

**Community Church of  
Sebastopol**  
**United Church of  
Christ**  
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**Lead Minister**  
Rev. Dr. Benjamin J.  
Broadbent

**Congregational  
Administrator**  
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**Faith Formation  
Coordinator**  
Tirza Dawn

**Digital Ministry  
Intern**  
Ross Pimentel

**Choral Director**  
Andy DelMonte

**Keyboardist**  
Tim Imbach

**Handbell Director**  
Karna Roa

**Custodian**  
Paul Loudon

**Pastor Emeritus**  
Rev. Gene Nelson



# **SALT & LIGHT**

## **COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL**

### **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## **OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER**

### **Flourishing Forward**

Rev. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

A highlight of my time in seminary was going on a Spring Break tour to Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia with the Kuumba Singers of Harvard College. One of our songs started with the basses: "Hold on the Gospel plow, you gotta hold on to the Gospel plow." Referring to Jesus' words in Luke 9:62, the song is about staying the course, moving forward, not looking back to dwell on what was but leaning into the future.

Following a successful Capital Campaign last fall, our congregation has completed the first of several important capital projects, the repair and replacement of our sanctuary roof. Future projects include leveling and beautifying the Bell Tower Courtyard, sealing, and striping our parking lots, and replacing the stained-glass window in the sanctuary.

As we continue to receive payments on pledges to last year's "Flourishing Together" campaign, this fall we are holding onto the plow and leaning into the future with our "Flourishing Forward" annual campaign in support of our 2027 local ministries and wider mission. We are asking every member household to make a significant gift from within their means. Our goal is to receive pledges from 140 households totaling \$500,000, an 18.5% increase over 2026.

We live in a precarious time financially, politically, and otherwise. In times like this, it is a natural reflex to protect ourselves and those closest to us, to operate out of a scarcity mindset, to look back while our hand is on the plow, wishing things were still the way they used to be. But when you look back while plowing, the blade starts to cut across the furrows making the work of planting and watering more difficult.



## **Flourishing Forward**

**2027 Annual Ministry Campaign**

**TOGETHER IN FAITH,  
TOGETHER IN ACTION**

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When we hold on to the Gospel plow while leaning forward, we trust that God is with us, the God who has provided for us all along. God has given our congregation the people, the purpose, and the resources to serve Sebastopol and Sonoma County since 1889.

Now in our 138<sup>th</sup> year, we are attracting new families, improving our music ministry, and expanding the ways we engage with our wider community. We are sustaining our local ministry and wider mission by justly compensating our staff, pro-actively maintaining our facilities, and funding programs that serve our wider community.

You are a part of this community, and your pledge means a lot. Hold on to the Gospel plow!

We are asking every member household to make a significant gift from within their



### **“Meet Tim Imbach, Piano Accompanist, Musician and Vocal Coach”**



I was born in Los Angeles but grew up in Sonoma County. I followed in my mother’s and grandmother’s footsteps and started playing piano at an early age. Singing was just part of the gig at the Imbach household, whether around the piano at home, harmonizing in the car, or singing at church. I pursued music education, piano, and vocal study at the SRJC and Simpson College, and have received vocal instruction privately for many years.

I’ve sung in many choirs and a cappella groups, done some back-up singing, piano accompaniment, and directed a church choir or two. I’ve also directed an a cappella octet called the Tangents, and have a bit of an obsession for the tight harmonies of vocal a cappella music. My husband Billy and I live in Sebastopol with our two very bossy miniature dachshunds, Zinnia and Dahlia. Thank you, Billy,

for putting up with my oft clamorous and/or clangorous practice sessions. I can’t wait to see what the future holds!



## OCTOBER 2026 WORSHIP

*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](http://www.uccseb.org)*

### OCTOBER 4 – World Communion Sunday

This morning, we gather for multi-generational worship and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The Chancel Choir, directed by **Andy DelMonte**, sings “Cantemos al Señor,” and **Rev. Benjamin J. Broadbent**, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon for all ages on [Exodus 20](#) entitled, “To Rest Is to Enjoy.”

### OCTOBER 11 – Pledge Drive Kick-Off Sunday

Today we kick-off our annual pledge drive, “Flourishing Forward,” with the goal of collecting pledges totaling at least \$500,000 to support the 2027 local ministry and wider mission of our church. Our Handbell Ensemble, directed by Karna Roa, shares music and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Philippians 4:1–9](#) entitled, “Do Not be Anxious.”



**Flourishing  
Forward**

### OCTOBER 18 – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Today our in-house band, “All Things New,” coordinated by Michael Ost, share music and Pastor Benjamin preaches on [Matthew 22:15–22](#) a sermon entitled, “Pay Caesar or Not?”

