

The APPLESEED

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

I will stand in front of you on a rock at Mount Sinai. Hit that rock with the stick, and water will come out of it so that the people can drink. – Exodus 17:6, New Century Version

ROCK OF WATER!

It is the tenth month of the year – just two months before Christmas. Since we always look forward to Christmastime, most of us have already started planning time with family and friends. Our plans may include time for worship, time for fellowship, and time to share things in life that feel significant. We might also be feeling anxious, in case our plans won't be fulfilled due to unexpected events such as illness, travel complications, or even a natural disaster.

At the time of the Exodus, Moses and the people of Israel were encamped at Rephidim. They had no water to drink and were becoming hopeless. The people began to quarrel with Moses, even though he tried desperately to find water for them. As we know, water is essential to all life – *water is life* – and without it our brains suffer damage quickly. Moses was beside himself, and the situation was grave. Then God commanded Moses to travel ahead of the people, taking only some of the elders with him, and told him to carry the walking stick (staff) that he had used to strike the Nile (see Exodus 7:17). God told Moses that if he hit the rock with his staff as commanded, water would spring from the rock. Moses went ahead, while the Israelites continued to complain, because he believed that God would provide and that they would all be saved.

Sometimes, during our journey through life, we are caught in places in which we are so desperately in need of basic necessities just to survive, and we feel that we lack the resources to endure and endeavor. However, God is everywhere and within reach. Faith is the best tool that we have. If we take our staff (our faith) and seek God's help with it, it will always work. Seek your time in prayer with God. *Pray unceasingly* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). It may seem that there is a stack of impossibilities facing us, and that our thoughts are sandwiched between difficulties behind us. Seek Him as he is in front of us – He is the spring of water from the rock, flowing with assurance, freely and righteously. When Jesus realized that we needed something more than water to sustain us in our spiritual journey, he gave his blood as a new covenant, to spiritually cleanse his followers and to set upon his everlasting journey.

The hymn *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (UMH 361) refers to the water and the blood that were given to sustain us: *Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from the wounded side which flowed, be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.* God knows how we are caught between sins and mistakes, and leads us to the Rock of everlasting blood as water, and whoever drinks from it will be cleansed with it. *Nothing but the Blood* (UMH 362) adds this: *What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow; no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Let us all keep in mind that God is within reach as we go forward hopefully with our tasks, whether here at church, at home with our families, or in the wider world – we are in His providential care. Our plans will all be fulfilled because He is leading us forward. He is the Rock, the Water, and our Redeemer.

Peace and Grace.

 Pastor Iunisi Tovo

Sebastopol United Methodist Church – 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472

office phone: (707) 823-7971 – email: sebumc@sonic.net – website: sebumc.org

HYGIENE KIT ASSEMBLY DAY

please see imore details at right --->

The Women's Study Group is hosting another UMCOR Emergency Hygiene Kit Assembly Day, Saturday 10/14 starting at 10:00 am in Epworthian Hall

You may assemble as many kits as you like!
FOR *EACH* KIT, PLEASE BRING:

- 1 Hand towel – size from 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches
Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels are *not* acceptable
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Toothbrush -- Adult size only
Do not remove from original packaging
- 6 Adhesive bandages – 3/4-inch to 1-inch size
(common household Band-Aids)
- 1 bar of soap -- 3 oz. and larger sizes only
(no Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content;
do *not* remove from original packaging)
- 1 Comb
Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches --
No pocket combs or picks, please; Rattail combs and combs
without handle are acceptable with a minimum of 6" of teeth
- 1 Metal nail file or nail clippers -- no emery boards, please
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (info below)
- \$1.00 for shipping

IMPORTANT! Please note: All items must be NEW. Do not wash any of the items, as they will be considered used. Please remove all packaging unless otherwise specified above.

All emergency kits are carefully designed to be usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to strict rules which govern shipments to foreign countries, it is important that kits contain only the items listed above, NOTHING MORE.

DO NOT include any personal notes, money, or other items in the kits. These would have to be painstakingly removed and would delay the shipment.

UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping, to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent. Do not put single dollar bills in each kit. Collect all monies for toothpaste and shipping, place it in a separate envelope, and send the envelope along with your kit donations. THANK YOU.

Women's
Study
Group



Our next meeting will be
Saturday, October 14th, 10:00 a.m.
hosted by Carol Wegner
in Epworthian Hall

HYGIENE KIT ASSEMBLY DAY!

<--- Please see info to the left

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

Those wishing to respond to the current devastation in Texas and Louisiana caused by Hurricane Harvey may write a check to SUMC and designate "UMCOR Advance #901670–Hurricane Harvey."
– THANK YOU –

GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Epworthian Hall. We share a pot-luck meal and discuss religious and philosophical issues of mutual interest. For info please contact the church office.

