

SALT & LIGHT

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 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



The Healing Power of Sabbath

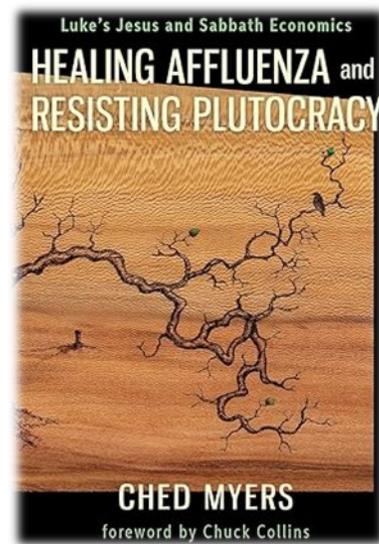
Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister

In his introduction to Ched Myers's book, "*Healing Affluenza and Resisting Plutocracy: Luke's Jesus and Sabbath Economics*," Chuck Collins defines *affluenza* as a "disconnection drug," walling off the hearts of the rich from the harms of... their own actions." Those with wealth can choose not to be bothered, or overly burdened, with the suffering of those who can barely survive. "The solution," Collins says, "is connection and healing, the spiritual and societal spark that faith communities can curate and disseminate."

I find Collins's words compelling, as well as Myers' book on affluenza and the Gospel of Luke. As we grope around, wondering what to do in this current cultural and political moment, thinkers such as these implore people of faith not to disengage from their religious traditions and practices, nor from the real-world politics affecting us all. Against the "disease of affluenza," Collins and Myers propose the antidote of "Sabbath Economics," the biblical premise that every resource is a gift from God and must be stewarded for the well-being of all. "The fundamental tenets of a Sabbath Economics," Collins writes, "reminds us that there is abundance, enough for everyone but *not* everyone's greed, as Gandhi said."

As we move into the summer months, can we as a church community continue to cultivate a sense of abundance, a sense that there is enough time, energy, money, attention, joy, and whatever other gifts we've been given, so that we can launch a Capital Campaign, call an Associate Minister, deepen our commitment as a Sanctuary congregation, and still have enough to welcome the stranger, make beautiful music, set tables of hospitality, and practice soul-nurturing contemplation?

The choice is not between contemplation and action, nor is it between politics and spirituality. The choice is between affluenza and Sabbath. Do we succumb to the cynical exhaustion of affluenza that seeks numbing distraction and convenient denial? Or do we surrender to the healing power of Sabbath, of trusting restfulness that leads to engagement with the world that God loves and seeks to save?



Continued on Page 4

JUNE 2025 WORSHIP

Season of Easter and Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity & the season after Pentecost

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

JUNE 1 – 6th Sunday after Easter / Ascension Sunday / Pride Sunday

On this day following the Sonoma County Pride Parade, we kick off Pride Month at our church. We will celebrate Holy Communion and two of our LGBTQ+ members will share special music. Our scripture is the “queer” story found in [Acts 1:1–11](#), the story of Jesus’ ascension from singular to universal bodily presence.

JUNE 8 – Pentecost Sunday

Today is the Day of Pentecost. We continue our summer worship with special music by Judy Hawkins. Rev. Dr. Benjamin J. Broadbent, Lead Minister, preaches a sermon on [Acts 2: 1–12, 42–47](#) entitled, “An Uprising of Tongues.”

JUNE 15 – 1st Sunday after Pentecost / Trinity Sunday / Juneteenth Sunday



Today we contemplate the Trinity and celebrate Juneteenth while diving into the tension-riddled story of [Luke 8:40–56](#) with a sermon entitled, “Healing the Body Politic.”

JUNE 22 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Today new members join our congregation and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on [Luke 9:10–17](#) entitled “Sabbath Economics.”

JUNE 29 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Today Matt Witteman provides special music and Pastor Benjamin preaches a sermon on [Luke 9:51–56](#) entitled “Tempted to Hate.”





JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Brian Plaucher
June 1	Lincoln Warner
June 1	Jenny Douglas
June 2	Garik Goodell
June 2	Elin Lennox
June 2	Keith Blackstone
June 2	Chris Hudlow
June 3	Mariel Wurfel
June 4	Paul Downing
June 4	Alicia Boal
June 6	Jan Barrow
June 6	Brian Purcell
June 6	Richie Goodell
June 6	Casey Card
June 6	Reid Sanderson
June 8	Susan Shaw
June 8	Diana Lebeck
June 8	Joseph Anderson

June 9	Ethan DelMonte
June 10	Alena Basso
June 12	Rachel Allen
June 14	Judy Kinsey
June 14	Jimmy Hooper
June 15	Jamie Malone
June 15	Blythe Osner
June 16	Elise Lovejoy
June 17	Abigail McGinnis
June 18	Ainsley Curtis
June 18	Anabelle Bagley
June 21	Alicia Sanchez
June 22	Gary Bachelor
June 22	Beth Larssen
June 23	Tracy Amiral
June 24	Bernie Hovden
June 26	Joe Plaucher
June 26	Nancy Choromanski

The Healing Power of Sabbath continued from Page 1...

“I believe the biblical vision of Sabbath Economics as narrated by Luke,” Ched Myers writes, “represents ancient medicine, which can help us muster the moral and political imagination necessary to survive and heal this terminal disease.” Is it possible that the antidote is right in front of us, right there in our shared story of a God who refuses to close the book on humanity, who loves creation and intervenes to thwart all powers that reduce the world to a commodity and people to pawns? Let’s find out. See you soon on the Sabbath.



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** at kbellnow@yahoo.com and **Kathy Matthies** at kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com.

A NOTE FROM KUWAIT

Ross Pimentel (Galleto)

As I wrap up my deployment to Kuwait, I’m filled with gratitude for the meaningful experiences I’ve had along the way. I helped launch a weekly LGBTQ+ Bible study alongside a Unitarian Universalis chaplain, supported the well-being of over 450 soldiers by coordinating morale and welfare events, and volunteered my downtime with the Red Cross. And most importantly, one of the highlights was finally getting to ride a camel! I’ve missed my church community deeply and can’t wait to be back with you all soon.

Ross Pimentel (Galleto)
(707) 495-1507
He/They





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.

"40 and Fierce" is the theme!

We welcome everyone's participation. It's a fun, family-friendly celebration. Join us marching in the parade or help staff our booth. Details below.

Sign in to [Realm](#) or scan the QR code to register by May 30.



Here are the Pride Month Activities:

- May 31: Pride Parade. Meet at 10 a.m. at Fremont Park, 844 5th St., Santa Rosa. Participate in the Pride celebration at Old Courthouse Square
- June 1: Pride Sunday with brunch after worship. \$5.00 donation at the door.
- June 8: Pride Bingo in the Fellowship Hall after worship.
- June 22: "Our Life Stories" from various LGBTQ+ persons.
- June 29: Presentation by Positive Images after worship.



Forum and Vote on Sanctuary Roof Project

Victoria Mayster, Moderator

Our sanctuary roof project is approaching, and we want to update you on this major effort. On June 8, right after worship, we are holding an information forum: *Our Roof Project: Scope, Bid and Financing* and hope you will join us for this update.

A bit of background: Back in February at a congregational meeting, a motion was made and passed to start roof repair and re-roofing as soon as professional recommendations were received.

Since that time, our hard-working Facilities Committee, which includes members with professional roofing experience, has been doing its due diligence in researching options for durable roofing materials and meeting with a variety of contractors for the many facets of this project.

Bids are coming in and should be finalized in the next couple of weeks, with a goal of completing the project early this summer before rains begin.

Since this project must be started soon, before our fall Capital Campaign, the church will need to take out a loan to pay the contractors.

Our treasurer has spent many hours researching loans and running financial spreadsheets so that the Leadership Council can make a wise decision.

Church bylaws require that anytime the church borrows money, the congregation must approve the loan. We plan to hold a congregational vote on this loan at a meeting after worship on Sunday, June 15.