### OCTOBER 25 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Today we celebrate the 30, 40, and 50+ year members of our church and welcome new members into our congregation. The Chancel Choir sings and **Pastor Benjamin** preaches a sermon on [Deuteronomy 34:1–12](#) entitled, “Staying Power.”

**Coming in November...** All Saints/Souls Day, Gratitude Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, Reign of Christ Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 1  
Mimi Reid

OCTOBER 4  
Lynn Deedler  
William Plaucher

OCTOBER 6  
Laurie Mitchell

OCTOBER 7  
Elizabeth Plaucher

OCTOBER 8  
Linda Roa  
Jan Sweeney  
Lori Lapham  
Co Dungca

OCTOBER 9  
Thomas Hickox

OCTOBER 10  
Nadine Sanders  
Viviana Amberg-Aguayo

OCTOBER 11  
Bill Oakes  
Linda Inman



OCTOBER 12  
Paula Pearce  
Vida Sanchez-Strawbridge

OCTOBER 13  
Suzanne White  
Gerry Doody

OCTOBER 14  
Birgit Quezada  
Larry Stallings

OCTOBER 17  
Ellen Jordan

OCTOBER 18  
Michael Ost  
Elena Dillon

OCTOBER 20  
Steve Beck  
Kaydin Berndt  
Ben Rasmus

OCTOBER 23  
Ann Butterfield  
Gretchen Vincent-Brisbin

OCTOBER 24  
Maryellen Taylor  
Emma DelMonte

OCTOBER 25  
Rachel Dovey

OCTOBER 26  
Jonah Gonzales

OCTOBER 27  
Ashley Arnold

OCTOBER 28  
Betty Nelson

OCTOBER 29  
Kathryn MacKillop

**A Weekend of Joy, Welcome, and Community**  
*Celebrating Porchfest, Launch Sunday, and the beautiful ways we come together.*  
Tirza Dawn, Faith Formation Coordinator

What a joyful and energizing weekend we shared! On Saturday, September 12, our church participated in Porchfest for the very first time, followed by our annual Launch Sunday celebration the next day. Together, these two days offered a beautiful reminder of who we are as a congregation: a community that welcomes, creates, serves, celebrates, and comes together to share God's love in the world.



Saturday's Porchfest was an adventure in opening our doors in new and unexpected ways. Our campus came alive with music and dancing as we hosted a lively DJ dance stage featuring electronic music. Inside, our choir room was transformed into a welcoming arts-and-crafts space that quickly became a favorite stop for festivalgoers of all ages. Amid the sunshine, crowds, and noise, it offered a much-needed place to pause, get creative, and recharge. It felt like a sensory sanctuary for everyone who needed a little breathing room!

The most meaningful part of Porchfest was the opportunity to connect with our wider community. We welcomed people who might not otherwise find their way into our church and invited them to experience this place as a home for creativity, connection, and belonging. We were also delighted to collaborate with an up-and-coming, Latina woman-owned coffee business and other local entrepreneurs offering clothing and “ravewear.”

The weekend was also a wonderful opportunity to support our ministries. Our parking lot fundraiser brought in nearly **\$700 for our Food Pantry**, while the sale of homemade baked goods and lemonade raised **\$250 for Youth Ministry**. Those delicious treats were a tremendous hit! And none of this would have been possible without the generosity of more than **60 volunteers** who shared their time, talents, and enthusiasm. From directing traffic and From directing traffic and taking parking lot shifts to baking, serving, setting up, and breaking down, our congregation showed up in so many wonderful ways. Thank you to everyone who helped make this first Porchfest such a success.



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On Sunday, we gathered once again for **Launch Sunday**, celebrating the beginning of a new program year and looking ahead to all the ways we will continue working together to serve God's vision of a world filled with love, peace, and community.

We shared a delicious lunch prepared by King Fallafal, a wonderful local, family-owned Palestinian Muslim business. We also enjoyed incredible berry pies in honor of our pastor, celebrating the **10th anniversary of his faithful and inspiring leadership** of our congregation. It was a sweet and fitting way to mark such a meaningful milestone!

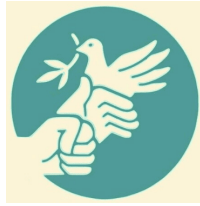
During lunch, we took time to celebrate our volunteers and reflect on the gifts of giving and receiving. **Stuart Mitchel, Jenny Douglas, Steve Reid, Alvin Hukins**, and others shared stories about their experiences serving at our church. Their reflections reminded us that volunteering is not simply about what we give; it is also about what we receive through friendship, purpose, connection, and the deep joy of being part of something larger than ourselves. Sometimes, we discover that the blessings we receive are every bit as great as the gifts we offer.

