

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OCTOBER 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

Open

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



Imagine Together

Dr. Rev. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

It's official. Following **Rev. Rachel Knuth's** last Sunday on October 29, we are now in a time of pastoral transition. She has had no small impact upon our life together. By my count, **Pastor Rachel** served in at least 6 different versions of her position over the past 11 years. We have been richly blessed by her flexibility, creativity, and maturity. Getting used to being a church without her will be challenging.

In a piece I wrote to the Leadership Council shortly after **Pastor Rachel** announced she would be leaving her position, I framed our transition in terms of three phases: immediate, near-term, and long term.

1. We are just now emerging from the **immediate** phase in which our most important work has been to grieve and say a good good-bye. This is a big loss for our congregation, and we need to honor that. While grieving, we have also begun making plans for the near-term transition.
1. In the **near-term** phase, (next 6-12 months), our primary work will be to build volunteer capacity to support the ministries we most value. This will include recruiting and supporting new lay leaders, creating, and funding part-time staff positions, and growing, modifying, or letting go of certain programs. We will also need to begin having formal and informal conversations about what we envision for the long-term transition.
2. In the **long-term** (6+ months), our primary work will be to support (financially, theologically, energetically) the next phase of our church's ministry. This will include articulating a vision of where we see God leading us. My hope is that it will include a search process to call our next Associate Minister who will help us realize that vision.

On October 13, we kick off our annual Pledge Drive, "Imagine Together," to gather estimates of giving (financial pledges) in support of the 2025 Local Church Ministry and Wider Mission of our congregation. One of the goals of this year's pledge drive is "to maintain our capacity to call a full-time Associate Minister." We will be able to do that if we meet our goal of collected pledges totaling \$400,000 in support of our church's local ministry



Imagine Together continued from Page 1

But the pledge drive isn't just about inspiring generosity and collecting pledges. It is our opportunity to "Imagine Together" where God is leading us. We live in a different world than we did 10, 20, or 30 years ago. Fewer families with younger children can afford to live in Sebastopol, let alone Sonoma County. Volunteerism has decreased in our increasingly online and isolating culture. Options for spiritual practice abound, including the option of ignoring spirituality altogether. Given these and many other societal pressures, does God still have a vision for Community Church? And if so, do we have the imagination to glimpse and describe it?

In an oft-neglected book of the Bible, the minor prophet Habakkuk offers a model for engaging one's imagination to keep a look out for a new vision of God's purposes. Habakkuk has boldly and trustingly levied various complaints against God. "How long am I supposed to call out to you with no response?" (1:2) "Does your steadfast love really last forever, because right now it's nowhere to be found." (1:12)

Then Habakkuk imagines himself in a watchtower scanning the horizon, taking notice, looking, and listening for what God will do and say next. (2:1) His complaints against God have not diminished his faith but have stoked his expectations. And sure enough, late, but not too late, God speaks: "Write down the vision, make it plain on stone tablets so that the one who reads it may do so while running to tell the others." (2:2)

Times of transition are challenging because what we've known is no longer offered. But times of change are also times when the imagination awakens. In fact, it must awaken to catch a glimpse of the new things appearing on the horizon. But we won't see it unless we look for it, and we won't glimpse the new vision unless we glimpse it together, because the new world God offers is always a shared world.

So let us "Imagine Together" where God is leading us as a community so that we can write down the vision in such a way that we can read it while running to share it with others.

Imagine Together



IMAGINATION

What if clouds were lakes

And lakes were clouds

We could swim through clouds

And fly through lakes...

OCTOBER 2024 WORSHIP: "IMAGINE TOGETHER"

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

🕒 OCTOBER 6 – World Communion Sunday

On this weekend of our annual Women's Retreat, we celebrate World Communion with Christian congregations across the globe. Our Chancel Choir, directed by **Andy DelMonte**, sings an Introit in Zulu and an Offertory in Arabic. Confirmand **Josie Malone** serves as liturgist, **Rev. Sandy Rosen** co-celebrates Holy Communion on the anniversary of her ordination, and we receive the Neighbors in Need special offering. **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [Job 1:1, 2:1-10](#) entitled, "God Among the Ashes."

🕒 OCTOBER 13 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost / Pledge Drive Kick-Off

Today we kick off the 2025 Pledge Drive, "Imagine Together," in support of the 2025 Local Church Ministry and Wider Mission of our Congregation. Confirmand **Emilia Poisson** serves as liturgist, the Handbell Ensemble, directed by **Karna Roa**, shares worship music, and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Mark 10:17-31](#) entitled, "Imagining God's Possibilities."



