

# SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## JULY 2024 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

Rev. Rachel Knuth

### Congregational Administrator

Joy Richards

### Choral Director

Andy DelMonte

### Keyboardist

J. Althea

### Handbell Director

Karna Roa

### Bookkeeper

Deanna Euritt

### Custodian

Keith Brown

### Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gene Nelson



## What Happened to the "G"?

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

This summer our worship theme is "Living the Questions." Here are some questions that have been offered since last month's Salt + Light:

- Given that the Bible was written before democratic societies were formed, how do we reconcile democracy with biblical religion?
- How shall we wrestle with these three co-existent, yet seemingly incompatible, claims: God is good, God is all-powerful, and Evil exists in the world?
- What about all the violence in the Old Testament? Is it merely a reflection of the culture in which the stories were written?

Another question I've heard from several people is "What happened to the 'g' in 'kingdom'? Why do we say 'kin-dom' when we pray the Lord's Prayer?" In her essay on the Gospel of Mark, Judith Hoch Wray provides a helpful response:

*Hē basileia tou theou*, found fourteen times in Mark and usually translated by "the kingdom of God" or "the dominion of God," is an ancient metaphor not easily translated into today's culture. In the first century CE, power and dominion belonged to Caesar. Early Christians preached that Caesar's dominion has been overtaken by the dominion of God. This was an in-your-face radical claim defining insiders not by Caesar's proclamation, but by relationship to the community that followed Jesus. In various twenty-first-century cultures, the claim of radical inclusion is seeking expression in terms reflecting the egalitarian relationship of God's beloved community. To that end, we translate *hē basileia tou theou* as "the kin-dom of God."



In other words, kin-dom emphasizes mutuality and inclusion whereas kingdom emphasizes patriarchal hierarchy, two different kinds of power.

Maybe instead of using kingdom or even kin-dom, we should use the Greek

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## July 2024 Worship

### **Worship Details:**

We worship in the sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Services live streamed on our church's [YouTube channel](#) & [Facebook page](#)  
Weekly bulletin and announcements available at [www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)

Summer Worship Theme: **“Living the Questions”**

**July 7 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** *“What about Democracy and Religion?”*

Today we celebrate Holy Communion, the **Knuth family** shares special music, and **Rev. Benjamin Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10](#) entitled, “The Problem with Kings.”

**July 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** *“What about violence in the Bible?”*

Today **Maria Culberson** and friends provide special music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19](#) entitled “Biblical Humanity.”

**July 21 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** *“Is God real?”*

Today **Michael Ost** and **Michael Citrino** provide special music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [2 Samuel 7:1–14a](#) entitled “Is God an Agent or Our Projection?”

**July 28 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost:** *“Who shall be saved?”*

Today **Nancy Berger** and **Michael Ost** provide special music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [2 Samuel 11:1–15](#) entitled “If David, Then All.”

**Coming in August...** Hiroshima & Nagasaki Days of Remembrance; Guest Preacher, **Rev. Dr. Davena Jones**, Conference Minister of the Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ.



## July 2024 Faith Formation Hour

11:15—12:15 in the Chapel

**Fay-Fo\* Lineup for July**  
**Sundays, 11:15 - 12:15**



**July 14 Holy Envy**, a group exploring interfaith connections, shares insights from recent visits to Buddhist, Hindu, and Jewish communities in Sonoma County. Come hear about their experiences and join the discussion. Contact: **Jane Huneke**, [jane.huneke1@gmail.com](mailto:jane.huneke1@gmail.com). **Chapel.**

**July 21 Art Show**, come to a meet-and-greet with many of the artists of our congregation, and view some of their creations! Contact: **Jane Huneke**, [jane.huneke1@gmail.com](mailto:jane.huneke1@gmail.com). **Memorial Hall.**



\*Fay-Fo is short for "Faith Formation" because that's how we kick it for summertime





## Women's Retreat

Joanne Feige

We are excited to announce our upcoming women's retreat on October 4, 5 & 6, 2024, at the lovely site of Westminster Woods. The theme is "Drawing From the Wisdom of Trees." Our facilitator will be **Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain**.

We will explore how the wisdom of trees and natural systems may help us become healthier communities through meditation among the many beautiful trees, singing, art, and storytelling. We will explore the parallels between our communities and the world of trees, drawing wisdom from each other and the natural world around us.

Here is a short bio on our facilitator:

**Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain** is pastor for The Good Table United Church of Christ in El Cerrito. She is the founder of The Good Table Cafe and co-manager of The Good Table LLC with **Gavin Raders** of Planting Justice. The church in partnership with Planting Justice, is in the midst of turning an old nursery and florist in El Sobrante into a pay-what-you-can and a pay-it-forward community cafe, a local food and craft marketplace, an organic tree and plant nursery and farm store, plus a gathering space for arts and education, and a new home for the church!

