 2021-2022 school year. The program will be Monday, June 27-Friday July 1 from 9:00-11:30am. There is a required Orientation for participants and at least one parent or guardian, on Sunday June 26 from 12:00-2:00pm. The deadline to sign up is June 19-- tell your friends, this program is free and open to our whole community! For more information and to sign up, contact our church's OWL Coordinator, Brooke Bell: bellbrooke@aol.com. ☸

Honor a Loved One or Special Event

By Kathy Matthies

Our Flower Team can provide an arrangement which you can dedicate to a person or an event.

Here's how it works:

- Using the chart in the church narthex, sign your name on an available date.
- Give to the church office, or put in the offering plate, a check for \$50-\$75 payable to "Community Church" with "Chancel Flowers" in the memo line.
- 1-2 weeks prior to the date you selected, the church office will contact you for dedication information and a member of the Flower Team will contact you about the arrangement itself.
- Following the Sunday service, you may either take the arrangement home or request that it be delivered to a homebound member.

For more information, contact Kathy Matthies at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com or 707.758.3970

More from the Flower Team

The Flower Team has lost a few of our volunteers to retirement or moving out of the community. If you love to arrange flowers, (expertise is not a requirement), just the love of flowers and how they make worship beautiful. The commitment would be about 4-5 Sundays throughout the year. If you can help and share your love of flowers please contact Kathy Matthies at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com or 707.758.3970. ☸



Hooray for Joanne Matson!

by Bobbie Johanson



As Leadership Council member representing Outreach Ministry, I want to give three cheers for Joanne Matson: one cheer for her dedication to our church; two, for her long time leadership for our Second Saturday Lunch ministry to the food insecure; and three, for her plan to continue to be on the team for this important service to our community.

Joanne is stepping down from her leadership position. She has made sure nutritious and varied meals were prepared for hungry folks on the second Saturday every month for at least 12 YEARS! It has been so long that she doesn't really remember; it might be longer. She has been the coordinator making sure there was a main dish, salad, bread, dessert and beverages for about a dozen people at every Second Saturday Lunch. She was also usually present to setup and serve the meals, including to-go meals during COVID.

Moving forward, any of YOU may help provide food for this ministry. Our youth have been providing desserts for several months. We had sign ups on May 22 for folks to bring casseroles, bread and salads for June, July and August. Other members of our team include Joyce Cox, Sharon Olson, and Daphne Cripps. If you want to learn more, be on our team, or volunteer some food, please contact **Kathy Matthies** 707 758 3970. Or **Bobbie Johanson** 707 494-9599.✿

June Birthdays

1	Brian Plaugher	6	Richie Goodell	14	Jim Hooper	21	Alicia Sanchez
1	Lincoln Warner	6	Casey Card	15	Bob Holland	22	Gary Bachelor
2	Garik Goodell	8	Susan Shaw	15	Jamie Malone	22	Beth Larssen
2	Elin Lennox	9	Kasey Babcock	15	Blythe Osner	24	Bernie Hovden
2	Keith Blackstone	9	Ethan DelMonte	16	Elise Lovejoy	26	Joe Plaugher
2	Chris Hudlow	12	Rachel Allen	17	Maebel Trivunovic	26	Sam Dowdney
3	Mariel Wurfel	13	Antonio Trevino	17	Abigail McGinnis	28	Charlotte Asher
4	Paul Downing	13	Cassius Nelson	18	Ainsley Curtis	28	Juniper Gonzales
6	Jan Barrow	14	Nathan Nelson	18	Anabelle Bagley	29	Marie Cotton
6	Brian Purcell	14	Judy Kinsey	21	Olive Wilson	29	Tyler Whitehorn

Events in June 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>.

- June 1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Classroom 6
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
 Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- June 2 Women's Fellowship Card Writing Ministry, 3:00 p.m., Women's Fellowship Rm
- June 4 Youth Mini Mission Trip (June 4 -5)
 Pride Parade & Festival, 10:00 a.m.
- June 5 Pentecost/Pride Sunday/Music Appreciation
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 9:15 a.m.
 5th Sunday of Easter, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
 End of Year Choir Potluck, 12:00 p.m., Fountain Courtyard
- June 7 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
 Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
 Facility Committee, 10:00 a.m., Fountain Courtyard
 Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Pastor Ben), 4:00 p.m. Fireside Room
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
 Men's Discussion Group, 6:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- June 8 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Classroom 6
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
 Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- June 9 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
- June 11 Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- June 12 1st Sunday after Pentecost/Trinity Sunday, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
 New Member Orientation, 11:45 a.m., Media Room
- June 14 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
 Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
 Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
 High School Mission Trip (6.14 to 6.18)
- June 15 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Classroom 6
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
 Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
 Leadership Council, 6:30 p.m., Media Room
 Salt & Light Newsletter deadline
- June 16 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
- June 17 NCNC Annual Gathering (6.17 to 6.19)
- June 19 2nd Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- June 20 Prayer Shawl Group, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- June 21 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
 Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
- June 22 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Offsite
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
 Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
 Emmaus Alumni, 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- June 23 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
- June 26 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary
 Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
- June 27 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- June 28 Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus
 Shower Outreach Program, 10:00 a.m.
 Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
- June 29 Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Offsite
 Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
 Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary



Community Church of Sebastopol
1000 Gavenstein Hwy North
Sebastopol, CA 95472



SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent
Lead Minister

pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org

Rev. Rachel Knuth
Associate Minister for Congregational Care

pastorrachel@uccseb.org

www.uccseb.org

office@uccseb.org

707.823.2484