🕒 OCTOBER 20 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

This morning our Chancel Choir shares worship music, we receive new members into our congregation, and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Job 38:1-7](#) entitled "Our 'No' and God's 'Yes.'"

🕒 OCTOBER 27 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

With Pastor Benjamin in Colorado Springs celebrating the 150th Anniversary of his former congregation, guest preacher **Rev. Bev Spears** of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa will preach a sermon on the "Politics of Jesus." **Bob Curtis** will give the Welcome and Announcements, **Reena Burton** will offer the Children's Message, and **Mary Culberson** will lead a prayer practice.

Coming in November... All Saints/Souls Sunday, Gratitude Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, and Reign of Christ Sunday

OCTOBER FAITH FORMATION HOUR OFFERINGS



<p>October 6</p>	<p>Inquirers Class, led by Pastor Benjamin</p> <p>The Serenity Prayer & Wildfire Preparedness fire mitigation class led by Stuart Mitchell</p>	<p>The Exodus, told by Joanne Matson, with Door Helper Alvin Hukins</p>	<p>Topic: "How can God be 'three-in-one'?" Bringing Donuts: Andy DelMonte M.S. Leaders: Emily Bell & Sara Poisson H.S. Leaders: Dawson Bell & Andy DelMonte</p>
<p>October 13</p>	<p>Special Meeting of the Congregation led by Bob Curtis & Gregg Yaylian</p>	<p>Special Lesson on "Our Money Story" led by Denelle Tognozzi and Joy Richards</p>	<p>Special Topic on "Your Money and Your Values" led by Susan Olson Bringing Donuts: TBD M.S. Chaperone: Sara Poisson H.S. Chaperones: Toni & Quent Cole</p>
<p>October 20</p>	<p>Church Chat: Grace Saves All 5: "God Will Be All in All" led by Pastor Benjamin Chapel</p>	<p>The Ten Best Ways (leaders TBD)</p>	<p>Topic: "Am I Really Supposed to believe Mary was a virgin?" Bringing Donuts: Santiago Basso M.S. Leaders: Emily Bell & Santiago Basso H.S. Leaders: Dawson Bell & Toni & Quent Cole</p>
<p>October 27 (Benjamin away)</p>	<p>Make Your Giving Go Further, discussion with Susan Olson</p> <p>Faithfully Engaged?</p>	<p>The Ark and the Tent, told by Terri Harper, with Door Helper Janice Eurgubian</p>	<p>Topic: "Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?" Bringing Donuts: TBD M.S. Leaders: Emily Bell & TBD H.S. Leaders: Dawson Bell & TBD</p>

The Facilities Committee's Prioritized List of Proposed Projects and Pending Projects on our Church Campus



Tom Terry

Below find a short, prioritized list of the facility repair and upgrade projects that Jane Huneke presented on Sunday, September 22, 2024:

Resurfacing & restriping the parking lot contiguous with our church buildings: This project mitigates the safety concern of injury caused by the tripping hazard that is presented by the poor condition of our parking lot surface. This potential trip hazard becomes worse during the evening & night as well as during rainy periods. Anticipated cost: \$100,000

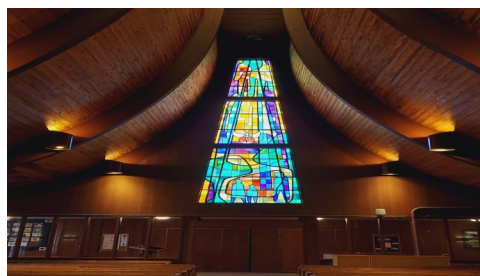
Replacing the sanctuary roof & skylight that provides light down the center of the sanctuary: This project is both a safety issue and an aesthetic issue. Waiting until the roof is actually failing will only increase the cost as any damage to the interior of the sanctuary will also be incurred. The aesthetic issue is important as we all care about our church and all of the campus activities and fellowship that occurs here; we want our campus to project that we care. Anticipated cost: \$300,000

Upgrade of the pre-school bathroom facilities: The Community Church may be required to upgrade the bathroom facilities in the pre-school when the ownership of the school is transferred at the end of the year. The school must meet the current building code requirements and state requirements for teacher / pupil ratio. This facilities issue is important because the rental income received from the nursery school is an important component of the church's income. Anticipate cost: \$25,000

Replacing the storage shed: The storage shed for grounds and gardening equipment is dilapidated beyond repair and cannot be properly secured. Because our grounds team is very active, we would like to have a new shed with electrical outlets for charging our equipment batteries.

Other projects include repairing gutters and down spouts, refurbishing and restriping the gym floor in Memorial Hall, replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and Fireside Room, refurbishing the chancel to make it handicap accessible, resurfacing the bell tower courtyard and redesigning the wood chip area by the rose garden in front of the pre-school.