This is an exciting, long-needed project for our well-loved facility that nurtures so much of our mission and life together. Please plan to participate in both the forum on June 8 and the congregational meeting on June 15, both following worship.



JUNE 2025 Events at Community Church

- June 1** **6th Sunday after Easter/Ascension Sunday/Pride Sunday**
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Pride Pancake Brunch, 11:15 am, Memorial Hall
- June 2** Prayer Shawls, 10 am, Fireside Room
- June 3** Grounds Team, 9 am, Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
Men's Discussion Group, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- June 4** Staff Team, 10 am, Fireside Room
Faith In Action Team, 6 pm, Fireside Room
- June 5** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Women's Fellowship Card Writing, 2 pm, WF Room
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
- June 8** **Pentecost Sunday**
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Forum on Sanctuary Roof Project, 11:15 am, Sanctuary
Pride Bingo, 11:15 am, Fellowship Hall
Inquirer's Class, 11:15 am, Media Room
- June 10** 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
- June 11** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
- June 12** Meditation Group, 12 pm, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
- June 14** Second Saturday Lunch, Noon, Fellowship Hall
Women's Discussion Group, 2 pm, Fireside Room
- June 15** **First Sunday After Pentecost/Trinity Sunday/Juneteenth Sunday**
Worship Service, 10 am, Sanctuary
Men's Retreat Ice Cream Sundae Fundraiser, 11 am, Bell Tower Ctyrd
Kinship Time, 11:15 am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Special Congregational Meeting, 11:30 am, Sanctuary
- June 16** **Salt & Light July Newsletter Deadline**
Prayer Shawl Group, 10 am, Fireside Room
- June 17** 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
- June 18** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
Leadership Council, 6:30 pm, Media Room

June 2025 Events at Community Church cont.

- June 19** Meditation Group, Noon, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
- June 22** **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
"Our Life Stories," TBD
- June 24** Grounds Team, 9 am, Church Campus
Shower Program, 9 am, Memorial Hall
- June 25** Staff Meeting, 10 am, Fireside Room
- June 26** Meditation, 12 pm, Room 6
Evening Dream Group, 5:30 pm, Room 6
- June 28** Legal Observer Training, 10 am, Fellowship Hall
- June 29** **3rd Sunday After Pentecost**
Worship Service, 10am, Sanctuary
Kinship Time, 11am, Bell Tower Courtyard
Guest Speaker, "Positive Images," 11:15 am, Chapel



GRAINS OF SALT



ARE ROSES YOUR SPECIALTY?

Our roses are looking for their special someone to love and nurture them on a regular basis. Dead-heading, fertilizing and pruning (maybe a little Bach now and then.) Grab a friend and work as team. Set your own hours. Contact **Denelle Tognozzi** at tognozzi2@comcast.net.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets the second Saturday of the month, June 14, at 2 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact **Bobbie Johanson** At 707 494 9599.

MEN'S RETREAT ICE CREAM SUNDAE FUNDRAISER

On Father's Day, June 15, at 11:15 a.m. in the Bell Tower Courtyard. Treat your Dad and your whole family to ice cream sundaes for \$10 each. Proceeds support scholarships for the Men's Retreat in the fall.

SAVE THE DATES

For these two fun events. Contact **Jane Huneke** at jane.huneke1@gmail.com.

- **Community Church Art Show**, Sunday, July 20 during Faith Formation Hour. Set up Friday, July 18.
- **Giant Pumpkin Contest** in October. Open to everyone. Plant your pumpkin soon and watch it grow.

ALL-CHURCH CAMP

Is September 5–7. Save the date! To serve on the planning team, contact **Kathy Bell** kbellnow@yahoo.com or **Kathy Matthies** kathleenmatthies57@gmail.com.

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

item for JUNE is: **Boxed Cereal**. To donate or volunteer, contact **Mark Albin** at 707.829.1492 or malbin@sonic.net.



SPECS OF LIGHT

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



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