Some inspiration for the retreat theme is from **Suzanne Simard's** book *"Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest."*



## Behind the Scenes of “Two Truths and a Lie” Pastor Rachel Knuth

In their worship presentation, our High School SALT Trip participants led a game of “Two Truths and a Lie.” Traditionally, this is a game where one person makes two statements that are true, and one that is false, and everyone else has to guess which statement is the lie. Usually, it is not my most favorite game, because lying makes me so nervous that I get sweaty and weirded out. But! In this version, I have to admit it was pretty fun. It turned out that all of the statements were actually true! (No need to feel weirded out!) Here are the statements the youth shared:

- Our original flight was canceled.
- We stayed at a beautiful posada.
- Our first day at the work site we put out a grass fire.
- After a hard day’s work we sang loud pop songs in the van.
- 8 of us got covid on the trip.
- Some of us haggled for blankets at Rosarito Beach.
- Every day we waved to school children who came home for their lunch break.
- A heavily armed young member of the Mexican National Guard took our photo by the Tijuana sign at the border.
- We did not see homeless people at all in Mexico.
- The U.S. Border Patrol called an ambulance for one of our youth.
- A posada neighbor shared eucalyptus and cinnamon from her home garden as medicine for us when we were sick.
- For breakfast one day, we enjoyed homemade birria from a street vendor.



So, which of these statements sticks out to you the most? For me, one of the surprising truths is, “We did not see homeless people at all in Mexico.” There weren’t people lying in doorways or camped out in the city, the way we often observe unsheltered people in the United States. (We also didn’t see anyone doing drugs in Mexico, but we did actually see that happening on public transportation in San Diego, on the American side of the border.)

In Mexico, we saw impromptu houses near the highway, that looked like they were made of cardboard and tarps. When we asked about them, we learned that those are likely the temporary homes of people from Central and South America, who are traveling through Mexico to the border, and not the homes of the unsheltered people of Mexico. It made me wonder how Mexico is managing this issue, and what our government might learn.

If you’re curious about any of the other “truths” from this trip, ask one of the participants at Kinship Time, I’m sure they’d love to tell you more!



## Why We Do Service And Learning Together (SALT) Trips Pastor Rachel Knuth



Both our Middle School and High School youth groups recently returned from their SALT trips. The Middle Schoolers traveled to San Francisco, where they served lunch at Glide Memorial Church, toured murals, visited the Fortune Cookie Factory, stopped at the “million dollar toilet,” and participated in candlelight vespers at Grace Cathedral. Many of the youth rode public transportation for the first time. The High Schoolers traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, where they built the foundation of a house using rebar and concrete. They also toured the border wall, watched a group of women turn potato chip bags into artful wallets and purses, and stayed at a posada in the La Gloria neighborhood. The point of trips like this— on a large scale— is to live out our mission, and through acts of service, to bring attention to justice issues. For sure, our groups did not solve the immense issues of hunger and housing. But both our Middle Schoolers and our High Schoolers were transformed, in a pilgrimage sense. Our young people and the adult leaders on these trips, in small but meaningful ways, were part of God’s transformation in our world.

I am incredibly grateful for the adult volunteer leaders: **Andrea Card, Beth Larssen, Sara Poisson, Jen Bredesen, Andy DelMonte, and Daniela Kingwill.** They each devoted their time, energy, and hearts to helping lead these formative trips. I’m also grateful to our Leadership Council Member for Faith Formation, **Pat Furber,** for all her support.



Of course, these trips cannot happen without financial support! When you make an annual pledge to the church, it means that we are able to have line items in our operating budget for Middle School and High School SALT trips. I would like to highlight, the largest single donation to the High School SALT trip

came as a campership from Apple Pies— thank you to the Apple Pie Committee for your generosity (we will see you in August!). And, these trips were supported by the Outreach Committee, who provided lunches for our Middle Schoolers and a discretionary fund to our High Schoolers. Additionally, huge thanks to everyone in our community who made direct donations to youth fundraisers throughout the year. Thank you, thank you for making these trips possible!





