

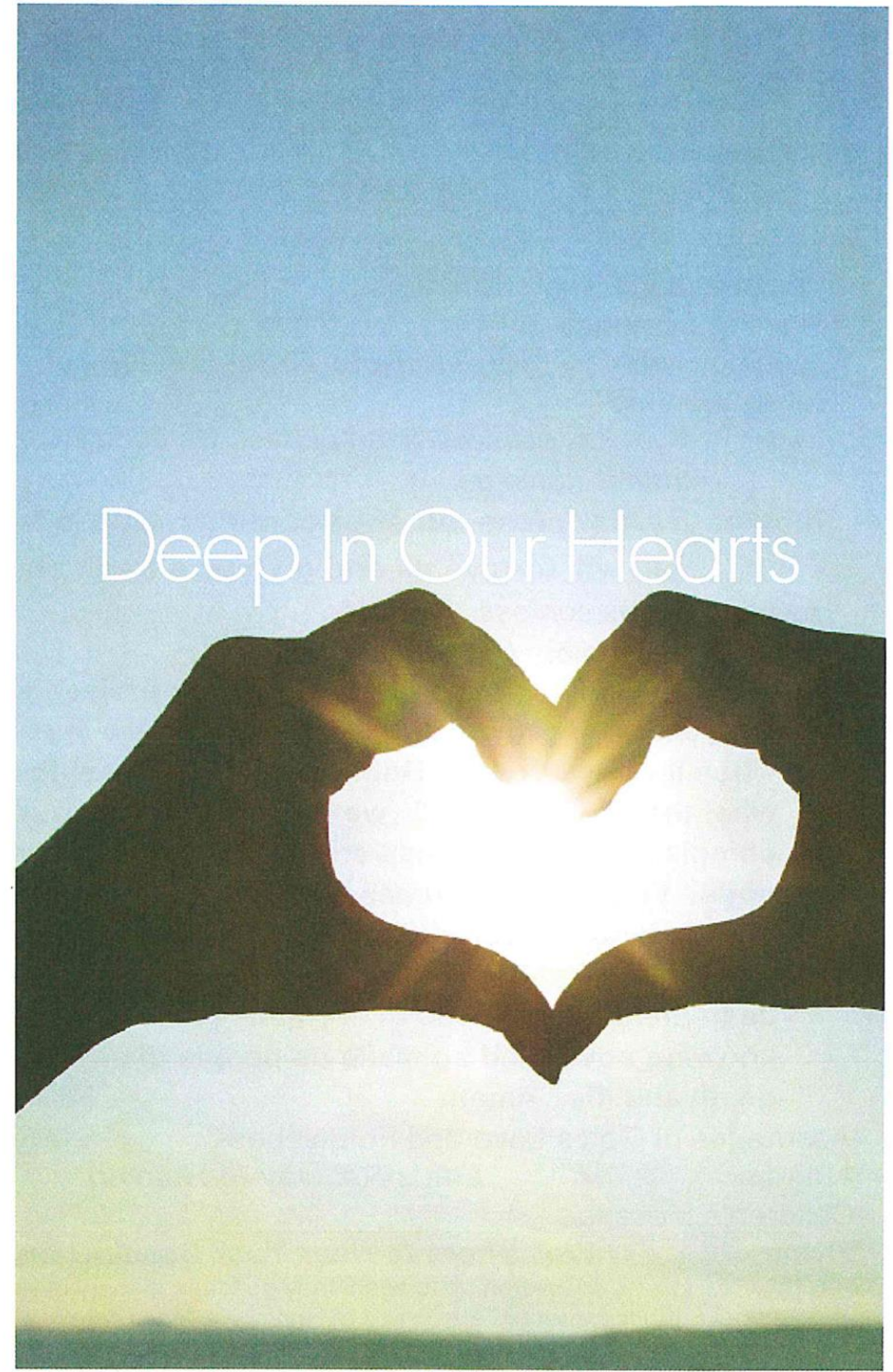
Love Wins

“Love wins.” That’s how Rev. Robin Meyers, senior pastor of Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, described what happened when 14 same-sex wedding ceremonies took place at Mayflower Congregational on October 6 last year.

The couples flocked to Mayflower Congregational hours after the United States Supreme Court declined to review petitions stemming from state bans on same-sex marriage. Since the laws banning same-sex unions were struck down, the couples decided to not waste time.

