

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MAY 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



Sanctuary is... Holy, Welcoming, Safe **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister**

At our Annual Meeting in January, I suggested “sanctuary” would be our word of the year in at least these ways:

- With political storms raging, our spiritual practices help us build a “sanctuary” within where we can listen for God’s “still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12).
- As shingles fall, dry rot grows, and migratory bats take up residence, we are launching a capital campaign this fall to refurbish our “sanctuary” building.
- Responding to policies meant to intimidate and scapegoat immigrants, we have declared ourselves a “sanctuary” congregation.
- In the face of climate change and unchecked exploitation of the biosphere, “sanctuary” means changing our behaviors to protect habitats and Earth itself.

In the Bible, the Hebrew word we translate as “sanctuary” – *miqdash* – is uttered by Moses after crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 15:17). In Moses’s liberation song to the Israelites, God has taken up residence among the people in a sanctuary, God’s holy dwelling place. In the wilderness, this was a moveable sanctuary – think about the ark of the covenant. When the people eventually settle in Jerusalem, the sanctuary becomes the inner sanctum within the temple.

In an act that likely led to his arrest, Jesus enters the temple complex and overturns the tables of the money-changers, calling it a “den of robbers.” His rant is due to the exploitative practices of charging exorbitant fees to foreigners and barring eunuchs (i.e., those who are sexually different) from accessing proximity to the “sanctuary.” Jesus invokes Isaiah’s vision of the temple as a “house of prayer” that welcomes foreigners and eunuchs (Is. 56:3–7).

One of the great advances of the Protestant Reformation was known as the “storming of the sanctuary.” In the medieval church, only priests were allowed to enter the sanctuary, a screened-off area at the front of the church.

Continued on page 4



MAY 2025 WORSHIP

Season of Easter and Ascension Day

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

MAY 4 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

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 [John 21:1–19](#) entitled, “Creation’s Renewed Abundance.”

MAY 11 – 4th Sunday of Easter

On this Mother’s Day, our Handbell Ensemble, directed by **Karna Roa**, provides worship music; we celebrate our high school graduates; and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Luke 24:25–27, 32, 44–47](#) entitled, “Prophetic Emphasis.”

MAY 18 – 5th Sunday of Easter

This is the last Sunday of the program year, and we will celebrate all who participated in our Faith Formation programs. **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Luke 24:28–35, 41–42](#) entitled “Breaking Bread, Breaking Chains.”



Diego Velázquez (1599-1660), 'Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus', c.1617-1618. © National Gallery of Ireland.

MAY 25 – 6th Sunday of Easter

On this first Sunday of our Summer program, our Chancel Choir sings for the last time until September; we receive the Strengthen the Church Special Offering of our denomination, the United Church of Christ; and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Luke 24:36–40](#) entitled, “A Traumatic Somatic Moment.”

MAY 29 – Ascension Day

Coming in June... Ascension Sunday, Pride Sunday, Pentecost Day, Blessing Youth S.A.L.T. Trip Participants, Trinity Sunday, Father’s Day, New Member Joining Ceremony

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May 1	Gene Koch	May 16	Will Stoll
May 2	Callen Warner	May 17	Bob Curtis
May 4	Dave Bell	May 17	Jacob Dovey
May 4	Pollie Joy Richards	May 18	Andrea Card
May 5	Genia Thorhaug	May 18	Ronnie Peterson
May 6	Danielle Berndt	May 19	Samantha Allender
May 7	Zeb Young	May 19	Morgan Thomas
May 7	Rosemary Manchester	May 20	Michael Citrino
May 9	Jenna Canfield	May 20	Celeste Hole
May 10	Solveig Davidson	May 21	Stephanie Camara
May 10	Lisa Dawson	May 21	Barbara Deedler
May 10	Judy Peterson	May 22	Ren Davis
May 11	Deborah Stewart	May 23	Rian Sanderson
May 11	Muriel Weaver	May 28	Bill Phillips
May 13	Mark Albin	May 29	Celia Cummings
May 14	Karen Perry Erdman	May 29	Peg Roush
May 15	Sasza Anderson	May 31	Mary Coleman

Sanctuary is... Holy, Welcoming, Safe continued...

