

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
JULY 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

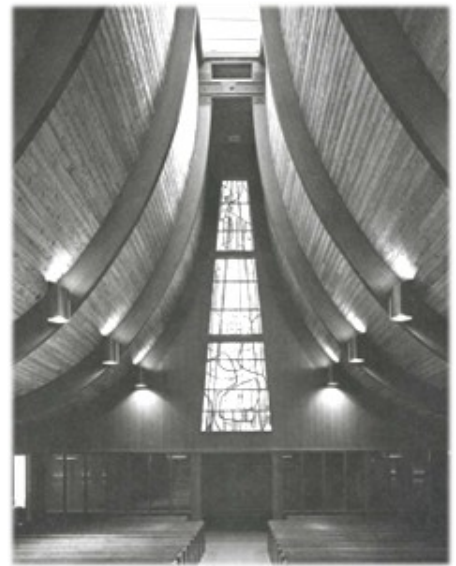


July Updates

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

Meaningful work continues at Community Church this summer and I am grateful that so many people are stepping into leadership positions. Here is an update on what is happening this month:

- The long-awaited **Sanctuary Roof Project** will begin, thanks to some recent congregational votes and a commitment to launch a Capital Campaign this fall. Workers will remove the old shingles and repair any dry rot underneath. Then they will hang new shingles and install a clear cap complete with solar-powered panels that will open to release heat. The large stained-glass window in the sanctuary and the Bell Tower in the courtyard will be removed prior to the roof work, to be replaced after completion of a successful campaign.
- Our **Sanctuary Congregation** designation continues to guide our church's commitment to standing in solidarity with immigrants and other marginalized and vulnerable people. Thank you to the Faith In Action Team, chaired by **Jenny Douglas** and **Judy Davison**, for keeping our congregation engaged. Join people of faith from throughout Sonoma County on Wednesday, July 2, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. for an "Interfaith Fast for Migrants" culminating in a Silent Vigil, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Old Courthouse Square.
- A low-key **Evacuation Drill** will take place at the end of the worship service on July 6. It will not be a surprise. We will practice leaving the sanctuary and gathering at our designated Evacuation Point in the Danmar Parking Lot. Thank you to our Health & Safety Team for coordinating this and other programs to ensure the safety of all who use our church facility.
- Our **Associate Minister Search Committee**, co-chaired by **Rachel Allen & Alvin Hukins**, continues to meet, updating our congregation's Local Church Profile, circulating the Associate Minister Job Description, and preparing to interview potential candidates. The committee's work is necessarily confidential but be assured they are working well together and discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this important process.



Continued on Page 7

JULY 2025 WORSHIP

Summer Worship in the season after Pentecost

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

JULY 6 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost Luke

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. **Jules Dantin, Lois Michelsen, Michael Ost & Benjamin Broadbent** provide special music. Our scripture is the story of Jesus' commissioning the disciples to become recipients of hospitality in [Luke 10:1–11, 16–20](#).

JULY 13 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on [Luke 10:25–37](#) entitled "The Good Partisan."

JULY 20 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Today "The Michael Ost Project" provides special music while an amazing team leads worship: **Alvin Hukins, Lori Lapham, Kathy Bell, Reena Burton & Raymond Dougherty**.

Our scripture is the Luke's version of The Lord's Prayer, perhaps more accurately called "The Disciples Prayer," in [Luke 11:1–13](#).

JULY 27 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Another wonderful team leads worship this morning: **Bob Curtis, Bobbie Johanson, Terri Harper, Mary Culberson & Anna Citrino**. The Gospel lesson is the story of Martha and her sister Mary found in [Luke 10:38–42](#).



Coming in August... Annual All-Ages Apple Pie

Fundraiser; Guest Preacher: Rev. Rhina Ramos, Associate Conference Minister, Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ; Blessing of Backpacks



Anchor

Muriel is from Gaelic folk in the Scottish Highlands—a place of strong accents, coastal waters, peat bogs, whiskey, and reels. Her childhood unfolded in the differing parsonages where her father preached. What remained constant was her conservative faith community.