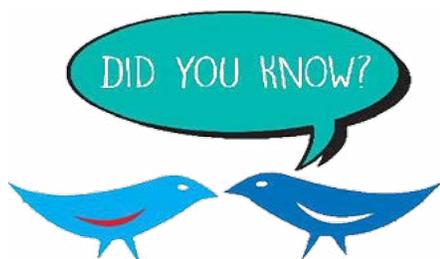
- Next Meetings are October 12th & 26th •

CARING SUPPORT GROUP

If you or someone you know needs a support group, please call Marlene Felsenfeld to schedule a date/time. At this time, there is no scheduled meeting for October. Marlene's residence phone: (707) 242-7605, Cell phone (808) 255-2343, email address: marfels@sbcglobal.net.

FRIENDSHIP QUILT IN THE SANCTUARY

The quilt which hangs on the front wall of our sanctuary was the handiwork of several members of the church, crafted many years ago. Each square was constructed by a different person, using their own design, in the style of a friendship quilt. The squares were then assembled, and it was quilted together by Janice Magnoli.



... That Iris Dunkle has just published *Interrupted Geographies*, a book of poetry. You can learn more about her new book by visiting Iris's Facebook page...

... that Carol and Mark Wegner just took a road trip to the Pacific Northwest and got to see the total solar eclipse from the Dungeness Spit along the Straight of Juan de Fuca, which is near the town of Sequim, Washington...

... that Leaf Roberts is hosting students from Ukraine this month.

Please submit your tidbits to the church office: attention Marlene Felsenfeld.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2017 pledge contributions projected for eight months were estimated to be \$47,014.00. Actual contributions exceeded budget by \$18,728.00 for a total of \$65,742.00. During the same period, plate offerings were estimated to be \$5,437.00; actual plate offerings exceeded estimate by \$237.00. Expenses for the same period, overall, have remained within budget; the exceptions are insurance, office equipment maintenance, and worship expenses which are over budget. Despite these exceptions, it is anticipated that income will still have exceeded expenses at the conclusion of pledge year 2018.

Renée Barrett, Finance Committee Chair

The next meeting of the **WORSHIP TEAM** will be **Thursday, October 26** at 1:00 pm in Epworthian Hall.

NEW STUDY GROUP

***Not A Silent Night:
Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem***
by Adam Hamilton

Meet on these four Thursdays:
November 30 December 7
December 14 December 21
at 4:00 pm in the Chapel

The book for this study group can be purchased online from Amazon.com, from Cokesbury.com, and from AbeBooks.com (the latter has new and used copies available from several sellers, some of whom offer free shipping).

Carol Wegner will make a group order from Amazon.com next month -- if you would like to participate in the group book order, please let her know by Wednesday, November 15th. Thank you.

OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERS

October 1st
Carol Wegner

October 8th
Loren Brueggemann

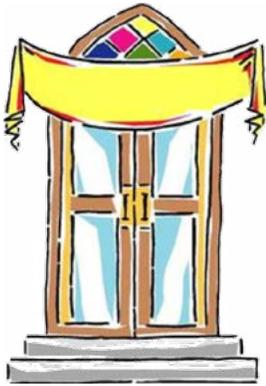
October 15th
Renée Barrett

October 22nd
Florence Stone

October 29th
Pat Schoch



CHURCH DOOR OFFERINGS



Your generous support of our Church Door ministry enables us to offer a variety of items to our neighbors in need, either at the church office or during our monthly Saturday Table luncheons. This month we are in particular need of **Applesauce singles, tins of Vienna sausage, juice boxes, Club cheddar and cheese crackers, and Quaker bars** (peanut butter and chocolate varieties).

We do NOT need any personal care items at this time. If you are able to donate any of the food items listed above, please drop them in the basket in the Narthex. During the month of September we assembled 19 bags -- seven went to the office and 12 were available for our Saturday Table guests.

As ever, we thank you for your generosity.

UMCOR SUNDAY SUCCESS

As of September 17th, we have collected a total \$676 for UMCOR Administrative expenses, and a total of \$1,350 for hurricane and flood relief. THANK YOU to all of our generous givers!

“BE POSITIVE” ROCKS

As you may have seen in the weekly Bulletin, our Sunday School kids are involved in a great new project – painting positive thoughts on rocks and placing them around Sebastopol to bring positivity and encouragement to our community! Want to help? Contributions of supplies such as palm-sized smooth stones (river rocks), bright non-toxic neon paints, brushes, and positive sentiments for the rocks are very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support – *Lydia & Kaci*

DIRECTORY UPDATE IN PROGRESS!