“There is still a feeling of great joy around here for the most part,” said associate minister Rev. Lori Walke, shortly after she performed the wedding ceremonies. “I have been on the phone all morning talking with couples. And making plans so they can get the legal protection they have longed for for so long.” Walke prayed over the couples, just as she has done for all newlyweds. But especially for these couples, Walke wanted them to know that they had the love and support of many.

“There are many, many clergy willing to marry same-sex couples, but there are very few denominations that empower their clergy to do so. There is a misunderstanding about how much support same-sex couples have,” Walke said. “That’s what I love about the UCC. I can marry anyone without hesitation, and that’s a wonderful gift.”



THE COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC

MARCH 22, 2015 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Our worship service begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for quiet reflection as you prepare for worship. *All who are able may stand +Seating of Latecomers

+Prelude

+Welcome and Parish Concerns

Opening Sentence

*Opening Hymn ***In the Bulb There Is a Flower*** 638

*Call to Worship reading by Jan Richardson

Leader: *If we say we have been perfect, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

People: If we confess our shortcomings, God is faithful and just and will forgive us and give us a fresh start.

Leader: *Let us confess.*

*Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Merciful God, how we love to sing your praises when we are in the season of growth and new life. How we love to do your work when it comes easily. But in the tough times, the dark times, what then? How quickly we turn away from your path. We complain, seek easy answers, turn to other, more convenient gods. Yet, your forgiveness and compassion are given freely in every season of our lives. As we worship and pray, take up roots in our hearts, so that your love may begin to grow within us in the deep stillness of dormant seasons without our knowing how. And so make us people of seed and shoot, of death and life. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Anthem ***Life's Railway to Heaven***

Children's Message

*Hymn ***I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry*** 75

Infants & Children up to age 3 may go to the nursery in Room 4;
Pre-school & Kindergarteners are invited to Room 5; Grades 1st -2nd may go to Room 6;
and Grades 3-5 are invited to the Media Room.

Prayer Concerns & Hymn of Preparation: (sing 3 times)

Jesus, Remember Me 569

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom 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 Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Response in Music

Scripture Lesson

John 12:20-33

Sermon

The Unexpected Jesus:

Lydia Mulkey

Do It Again!

The Offering

Offertory (Please sign the "Who's Who in the Pew" during the offertory)

*A Doxology ***Beneath the Cross of Jesus*** 197 (v. 1)

Prayer of Dedication

Benediction

*Closing Hymn ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*** 86

*Postlude

In the Bulb There Is a Flower is a favorite hymn of Evelyn Bishop and Kathie Mayhew; *I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry* is a favorite hymn of Carole Hudlow, Mac MacDonald, Marilyn McHugh, Judy Stupfel, Gail Thomas, Jan Sweeney and Connie Ross. *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* is a favorite hymn of Steve Beck and Janet Minton. *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* is a favorite hymn of Vicki Mayster, Steve Beck, Elaine Carlson and Janet Minton.

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL, UCC

1000 Gravenstein Hwy North, Sebastopol (707) 823-2484

Worship Sundays at 10:30 AM ☞ www.uccseb.org

Welcome to our Friends and Visitors this morning. Please join us for our time of refreshment in the church courtyard, immediately following worship. The Community Church of Sebastopol is an Open and Affirming Congregation. What this means, in the words of our Open and Affirming Statement, is... ***"We welcome and affirm people of every religious background, family composition, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, ethnicity, age and gender. We encourage all people to participate fully in every aspect of our church's life and ministry..."*** Again, WELCOME



Women's Bible Study will meet on March 25 at 10 AM in the Fireside Room. For further information contact Joanne Matson, 823-5249.

Children's Choir (ages 6-11) will practice in the Choir Room at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. Questions? Contact Sara at 707-291-2741 or sara.margulis@gmail.com.



Men's Group holds an informal discussion group in Faith Chapel on Wednesday mornings at 10AM. All men are invited to join in. The topic of discussion this week: Prayer and Doubt. For questions, please contact John Simmons at 823-6517.

Middle School Youth Group meets Today

March 22 4-6 PM in the Youth Lounge –

Come for more of our new Spring Series: Echo the Story!
Session 4 – Exodus

Sr. High Youth Group meets Today

March 22 6-8 PM in the Youth Lounge

Come for more of our new Spring Series: Echo the Story!
Session 4 – Exodus!