Here are quotes from some of our youth who attended this year's trips:

"I saw the face of God today when we were serving lunch and the guests shared food with each other." –Middle Schooler

"I saw God's star shining in the elders who came to the living room area for lunch." –Middle Schooler

"Our favorite F word is **Flexibility**. ... Over the course of our trip, and so in life, God calls us to trust God's presence and practice flexibility." –Noe Margulis

"Each day, our hard work was rewarded by a heartwarming break at lunchtime. The women of the community had prepared us the most amazing food, and served it with such joy and warmth. The meals were not just nourishment for our bodies but also ongoing examples of the community's hospitality and generosity." –Sophia Broadbent-Bell



"Working with the couple [whose house we worked on] showed me that we weren't all that different. After meeting them, I no longer found myself feeling pity. It didn't seem like we were better than them in any way, or separate. We were all one big team working toward the same goal: building a home." –Miranda Kessler

"I was inspired to hear these people speak about the problems in their country. They are proud of their culture and way of life. They are proud of their country and who they are. Instead of focusing on the bad things of their country and turning away from the light, they tried to make more light. They tried to make improvements to problems they had. They turned problems into solutions." –Elia DeMonte

"It hurt [Eduardo, our host] to bring us [to the Border Wall], yet he still did, teaching us about the dreams he has for his people, to turn inward and look within their own country at the poverty and sadness of family separation and use their own resources to work to make a safe place



where everyone has an established home and no one is forced to try to leave in search of a better life. He challenged us to do the same, instead of putting our resources into something so hostile like a border wall, but to turn inward and put our resources into solving addiction and homelessness found right outside our doorstep." –Tamar Knuth

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Allie Hole	July 17	Judy Stupfel
July 3	Steve Reid	July 18	Joy Richards
July 4	Harper Malone	July 18	Joan Gorin
July 4	Gary Leucht	July 19	Dorothy McKoin
July 5	Sandy Rosen	July 19	Charles Williams, Sr.
July 6	Maria Gordon	July 22	Tamar Knuth
July 6	Eian Galleto	July 24	Barbara Nichols
July 7	Kelli Clark	July 25	Hal Roa
July 8	Nancy Lee	July 25	Marna McKenzie
July 8	Ryan Hole	July 25	Chris Dillard
July 9	Norma Watson	July 27	Andy DelMonte
July 9	Paul Feige	July 27	Rich Olson
July 11	Bob Best	July 27	Brandan Cassells
July 11	Eva Norton	July 27	David Richards
July 12	Mark Pettis	July 30	Rob McKoin
July 14	Dawson Bell	July 30	Janice Eurgubian
July 14	Chris Jenkins	July 31	Sean Wood
July 15	Hosanna Bauer		
July 16	Storm Davis		
July 16	Norma Taddeucci		
July 17	Luanne Buchanan		
July 17	Daphne Crips		





# art THE show

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Jane Huneke

Did you know **Gary Bachelor** is a photographer? I didn't but he just had an exhibit of his photographs at the Senior Center in Sebastopol. I'm very sorry I didn't know about it in time to see it. I know that **Chris, Bobbie, Joanne,** and **Marge** are all excellent quilters but I'm sure there are more that I don't know about. I know that **Paula** is a painter, **Kim** paints and sculpts interesting shapes from Styrofoam packaging, and **Muriel** does thoughtful collages. **Marna** turns books into pieces of art. I've never seen them, but would like to. We all know of **Kathy's** creative and beautiful banners, but did you know that new members **Anna** and **Michael** are both highly creative? One is an art teacher, and one is a poet. Do you know which is which?

Do you have a creative side that we could learn about? On Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>, we are having an **all-church** art show in Memorial Hall during kinship time and are looking for artists (ALL ages) who would like to display their works of art. We will provide tables, but you will need to provide easels and anything else you might need for set up. Set up will be on Saturday afternoon July 20, from 2-5 p.m. Registration forms can be found on [Realm](#), on the office counter or after worship on the rainbow lectern. Registration deadline is July 19. Don't let your talents hide under a bushel. Let your light SHINE and be admired by the rest of us in the congregation.

On July 21, grab your cup of coffee and wander through Memorial Hall admiring the many wonderful displays. You will have the opportunity to talk with the artists and even see some in action. Don't know the artists mentioned above? Come find out.

Any questions, contact **Jane Huneke** [jane.huneke1@gmail.com](mailto:jane.huneke1@gmail.com) 707 889-6852.

Here is a sampling of items that will be on display.



