

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Community Church
of Sebastopol
United Church of Christ**

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www.uccseb.org
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Lead Minister

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J.
Broadbent

Associate Minister
Open

**Faith Formation
Coordinator**
Tirza Dawn

**Congregational
Administrator**
Joy Richards

Choral Director
Andy DelMonte

Keyboardist
J. Althea

Handbell Director
Karna Roa

Bookkeeper
Deanna Euritt

Custodian
Paul Loudon

Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Gene Nelson



From Scarcity to Abundance

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

There's a strange, even comical, conversation about yeast in the Gospel of Mark. After several busy days of teaching and feeding and healing, Jesus and the disciples get into a boat to cross the lake, but "they only had one loaf with them in the boat." Probably not enough for the journey ahead. But then Jesus says, "Watch out! Beware the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." Like scolded children, the others say to each other, "It's because we have no bread."

"Why are you talking about having no bread?" Jesus said. "Don't you get it? Do you have eyes? Do you have ears? Don't you remember what just happened?" Apparently not, so Jesus, like a skilled Kindergarten teacher, gets very concrete operational with them. "Two chapters ago, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" One can imagine them eagerly raising their hands, saying, "Pick me. O pick me." They all knew the answer. "Twelve."



Jesus continued. "And the seven baskets for the four thousand. How many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?" "Seven," they all called out at once.

"Do you not yet understand?" Jesus said, no doubt exasperated.

It wasn't about bread in the boat. It was about yeast, that unseen agent that causes a loaf to rise. The *kind* of yeast makes a kind of bread. The yeast of Herod yields a loaf of fear and scarcity, of violence for many and privilege for the few.

Jesus was offering a different kind of bread, a bread of abundance, which they had seen with their own eyes. Five loaves of bread for five thousand multiplied into twelve baskets of leftovers, enough for all 12 tribes of Israel. And then seven loaves for four thousand that yielded seven baskets of leftovers, enough for everything in creation, which was made in seven days.

Notice, there wasn't *no* bread in the boat. There was one loaf. But the disciples were acting as if there was no bread. The question was what kind of yeast was in that one loaf, the yeast of scarcity or the yeast of abundance. The disciples, who had seen the loaves multiply with their own eyes, did not yet understand. Do we?

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From Scarcity to Abundance cont. from Page 1

Over the past 136 years, our congregation has faced many moments like the one in the boat on the lake so long ago. On the one hand, we've seen what God can do. God can make a people out of no people, a church out of no church, life out of death. On the other hand, we succumb to fear and fall under the sway of a scarcity mindset.

Together in the boat called "church," we can see that there is *some* bread rather than *no* bread. With God's help, we can trust that the bread we have is the bread of abundance, bread that, when broken and shared, yields enough for everyone plus leftovers. ■

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



SEPTEMBER 2025 WORSHIP

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*

SEPTEMBER 7 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost / Gathering of the Waters

Today while participants at the All-Church Camp Weekend worship under the redwoods at Westminster Woods in Occidental, we gather at the “mother ship” to celebrate Holy Communion and to gather and bless the waters of summer. **Elena Dillon & Bernie Hovden** share clarinet duets and **Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Lead Minister preaches a sermon on [Jeremiah 18:1–11](#) entitled, “Starting Over.”

SEPTEMBER 14 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost / Launch Sunday

Today we launch the program year of our church with balloons and new programs for all ages. Worship music is provided by the Handbell Ensemble, directed by **Karna Roa**, and the Chancel Choir, directed by **Andy DelMonte**. **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Luke 15:1–10](#) entitled, “There Will Be Rejoicing.”

SEPTEMBER 21 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Outreach Sunday

Today the Chancel Choir sings and members of the Outreach Committee share the ways our congregation’s Wider Mission funds are being used to build up God’s kin’dom. **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on Luke 16:1–13 entitled, “The Worst Parable Ever.”