Lenten Soup Supper & Faith Journey on March 24 We meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 for the soup supper and then move to Faith Chapel in the Pilgrim Center at 7PM for the faith journey of Denelle Tognozzi. Over the years, this has proven to be a meaningful experience for all who attend and a wonderful way to build community. Your participation will make this event even more special.

Please join us for our Lenten Faith Journey as we hear from Denelle. And if you can bring a soup on Tuesday, please sign up in the church office or call Karin at 823-2484 ext.100.

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, March 25, at 7 PM in the Fireside Room.

The Christian Education Committee will meet on Thursday, March 26, at 7 PM in the Youth Lounge.

Grief Support Group meets on Thursdays at 7 PM in the Fireside Room. Please contact Susanne or Harry Simms at 829-7769 to confirm the meeting dates. All are welcome to attend this free class.

Participants in Today's Service

- Eugene N. Nelson, Jr.....Senior Minister
- Brian Plaucher.....Minister of Music
- Lydia Mulkey.....Youth Director
- Rachel Knuth.....Children's Program Director
- Darryl Fenley.....Keyboardist
- Keith Blackstone & Friends.....Gorillacapella
- Bobbie Johanson.....Head Usher
- Dan & Fran Rasmus, Denelle Tognozzi.....Ushers
- Bobbie Johanson.....Lay Reader
- Helen Sokolis.....Greeter
- Elyse Mengle.....Flowers
- Elyse Mengle.....Visitor Table
- Diana Wilson.....Childcare Coordinator
- Keith Blackstone.....Sound Technician

THIS WEEK AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Sunday** 9:30 AM, **Adult Sunday School**, Fireside Room
9:30 AM, **Children's Choir Practice**, Choir Room
11:45 AM, **Adult Mission Trip Meeting**, Fireside Room
4-6 PM, **Middle School Youth Group**, Youth Lounge
6-8 PM, **Sr. High Youth Group**, Youth Lounge
- Tuesday** 6:15 PM, **Soup Supper**, Fellowship Hall
7 PM, **Faith Journey**, Faith Chapel
- Wednesday** 10:00 AM, **Men's Group**, Faith Chapel
10 AM, **Women's Bible Study**, Fireside Room
5 PM, **Handbells**, Sanctuary
7 PM, **Church Council**, Fireside Room
- Thursday** 7 PM, **Christian Ed Committee**, Youth Lounge
7 PM, **Grief Group**, Media Room
7:15 PM, **Chancel Choir**, Choir Room
- Friday** 10 AM, **UkeStars**, Fellowship Hall

Adult Mission Trip meeting TODAY after church in the Fireside Room. Applications for the Mission Trip are available in the church office and you are invited to come along. The trip is scheduled for June 7-13 to the New Jersey Shores to help with the more than 10,000 people who are still displaced two years after Hurricane Sandy. Plan to attend the informational meeting after church today to find out more information.

Holy Week 2015

March 29 Palm Sunday 10:30 AM We remember and celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with a palm processional and music by our Children's and Chancel Choirs.

April 2 Maundy Thursday 7 PM We gather in Faith Chapel for a service of communion as we recall Jesus' last night with his disciples in the Upper Room. We will conclude with the service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae is an ancient and moving service of the extinguishing of lights as the story of Jesus betrayal, arrest and crucifixion is told.

April 3 Good Friday On Good Friday you are invited to visit Faith Chapel between noon to 3 pm for a time of self-guided quiet meditation.

April 5 Easter Sunday Again this year we will celebrate Easter with three distinctive services:

6:30 AM – Sunrise Service in Ragle Park. Led by the Rev. Brian Plaucher with music by members of our Folk Acoustic group. Please park outside the park gates and walk to the Peace Garden.

9:00 AM – An Easter service with the Divine Connection providing musical leadership.

11:00 AM – A classic Easter celebration with music led by our Chancel, Instrumental and Handbell Choirs.

Join us for these wonderful celebrations of resurrection, new life and hope!

Give the Gift of Clean Laundry! Did you know our church provides a very basic service to our local neighbors in need – laundry vouchers! Your gift of \$5 provides a wash and dry for a large load of laundry at Wash Plus on Bodega Avenue. This is a much needed and much appreciated service, especially during the wet winter months. Cash or checks marked "laundry" may be left in the collection plate or sent to the church office. What an easy and thoughtful way to help others! If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Matson at 823-5249.