## Holy Envy Jane Huneke

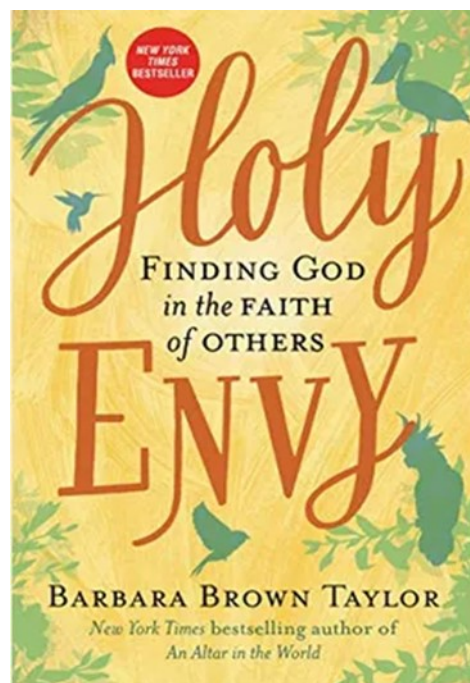
During Advent, a Faith Formation class was offered studying the book *Holy Envy*. The author, **Barbara Brown Taylor**, an Episcopal priest, taught a class on world religion at a small Georgian liberal arts college. She took her class to various non-Christian worship experiences and found that she occasionally envied some of their spiritual practices.

One of her main themes we pondered was that Christianity is not the only pathway to find a relationship to the Divine. Here is one of many quotes that I underlined in the book:

*“To discover that your faith is one among many - that there are hundreds of others that have sustained millions of people for thousands of years and that some of them make a great deal of sense - that could rock your boat, especially if you thought yours was the only one on the sea. If your faith depends on being God’s only child, then the discovery that there are others, can lead you to decide that someone must be wrong - or that everyone belongs, which means that no religion, including yours, is the entire ocean.*”

After finishing the book, we decided we would make our own visits to other faiths. With the wonderful contacts of **Raymond Daughtery**, we visited the Enmanji temple here in Sebastopol and an ashram in Sonoma. We celebrated the breaking of the fast-during Ramadan at the Petaluma mosque and worshiped at the synagogue Ner Shalom in Cotati. On Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, during Fay-Fo time we are going to debrief our experiences. **Come join us.**

The book *Holy Envy* can be found in the church library. I would highly recommend checking it out. Rev. Taylor is an entertaining writer.





# HEROES, SHEROES & QUEERDES

SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE

## June 1st Pride Parade Pictures



word *basiliea* which shares a root with the word for the herb basil. God’s *basileia*, like basil, is fragrant, zesty, and enlivening.

Pushing even deeper, the word in Aramaic, the common language spoken by Jesus of Nazareth, is *malkuthakh*. According to Neil Douglas-Klotz, the word “refers to a quality of rulership and ruling principles that guides our lives toward unity. It could be justifiably translated as ‘kingdom’ or ‘queendom.’ From the ancient roots, the word carries the image of a ‘fruitful arm’ poised to create, or a coiled spring that is ready to unwind with all the verdant potential of the earth.”

Whatever word or words we use, the point is to remain nimble in our theology while staying connected to the tradition we have inherited. It’s okay to experiment because sometimes experiments lead to renewed energy and generative thinking. Because our congregation values mutuality and inclusion, kingdom might be a good word for us. (We’ve also shifted the male-centric “fellowship time” to “kinship time.”)

That said, it is possible to become as strident about the new as we were with the old, which means there should be room in our community to use words like “Lord” and “kingdom,” both of which are metaphors with staying power. And, if you would like to keep saying kingdom instead of kin-dom, go for it. It is important to think about what we’re saying and to ask ourselves another question, “Do these words reflect our deepest understanding of who God is, and can I make room for other people’s understanding?”



## Things To Do About Social Issues When You Feel Powerless

### Joanne Matson

Bring a monthly donation of food to local food pantry at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 500 Robinson Rd., Sebastopol, CA.

### SMILE

Offer to help with bag lunch program by contacting Peggy Porter @ [pporter501@gmail.com](mailto:pporter501@gmail.com) or Chris Jenkins at [JJen507103@aol.com](mailto:JJen507103@aol.com).

### PRAY OFTEN

Buy a pair of sturdy socks for shower program.

### SAY HELLO

Support youth group fundraisers for mission trips.

### PRACTICE PATIENCE

Bake muffins for Sebastopol Christian Church’s (7433 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA) breakfast program for Sebastopol homeless.

### DRIVE GENTLY

Bring usable, clean, sturdy clothing no longer needed to Sam Jones Hall, 4020 Finley Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA.

### BE STILL AND LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF GOD.

Make something, i.e., a lap blanket for a local care home.

### DRAW, PAINT, AND PRAY WITH ART.

Listen to the other side of the issue.