As we look back on these two days, the whole weekend seems to have rung with a beautiful **bell of activation and energy—expansive and inclusive all at once**. From dancing to making art, from welcoming new neighbors to celebrating longtime members, we experienced so many expressions of what it means to be a church in the world.

What a gift to begin our program year with such joy, generosity, and a renewed sense of possibility! Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, donated, baked, danced, served, and helped make this weekend so special.

May we carry this spirit of welcome, connection, and shared purpose with us into the year ahead, continuing to create a community where all are invited to belong and where, together, we bring God's vision of love, peace, and community to life.





## **Nonviolent De-Escalation Training**

**Monday, October 5 — 5:30 to 8:00 pm**

**and**

**Saturday, October 17 — 3:00 to 6:30 pm**

**LOCATION: Downtown Santa Rosa**

**(Exact location will be sent upon registration)**

**Suggested donation: \$20-\$100**

**(Paid at the October 5 training)**

**No one turned away for lack of funds**

**Hosted by**



***Interfaith Council of Sonoma County***

### **WHAT YOU'LL LEARN**

- How to read escalating conflict and understand threat
- Grounding tools for staying calm under stress
- Nonviolent intervention strategies: distraction, direct communication, delegation, and more
- Scenario-based practice for real-world application

Drawing from somatics, nonviolent conflict intervention, and trauma-informed practice, participants will learn how to regulate their nervous systems, assess situations clearly, and respond with strategies that reduce harm and prevent escalation. Through discussion, embodied exercises, and realistic scenarios, we will practice ways to de-escalate conflict, intervene when necessary, and support the well-being of those most impacted. Email us at [De-Escalate@InterfaithSonoma.org](mailto:De-Escalate@InterfaithSonoma.org) for further information.

**CLICK [HERE](#) to Pre-Register**

## OCTOBER 2026 Events at Community Church

- OCTOBER 1**      Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6  
 Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 2 pm, WF Room  
 Drop-In Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6  
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- OCTOBER 4**      **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
 Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary  
 Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
 Church Chat, 11:15 am, Chapel  
 Safe Church Training, 11:15 am, Media Room  
 Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
- OCTOBER 5**      Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 6**      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
 Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary  
 Spiritual Exploration Group, 5 pm, Zoom  
 Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 7**      Coffee & Care, 10 am, Offsite
- OCTOBER 8**      Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6  
 Drop In Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6  
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- OCTOBER 10**      Second Saturday Lunch, 12 Noon, Fountain Courtyar
- OCTOBER 11**      **PLEDGE DRIVE KICK OFF SUNDAY**  
 Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary  
 Wondering Circle, 10:15 am, Room 5  
 Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
 Inquirer's Class, 11:15 am, Media Room  
 Church Chat, 11:15 am, Chapel  
 Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
- OCTOBER 13**      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
 Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial HaLL  
 Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary  
 Pastor Parish Relations, 5 pm, Fireside Room  
 Spiritual Exploration Group, 5 pm, Zoom  
 Outreach Committee, 7 pm, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 14**      Coffee & Care, 10 am, Offsite  
 Food Pantry Meeting, 1:30 pm, Room 6  
 Facilities Committee, 6:30 pm, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 15**      **SALT & LIGHT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
 Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6  
 Drop In Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6  
 Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Music Room

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## OCTOBER 2026 Events at Community Church continued

- OCTOBER 18**      **21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary  
Wondering Circle, 10:15 am, Room 5  
Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
Church Chat, 11:15 am, Chapel  
Intergenerational Gym, 11:15, MH Gym  
Confirmation Class, 5:00 pm, Youth Lounge
- OCTOBER 19**      Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room  
Health & Safety Team, 3:30 pm, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 20**      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
Finance Committee, 3:30 pm, Fireside Room  
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary  
Spiritual Exploration Group, 5 pm, Zoom  
FIAT Team, 5:30 pm, Fireside Room  
Leadership Council, 6 pm, Media Room  
Worship Planning Team, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 21**      Coffee & Care, 10 am, Offsite
- OCTOBER 22**      Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6  
Drop In Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6  
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room
- OCTOBER 25**      **22<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary  
Wondering Circle, 10:15, Room 6  
Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard  
Church Chat, 11:15 am, Chape  
Confirmation Class, 5 pm, Youth Lounge
- OCTOBER 27**      Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus  
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall  
Handbell Ensemble, 4 pm, Sanctuary  
Spiritual Exploration Group, 5 pm, Zoom  
Leadership Council, 6 pm, Media Room
- OCTOBER 28**      Coffee & Care, 10 am, Offsite  
G & G Calling Night, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- OCTOBER 29**      Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6  
Drop In Dreamwork Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6  
Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm, Choir Room



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**OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER**

Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent

Lead Minister

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