

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

The Community Church
of Sebastopol
United Church of Christ
707.823.2484
www.uccseb.org
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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



A Bountiful Table

Dr. Rev. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

In the church, the calendar year begins with Epiphany on January 6. For centuries, the Christian church heaped Epiphany with meaning upon meaning. It was the 12th and culminating day of Christmas. It was Día de los Reyes when people gave charitable gifts in honor of the magi. The church celebrated Christ's baptism on Epiphany, and retold the story of Jesus' first miraculous act, the transformation of water into wine at Cana. Despite all these emphases, most of us scarcely notice the importance of the day, and January 6 has taken on an ominous meaning in recent years.

This year, January will be full, fun, and fraught. Consider that the Presidential Inauguration will happen on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. The ceremony will take place at the Capitol building where a violent mob sought to overthrow the peaceful transfer of power in 2021. At the opposite end of the National Mall is the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. King gave his famous "I Have Dream" speech, calling Americans to overcome the enduring sins of racism and classism.



The day before, on January 19, our congregation will gather for its Annual Meeting to elect new congregational leaders, to pass a budget enabling our ministry and mission for the coming year, and to consider a proposal to launch a capital campaign in the fall to replace our sanctuary roof and to complete other projects that will make our facility an effective resource for ministry into the coming decades.

JANUARY 2024 WORSHIP

Season of Epiphany

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

JANUARY 5 – 2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany Sunday

Today we gather on the 12th day of Christmas to celebrate Holy Communion. The Chancel Choir, directed by **Andy DelMonte**, sings an arrangement of “O Holy Night” and **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [John 1:1–18](#) entitled, “No One Has Seen God.”

JANUARY 6 – Day of Epiphany

JANUARY 12 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany / Baptism of Christ Sunday

We continue the season after Epiphany and consider the meaning of Holy Baptism. The Handbell Ensemble, directed by **Karna Roa**, provides worship music. **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Luke 3:15–17, 21–22](#) entitled, “Rehearsal for Death.”

JANUARY 19 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

On this Sunday of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, the Chancel Choir offers worship music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [John 2:1–11](#) entitled, “The Church Always Elects Its Enemy.”

JANUARY 26 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

New members join our congregation, and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on Luke 4:14–21 entitled, “The Jubilee Charter.”

Coming in February... four more Sundays in the Season after Epiphany



A Bountiful Table...continued from page 1

As we approach the coming month, I want to invite you to consider the image on the front page of this month's Salt + Light. Taken by Reena Burton, the photo is of a table set by our church's Confirmation Class last November, on the day the class discussed religious diversity. We talked about the three major branches of Christianity. We considered the similarities and differences between Hinduism and Buddhism. We explored why Muslims, Christians, and Jews are called "People of the Book." We discussed religious symbols, sacred texts, important people, traditions, and art. How many of the items on this table do you recognize? What does the diversity of religious expression say about the God that Christians worship as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit?

Turning to face the coming year, let us not forget the beautiful and bountiful world God has created and gifted for our learning and pleasure. Epiphany means a sudden revealing or shining forth, and the promise of Epiphany is that the God we encounter in Christ is always larger than our petty projects, even our politics, and is always in the process of revealing something astounding and new.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 1 Elliott Norton
January 3 Gary Gordon
January 4 Holly Willoughby
January 6 Marge Holland
January 6 Diana Wilson
January 7 Marlene Hooper
January 7 Bryan Peterson
January 8 Kim Buckman
January 8 Carolyn Davidson

January 8 Susan Nestor
January 8 Sharon Olson
January 8 Ted Babcock
January 12 Gail Thomas
January 14 Vicki Reno
January 15 Brenda Flynn
January 17 Rhonda Matheny
January 19 Leslie Wiser
January 20 Benji Margulis
January 23 Joanne Matson
January 23 Jane Rasmus
January 26 Paula Berndt
January 28 Garth Watson
January 29 Emily Davis
January 29 Yvette Morris
January 30 Jordan Cassells
January 30 Alan Murakami
January 30 Gene Nelson

**OWL WHOLE LIVES
SEXUALITY EDUCATION FOR OLDER ADULTS**

Michael Ost and Lori Lapham



Michael Ost and I are excited to offer a 2025 workshop series titled “Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education for Older Adults”. That’s right -- OWL is not just for kids! We completed 19 hours of OWL facilitator training in September which prepares us to present a program around issues of sexuality in older adults. We care greatly for what this wonderful program provides and want to share it with our own beloved church community. Michael and I are both in the older adult 50+ category and work well together, so it is a good facilitator fit. You may think “what more can I learn about sexuality at my age?” Good question. Sexuality is a topic that evolves with time including gender identity/roles, sexual orientation, boundaries & consent, values & attitudes, the loss of an intimate partner, dating as an older adult, safe practices, dealing with health issues and more. Our workshop will incorporate the most up to date information and be fun & interactive with the participants. No lectures!

