

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 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

Chris Chang Weeks

Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

Custodian

Luis Guzman, temp
Maria Mojica, on leave

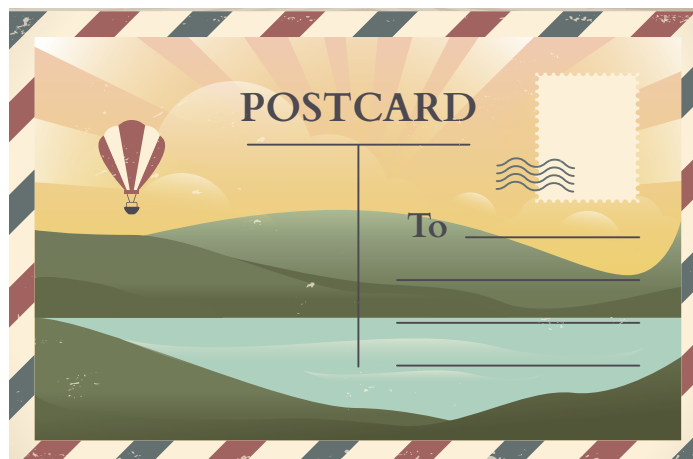
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



Postcard from Sabbatical-Land

By Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister



Dear CommChu Friends,

By the time you receive this "postcard," I will be very close to returning from my trip to "sabbatical-land" where I have been since February 1. I wanted to take some time to tell you what I've seen and done and experienced while here.



As you may recall, the focus of the sabbatical was to "develop a writing practice." Well, I'm happy to report it happened! Here's what I did:

- ⚙️ First thing each morning I wrote morning pages, 3 pages of stream-of-thought writing. I filled two composition books over the course of 3 months.
- ⚙️ I kept a poetry journal that I took with me wherever I went so that when an idea came to mind, I wrote it down. Sometimes I would sit, or stand, depending on the circumstances, and write out a whole poem.
- ⚙️ I created a website with a blog: www.benjaminbroadbent.com. Nearly every day I posted something and then shared the link via Facebook so others could read what I was writing. Sometimes I posted a poem, other times a memory or a devotional piece. I appreciate all who read the posts, "liked" them (even if you didn't actually like them), and left comments.
- ⚙️ I took an online writing course with Natalie Goldberg called "Writing Down the

MAY 2022 WORSHIP

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

May 1 – 3rd Sunday of Easter / Communion

The Chancel Choir offers music, we share Communion, and our scripture is John 21:1-19, where the risen Jesus appears on the shore making breakfast. Pastor Rachel offers a sermon entitled "Eat-Pray-Love."

May 8 – 4th Sunday of Easter / Pastor Benjamin returns

We bless Pastor Benjamin as he returns from sabbatical, our Children's Choir offers music, and we hear the story of the sheep hearing the voice of the shepherd in John 10:22-30. Pastor Benjamin preaches a good word as we welcome him back.

May 15 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Chancel Choir shares music, Pastor Benjamin offers a sermon, and we receive the commandment of Jesus in John 13:31-35, that we love one another.

May 22 – 6th Sunday of Easter

We celebrate volunteers, the Handbell Ensemble offers music, Pastor Benjamin preaches, and we consider how to live into the words of Jesus, "My peace I give to you," from John 14:23-29.

May 29 – Ascension Sunday

We hear the story of Jesus ascending into heaven in Luke 24:44-53, Pastor Benjamin preaches, and there will be special music.

Coming in June... Communion, Pentecost, Music Appreciation Sunday...



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. If you would like to help or participate with the planning and decorating, please email Kathy Matthies at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com

Postcard, Continued from page 1

Bones: Find Your Voice, Tell Your Story.” It was very well done and included pre-recorded talks, writing exercises and live interactions with the instructor and other writers taking the course, many of whom participated from across the globe.

