

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



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



Love Rising

Dr. Rev. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

Easter Sunday comes late this year, just 5 days short of the latest possible date. On Easter, and during the season that follows, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead, the undoing of the cross, the overcoming of violence, and the promise of new life. But there is no joy of resurrection without the despair of crucifixion. We have to go to the depths of the valley before we can ascend to the mountaintop.

In “Beloved Community,” a book on the Civil Rights Movement, Charles Marsh paints a picture of civil rights leaders who drew upon their religious convictions to stay in the struggle despite the threats of white supremacists. During the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received as many as 30 daily death threats. One day he received news that his home had been bombed and returned to find the porch destroyed but his family spared. While admitting he was scared, he made the decision to trust in God, to honor his conscience, to lead his people, and to do what was right. This is the work that a Christian is called to do.

I write this article in the middle of Lent, just days before our congregation will gather for a special meeting to vote on whether to designate ourselves a “Sanctuary Congregation.” I am confident that we will choose to stand with the most vulnerable people in our society and against the religious and political powers that seek to scapegoat those same people.

While I can’t assure myself, or anyone else, that we will be “100% safe,” I *am* assured that the call to Christian discipleship has little to do with safety or comfort. Instead, it is a call to trust in the faithfulness of the one true God who does not conform to the plans of wannabe dictators. In the book of Exodus, and in the life of Jesus, the God we serve comes to deliver oppressed people out of Empire and into freedom.

This quote by Melissa Florer-Bixler, currently on the sign in front of our church, speaks to the freedom of faith: “We are, by baptism, a people who do not obey in advance.” Mary Oliver describes the freedom that faith brings, a freedom to think, to surprise, and to include, freedom not to fear, but to “act as if” the real power of the world is love, God’s love, a love that rises at Easter.



**I WANT TO THINK AGAIN
OF DANGEROUS
AND NOBLE THINGS.**

**I WANT TO BE LIGHT
AND FROLIC SOME.**

**I WANT TO BE IMPROBABLE
AND BEAUTIFUL**

AND AFRAID OF NOTHING

AS THOUGH I HAD WINGS.

+ MARY OLIVER

APRIL 2025 WORSHIP

Season of Lent, Holy Week, Resurrection Sunday & Season of Easter

Worship Details...

We worship in the sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Services are live streamed on [YouTube](#) & [Facebook](#)

Weekly bulletin and announcements available at www.uccseb.org

APRIL 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Today we celebrate Holy Communion, the Chancel Choir, directed by **Andy DelMonte**, sings, and **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [Philippians 3:4b-14](#) entitled, “Gain is Loss, Loss is Gain.”

APRIL 13 – Palm / Passion Sunday

We begin our worship with a procession of palms, singing and dancing. The Chancel Choir sings Pepper Choplin’s “Day to Sing Hosanna” and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Luke 19:28-40](#) entitled, “Stones that Shout.”

APRIL 17 – Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. We gather this evening for a contemplative candlelight service that will include Holy Communion, a ritual Washing of Feet, and a Tenebrae Liturgy with readings and extinguishing of candles.

APRIL 18 – Good Friday

12:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Prayer Vigil in the Chapel with readings, silence, and music.

Participants may come and go at any time.

APRIL 20 – Resurrection Sunday

6:30 a.m. – **All-Ages Easter Sunrise Service** in Fountain Courtyard led by **Pastor Benjamin** with guitar music, paschal

fire, and donuts

10:00 a.m. – **Easter Worship Service** with Handbells, Chancel Choir, and Sermon



APRIL 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

On this weekend of the Apple Blossom Parade and Festival, a special ensemble provides worship music and a guest preacher will preach a sermon on [John 20:19-31](#) entitled, “So I Send You.”