We plan to offer five Sunday workshops from January through May. They will be once a month from 11:20-1:20 with a 10 minute break midway for snacks and the restroom. We can take up to 14 participants and ask that you commit to all of the sessions so that we can build a safe space with each other. The first session on January 12 is especially important. If you can’t make that date then we ask that you do not sign up for this round. Sign-ups are available on Realm or in person.

The dates are as follows:

January 12 (required)

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 18

We hope you can join us!



DREAMS: GOD'S FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE

Dr. Mary Culberson

This six-week Faith Formation class will be held on January 5, 12, 26 and February 2, 9, and 16. The class will focus on biblical dreams from the Old and New Testament along with discussion of how Ancient cultures viewed dreams. We will relate dreams like Jacob's "ladder dream" and his "wrestling with God dream" to modern day psychological understanding of human growth and development.

Class #1 will introduce basic rules for doing dream work, the types of dreams found in the bible and concepts like Dream Time, dream incubation, precognitive dreams, shadow dreams, lucid dreaming, telepathic dreams, mutual dreams, and dreams of death.

Class #2 will present Jungian Psychological Terms, the ego-SELF Axis, and an exploration of Jacob's "ladder" dream and what it has to teach us about our own inner journey toward the Divine.

Class #3 will explore what it means to wrestle with God and our own inner shadow.

Class #4 will present the story of Joseph, the Egyptian concept of the dream world and how to interpret dreams.

Class #5 will present the concept of dream telepathy by looking at Daniel's interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams.

Class #6 will focus on dreams of death and precognition and a summary of the six Weeks.

Mary is a Clinical Psychologist and has taught this class in other churches over the past 40 years.



Season of Advent 2024
Pictures by Stuart Mitchell



MEET THE NOMINEES FOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2025-2026

Linda Roa

This year the Nominating Committee had the task of finding and nominating five Community Church members to serve on the Leadership Council for the next two years. These people will replace the members going off the Council after serving their two-year terms. The Leadership Council is the elected governing body of the church and these members will be voted into their positions by the congregation at the annual meeting in January. The nominees are as follows:



Victoria Mayster—Nominee for Moderator. Victoria joined the church in 2002. Her home is west of Sebastopol amongst the redwoods where she has lived for over 30 years. Her family consists of one son and two step sons. Victoria has a theological background and has worked to develop programs that support immigrants and vulnerable families in the areas of health care, legal services, and education. She served on the Council as Worship and Arts Officer for the past two years and looks forward to her new role as moderator. As moderator, she sees both challenges and opportunities facing the church and hopes to move us on to the next level. Victoria is very supportive of our staff and volunteer church leaders.



Michael Citrino—Nominee for Facilities and Vice Moderator. Michael will be joining the church in January. He and his wife **Anna** previously attended Pastor Benjamin's father's church in Santa Cruz. Michael is a stained glass artist and has taught all mediums of art in American international schools. He has taught overseas for 26 years—first by providing teaching materials (books and computers) to Indonesians then later worked training teachers to upgrade their skills and to use donated teaching materials in India at the Tibetan Children's Village, materials and funding not provided by the government. Additionally, Michael is creative and versed in building and working with his hands. As Facilities officer, and as someone who enjoys community service, he looks forward to being of service to the church.



Matt Witteman—Nominee for Personnel. Matt has been attending Community Church for a while and joined one year ago. He is married and has two children, A son (22) and a daughter (19). He enjoys music, hiking and working in his apple orchard. Matt is an attorney specializing in litigation and has knowledge of employment law and how it impacts employees and employers. He has been on Pastor Benjamin's PPRT (pastoral relations) team this past year. Matt is a willing participant to help out where he is needed and looks forward to working with other church members to develop and implement an effective and cohesive personnel plan.



