



WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Greeters	Jean & Jeff Boal
Ushers	Kathy Bell, Alvin Hukins, Tom Terry & Denelle Tognozzi
Liturgists	Gretchen Vincent Brisbin, Warren Brisbin & Rev. Rachel Knuth
Preacher	Rev. Benjamin Broadbent
Pianist	J. Althea
Worship Music	Handbell Ensemble
Ensemble Director	Karna Roa
Sound	Keith Blackstone
Chancel Flowers	Gail Thomas

CHURCH STAFF TEAM

Senior Minister	Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent
Associate Minister of Children & Families	Rev. Rachel Knuth
Director of Youth Ministry	Ross Galletto
Minister of Music	Rev. Brian Plaugher
Handbell Ensemble Director	Karna Roa
Pianist	J. Althea
Office Manager	Karin Seder
Bookkeeper	Jennifer Halleck
Custodian	Keith Blackstone
Nursery Attendants	Jamie Holmes & Laurelin Lewis



Our mission is to worship God and share the love of Jesus Christ, teaching the message of Jesus to all ages, and putting our faith into action.

∞

An Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ, we welcome and affirm people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, citizenship status, age, and gender identity and expression.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

DECEMBER 10, 2017 ∞ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North ∞ 707.823.2484 ∞ www.uccseb.org

PIANO PRELUDE	<i>To a Maid Engaged to Joseph</i>	– Grindal / Edwards
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		
ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING	<i>Peace</i>	The Salt Project
* OPENING HYMN	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	#119, vv. 1 & 4
	*Please stand in body or spirit	
* PRAYER OF CONFESSION	Luke 19:42 & Romans 8:19	
	One: Faithful God, we desire peace on earth and goodwill among all people, but we often do not recognize the things that make for peace.	
	All: We confess our helplessness in the face of violence, our complacency in the face of death, and our despair in the face of overwhelming sadness. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, the hope of our lives and of all creation... (silent prayer)	
* ASSURANCE OF GRACE		
* PASSING THE PEACE	The Peace of Christ be with you: And also with you.	
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE		Rev. Knuth
	Please sign the Attendance Pad during the Children’s Message.	
CHILDREN’S PRAYER		ending with The Lord’s Prayer
	Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom and the power and glory forever.	
* HYMN OF PREPARATION	<i>Come, O Long-Expected Jesus</i>	#125
	Children in Preschool thru 5 th Grade may continue worshipping in the sanctuary or at Children’s Worship in the Chapel.	
HANDBELL ANTHEM	<i>God Rest Ye Merry</i>	– arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

PROPHETIC READING	<i>Micah 5: 2 – 5a</i>	Pew Bible, OT, p. 865
GOSPEL READING	<i>Matthew 2: 1– 6</i>	Pew Bible, NT, p. 2
SERMON	<i>The Bethlehem Promise</i>	Rev. Broadbent
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING		
HANDBELL OFFERTORY	<i>Do You Hear What I Hear?</i>	– arr. Kevin McChesney
* PRESENTATION OF GIFTS		Tune: Morning Song
	My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.	
	God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.	
	From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,	
	Dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.	
* PRAYER OF DEDICATION		Psalm 85:10
	One: Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness meet and your righteousness and peace kiss.	
	All: May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.	
JOYS & CONCERNS / PASTORAL PRAYER		
* CLOSING HYMN	<i>O for a World</i>	#683
* BLESSING		
PIANO POSTLUDE	<i>All Earth Is Waiting</i>	– Alberto Taule