✿ I will finish the sabbatical with a retreat at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico called “Writing from Antiquity.” I’m looking forward to hiking in the desert and writing in the presence of Georgia O’Keefe and her beloved landscape.

I did some other things while on sabbatical, many of them beautifully mundane, the kinds of things I could do any day but don’t, usually because it takes too much mental energy to step out of the inertia of my regular routines:

- ✱ Went on a different Sonoma County hike each week, including Tolay Lake, Crane Creek, Taylor Mountain, Foothills, Helen Putnam, and Shiloh Regional Parks.
- ✱ Made breakfast for my kids once a week. Normally we are an every morning cereal and fruit family, but it’s nice to have waffles and sausage now and then.
- ✱ Went on a date with Brooke multiple times each month, including a return to Calistoga where we got engaged in 1999.
- ✱ Took care of some house projects like grinding the bumps out of our sidewalk. I had to learn how to use an angle grinder with a diamond cup wheel.
- ✱ Visited a different church each week, including Hessel Church, St. Stephen’s Episcopal, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa, Thrive Church, Wellspring UCC, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Community Baptist Church, and Church of the Incarnation.
- ✱ Got reconnected and reacquainted with friends I’ve known for a long time. I was even able to go down to Santa Cruz to celebrate the 50th birthday of my best and longest friend.

I hope this gives you a flavor of how I spent the time. I also took some glorious walks and naps, didn’t check email, and otherwise took seriously God’s command to observe a Sabbath and rest.

I am filled with gratitude for this congregation, for its investment in me and my ministry, for granting me this sabbatical and trusting that it will be beneficial for our mutual ministry. I am particularly grateful to the volunteers who stepped into leadership positions during these three months, to the guest preachers who brought fresh words to our pulpit, and to Rev. Rachel Knuth for her faithful, adept, and grounded leadership as Acting Lead Minister.

I’m looking forward to being back with you all. I have renewed energy, some fresh ideas, and a clearer sense of who I am as a pastor and a person. Together we have a lot of good work to do. It will be challenging and adventurous, but also energizing and hope-filled. Upon my return, I will be asking how you are responding to your longing for a more real relationship with God and what part of the ministry of Christ’s church you can see yourself drawing energy from.

See you on Sunday, May 8, if not a few days before that.

Christpeace,

Pastor Benjamin

Volunteer Appreciation: Calendula in the Woodchips

By Pastor Rachel, Associate Minister of Congregational Care



Last spring I received a calendula plant from church member, Peggy Porter. The bees loved it happily growing next to my strawberry patch, and the bright orange flowers stood like sentinels over the fruit. The calendula bloomed through summer and into fall, and then I didn't think much about it until this month, when I started noticing it had re-seeded in new places around my garden! Now I have calendula in the raspberries, calendula in the lettuces, and calendula in the woodchips! I am so happy, it's like a gleeful abundance creeping into my woodchip pathways. Sometimes we all need a little bit of loveliness to sneak directly into our paths.

Every time I see calendula "volunteers" in the garden, I think of Peggy and say a word of thanks! But calendula is not the only sign of her awesomeness in the world— there are also the Conestoga Huts and the winter comfort bags for Sam Jones Shelter and apple pies, and plenty of other behind the scenes kindnesses she's responsible for. And really, she is one of many wonderful volunteers around our church. There are faithful volunteers who garden every week, knit prayer shawls, make lunches for the shelterless, serve on the Leadership Council, paint offices, lead children and youth programs, write care cards, sing and make music and speak in worship, AND SO MUCH MORE! Our church has calendula growing all over our woodchips, we can't take a step without volunteer loveliness being right in front of us.

And why do people volunteer? I hear from volunteers how much they love the camaraderie and relationships when they volunteer, how much it means to them to be able to put their faith into action, and how much they learn. I hear how it fosters a sense of belonging—to each other and to God. I hear how it offers purpose and connection.