But reformers insisted on the “priesthood of all believers” and reimagined the church building itself as the sanctuary.

When I think of “sanctuary” today, I think of relationships that are holy, welcoming, and safe. In the presence of sanctuary, we can expect to encounter the living and loving God who makes a dwelling among people. We are to be as welcoming as Jesus, challenging the written and unwritten rules about who belongs. And we are to seek, create, and provide safety to the best of our ability, knowing that ultimate safety is found only inside the holy embrace of God. As followers of Jesus, we provide refuge from the howling winds, we welcome those whom others shun, and we protect the vulnerable, as best we can, from those who would seek to do them harm. We do this not only because we are stewards of a sanctuary located at 1000 Gravenstein Highway, but because we *are* God’s sanctuary people wherever we go.



Save the Date for All Church Camp

September 5-7, 2025

The 2025 All Church Camp weekend promises to be a memorable time of being together and enjoying rest and relaxation. We don’t have a theme yet so look for further information coming soon. Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Also, the Saturday only date is also an option for those who want to attend but can’t commit to the entire weekend. Savings will be with early registration and/or helping with the Apple Pie event to help with cost. If you would like to be on the planning committee, please contact the ‘Kathys:’ **Kathy Bell** and **Kathy Matthies**.



Belonging in America

Anna Citrino

Community Church recently voted to be a sanctuary church, committing to provide support for immigrants in our community. America's immigrant stories reach back into time and continue to touch us today. The issues shift, but the struggle to belong remains the same. **William Faulkner** wrote, "*The past is never dead. It's not even past.*" Currently, the US is experiencing a rise in the percentage of immigrant population similar to the turn of the last century. Similar to the start of the 1900s, there's a growing concern in the US about the effect immigrant populations have on the country.



Stepping inside the immigrant story of our past century can give us insight into the immigrant story of our own time. I was brought inside an immigrant story when listening to Gabriel Fauré's, "*Après un rêve*" (Op. 7, No. 1). The music evokes a sense of longing and loss, it is full of depth and soul with an element of sweetness. Listening to it reminded me of the afternoon **Michael** and I sat overlooking the Gulf of Naples at sunset as a single boat pulled away over the horizon. Watching the boat, I sensed what it must have felt like for Michael's grandparents as over a hundred years ago the boat they sailed on slipped across the horizon into the Tyrrhenian Sea. Their homeland shrinking, then dissolving behind them, they headed for Ellis Island, to a country they'd never even seen a photo of. They never again returned to Italy.

After writing the poem in response to Fauré's music, I wondered what their boat journey was like, and was curious what life was like when they arrived. Questions led to research, additional poems, further questions, and more research. I wanted to understand a history I was never told and hadn't learned in school. I didn't know that the largest recorded earthquake in Europe to date took place in Messina in 1908, or that Italian American citizens in the Bay Area had to register as Enemy Aliens and weren't allowed to travel more than five miles from their homes during WW2. Eventually, I realized I was writing a book.

After a life-threatening moment at the turn of the last century, **Gaetano**, a barber, leaves Calabria, Italy, and immigrates to San Francisco to start a new life so his wife, **Luisa**, can join him later. Enter San Francisco's turn of the century world through the eyes of an Italian immigrant family as they cope with complex challenges to their traditional way of life during a time of speakeasies, government corruption, natural disaster, the opening of the Golden Gate, and neighbors being sent to internment camps. Making a home while living between worlds can fulfill dreams. It can also cost you your life. Narrated in several character's voices, the book tells the story of people between worlds searching for how to redefine themselves and feel at home as they encounter celebrations and delights, as well as losses, difficulty, and disaster.