Coming in May... Mother’s Day, Faith Formation Sunday, Graduate Blessings, Last Handbell Ensemble and Chancel Choir for the season, Strengthen the Church Special Offering, Ascension Day



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1	Sara Margulis
April 1	Charlie Williams, Jr.
April 5	Jeff Boal
April 5	Quent Cole
April 5	Becky Wessling
April 6	Irma Bachelor
April 6	J. Althea
April 11	Tony Given
April 14	Charlotte Mitchell
April 15	Scott McGinnis
April 15	Laura Willoughby
April 17	Emilia Poisson
April 17	Roger Wilson
April 21	Jessa Drury
April 24	Ethan Arnold-Peterson
April 25	Terri Harper
April 25	Dennis Olson
April 26	Kathy Matthies
April 27	Deidra Warner
April 28	Chris Chang Weeks
April 28	Eleonora Wiser
April 29	Brooke Bell
April 30	Isabel MacKillop
April 30	Sabina Malone
April 30	Nancy Shimetz

Looking for a Lenten Lift? Soup Suppers and Faith Journeys continue...

Bobbie Johanson

Join in our rich tradition of Soup Suppers and Faith Journeys. You are invited to share a simple meal and conversation with others. We will sup on a variety of soups and then head to the chapel to hear a Faith Journey of one member of our congregation on Monday evenings in Lent. You are welcome to just come for the soup or the Faith Journey as your interest and time allows. Listening to the Faith Journey is an opportunity to learn about a person's path through their unique growth in our Christian faith. It is an excellent time for deepening connections to other members in our congregation.

Soup Suppers and Faith Journeys continue on Mondays in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. for a soup supper. The Faith Journey will begin at 7 p.m. in the Chapel and conclude at 8:00 p.m. **Kathy Matthies, Bobbie Johanson** and **Jane Huneke** will be coordinating the suppers. We need 5-6 soups each week. Please let us know if you can provide a soup for which date and what you plan to make. Bread will be provided.

Stuart Mitchell has recruited our speakers and will be the host in the Chapel. He will do introductions and guide the question and answer time after the faith journey. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for these special evenings of food, faith and fellowship.

April 4: **Maria Culberson**

April 11: **Raymond Dougherty**

Got Soup? Email **Bobbie**: bjohanse@sonic.net

Email **Kathy**: kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com



ALL CHURCH WORKDAY

Jane Huneke

Do you enjoy the church family working together to make apple pies? The fun of getting to know new people? An intergenerational activity? Well, guess what? You have another opportunity to work together, make new friends, and spruce up the church grounds before Easter.

All Church Workday

**When: Saturday, April 19, 9:00-12:00 noon
with pizza at noon**

“What?”, you say, “I have company coming that weekend.” Bring them along!

Possible tasks might be working in the gardens, painting, helping put on a new roof for the nursery school shed, buffing the gym floor, putting up a sign. Who knows what else we’ll think of!!

What to bring: work gloves, water bottles, clippers, shovels, wheel barrels, 30 gal. garbage cans, music, a willingness to work and make new acquaintances, and pride in your church.

Mark your calendar. See you there. The more hands, the better! With questions contact **Jane Huneke** at 707 889-6852.



Rebuilding Together Sebastopol

Andrea Card



Have you been looking for an opportunity to give back to our local community? Have you wondered what the Outreach Committee spends their time doing? Do you want to participate in a One-Day Mini SALT (Service And Learning Together) Trip? Join the Outreach Committee in a day of service with our friends at Rebuilding Together Sebastopol! Save the date for Saturday, May 3. Neighbors helping neighbors, like the barn-raising of old, is the American spirit in action.

Rebuilding Together is the leading national volunteer organization that in partnership with communities was born of that spirit as people came together to help their neighbors in need repair their homes." This organization has a vision of providing safe homes and communities for everyone. The services provided change from year to year, so we are still awaiting more information. We hope to have an idea as to the scope of work prior to the date of service. Our own Glenda Elvy was a recipient of work by Rebuilding Together when they installed an electric chairlift for the stairs at her home – making her home accessible and safe.

Members of the Outreach Committee, and other dedicated members of our wonderful church, have volunteered over the years with this organization and have found the work very satisfying. Many of our neighbors have worked all their lives and have been physically and financially able to maintain their homes in good condition. Now due to illness, the loss of a spouse, aging, and/or economic hardships, they are unable do repair work themselves and their homes become unsafe or deteriorate. In the past, we have provided yard work and clean up for an elderly woman who had become disabled and needed a walker, so was unable to do any yard work. She adored her yard and was proud of the plants that grew in it, but the weeds had taken over. With Rebuilding Together, a group of volunteers was able to prune, weed, and clear pathways. Not only was the group able to provide a service but they were also able to form a connection.