SEPTEMBER 28 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

As we prepare to launch our “Flourishing Together” Capital Campaign, worship music is provided by an ensemble of musicians and singers. **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [2 Timothy 1:1–14](#) entitled, “Guarding the Treasure.”

Coming in October... Capital Campaign Kick-Off, World Communion Sunday, New Members join, Recognition of long-time members



Flourishing Together

Capital Campaign

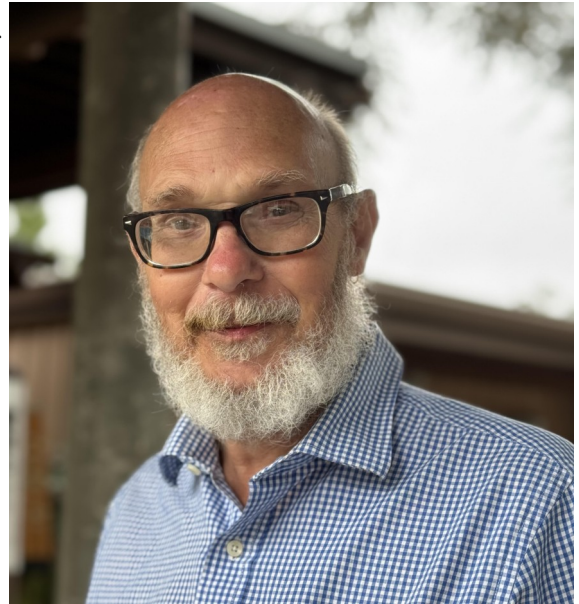
TENDING THE PLACE
WHERE COMMUNITY HAPPENS

SOUL

Alvin is a big-hearted, humble man—an introvert by nature—who quietly helps shape the soul of the Community Church.

For most of his 35-year marriage to his outgoing and memorable husband, Darryl, Alvin preferred to stay behind the scenes. Together, they visited several churches over the years, searching for more than just a Sunday service, they longed for a spiritual home where they could be fully known, fully loved, and part of something bigger than themselves. But each time, they left feeling unseen or disconnected. One pastor didn't remember their names after months of attending. Another church felt warm at first but unraveled after conflict. Again and again, they hoped for belonging—and left still searching.

When they arrived at Community Church, everything began to shift. Darryl was invited to play keyboard right away, and for the first time, they felt a sense of belonging. A community began to form around them. But then, tragedy struck. After a fall at work, Darryl was diagnosed with cancer. Alvin became his caregiver, managing doctor visits and medication regimens through the emotional rollercoaster of Darryl's illness. During that time, the church community wrapped around them. Members called, visited, prayed, and even helped financially. The love they felt was real and unwavering.



After Darryl passed, Alvin sank into a deep depression—what he describes as a “wilderness.” He stopped coming to church. But Community Church didn't stop showing up for him. Pastor Ben and others called regularly, reminding Alvin he wasn't alone. Eventually, he remembered a promise he made to Darryl—to be OK—and found the strength to return. Today Alvin is still discovering who he is without Darryl, but he's doing it surrounded by care, laughter, and grace of our Church community.

Alvin is a beloved presence in the congregation. The church programs have added relevancy to his life, and he, in turn, contributes to its vitality. He is often an usher greeting those who come with a friendly smile or a hug. He's a committee leader helping to select our new Associate Pastor. Volunteering on the facilities crew, Alvin is often the first to work on the grounds each Tuesday and the last to leave. By supporting the programs that the church offers, you are making it possible for the church to be life affirming for so many members.

Written by Michael Citrino

Watch this space every month as we feature stories about how the individual members feel connected with the church.

Writing As a Spiritual Practice & an Invitation

Anna Citrino

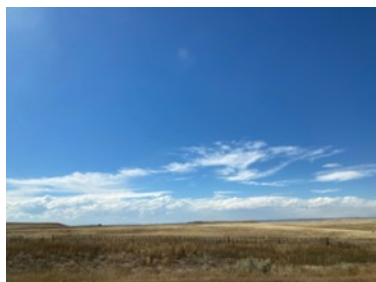
“God lives in the point of my pen. In writing, I interact with the act of creativity, the act of creation,” writes the poet Nicholas Samaras. In her sermon a few weeks ago, Mary Culberson mentioned various practices that allow a person to enter into a place of stillness where a connection with Spirit can emerge. Writing is one of these spaces for me. Hands poised above the keyboard; I listen into the stillness for what wants to speak. When I sit to write, I examine the texture and weight of my everyday experiences and observations to explore their meaning.