"I was brought up with stark either-or concepts," Muriel reflects. "You're either in or you're out... you're a Christian, or you're going to hell. But over time, I became interested in other ways of thinking about Christianity and was not always so convinced with what was being said in the conservative church."



When she and her husband moved to Sebastopol, they weren't looking for anything in particular, they weren't even searching. "We kept passing Community Church. So, one day we just decided to go." What they discovered was a community more liberal than what they were accustomed to, but one that offered exactly what they needed.

Over the next 40 years, Community Church became a weekly anchor for Muriel's life that still holds strong today. She credits the ritual of Sunday worship, the educational faith formation hours, the women's groups, and the deep fellowship she finds there with keeping her life on track and even helping her age more gracefully.

"Most of all, I appreciate that the values of the gospel are continued to be spoken of as the main points of our life," Muriel shares. "If I'm going to follow those footsteps, I want to hear about them, because it's not easy to be a real Christian. I mean, sacrificial love, give me a break. That's hard, really hard. I need the encouragement and the depth of the ministry to help me do it."

Today, Muriel finds herself embracing a more inclusive understanding of faith. "Just the other day," she said, "it was like I heard God saying to me, 'Yes, Muriel, it takes all kinds. And that's the way it's been set up.'"

After decades of church attendance, her faith remains fresh and growing. "Even at 80 years, I got something new just this past Easter," she shares, describing how Christ's words to "forgive them, they don't know what they're doing" suddenly took on new meaning, transforming her attitude toward others in all areas of life.

Once constrained by rigid spiritual boundaries, Muriel now describes herself poetically as being "from Holy grace"—a woman whose faith embraces complexity, whose heart remains open to new understandings, and whose spiritual home at Community Church continues to nourish her growing faith.

Your generosity to Community Church makes it possible for us to surround community members like Muriel with meaningful worship, faith formation, and fellowship. Thank you for being a part of this ministry we all share.

Written by: Linda Basso



EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Tom Boag & Ralph Hamblin



Tom is a 1959 graduate of Santa Rosa High School and has degrees from Stanford and University of Santa Clara which launched a 36-year Silicon Valley career specializing in laboratory operations and factory design. Growing up, Tom was a member and active in youth group at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa. Tom is an active member of the Rotary newsletters and supporting scholarship programs. Ralph Hamblin grew up in Napa, attending Napa High School and Napa Junior College. In those early years, he occasionally attended a Full Gospel Church. As Ralph puts it he “escaped” to San Francisco in the early 1960’s where he worked for an investment company as a mail room supervisor. In the City, Ralph participated with organizations like the Society for Individual Rights and the San Francisco LGBT Center and bore witness to the transition from dangerous times to more supportive communities. Ralph is a graduate from the College of San Mateo and worked for many years in nursery sales and horticulture maintenance. He is largely responsible for the landscape design and construction at various homes he and Tom have owned together. Tom and Ralph met in San Francisco in 1968, and they have lived together as life partners for 57 years throughout the US and overseas. Welcome, Tom and Ralph.

Cecilia & Jack Christensen



Cecilia moved from Indiana to attend college in California where she met Jack the first week. The two were married 63 years ago, in 1962, and they have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Early in their relationship, they traveled widely, including in 1966-68 by VW camper in Europe with their young daughter while Jack worked as a civilian engineer for the US Air Force. After settling in Palo Alto, now adding a son, they car camped many summers at a primitive site with a view of Mt. Lassen. Jack began leading the family into backpacking, cross-country skiing, sailing, and finally, in retirement, the two of them RV’ing.