On May 3, the day will start at Ives Park for breakfast and assignments of duties along with your group leader for the day. You will receive a T-shirt from Rebuilding Together upon check-in. Lunches are provided and brought to your worksite. Not always are jobs completed in one day of service but Rebuilding Together will finish the project for the homeowner.

Families and individuals are encouraged to participate (children under 14 just need a parent to volunteer with them). Get to know your fellow church members better along with members of our community. It's a fun day of comradery and hard work.

Sign up at rtsebastopol.org. Contact **Peggy Porter** at pporter501@gmail.com or (707) 291-6353 with questions or go to the Rebuilding Together Sebastopol website to learn more about this great organization and to watch the short television special done on Rebuilding Together Sebastopol.

2025 Events at Community Church

April 1

Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room

April 2

Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6

April 3

Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 2 pm, WF Room
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

April 5

8/9 Grade OWL Retreat II, 9 am, Chapel

April 6

5th Sunday in Lent

Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Church Chat, 11:15 am, Chapel
8/9 OWL Class, 1 pm, Media Room

April 7

Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room
Daytime Dream Group, 2 pm, Room 6
Lenten Soup Supper, 6pm, Fellowship Hall
Faith Journey Program, 7 pm, Chapel

April 8

Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
Lead Minister Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 5 pm, Fireside Room
Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room

April 9

Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
Food Pantry Committee, 1:30 pm, Room 6

April 10

Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

April 11—13

Women's Retreat, Camp Newman, Santa Rosa

April 12

Second Saturday Lunch, Noon, Fellowship Hall
Gloria Given Memorial & Reception, 3 pm, Sanctuary

April 13

Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Godly Play, 10:15 am, Room 5
Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various Location

April 14

Daytime Dream Group, 2 pm, Room 6

April 15

April Salt & Light Newsletter Deadline
Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Finance Committee, 3 pm, Fireside Room
Health & Safety Team, 3:30 pm, Room 6
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary

April 2025 Events at Community Church cont.

- April 16** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
- April 17** **Maundy Thursday**
Worship Service, 6:30 pm, Sanctuary
Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- April 18** **Good Friday**
Prayer Vigil, Noon, Chapel
- April 19** ALL-Church Workday, 9 am, Campus
Easter Sunday
- April 20** **Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, Fountain Courtyard**
Easter Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
- April 21** Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
Daytime Dream Group, 2 pm, Room 6
- April 22** Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- April 23** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- April 24** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- April 27** **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Capital Campaign Storytelling Training II, 11:15 am, Media Room
- April 28** Daytime Dream Group, 2 pm, Room 6
- April 29** Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- April 30** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6



GRAINS OF SALT



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

meets the first Tuesday of the month, April 1, at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION

group will not meet in April. They will meet again on the second Saturday in May.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CARE CARD MINISTRY

will meet on Thurs., April 3, at 2 p.m. in the Women's Fellowship Office.

EASTER LILY DEDICATIONS

can be made in memory or honor or a loved one or event this Easter. Dedications will be printed in the bulletin insert on Easter Sunday. **By April 13**, make your dedication [ONLINE](#) or fill out the form in the church office with a check (\$15/plant) made out to "Community Church of Sebastopol," Memo: "Easter Lily." Please use a separate form for each Easter Lily.

SEE'S EASTER CANDY

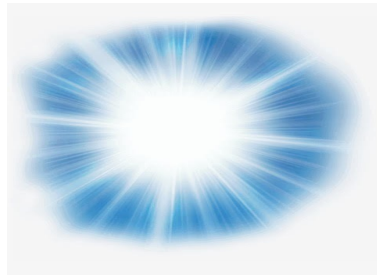
will be on sale during Kinship Time to support scholarships for the Women's Retreat from March 30—April 13. Buy early and get the best selection.

40TH ANNUAL SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL 2025.

Save the date and join us on May 31, 2025, 11 a.m. at the Old Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa. More details to come.

S.A.L.T. TRIP Youth (grades 6-12)

Salt Point State Park June 14-15. Overnight camping with service focusing on land stewardship. Youth (grades 6-12) and parents are welcome. Contact **Emily Bell** at youthministries@uccseb.org / 858.344.2576



SPECS OF LIGHT

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