Walter Brueggemann speaks of the importance to commit acts of imagination outside of the predatory regime, to dare to imagine beyond the moments that entrap us. The communion table’s bread and wine are more than mere material objects; they connect us in our imagination and in physical presence to the long thread of those gone before who’ve trusted the spirit at work within them. A writer’s work is a kind of communion where the imagination makes connections between the material world to the inner world of spirit.

In my new book, *Stories We Didn’t Tell*, I springboarded from research and interviews to dive into my imagination to bring to life the lives of a family of homesteaders and ranchers working to make a life on the Great Plains and the stories they couldn’t tell as they lived through droughts, economic depression, two World Wars, the mechanization of farming, and the forging of modern America. Written in interlinked narrative poems, the book’s central character, Adah, longs for a life larger than the one expected of her in a world that held few options for women other than wife and mother.

Writing the book deepened my awareness of the limited access in the work world women historically have had, as well as how our treatment of the natural world mirrors our treatment of our fellow humans and has motivated me to expand my vision of how I might join others to help engender a world of generosity our hearts long to live into. I hope you will join me to hear some of this story. Maybe it will spark something on your path as well.

Please celebrate with me the publication of my new book, *Stories We Didn’t Tell*, Saturday 27 September, Fellowship Hall 3:30 to 5:30 for readings from the book, music, food, and book signing.



Stories

We Didn’t Tell

“A masterful book with sweeping scope and depth, *Stories* expresses the courage, daring and despair of Americans settling the west. The themes in this book are as relevant today as ever. *Stories* is an important and powerful book that offers hope to the human spirit. --Susan G.

Wooldridge, author of *Poemcrazy: Freeing Your Life With Words*.

Our Safe Parking Outreach to the Unhoused

Joyce Cox

For the last ten years, our church has run a safe parking program as an outreach for people without shelter. Applicants that have been fully vetted by the safe parking committee are allowed to park in the church parking lot or use one of the huts at night for an extended period of time.



Having a place to safely park overnight gives people a sense of security and safety and fills a gap in homeless services by addressing the unique problems faced by unhoused persons whose only source of shelter is their vehicle. They no longer have to sleep knowing that at any moment someone will be tapping on their window telling them to move on. No longer do they need to spend time looking for a place under the radar and a bathroom. The huts have a bed and a locking door, so belongings are safely stored. One gentleman told me the

best part of being in a hut was that it was dark at night. Each participant is registered by the church and given a placard for their window.

We are looking for volunteers to drive through the church parking lot one night a week after 8:30, to check that only authorized people are parked in our lot. Does this ministry call you? You don't have to get out of your car. You will have a list of the safe parkers, and you just jot down the license plates of anyone who isn't on the list and let Joy know.



This program is a wonderful way to make a difference in the lives of people who are unhoused. It is dependent on us to have volunteers who can drive through the parking lot and check. 7 volunteers mean each does one night a week....14 volunteers would mean each drives through once every 2 weeks! The more the merrier!! We can also use substitutes. Please contact one of us for more details and to sign up to participate in this valuable program.