On May 22 we will be honoring volunteers in worship. We'll say a word of thanks to those whose loveliness is planted in our paths, who make our church a beautiful and wonderful place, who create connections between our members, who make a difference. HUGE THANKS to all our VOLUNTEERS!

Save the Date

All Church Retreat at Westminster Woods

August 26-28

Details to Follow

Faith Journey Cafe

Many Thanks to Kathy Bell and Chris Jenkins for their presentations during our Lenten Faith Journey Cafe. It was a lovely evening of telling our church's faith journey, and sharing our individual stories at tables. Thanks also to Women's Fellowship for providing beautiful desserts!



May Birthdays

1	Becky Nelson	9	Emerson Dowdney	17	Fred Martin
1	Taylor Christy	10	Lisa Dawson	18	Andrea Card
1	Gene Koch	10	Judy Peterson	18	Ronnie Peterson
2	Debby McLeod	10	Forrest Templin	19	Morgan Thomas
2	Callen Warner	11	Dale Dougherty	21	Barbara Deedler
3	Lisa Gonzalez	11	Muriel Weaver	21	Stephanie Camara
4	Dave Bell	11	Debbie Stewart	23	Rian Sanderson
5	Genia Thorhaug	12	Marilyn McHugh	28	Bill Phillips
5	Stacie Del Carpio	13	Mark Albin	29	Peg Roush
5	Prudy Tucker	15	Mike Moore	29	Celia Cummings
6	Danielle Berndt	16	Will Stoll	29	Gavin Christy
7	Rosemary Manchester	17	Marilyn Lerum	31	Mary Coleman
9	Jenna Canfield	17	Bob Curtis	31	Isaiah Sawyer



Youth Group Helps with Church Cleanup

To celebrate Earth Day, the Youth Group had planned to help clean up Salmon Creek Beach. The need was more pressing, however, at the church after a church facility rental had gotten out of control the previous night leaving the campus a mess. After three hours of hard work at the church, Kathy Matthies, Bobby Johanson and Kathy Bell took the youth to Salmon Creek Beach where there was not much to cleanup, but a perfect place to relax, walk and build a sand temple. And what could be better than to stop on the way home at Saltwater Taffy Shop, Sun-flour Bakery and Scream MiMi's. It was a healing experience for the adult leaders to be with these wonderful kids.



Support Refugees Fleeing Ukraine

The United Church of Christ is appealing for support for refugees who have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of the ACT Alliance, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region.



All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. One can also mail a check made payable to the United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section.

The Community Church of Sebastopol Mission and Outreach is appealing to you to help and donate to this important cause. Here is the link to donate <https://support.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal>

Events in May 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>.

May 1	3rd Sunday of Easter, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Children's Church, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard, Memorial Hall Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
May 2	Board Games, 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
May 3	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Facility Committee, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room Men's Discussion Group, 11:30 p.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
May 4	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
May 5	Women's Fellowship Card Writing Ministry, 3:00 p.m., Women's Fellowship Rm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
May 8	4th Sunday of Easter, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Children's Church, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard, Memorial Hall Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
May 10	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Pastor-Parish Relations Team (Pastor Ben), 4:00 p.m. Zoom Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
May 11	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
May 12	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
May 14	Second Saturday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
May 15	5th Sunday of Easter, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Children's Church, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard, Memorial Hall Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard Post-Sabbatical Event, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary Salt & Light Newsletter deadline
May 17	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
May 18	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
May 19	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
May 22	6th Sunday of Easter, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Children's Church, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard, Memorial Hall Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
May 24	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
May 25	Women's Bible Study, 10:00 a.m., Offsite Staff Team, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
May 26	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m., Choir Room
May 29	Ascension Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary Children's Church, 10:30 a.m., Fountain Courtyard, Memorial Hall Kinship Time, 11:30 a.m., Bell Tower Courtyard
May 30	Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
May 31	Grounds Team, 9:00 a.m., church campus Handbell Ensemble, 4:30 p.m., Zoom

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