

June, 2021

# Still Speaking...

*A newsletter from the Community Church of Atascadero*



**Community Church  
Of Atascadero**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**5850 Rosario Avenue**  
**Atascadero, CA 93422**  
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**✉ [atascaderoucc@gmail.com](mailto:atascaderoucc@gmail.com)**  
**[www.atascaderoucc.org](http://www.atascaderoucc.org)**

**Virtual Worship**  
**10 am Sunday**

**Virtual Fellowship**  
**3 pm Wednesday**

**Pastor: Heather Branton**  
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**Cell phone (805) 470-9486**  
**Office Hours:** by  
appointment  
**Day off:** Mondays

**Church Office:**  
**Marth Thomson, Office**  
**Administrator**  
**(805) 466-9108**  
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## **As I Ponder...**

This has been a long year! (I feel like I've said that several times before.) The challenges over the past year have extended far beyond health issues. We have experienced physical isolation and loneliness. We have lived with the shifting sands of what is and isn't safe to do, what rules we need to follow, when and how to begin meeting people in person. The messages have both varied and changed, depending on what is learned about COVID-19 and people's behaviors.

Particularly during times of major uncertainty, we need our faith community. For some of us who have been able to join together virtually on Zoom, we have experienced rich and intimate connection. For some of us, both on Zoom and not, we have felt alone, aching to be together in person. These feelings and experiences cohabit many of us.

I am very proud to be part of Community Church. Even in the midst of our fears, isolation, angst, and uncertainties, we have continued to Be the Church. We have attempted to remain connected, even if just by a strand, so that we could support each other. We have shared in and through our vulnerability as a community that seeks to trust each other and be trusted. We have laughed... and we have cried. We have continued to provide a monthly meal for people eating at ECHO. At a time when we couldn't meet in person, we recognized that we could still share the wealth of our resources by opening our fellowship hall to people who needed a warm, dry place for the night.

I have heard this period referred to as Liminal Time. Many of us are familiar with *liminal* or *thin* spaces – places that feel particularly sacred, where what is eternal melds with what is temporal. I believe that to be true in many ways over the past year, that there have been moments, or days, of profound sacred connection. Especially early on, in the stillness, when wildlife rediscovered ancient routes, when the sounds of nature were louder than traffic and brought a palpable peace.

We mark significant events, for example moving from BCE to CE. I wonder if we might now change our dates, if we have moved into June, the first year of LT.

*Gratefully yours... heather*

## **Moderator Note**

So, another month speeds by and the COVID adapted school year comes to an end. We continue our Zoom Sunday Worship while our Reopening Committee plots our course through our future months. We are all anxious for things to go back to “normal”, in whatever form it manifests into. A mask has become normal to me so it may be weird going into a bank without a mask. Soon we will have our Yard Sale after so long since our last one. September we will see children using our classrooms and playground. That is the kind of things normal I miss.

It has been a difficult road to where we are today. Remembering that our friends and family are there for us and we for them is what our focus should be. Remember our Church Family. Bless us all.

– Chuck Kania

## **Phased Re-opening**

Church Council created an ad hoc committee to explore re-opening time frames as well as create protocols and structures for that process. Core to our decision-making process is our intention to come from a standpoint of justice: Who are those most vulnerable to the virus? How might procedures consider their safety? What about the needs of those physically and socially isolated over the past year? How do we balance those who have been protected by vaccines and those who have not received it, for whatever reason? We also have to consider what has been learned about the virus and how it is spread. What do we do about singing? How do we manage physical distancing? What about passing the mic during prayer time?

In a phased re-opening, we decided that the first step was to begin opening up to the support groups who had been using our facilities but unable to do so since March 2020. AA and NA groups are gradually beginning to return to our facilities, with some structured changes including wearing masks, sanitation, and physical distancing. In order to provide adequate space, for the time being, they will meet in Fellowship Hall.

Council has now authorized reopening to a couple other activities: a small exercise class (again, masked and with adequate physical distancing) and small church groups of up to 10 people.