While in Palo Alto, Jack and Cecilia were a part of Covenant Presbyterian Church where served as an elder. At that church 46 years ago, Cecilia took Mary Culberson’s class on dreams. Jack led a meditation class with Mary’s husband Carl. The two families became close friends and even moved to Sebastopol within 3 years of each other. For many years, Jack and Cecilia had been away from the church. When Mary offered a dream class in January, Cecilia was determined to attend. There was a minor matter of, “Well, I guess I had better attend the worship service.” In that first service, here with all of you, and with a joyous heart, Cecilia realized they had found a new spiritual home. Jack and Cecilia moved to Sebastopol in 1995, after Jack he retired from his work as an engineer and business manager, to be near their daughter and first grandson who was born with serious medical problems. In retirement, Jack is focused on volunteer work following the tradition of his parents and Mennonite grandparents. Cecilia is a lifelong textile artist in weaving and dyeing. Welcome Cecilia & Jack.

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME! Cont...

Molly Hayward & Devon Wright



Devon and Molly have lived in California for nearly a decade, as transplants from Toronto and Philadelphia, respectively. They are blessed with three little girls - Poppy, Iris, and Rowan - whom you may have already seen running barefoot through the courtyard, picking flowers, and sneaking cookies from the table at Kinship Time. When not at church, you can find them making music and art, traveling, trying (and struggling!) to grow things out of the ground, gathering with friends, and laboring with love on their farm in Occidental with their dog, cat, horses, goats, chickens, and ducks. They are energized in their faith by this shining church community and look forward to many years of worship, spiritual growth, and service alongside all of you. Welcome, Molly and Devon.

Lucy Moon—Shoulders



Lucy was an educator for over 40 years teaching high school English where she developed curriculum and sponsored numerous clubs. She grew up in Orlando, Florida with parents deeply involved in the United Methodist Church and she continued that high level of participation. Lucy raised four wonderful, loving sons and is a proud Grandmother to her grandson Obama and granddaughter Dezi Rae. Many of the pastimes she has enjoyed include international travel and attending artistic events. Lucy recently moved from Long Beach, where she actively participated at Bayshore Community United Church of Christ, to Sebastopol where she lives with her son Todd and other family close by. Welcome Lucy.

J. Althea



Althea has been playing the piano since age 4. Her grandmother, also named Althea, taught her to play by ear and to read music. Her Gamma played the piano in the Methodist Church, and Althea followed in her footsteps. She is a native Californian, but lived in Alaska for 36 years, playing in clubs and serving several churches. She has served as our keyboardist here at the Community Church since fall of 2016 and looks forward to participating in the life of our Church as long as God intends. Welcome Althea.



- I will be attending a **Beyond Land Acknowledgments** class on August 12, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and I invite others from Community Church to join me. The class is for people and organizations seeking to grow their allyship with Native peoples. Participants learn about the strengths and limitations of land acknowledgements, such as the one voiced at the opening of each of our worship services. We will explore action-oriented strategies for building connections with Native communities. Contact me by July 15 at pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org if you would like to join me.
- Finally, **a few teasers** for August... open forums will be held to share ideas about capital projects, a Seminary Intern joins us, a new website is in the works, a new church logo will be revealed, and a civil rights leaders will be a guest preacher.



Gathering the Waters of Summer

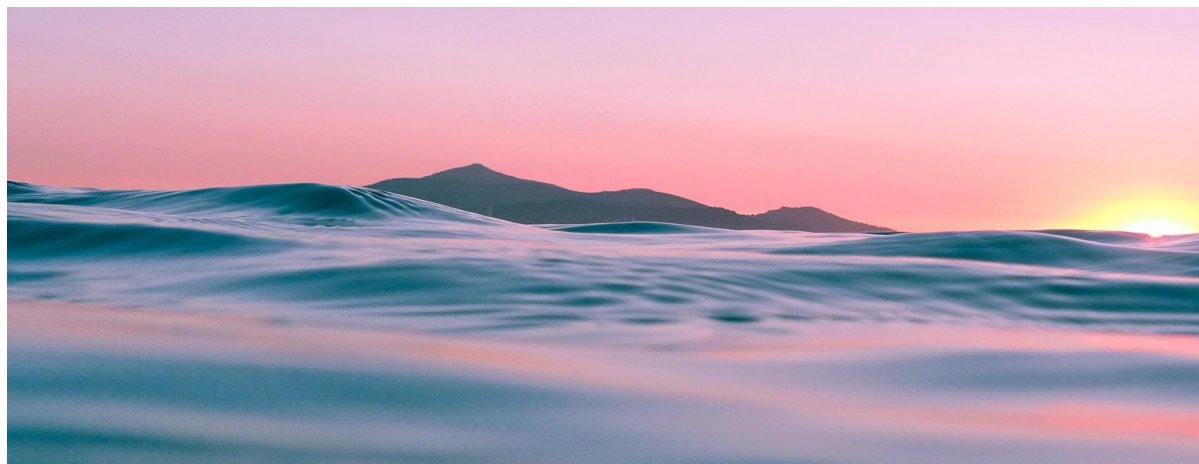
This summer, we are asking all members and friends of the Community Church of Sebastopol to bring back small samples of water from your travels.