Our goal is to publish an updated Church Directory at the end of October. Please submit any changes to your contact information and membership status to the office by **10/15** -- *Thank you.*

NEXT LITTER CLEAN-UP EVENT WILL BE IN NOVEMBER

The Highway 12 Litter Clean-up Project continues with a work day on **Saturday, November 12th** at 9:15 am. We meet at the Chevron station at the West end of Highway 12. Please contact Paul Schoch for more info, 707-823-3889.



SATURDAY TABLE

Thank you to everyone who donates money, food, and/or time to help with Saturday Table – your important contributions directly help hungry people in our community.

- October Saturday Table is 10/28 •
- November Saturday Table is 11/25 •

SEBASTOPOL INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Egg cartons and canned or packaged food for the Food Pantry may be left in the basket in the Narthex (entrance to sanctuary), or can be taken to the Food Pantry at 500 Robinson Road between 10:00 am and noon on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. All donations of fresh produce are greatly appreciated, but those *must* be delivered directly to the Food Pantry (please do not leave fresh food in the Narthex). Thank you to all who contribute food for people in our community who need it.

DAILY READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2017



- Sunday, October 1, 2017: [Proper 21 \(26\)](#)
- Monday, October 2, 2017: [Psalm 42](#); [Exodus 18:1-12](#); [Philippians 1:3-14](#) OR [Psalm 28](#); [Judges 14:1-20](#); [Philippians 1:3-14](#)
- Tuesday, October 3, 2017: [Psalm 42](#); [Exodus 18:13-27](#); [Philippians 1:15-21](#) OR [Psalm 28](#); [Judges 16:1-22](#); [Philippians 1:15-21](#)
- Wednesday, October 4, 2017: [Psalm 42](#); [Exodus 19:9b-25](#); [Matthew 9:2-8](#) OR [Psalm 28](#); [Judges 16:23-31](#); [Matthew 9:2-8](#)
- Thursday, October 5, 2017: [Psalm 19](#); [Exodus 23:1-9](#); [Colossians 2:16-23](#) OR [Psalm 80:7-15](#); [Jeremiah 2:14-22](#); [Colossians 2:16-23](#)
- Friday, October 6, 2017: [Psalm 19](#); [Exodus 23:14-19](#); [Philippians 2:14-18](#); [3:1-4a](#) OR [Psalm 80:7-15](#); [Jeremiah 2:23-37](#); [Philippians 2:14-18](#); [3:1-4a](#)
- Saturday, October 7, 2017: [Psalm 19](#); [Exodus 23:10-13](#); [John 7:40-52](#) OR [Psalm 80:7-15](#); [Jeremiah 6:1-10](#); [John 7:40-52](#)
- Sunday, October 8, 2017: [Proper 22 \(27\)](#)
- Monday, October 9, 2017: [Psalm 119:49-56](#); [Deuteronomy 5:1-21](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#) OR [Psalm 144](#); [Ezekiel 19:10-14](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#)
- Tuesday, October 10, 2017: [Psalm 119:49-56](#); [Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#) OR [Psalm 144](#); [Isaiah 27:1-6](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)
- Wednesday, October 11, 2017: [Psalm 119:49-56](#); [Deuteronomy 6:10-25](#); [John 11:45-57](#) OR [Psalm 144](#); [Song of Solomon 8:5-14](#); [John 11:45-57](#)
- Thursday, October 12, 2017: [Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23](#); [Exodus 24:1-8](#); [1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14](#) OR [Psalm 23](#); [Isaiah 22:1-8a](#); [1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14](#)
- Friday, October 13, 2017: [Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23](#); [Exodus 24:9-11](#); [James 4:4-10](#) OR [Psalm 23](#); [Isaiah 22:8b-14](#); [James 4:4-10](#)
- Saturday, October 14, 2017: [Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23](#); [Exodus 24:12-18](#); [Mark 2:18-22](#) OR [Psalm 23](#); [Isaiah 24:17-23](#); [Mark 2:18-22](#)
- Sunday, October 15, 2017: [Proper 23 \(28\)](#)
- Monday, October 16, 2017: [Psalm 97](#); [Exodus 32:15-35](#); [Jude 17-25](#) OR [Psalm 34](#); [Exodus 19:7-20](#); [Jude 17-25](#)
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OCTOBER 2017

• PLEASE REFER TO NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS, OR CALL OFFICE •

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 World Communion Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Golden Rule	13	14 Women's Study Group: Hygiene Kit Assembly Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Golden Rule Worship Team	27	28 Saturday Table
29	30	31 Hallowe'en	Nov 1 All Saints Day	2	3	4

PLEASE
SEND IN YOUR
DIRECTORY
UPDATES!

SUBMISSIONS
FOR NOVEMBER
APPLESEED
DUE TODAY!



Sebastopol United Methodist Church 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
office phone: (707) 823-7971 email: sebumc@sonic.net website: sebumc.org

SCRIP SALES SUPPORT SEB UMC! THANK YOU!!