You're invited to consider what it means to be American, reflect on what carries us through transition's hardship, and to join an Italian immigrant family in their journey between worlds as we read, discuss, and listen to readings from *A Space Between*. (Bordighera Press, City University New York, 2019.) We'll meet three times during Faith Formation hour, in the chapel May 4, May 11, and May 18. Books will be available at Faith Formation.





It's that time of the year with Sonoma County's Pride Celebrations and the Community Church is marching in this year's parade and participating in the event in courthouse square on Saturday, May 31.

Pride is celebrating its 40 year anniversary!

"40 and Fierce" is the theme!

We welcome everyone's participation. Sign in to Realm or scan the QR code to register



More Pride month events to come in June. Stay tuned!



PALM SUNDAY PICTURES



Women's Retreat 2025

Jane Huneke

*"I am making a home inside myself.
A shelter of kindness where everything is forgiven,
A quiet patch of sunlight,
Where all that has been banished and buried is
welcomed,
spoken,
listened to -
released.*

*A fiercely friendly place I can claim as my very own.
I am throwing arms open to the whole of myself -
Especially the fearful,*

*fault-finding,
falling apart,
unfinished parts..... "*

Julia Fehrenbacher

Over thirty women from the church gathered one weekend in April at Camp Newman for our 44th Annual Women's Retreat. Our facilitator was **Victoria MacDonald**, a spiritual director who lives here in Sebastopol. The theme was "At Home in the House of Life." We participated in meditations and small group sharing. We could feel the love and compassion for each other grow throughout the weekend. This was our first retreat at Camp Newman, and we found the accommodations and the food excellent. We hope to go back. Come join us next year.



MAY 2025 Events at Community Church

May 1

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

May 4

3rd Sunday of Easter
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Church Chat, 11:15 am, Various Locations

May 5

Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room

May 6

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

May 7

Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Faith In Action Team, 6 pm, Fireside Room

May 8

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

May 10

Second Saturday Lunch, Noon, Fellowship Hall
Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fireside Room

May 13

4th Sunday of Easter
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 Locations

May 13

Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Facilities Committee, 11 am, Fireside Room
Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 5 pm, Fireside Room
Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room

May 14

Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room

May 15

Salt & Light June Newsletter Deadline
Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room

May 18

5th Sunday of Easter
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Faith Formation, 11:15 am, Various Locations

May 2025 Events at Community Church cont.

May 19	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
May 20	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
May 21	Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
May 22	Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6 Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
May 25	6th Sunday of Easter Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
May 26	Memorial Day Holiday, Office Closed
May 27	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
May 28	Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
May 29	Ascension Day Meditation, 12 pm, Room 6 Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6



GRAINS OF SALT



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, May 6, at 6 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets the second Saturday of the month, May 10, at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room. **Norma Watson** will be facilitator and **Paula Pearce** will be sharing art journals from her travels. If you have ideas for June, contact **Bobbie Johanson** At 707 494 9599 .

40TH ANNUAL SONOMA COUNTY PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL 2025

Join us on May 31, 2025, 11 a.m. at the Old Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa. We need people to march with us and staff the booth in two-hour shifts. Sign up on Realm.

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

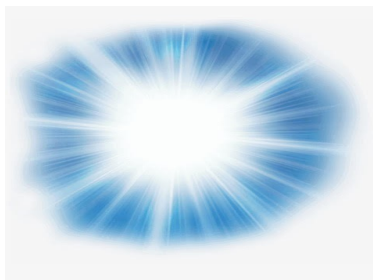
VOLUNTEER NEEDED

To move and organize a small clothing closet from one building to another. Maybe 3 hours, you choose when. Contact **Joy Richards** at office@uccseb.org or 707.823.2484.

EVENT HOSTS

Needed to provide access and hospitality to outside groups using our facility. Pay: \$25/hour. Hours depend on event. Training is provided. Contact **Joy Richards** at office@uccseb.org or 707.823.2484.

SPECS OF LIGHT



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