- Use a simple, small container like a sample size shampoo bottle.
- Bring it to the church office and leave it with an attached note telling us who you are and where you collected the water.

On September 7, we will bless all of the gathered waters of summer and use the collected water, after disinfecting it, in baptisms over the coming year. This will be a fun way to share our summer adventures with each other and a way to offer thanksgiving to God for the waters of the world that sustain us and bring us joy.



With questions, contact **Pastor Benjamin** at 719.238.5347 or pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org





Community Church All-Church Camp

ALL AGES, FAMILY-FRIENDLY, OVERNIGHT, RETREAT

The 2025 All Church Camp weekend promises to be a memorable time of being together and enjoying rest and relaxation. It is a wonderful weekend to help renew your soul in the beautiful redwoods. Mark your calendars and plan on attending, September 5—7, 2025. The Saturday-only date is also an option for those who want to attend but can't commit to the entire weekend.

The cost of this retreat is greatly subsidized by our Apple Pie Fund. We need lots of help each year making and selling apple pies. This is our church's 53rd Anniversary of baking pies to help support outdoor ministries like the All-Church Camp Weekend and youth mission trips! We will be baking and selling pies August 7—10. We will again be selling solely from our church and not at the Gravenstein Apple Fair. We will need lots of volunteers for this event! **Savings** will be with **early registration** and/or a 25% discount for **helping with the Apple Pie event**. If you would like to be on the planning committee, please contact "The Kathys."

Kathy Bell kbellnow@yahoo.com Kathy Matthies kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com

WHEN: Friday Sep 13 (4:00 p.m.) to Sunday Sep 15 (11:30 p.m.), 2025

WHERE: [Westminster Woods](#)

Registration opens soon. Please watch for the announcements!



July 1	Allie Hole
July 3	Stephen Reid
July 4	Gary Leucht
July 5	Sandy Rosen
July 8	Ryan Hole
July 8	Nancy Lee
July 9	Norma Watson
July 11	Bob Best
July 11	Eva Norton
July 14	Dawson Bell
July 14	Chris Jenkins
July 15	Hosanna Bauer
July 16	Norma Taddeucci

July 17	Daphne Cripps
July 17	Judy Stupfel
July 17	Luanne Buchanan
July 18	Joy Richards
July 19	Charles Williams, Sr.
July 19	Dorothy McKoin
July 22	Tamar Knuth
July 24	Barbara Nichols
July 25	Hal Roa
July 25	Marna McKenzie
July 27	David Richards
July 27	Andy DelMonte
July 30	Rob McKoin

Drop-in Dreamwork Group

Every Thursday 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm in Room 6

Mary Culbertson & Raymond Dougherty



“Dreams come in the service of health and wholeness.” This is one of the core principles of our weekly dreamwork group. We gather to share our dreams in a safe, supportive, collaborative space to help shed light on the deeper meanings and practical applications of our dreams and to discover how they might help us gain new understandings and insights.