THIS WEEK AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Today

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

8:45 am **Nursery Care**, Birth – Age 3, Room 4

9:00 - 10:15 am **FAITH FORMATION HOUR**

Godly Play, Preschool - Grade 5, Rooms 5 & 6

Middle School Youth Group, Grades 6-8, Youth Lounge

Breakfast Club, Parents, Fellowship Hall

Sunday Bible Study, Adults, Fireside Room

10:30 am **Worship Service**, Sanctuary

10:45 am **Children's Worship**, Faith Chapel

11:45 am **Wreaths & Candy Sales**, Courtyard/Fellowship Hall

11:45 am **Pageant Rehearsal**, Sanctuary

12:00 pm **Personnel Committee**, Media Room

6:00 pm **High School Youth Group**, Youth Lounge

4:00 pm **Children's Christmas Concert**, Sanctuary

No Church Events

Monday

Tuesday 4:00 pm **Pastoral Relations Committee**, Fireside Room

Wednesday 10:00 am **Church Staff Team**, Youth Lounge

10:00 am **Women's Bible Study**, Fireside Room

4:45 pm **Handbell Ensemble**, Sanctuary

5:00 pm **Budget Sub-Committee**, Media Room

Thursday 7:00 pm **Grief Group**, Youth Lounge

7:00 pm **Chancel Choir**, Choir Room

Friday 10:00 am **UkeStars**, Fellowship Hall

Saturday 11:00 am **Memorial Service for Dorothea Rowden**, Sanctuary

Next Sunday **3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY**

8:45 am **Nursery Care**, Birth – Age 3, Room 4

9:00 – 10:15 am **Faith Formation Hour** (See box above)

10:30 am **Worship Service**, Sanctuary

10:45 am **Children's Worship**, Faith Chapel

11:45 am **Children's Pageant Rehearsal**, Sanctuary

5:45 pm **All-Church Caroling**, Choir Room

6:00 pm **High School Youth Group**, Youth Lounge

2017 FINANCIAL HEALTH

Financial Giving (as of 11/21/17)	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Local Church	\$294,075	\$298,028	(\$3,953)
Wider Mission	\$24,737	\$24,963	(\$226)
Total Gifts	\$318,812	\$322,991	(\$4,179)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

Today we gather for multi-generational worship and light the second Advent candle, the candle of "Peace," not just the absence of strife, but the presence of widespread justice.



TODAY

ALL-CHURCH READ for this ministry program year is "We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation" by Brian McLaren. Order your copy online or through Copperfield's Books. Today's focus: Chapter 16, "Keep Herod in Christmas."

NURSERY CARE for infants thru age 4 in the Nursery 8:45am - 12:00pm. All people are welcome in worship, and we encourage babies and toddlers to attend with their families! A diaper-changing station is located in the bathroom off the Fireside Room.

FAITH FORMATION HOUR is 9:00-10:15 a.m. with programs for all ages. See calendar on back page for details.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS for all ages and family types available in the Welcome Table in the Narthex. Includes weekly coloring pages and candle lighting rituals.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY meets 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room, following scriptures featured in Brian McLaren's "We Make the Road by Walking." Bring a Bible, your inquisitive mind, and your coffee/tea mug.

WREATHS & SEE'S CANDY available following worship. Women's Retreat has beautiful, locally handmade, fresh wreaths available for purchase for \$20 each today and assorted See's Candy. Your purchase will help with the retreat scholarship fund.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT in the sanctuary today at 4:00 pm. To participate, see **Olivia Stoll** after worship today or call 707.843.0757.

2018 ANNUAL APPEAL

Pledges (as of December 6)	Received	Goal	Over/(Under)
Households	136	160	(24)
Our Congregation's Local Ministry	\$311,554	\$369,000	(\$57,446)
Our Congregation's Wider Mission	\$32,088	\$41,000	(\$8,912)
Total Pledges	\$343,642	\$410,000	(\$66,358)

MOVING FORWARD with pledges received, the Budget Committee is crafting the 2018 budget. We are eagerly awaiting additional pledges from nearly half the congregation. Thank you for supporting the church you love and value so much.

UP-COMING

FAITH IN ACTION TEAM (FIAT) meets Mon, Dec 11, 6:00 pm at First Congregational Church in Santa Rosa to discuss action plans on local issues: *Housing & Homelessness, Immigration, Environment, and Transportation*. Contact **Joyce Cox** at 707.829.0750

ALL-CHURCH CAROLING Sun, Dec 17. We meet at 5:15pm in the Choir Room. After caroling, we'll gather at the Boals' home for refreshments. Bring a snack to share. All ages welcome. No experience necessary. Contact **Brian Plaugher** at 707.869.9120

WOMEN'S RETREAT Fri - Sun, Jan 12-14 at Westminster Woods in Occidental. Rev. Charlotte Asher facilitates this relaxing weekend of spiritual growth. See registration form on Welcome Table in the Narthex or in the Church Office. Scholarships available. Contact **Jane Huneke** 707.795.5411 or **Joyce Cox** 707.829.0750 with questions.