Kelly Allen — Nominee for Worship and Arts. Kelly attended Community church for about four years, and then joined in 2023. Kelly has a host of background skills including graphic design, gardening, natural building and horse therapy. Currently she works at a non-profit child care center for a program called Garden

MEET THE NOMINEES FOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2025-2026 cont...

of Eatin' for infants to school age children. She is a supervisor to garden educators and teaches garden and nutrition education. Recently, Kelly worked with the confirmation class which led her to assist with the youth group "God and Donuts." She is also mentoring a new confirmand. As Worship and Arts officer, she sees her degree in Humanity and Leadership beneficial. She looks forward to supporting the arts; as well as, welcoming everyone so they feel at home.



Andrea Card—Nominee for Outreach. Andrea joined the church during her confirmation when she was in middle school over 30 years ago. She lives in Santa Rosa with her husband and 14½ year old daughter, who is a freshman in high school. Andrea's hobbies include indoor and outdoor women's soccer, all kinds of crafting, and she competes in logging sports. She works as a senior wine maker at Francis Ford Coppola winery in Geyserville. Interestingly,

Andrea's Mom, **Pat Furber**, is currently on the Leadership Council and is the officer for Faith Formation. Andrea feels that the skills she learned at this church as a child have led her to this position and she feels a need to give back to the community—something her job doesn't offer and gives her life balance. Currently, she volunteers at the Inter Church Food Pantry and feels in her position of Outreach officer she can help form a vision of the church moving forward and make ourselves relevant.



January 2025 Events at Community Church

- January 2** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- January 5** **Second Sunday after Christmas**, Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Faith Formation, 11:15 am, Various Locations'
8/9 OWL Class, 1 pm, Media Room
- January 6** Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
- January 7** 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
- January 8** Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- January 9** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Lent/Easter Worship Planning, 5 pm, Fireside Rom
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- January 11** Second Saturday Luncheon, Noon, Fellowship Hall
Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fireside Room
- January 12** **1st Sunday After Epiphany**, Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Faith Formation, 11:15 am, Various Location
Older Adult Owl Class, 11:15 am
Inquirer's Class, 11:15 am
- January 14** Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room
Finance Committee, 3 pm, Fireside Room
Personnel Committee, 4 pm, Fireside Room
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
Lead Minister PPRT, 5 pm, Fireside Room
Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
- January 15** SALT & Light Newsletter Deadline
Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- January 16** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Women's Card Writing, 2 pm, WF Room
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- January 19** **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**, Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Annual Meeting of the Congregation, 11 am, Memorial Hall
8/9 OWL Class, 1 pm, Media Room
- January 20** Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room

January 2025 Events at Community Church cont.

- January 21** Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- January 22** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- January 23** Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- January 26** **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**, Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Faith Formation, 11:15 am, Various Locations
8/9 OWL Class, 1 pm, Chapel & Media Room
- January 28** Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
- January 29** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Room 6
- January 30** Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 pm, Choir Room



GRAINS OF SALT



SPECS OF LIGHT



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP meets the first Tuesday of the month, Jan 7, at 6 p.m., in the Fireside Room. **Stuart Mitchell** will lead a discussion on "Fear and Hope in 2025."

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the congregation will be held in Memorial Hall, Jan. 19, 11:00 -12:30 p.m., led by the Leadership Council. All church members encouraged to attend. After worship proceed to Memorial Hall, grab your coffee or tea, find a table, and enjoy the appetizers you will provide. Please bring FINGER FOODS to share on a paper plate or serving dish that you will take home, i.e., deviled eggs, frittata (already cut), muffins, brownies, cookies, guacamole and chips, small wraps, cut fruit, finger sandwiches, etc. Do not bring any salads or dishes that need to be cut. We are hoping to have a variety of foods on each table that do not require any silverware. Enjoy a bite during the meeting without any lines for a meal. Please bring your finger food to Memorial Hall before church. Enjoy casual noshing, fellowship, and our annual meeting to get the New Year off to a great start. Questions? Call **Bobbie** 707 823 7126.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP will meet January 11th (second Saturday) in the Fireside Room, at 2 p.m. **Catherine Wulfensmith** will share about her experience as a mental health clinician in our County Jail. On February 8, **Sandy Rosen** will lead a discussion of **Nancy Pelosi's** book, *The Art of Power*. **Bobbie Johanson** can lend you a copy if you want to read it. We always have a time of sharing to start our time together to build connections. Please join us.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CARE CARD MINISTRY will meet January 16, at 2 p.m., in the Women's Fellowship Office.



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