**CCA Yard Sale June 5, 8 am – 2 pm** Sign up for a shift to work:

pricing, setting up, selling, cleaning up. Contact Brenda May 805-466-8610 / dbmjmay@aol.com

## **Sharing our Facilities**

Just over a month ago, Church Council was presented with an opportunity to share our facilities for educational use by Project: Learn, a project-based educational enrichment program designed to help those who are homeschooling, and Acorn Village Montessori, a pre-K school being started by our own Kristina Prozesky who will also be Director of Project: Learn. After thoughtful discussion and exploration of details, Council decided that there were mostly benefits to sharing our space with them: our education space will be used and help to meet some of the need by families in Atascadero, we will have the opportunity to develop more relationships with young families, there will be a lot of life and energy on our church campus, and we will receive some additional income.

Project: Learn will be meeting in the church basement 10:00-3:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Acorn Village Montessori will be using Hewitt Building 8:00-5:30 Monday thru Friday. They will be present Sept 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

## Buildings and Grounds Ministry

We have a new roof on the Sanctuary called Heather Blend (the roof tile name). How appropriate for us. Plans are moving forward to repair and improve many things on our property. New floors to be done in the basement and Hewitt Building. Old sidewalks needing replacement are ripped up. Plans for a new walkway being worked out. A new retaining wall at the Hewitt Building was put together by David and Justin and a couple of elves. The Community Garden will be sprouting in the near future and maybe attract some of our new school children to learn and laugh. Things are definitely brighter in many ways. Thank you to all giving their time to make these things happen.

– Chuck Kania

### Connect: Small Groups

As we are moving into a phased reopening of our facilities, how about joining a small in-person group? This is an opportunity to connect with others at church who you haven't seen in a long time or perhaps have never met. This is a step along the way as the Re-opening Committee prepares for us to all gather together.

We are establishing some set times to gather, either at the church or another location. We also will provide a little (but not too much) structure to facilitate conversation. And what do you need to do? Sign up for a day and time! Please email or call the Church office ([atascaderoucc@gmail.org](mailto:atascaderoucc@gmail.org) / 805.466.9108) and state your name and day you'd like to meet.

\_\_\_ 2:00 pm Sundays

\_\_\_ 10:00 am Tuesdays

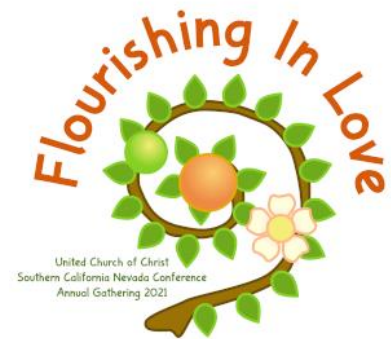
\_\_\_ 7:00 pm Wednesdays

A few caveats: Group size will be limited to 10 individuals. If indoors, please wear a mask and maintain physical distancing. Be sure to have hand sanitizer with you. We aim to care for each other's safety as well as our own.

## A Virtual Meeting of the Southern California Nevada Conference

The 2021 Annual Gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ will be June 11 & 12. This meeting connects us with what has been happening throughout the Conference over the past year as we plan for our future together. Featured speakers are Rev. Jacqui Lewis and Rev. Libby Tigner! For the full schedule and to register:

[www.scncucc.org/ag2021](http://www.scncucc.org/ag2021)



## COVID-19 Vaccine Update

According to the California Department of Public Health, as of May 25, 38% of eligible Atascadero residents (aged 12+) had been fully vaccinated; an additional 10% had been partially vaccinated. As we all know, the CDC suddenly opened a lot of things up for those who have been vaccinated. But a recent Washington Post article<sup>1</sup> suggests that infection continues to spread rapidly among unvaccinated people, in part due to lack of masks and physical distancing.

There are many reasons beyond being an anti-vaxxer for why someone does not get the vaccine. We continue to consider ways to keep those around us safe. For vaccine info: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/> or 833.422.4255.