ON-GOING

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets Wed, Dec 6 & 13, 10:00-11:30am in Fireside Room, then takes a break for Christmas. For info, contact **Joanne Matson** at 707.823-5249.

GRIEF GROUP meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., this week in the Youth Lounge. Losing a loved one, recently or years ago, can be difficult to process. Contact counselor-facilitators **Harry & Susanna Simms** at 707.829.7769.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE rehearses Wednesdays at 4:45 pm in the sanctuary. If you have a basic understanding of music and can count, you can learn to play! Contact Director **Karna Roa** at 707.328.4905 or karnamarie@yahoo.com.

CHANCEL CHOIR leads congregational singing and prepares anthems to add beauty to worship. Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7 pm in the Choir Room. Contact Minister of Music, **Rev. Brian Plaugher**, at 707.869.9120 or brian.plaugher@gmail.com.

UKESTARS ukulele group meets Fridays in Fellowship Hall, 10:00-11:30 for jam session/weekly practice. Contact Director **Vicki Reno** at 707.827.3668.

YOUTH MINISTRY

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH (Grades 6-8) meet Sunday mornings, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. in the Youth Lounge. Save the date: Mid-Winter Retreat is Sat – Mon, Jan 14 – 16, 2018.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH (Grades 9-12) meet Sundays 6:00-8:00 pm with **Ross Galleto** in the Youth Lounge. All are welcome.

Contact **Ross Galleto**, Director of Youth Ministries, at youthministries@uccseb.org or 707.495.1507.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS needed to help our Children's Ministry thrive:

- **Godly Play Facilitators** during Faith Formation Hour to lead a Montessori-based program exploring Bible stories through narrative and art response.
- **Children's Worship** helpers to assist Pastor Rachel in leading meaningful Chapel worship, including Communion, following the Children's Message.

Contact **Rev. Rachel Knuth**, Associate Minister for Children & Families, at rachelknuth@uccseb.org or 707.823.2484, ext. 104.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- ❖ 4:00 pm – Child-Friendly Pageant Service with Carols
 - ❖ 6:00 pm – Family-Friendly Service of Lessons & Carols with Children's Message, Sermon & Handbell Ensemble
 - ❖ 8:30 pm – Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with Sermon & Chancel Choir
- Each service concludes with a candlelight recessional into the courtyard.
Nursery Care available at 4:00 and 6:00 pm.*

JOYS & CONCERNS

CONDOLENCES to... family and friends of **Dorothea Rowden**, who died Oct 23, Memorial Service Sat, Dec 16, 11:00am; the family of **Douglas MacKenzie**, who passed away the week before last; Dana, Anne, and Mark, who lost their father, **Ed Lapekas**, after a long illness.

PRAYERS for... everyone that is struggling with anything; **Sabrina Williams**, age 6, and her parents, as she continues treatment for leukemia; **Donald James Matchinski**; **Mary McMillon**, recovering from a broken hip; **Dax**, age 2, son of Calla Burton Cohen, with leukemia; **Charlotte Mitchell**, recovering from a broken foot; **Yvette Morris's mom** with lung cancer; **Virginia Hughes**, recovering from a fall; **Priscilla Best**, in hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS TO... **Will Plaugher**, accepted to dental school at UCSF; **Joe Plaugher**, moving home from DC in January; the **Mitchell Family** on finding a new home.

Contact **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Senior Minister, at pastorbenjamin@uccseb.org or 719.238.5347.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAKED GOODS for Fellowship Hour following Sunday services are wonderful. If you have a treat to share, bring it and we'll put it out or freeze for the next Sunday.

MEN'S RESTROOM near sanctuary entrance is now a single-user restroom, making it more accessible. When using, lock the door behind you. If needed, the door may be unlocked from the outside with a key inside the Ushers closet in the Narthex.

OFFERING ENVELOPES should include your first and last name when enclosing cash so that our bookkeeper can credit the correct person for the offering. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS for bulletin and weekly emails due in digital form by Wed at noon each week. January newsletter deadline: Friday, December 15.

Contact **Karin Seder**, Office Manager, at office@uccseb.org, or 707.823-2484

WIDER COMMUNITY

UNDOCUFUND assists undocumented people who, ineligible for federal assistance, have been hit especially hard by the recent wildfires. undocufund.org was started to provide assistance. 100% of donations provide help with lost wages, short term rental assistance and more.