Joyce Cox b-j-cox@att.net

Peggy Porter pporter501@gmail.com

Joanne Matson jlmatson@yahoo.com



CELEBRATE

September Birthdays

SEPTEMBER 3	SOPHIA BROADBENT-BELL	SEPTEMBER 16	JOSHUA HOVDEN
SEPTEMBER 3	DAVID KILPATRICK	SEPTEMBER 19	REENA BURTON
SEPTEMBER 4	GREG DAVIS	SEPTEMBER 21	JUDY HAWKINS
SEPTEMBER 5	CHRIS STOLL	SEPTEMBER 23	CARLEEN MADSEN
SEPTEMBER 7	JANE HUNEKE	SEPTEMBER 23	HENRY ALLEN
SEPTEMBER 9	RENEE MURAKAMI	SEPTEMBER 23	HUGIE BASSO
SEPTEMBER 10	GREG YAYLIAN	SEPTEMBER 26	SPENCER ALLEN
SEPTEMBER 10	MICHELLE BOWMAN	SEPTEMBER 26	DREW THOMAS
SEPTEMBER 11	SHEINA CURTIS	SEPTEMBER 26	KELLY ALLEN
SEPTEMBER 13	KATHY BELL	SEPTEMBER 28	MARKUS WISER
SEPTEMBER 13	JACK CHRISTENSEN	SEPTEMBER 29	EDWIN WILSON
SEPTEMBER 14	FRAN RASMUS	SEPTEMBER 29	JONAH KNUTH
SEPTEMBER 15	PAULA PEARCE	SEPTEMBER 30	CARMEN YEAGER
SEPTEMBER 15	HENRY KNUTH		

SEPTEMBER 2025 Events at Community Church

September 1	Labor Day Holiday, Church Office Closed
September 2	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
September 3	Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom Faith In Action Team, 6 pm, Fireside Room
September 4	Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6 Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 2:30 pm, WF Room Drop-in Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
September 5-7	All-Church Camp Weekend, Westminster Woods
September 7	13th Sunday after Pentecost Luke/Gathering of the Waters Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
September 9	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Personnel Committee, 9 am, Chapel Facilities Committee, 10 am, Fireside Room Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary Pastor-Parish Relations Team, 5 pm, Fireside Room Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
September 10	Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom
September 11	Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6 Drop-in Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
September 13	Second Saturday Lunch, Noon, Fountain Courtyard Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fireside Room
September 14	14th Sunday after Pentecost/Launch Sunday Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Godly Play (K-Grade 5), 10:15, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard God & Donuts (Youth), 11:15 am, Youth Lounge Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various
September 15	Salt & Light October Newsletter Deadline Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room
September 16	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

SEPTEMBER 2025 Events at Community Church cont.

September 17	Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room
September 18	Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6 Drop-in Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
September 20	Accompaniment Training, 9 am, Fellowship Hall
September 21	15th Sunday after Pentecost /Outreach Sunday Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard God & Donuts (Youth), 11:15 am, Youth Lounge
September 23	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary
September 24	Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room Online Bible Study, 5 pm, Zoom
September 25	Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6 Drop-in Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
September 28	16th Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary Godly Play (K-Grade 5), 10:15, Room 5 Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard God & Donuts (Youth), 11:15 am, Youth Lounge Faith Formation Hour, 11:15 am, Various
September 30	Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary

GRAINS OF SALT



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Women's Discussion Group will meet on Saturday, September 13, at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The program will be 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 will meet the first Tuesday of September, 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

SAVE THE DATE

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

INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

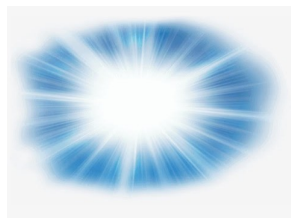
INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY basket is located in the entry to the Sanctuary. The item most needed for September is Canned Meat (chicken, tuna, etc.). Please don't leave perishables or expired food. To donate to or volunteer at the pantry, contact **Mark Albin** at 707.829.1492 or malbin@sonic.net.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

The Handbell Ensemble meets every Tuesday, August 26. They meet every Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested in playing handbells, contact **Karna Roa** at karnamarie@yahoo.com.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir rehearsal is every Thursday 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. The choir sings for 2x/month in worship. Newcomers with any level of experience welcome. Contact **Andy DelMonte**, Choral Director, at delmontemusic@yahoo.com, or in person on Sundays.



SPECS OF LIGHT

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Sebastopol, Ca 95472



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