<sup>1</sup> *The unseen covid-19 risk for unvaccinated people* by Dan Keating and Leslie Shapiro. May 21, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/interactive/2021/covid-rates-unvaccinated-people/>

**Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...**

Belinda B, Joseph P, Lisa K, Livia K,  
Mary Jane M, Stew T, Virginia C

*And all of the caregivers*

**Healing the Hidden Wounds of War**

<https://getheadstrong.org/>

*Cost-free, barrier-free, stigma-free mental health  
treatment for our military veterans and their families.*

**General Synod 33 is coming... and it's like nothing you've seen before!**



Since 1957, when the first “uniting” General Synod gathered in 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio, to the meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2019, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has faithfully convened a meeting every two years in physical locations throughout the United States.

2021 will be different. The 2021 gathering of the General Synod will take place entirely online. We will gather under the theme: **Rooted in Love, July 11-18, 2021.** You can expect the vibrancy of Spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music- and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. You can expect the same Spirit-

filled energy in an engaging meeting of the General Synod that tends to the business and forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. And, you can expect to learn more and connect with the UCC by attending workshops and other opportunities being prepared for you.

**3 Ways to Give Financially**

1. Send a check to the Community Church: **5850 Rosario Ave.**
2. Online at [www.atascaderoucc.org](http://www.atascaderoucc.org)
3. Mobile app Tithe.ly
  - a) Search “**Tithe.ly**” in the app store (Google or Apple). Download and install the Tithe.ly app.
  - b) Click “Give Now” to start and then, in “Find a church”, enter “**Community Church of Atascadero**”
  - c) Enter the amount you would like to give
  - d) Enter a credit card or bank account to link to the app
  - e) You have the option to cover the fees: \$.30 for the transaction plus either 1.0% for a bank transfer or 2.9% for credit card.
  - f) Click “Give” and you have now successfully given to Community Church! (Oh, and you have the option to set up recurring giving.)

Thank you for the many ways you continue to help Community Church of Atascadero be financially healthy!

**KEEPING CONNECTED**

Many within our congregation do not use email or have access to online communication. We have set up a system for communication where someone with email is matched with a non-email person and telephone them to share information. If you do not have email and have not received a phone call, please contact Marth Thomson or Pastor Heather to ensure you are in the loop. Thank you.

## June Birthdays & Anniversaries



4 – Linda Finister  
 12 – Torrey Byles  
 16 – Dean Young  
 19 – Anniversary – Eddie & Candice Hubbard  
 22 – Larry Young  
 22 – Anniversary – Mark & Celia Bewley  
 22 – Anniversary – Steve & Myra Douglas

## Community Church Choir:

9 am Sundays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

During our weekly virtual choir rehearsals, we learn vocal techniques & have fun singing.  
 Come check us out!

## ZOOM LINKS

To join via the internet (computer or smartphone), simply click on the internet link. To join with your telephone (*audio only*), dial **(1) 669 900 9128**. When asked, enter the Meeting ID and Password.

Sunday Worship and Midweek Fellowship	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVjdZ09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVjdZ09</a>	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dt d3lwNm swUmRkOXlwZytiSS tCZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dt d3lwNm swUmRkOXlwZytiSS tCZz09</a>	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Thursday Bible Study	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcx N2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbX dZZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcx N2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbX dZZz09</a>	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b> 10 am Sunday worship	<b>31</b> Pastor's day off	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b> 2-3 pm SLO Village Telehealth Webinar 3pm Fellowship online	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Hunger Awareness Day	<b>5</b> CCA Yard Sale 8-2
<b>6</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship with Communion online	<b>7</b> Pastor's day off	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 3pm Fellowship online <b>4pm ECHO meal – please contact Celia to help</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>11</b> Annual So. CA/Nev UCC Virtual Conference	<b>12</b> Annual So. CA/Nev UCC Virtual Conference
<b>13</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	<b>14</b> Pastor's day off	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>17</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10 am Worship online <b>11:30 Council meeting</b>	<b>21</b> Pastor's day off	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>24</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	<b>28</b> Pastor's day off	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>July 1</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

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Ten percent of any referral that results in a closed transaction shall be donated to the Community Church of Atascadero.  
Thank you for your referrals!