### REMEMBER THE INNATE GOODNESS OF CREATION!



## July 2024 Events At Community Church

July 1	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
July 2	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
July 3	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Offsite
July 4	4th of July Holiday, Office Closed
July 7	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Summer Fay-Fo, 11:15 am, Various Locations
July 9	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Lead Minister PPRT, 5 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
July 10	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6 Inter-Church Food Pantry Committee, 1:30 pm, Room 6
July 11	Meditation Group, Noon, Classroom 6 Faithfully Engaged, 5:30 pm, Media Room
July 13	Second Saturday Luncheon, Noon, Fellowship Hall Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fireside Room
July 14	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> , Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard Summer Fay-Fo, 11:15 am, Various Locations
July 15	SALT & LIGHT Deadline for August publication Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
July 16	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
July 17	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Offsite Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
July 18	Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
July 20	Art Show Set Up, 2 pm, Memorial Hall

## July 2024 Events at Community Church cont.

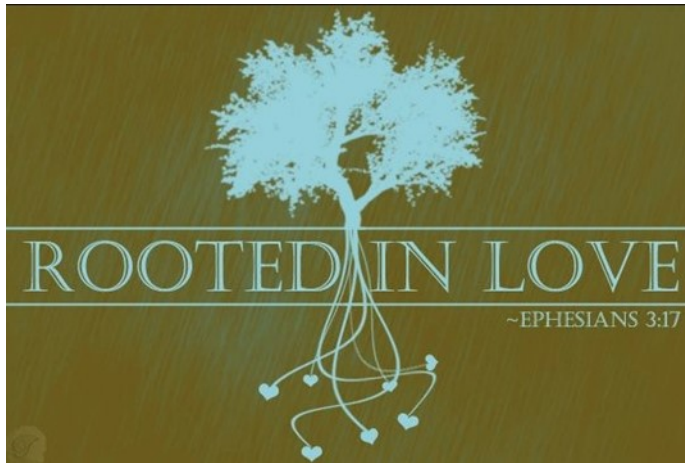
- July 21                    **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary  
Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
Summer Fay-Fo Art Show, 11:15 am, Memorial Hall
- July 23                    Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- July 24                    Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room  
Women’s Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- July 25                    Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6  
Women’s Fellowship Card writing, 2 pm, Women’s Fellowship Room  
Faithfully Engaged, 5:30 pm, Media Room
- July 28                    **10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary  
Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
Summer Fay-Fo, 11:15 am, Various Locations
- July 30                    Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- July 31                    Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room  
Women’s Bible Study, 10 am, Offsite

[www.uccseb.org](http://www.uccseb.org)



## Save the Date for All Church Camp and Signup

September 13-15<sup>th</sup> This year's theme is "Rooted in Love"



The 2024 All Church Camp weekend promises to be a memorable time of being together and rooted in love. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Also, the Saturday only date is an option for those who want to attend but can't commit to the entire weekend. More information is to come soon with early registration and helping with the Apple Pie event to help with costs. If you would like to be a part of the planning team or volunteer in the following areas:

- Crafting and art
- Hiking and outdoors activities
- TNT (Talent No Talent) night
- Anything else you might want to share

Please send an email to **Kathy Matthies** at [kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com).



This year the campsite's ropes course will be available for an added cost. See the link below for signing up. Here is the camp's website for you to view the camp and the other activities you could be a part of with Westminster Woods <https://www.westminsterwoods.org/>



# Summer Sun

Elizabeth Upton

I warm blue-lipped  
lake children lying on rocks  
and erase their wet footprints.

I freckle, burn and brown their skin,  
grow their bones.

I linger in the evening  
so they can  
skip, hop, race  
play ball  
eat Popsicles  
and stay up late because  
it is too light to sleep.



## ***GRAINS OF SALT***



**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP** meets the second Saturday of each month at 2 p.m., in the Fireside Room. Next meeting is July 13, where **Sandy Rosen** will share her daughter, **Lizann's**, poems in celebration of aging. On August 17th, we will discuss our thoughts and feelings about Pride Month and LGBTQ+ issues. There will not be a meeting in September. Come join us and bring a friend! Contact **Bobbie Johanson** at 707.494.9599.

**INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY: July is "Pasta Sauce" Month!** Place your items in the grocery cart near the church office. Each month we focus on collecting one particular item, but we'll accept good-quality, non-expired pantry items of any kind, just put it in the cart for pick up by our kind volunteers. For more info, or to volunteer at the pantry, contact **Mark Albin**: [malbin@sonic.net](mailto:malbin@sonic.net).

**THE GROUNDS TEAM** meets every Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. - noon. On summer break and already bored? This is the perfect outlet and only requires a few hours of your time. Regular attendance or experience is not required. Many hands make the workload lighter. Contact **Barbara Whitson** at [BarbWhit@sonic.net](mailto:BarbWhit@sonic.net).

## ***SPECS OF LIGHT***



Community Church of Sebastopol  
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