Children & Youth!

HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS

PALM SUNDAY ART SHOW



After church on Sunday, March 29, the Sunday School children's art will be on display during coffee hour. Come and see what the children have been creating during Lent!

The Children's Ministry and Youth Programs will be joining together for several off-site events during Holy Week:

Thursday, April 2nd at 5pm at Doran Beach—Maundy Thursday Foot washing and Agape meal at the Beach.

We will wash each other's feet and share a simple meal at the beach. Meet at the Doran Beach main parking lot where the bathrooms are located. Parents will be responsible for supervising their children at the beach. **Youth** may meet Lydia at church by 4:15pm to ride in the church van. Please bring a blanket and towel—and a snack to share. Bread and grapes will be provided. Come and enjoy an ancient tradition in a beautiful place! Parking fees apply to each car.



Friday, April 3rd at 5pm at Pleasant Hill Cemetery—Good Friday Cemetery Visit and Ritual

We will visit the cemetery and tour some of the interesting tombs of Sebastopol, on this day when we consider Jesus' own death. We will do a short ritual in the cemetery and possibly some tombstone rubbings. There's never a better time to visit a cemetery with children and youth, than when it's not imminent. Come spend Good Friday with Rachel and Lydia in the cemetery!



Saturday, April 4th at 11am at Ragle Ranch Peace Garden—Holy Saturday Egg Hunt

Come hunt for eggs at Ragle Ranch's Peace Garden! We will have several "waves" of hunters, with the youngest going first. Please BYOB: bring your own basket!

Memorial Lilies will grace our chancel on Easter Morning, April 5. If you would like to order one of these beautiful living plants, please fill out the order form below and drop it into the collection plate along with your check. You may also leave this form and your payment in the church office. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to the Community Church.

DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER LILIES: MARCH 31

I wish to purchase _____ lily plant(s) \$ _____ Enclosed
 (\$10 each plant)

This lily is In Memory of _____

– OR –

This lily is In Honor of _____

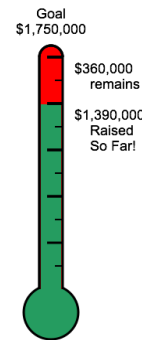
Given by (your name) _____

_____ I plan to take my lily plant home after Easter

_____ Please deliver my lily plant to a shut-in.



THE DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER LILIES IS MARCH 31.



Give Your Green to Get Rid of Our RED

Hopefully you have received a letter from Bobbie Johanson with a green pledge card detailing the Last Building Fund Campaign to pay off the loan to our church members for or beautiful Pilgrim Center. We need to finish the job and keep our congregation mortgage free. Have you done your homework and filled out the pledge card? Please bring it to church on Palm Sunday, March 29, for a dedication offering. You also have the option to mail your pledge to the church. Let's have 100% participation throughout our congregation with **People of Faith Finding the Funds!**

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, April 2, starting at 10 AM for the Board Meeting in the Women's Fellowship Office. At 10:30 AM the General Meeting will begin in Fellowship Hall with devotions, the business portion of the meeting and a speaker presentation at 11:15 AM. Coffee, tea and pastries will be provided. Bring a bag lunch if you would like to stay for lunch in Fellowship Hall.

What is Parish Care: Sharing with those in need. Participating in our Parish Care group offers each of us a way to give a gift to our church community by helping those in need of a helping hand. It also provides a resource for those within our church family. Volunteers are comprised of members and friends of the Community Church of Sebastopol, UCC. Find out more about Parish Care on Sunday, April 19!

AFTERNOON TEA AND BAZAAR

SATURDAY MAY 2, 2:00-4:00 pm
 FELLOWSHIP HALL



Women's Fellowship will be hosting a traditional Afternoon Tea on Saturday, May 2 in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come enjoy tea sandwiches, assorted sweets and a variety of teas. Plants, our famous tea towels, jams and jellies and other handmade items will be available for purchase. Tickets will be \$10.00 and may be purchased after church in the courtyard on April 19 and 26. Some tickets will be available at the door, however, reservations are recommended as seating is limited.



Tea Party

For further information call Chris Jenkins at 829-2230.