Because “all dreams speak a universal language” (another foundational principle of good dreamwork!) we all learn together in the sharing of each dream. Together we discover the universal wisdom that our dreams and dream images offer us – often profound spiritual insights and new perspectives on our life’s journey.

In our group, we all share from our own life experiences -- what it would mean to us if we were to have a dream like the one being shared. We speak in terms of “If this were my dream...” so that we all own our own projections and refrain from any judgements or advice-giving. This allows whoever is sharing their dream to be the final authority over what the dream means to them.

It is really wonderful to hear the multiple perspectives and diverse interpretations of a dream. In fact, one of the most satisfying moments in our dreamwork group is when one of us has an "Aha!" of recognition or insight. And it happens often in our group -- sometimes rippling throughout the group – those wonderful “goosebump” moments!

So come and join in the fun, creative, enlivening, and enlightening process of working with the gift of our dreams. You can come just to hear the insights of others and just maybe have some of your own. No prior experience working with dreams is necessary. All are welcome! We will continue to meet during the summer months. Our dreams don’t take a summer break!



art THE show

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Share your art in an All-Church Art Show and Sale during Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 - 12:15 on Sunday, July 20 in Memorial Hall.

We are seeking people of all ages and all artistic media (painting, drawing, collage, photography, sculpting, fabric arts, etc.) Tables will be provided along with a limited number of easels. Bring whatever else you need for display to set up on Friday, July 18, 2 — 5 p.m. Deadline to register is July 11, 2025.

When: Sunday, July 20, 2025 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

Where: Memorial Hall

Click [Here](#) to register or scan the QR code below:





It's Apple Pie Time!!

August 7, 8, 9, 10

Our biggest fundraiser of the year, the Apple Pies Event, is right around the corner. This is our 53rd Anniversary of The Community Church of Sebastopol baking pies to raise money. This year all our profits will go to the Capital Campaign to fix the church roof. Profits help provide camperships for All-Church Camp weekend at Westminster Woods September 5 — 7, 2025.

Everyone can lend a hand, no matter what your age or abilities, from the youngest to the oldest. All children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Join us for this wonderful multi-generational event as we prepare and bake hundreds of apple pies.

Volunteer Dates and Times Available:

Thurs, 4:00—8:00 p.m. set up, sorting apple slices, pie making	Saturday, 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. sorting apple slices & making pies* (BBQ Hot Dog lunch served at noon)
Friday, 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. sorting Apple slices & making pies * (BBQ Hot Dog lunch served at noon)	Saturday, 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. sorting apple slices & making pies
Friday, 8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m. sorting apple slices & making pies	Saturday, 1:00—5:00 p.m. sorting apple slices & making pies — cleaning up
Friday, 1:00—5:00 p.m. sorting apple Slices & making pies	Sunday Cleanup 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

*Please note we are asking, if possible, that you volunteer for the entire day, but we welcome anytime you can volunteer with us. And we encourage you to bring a friend.

Sign up online at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BA8A92DA0FBC43-57303950-apple#/>

Baking volunteers and selling volunteers will be called from previous lists & scheduled by the Head Baker and Memorial Hall Team Leaders.

If you have any other questions, please call **Kathy Matthies** at 707.758.3970



Check Request / Expense Reimbursement Process

Community Church of Sebastopol

Our check request process is intended to honor the time and resources of volunteers and staff. Thank you for doing your best to follow these procedures:

1. When an expense is anticipated, a staff or council person should be consulted to clarify which budget line should be charged and whether there are ample funds available. *This is one way the church faithfully manages its financial resources.*
2. Documentation, such as an invoice or receipt, is required to provide a check or reimbursement. *This procedure helps us practice financial transparency.*
3. A Check Request (Reimbursement) Form must be filled out by the person who incurred the expense. If known, the budget line name and number should be included on the form. *This information allows the Bookkeeper to keep accurate records by charging the expense to the correct budget line.*
4. The form must be authorized with a signature by two appropriate Leadership Council or Staff Team member (See **Resource Areas** below). *This provides clear oversight of budgetary spending.*