FAITH IN ACTION (FIAT) will be hosting a training session for those willing to serve as legal observers when ICE raids occur in our community. Contact **Bernie Hovden** at 707.829.3824 or visit www.facebook.com/NorthBayRapidResponse/.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

Our Christmas Pageant will be held during the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. If your child would like to participate, please contact Pastor Rachel. There will be speaking + acting parts for people in Grades 3 – 5, and non-speaking + acting parts for 4 year-olds – 2nd graders. Middle Schoolers invited to be liturgists, help with shadow puppets, sound, and lighting. And there will be singing parts for everyone!

Pageant practices will be in the Sanctuary on the following dates:

Dec 10: 11:45am-12:45, 3rd graders and up (snacks provided)

Dec 17: 11:45am-12:45, 4 year olds and up (includes costume fitting, snacks provided)

Dec 23 (Saturday): 11:00am-12noon, 4 year olds and up (dress rehearsal)

Parents are needed to help, especially with costuming on Dec 17 & 23. To help with ironing or mending costumes, contact **Pastor Rachel** at RachelKnuth@uccseb.org.

MISSION & OUTREACH is offering 3 different ways for you to reach out to folks who need your help during the Christmas Season: the **Shoebox Ministry to the Homeless**, the **Alternative Gift Catalog**, and **Gift Cards for SRJC Students**.

In lieu of the traditional Socks, Warm Hats, Underwear that decorate our tree, you may instead choose to purchase **Gift Cards** to help the nearly 1000 SRJC students displaced by the fires. On Sundays, members of Mission & Outreach will exchange your gift card for an ornament to hang on the tree, or during the week, bring your gift cards to the church office and exchange them for paper ornaments to hang on the tree.

The gift cards will be delivered to SRJC's Student Resource Center during the first week of January, so gift cards can be placed on the tree through Sunday, December 31.

Preferred Gift Cards: Target, Walmart, JC Penney, Staples, Safeway, Oliver's Markets, Amazon, SRJC Bookstore. Laundry cards for the laundromat across the street from the JC can be purchased in the church office.

Shoebboxes will be available for you in the Narthex during Advent, beginning Sunday, December 3 to return filled with the items on the list you will find inside each box for both homeless men and women. Please wrap the box in Christmas paper and place it under the Christmas Tree in the Narthex no later than December 17. Please fill your shoebox generously using "regular size products (no sample or travel sizes, please.) It is important to stick to the list and include all items as these gift boxes are opening in a group setting. The Shoebboxes will be delivered to the Homeless Service Center in downtown Santa Rosa the week before Christmas.

The **Alternative Gifts International** is a collection of products or services that allows you to donate in honor of your gift recipient. When you make a purchase from the Alternative Gifts catalog, you receive a gift card to present, explaining about the alternative gift you have purchased in their name. Through your Alternative Gifts purchase, you can honor your gift recipient by giving someone in desperate need a flock of chickens, eye surgery, a month of care for an orphan or clean water, all given in their name. Choose from a multitude of other wonderful and helpful gifts that will be truly appreciated. Pick up a catalog and let your imagination go! Alternative Gift Catalogs are available in the entryway and in the church office.



**MISSION &
OUTREACH**

Memorial Poinsettias

In December we will grace the church chancel with beautiful Memorial Poinsettias in 6" foil wrapped pots. Please fill out the form below and bring it to the church office or leave in the collection plate with your check. The cost is \$11 per poinsettia plant with checks made payable to the Community Church.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 11th.

Given in Memory of _____

- or -

Given in Honor of _____

Given by _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ poinsettia plants.
(\$11 each)

_____ I will take my plant home.

_____ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 11th.



Memorial Poinsettias

In December we will grace the church chancel with beautiful Memorial Poinsettias in 6" foil wrapped pots. Please fill out the form below and bring it to the church office or leave in the collection plate with your check. The cost is \$11 per poinsettia plant with checks made payable to the Community Church.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 11th.

Given in Memory of _____

- or -

Given in Honor of _____

Given by _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ poinsettia plants.
(\$11 each)

_____ I will take my plant home.

_____ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in.

Deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 11th.