As you can see, there are many projects in front of us to be addressed! Do you have a project you'd like to see addressed? If so, make sure you attend the special meeting to be held on October 13th during Faith Formation Hour. Near the end of the year, a survey will be sent out and your input is welcomed and needed. Thank you for your consideration of these important facilities' issues.



Imagine the Future: Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 13, 2024



Robert Curtis, Moderator

Join members of the Leadership Council in the sanctuary for an important and inspiring congregational meeting during Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., on **Sunday, October 13!** Together, we'll use our imagination to shape the future of the Community Church of Sebastopol.

Topics to explore:

- Overview of church finances and budget priorities
- Exciting programs and initiatives
- Upcoming facilities projects and priorities
- Open Q & A session for your questions and ideas

Why attend?

- Be part of shaping the future of our church.
- Share your thoughts and hopes.
- Learn about the current budget priorities and challenges from the church's Leadership Council and Facilities Committee.
- Connect with fellow members as we dream big together.
- There will be separate Faith Formation programs for your kids and youth!

So, bring your hopes, your ideas, and your sense of possibility. Join us on October 13, as we come together to imagine and build the future of the Community Church of Sebastopol. Let's dream big and create something extraordinary—together!

Robert Curtis, Moderator

Roger Wilson, Council Officer for Facilities

Gregg Yaylian, Council Officer for Finance



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



October 1	Michael Ost	October 14	Birgit Quezada
October 1	Mimi Reid	October 14	Larry Stallings
October 4	Lynn Deedler	October 17	Ellen Jordan
October 4	Will Plaugher	October 18	Elena Dillon
October 4	Amber Romandy	October 20	Steve Beck
October 6	Laurie Mitchell	October 20	Kaydin Berndt
October 7	Libby Plaugher	October 20	Ben Rasmus
October 8	Linda Roa	October 23	Ann Butterfield
October 8	Jan Sweeney	October 23	Gretchen Vincent-Brisbin
October 8	Co Dungca	October 24	Maryellen Taylor
October 10	Gloria Given	October 24	Emma DelMonte
October 10	Nadine Sanders	October 26	Jonah Gonzales
October 11	Linda Inman	October 27	Ashley Arnold
October 12	Vida Sanchez-Strawbridge	October 28	Betty Nelson
October 13	Suzanne White	October 29	Kate MacKillop
October 13	Gerri Doody	October 31	Juliette Babcock



GRAINS OF SALT



SPECS OF LIGHT



Giant Pumpkin Contest Hey you pumpkin growers....Bring your biggest and best pumpkins to church on Sunday October 20th, for a weigh-in and beauty contest. There will be two separate contests: one for the greatest weight and one the best looking pumpkin. There will also be a funny vegetable category. Do you have a two-legged carrot or a tomato with a nose? Contact **Jane Huneke** (jane.huneke1@gmail.com or 707 889-6852) to register your entrants. See you there for the weigh-off.

October 2024 Events At Community Church

- October 1**
Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- October 2**
Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Classroom 6
- October 3**
Meditation Group, Noon, Classroom 6
Women's Fellowship Card Writing, WF Office
Faithfully Engaged, 5 pm, Media Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- October 4-6**
Women's Retreat, Westminster Woods
- October 6**
World Communion Sunday, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Faith Formation, 11:15 am, Various Locations
Inquirer's Class, 11:15 am,
Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
- October 7**
Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
- October 8**
Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Personnel Committee, 4 pm, Fireside Room
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
Lead Minister PPRT, 5 pm, Fireside Room
Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
- October 9**
Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Classroom 6
Inter-Church Food Pantry Committee, 1:30 pm, Classroom 6
- October 10**
Meditation Group, Noon, Classroom 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- October 12**
Second Saturday Luncheon, Noon, Fellowship Hall
Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fireside Room
Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
- October 13**
21ST Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Special Meeting of the Congregation, 11:15 am, Sanctuary
Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge

October 2024 Events at Community Church cont.

- October 15** November SALT & LIGHT Newsletter Deadline
Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room
Finance Committee, 3 pm, Fireside Room
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- October 16** Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Classroom 6
Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
- October 17** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- October 20 **22ND Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11:00 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Faith Formation, 11:15 am, Various Locations
Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
- October 21** Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
- October 22 Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- October 23** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Classroom 6
- October 24** Meditation Group, 12 pm, Classroom 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- October 27** **19th Sunday after Pentecost**, Worship Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary
Nominating Committee, 9 am, Classroom 6
Farewell Luncheon for Pastor Rachel, 11:15 am, Memorial Hall
- October 29** Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- October 30** Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Classroom 6
Pledge Drive Calling Night, 5 pm, Media Room
- October 31** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

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