Each budget line pertains to one of 3 Resource Areas (Finances, Personnel, Facilities) or 4 Ministry Areas (Worship & Arts, Faith Formation, Care & Fellowship, Outreach). Authorization is made by one of the two Council-Staff Partners associated with each Area. For 2025, these are the partners:

Resource Areas

- Facilities – Michael Citrino, Council Member for Facilities (Vice-Moderator) & Joy Richards, Congregational Administrator
- Personnel – Matthew Witteman, Council Member for Personnel (Secretary) & Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister
- Finances – Gregg Yaylian, Council Member for Finances (Treasurer) & Rev. Benjamin Broadbent

Ministry Areas

- Worship & Arts – Kelli Allen, Council Member for Worship & Arts and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Lead Minister
- Faith Formation – Pat Furber, Council Member for Faith Formation and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent
- Care & Fellowship – Bobbie Johanson, Council Member for Care & Fellowship and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent
- Outreach – Andrea Card, Council Member for Outreach and Rev. Benjamin Broadbent
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Checks and reimbursements (accounts payable) are **processed** on the **1st and 3rd Mondays** of each month, usually available by Wednesday. **REQUESTS FOR CHECKS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE THE WEDNESDAY PRECEDING THE 1ST OR 3RD MONDAYS.** Check processing may be delayed if the above procedure is not followed. **Thank you. You are awesome.**



JULY 2025 Events at Community Church

July 1	Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
July 2	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom
July 3	Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6 Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 2 pm, WF Room Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
July 4	Happy 4th of July. Office Closed
July 6	4th Sunday after Pentecost Luke Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
July 7	Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
July 8	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
July 9	Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom
July 10	Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6 Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
July 12	Second Saturday Lunch, Noon, Fellowship Hall
July 13	5th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
July 15	Salt & Light July 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
July 16	Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
July 17	Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6 Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6

July 2025 Events at Community Church cont.

<i>July 18</i>	Art Show Set Up, 2 pm, Memorial Hall
<i>July 19</i>	Legal Observer Training, 9 am, Fellowship Hall
<i>July 20</i>	6th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Fountain Courtyard All-Church Art Show & Sale, 11:15 am, Memorial Hall
<i>July 21</i>	Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room
<i>July 22</i>	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall All-Church Camp, 6 pm, Zoom
<i>July 23</i>	Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom
<i>July 24</i>	Meditation, 12 pm, Room 6 Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
<i>July 27</i>	7th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
<i>July 29</i>	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
<i>July 30</i>	Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom
<i>July 31</i>	Meditation, 12 pm, Room 6 Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6



GRAINS OF SALT



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Women's Discussion Group will be on summer break. We will not meet in June or July. On August 9, it would be wonderful to have everyone work at the Apple Pie Event. We will resume in September with a program on the 13th, led by Sandy Rosen. If you have questions or suggestions for topics please contact Bobbie Johanson, 707.494.9599.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

The Men's Discussion Group meets the first Tuesday of the month, July 1, 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This month we will be discussing the upcoming fall Men's retreat.

SAVE THE DATE

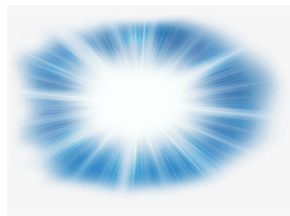
Giant Pumpkin Contest in October. Open to everyone. Plant your pumpkin soon and watch it grow.

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.

INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Inter-Church Food Pantry is urgently seeking volunteers to assist with behind-the-scenes tasks for two hours a month. Two opportunities available. To volunteer or learn more about this opportunity contact **Mark Albin** 707-829-1492 or malbin@sonic.net, or **Mary McAulay** 707-924-8685 or mcaulay@sonic.net.



SPECS OF LIGHT

Community Church of Sebastopol
1000 Gravenstein Hwy N
Sebastopol, Ca 95472



Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent
Lead Minister
pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org
www.uccseb.org
office@uccseb.org
707.823.2484

