As I Ponder…

I don’t know about you but this isn’t the summer I anticipated. I find myself struggling to stay centered, to be grounded. Yes, I try to remind myself to breathe, to pay attention to my physical needs—what I eat and drink, getting some fresh air and exercise, stepping away from the news and social media. I watch myself and others have difficulty keeping attention, difficulty remaining calm, difficulty listening to different perspectives. And occasionally I have that tempting longing for how things used to be.

I lived in South Africa for several years not long after the end of Apartheid. In case you don’t know or have forgotten, apartheid was horrible! Forced segregation based on skin color—of housing, education, and health care; abusive policing and state-sanctioned violence. The whole structure of society had become dysfunctional. And yet I heard people become wistful for the old life. I didn’t hear this just from Whites, but from Black, Colored, and Indian people as well (the ascribed categories of race). In the gradual restructuring society, people experienced uncertainty, fear, losses, massive change—and a longing for the previous “stability”.

In the story of the exodus of Judean peoples from Egypt there was a point when the people accused Moses of taking them away from the safety and security of slavery only to die in the wilderness. They, too, longed for the past even though it had been pretty horrific.

It is hard to be in a present that clearly has an unknown future. It can be tempting to long for a previous reality, even a reality without affordable health care, a reality of unequal education, a reality of increasing gaps between rich and poor, and a world facing imminent ecological disaster. We can somehow prefer the known abuses of the past to the anxieties of a present whose direction and future are unknown.

I wish I could provide peace for these times. Instead I hold onto ancient prophetic hope.

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

Gratefully yours... heather
**Music Update**

After a long hiatus since the Covid shutdown began, choir is back in session. We are now meeting virtually at 9:00 before church. Since working on singing together is not practical, we are instead focusing on learning and reviewing the fundamentals of good singing. I am providing virtual lessons on "body mapping," which is about improving singing technique through visualization and understanding of the anatomy involved in vocal production. We’re also practicing singing solfege syllables through echoing exercises, and learning hand signs that help with singing music by sight. Soon, we’ll dive into "masterclasses" where members of the group will share solo pieces, and I will offer constructive feedback on presentation and technique. This would be a great time to join choir if you feel like group singing is intimidating but you’d like to enjoy some lessons on singing technique. Solo singing is completely optional!

-Kristina

**Community Church Talent Show**

Do you have a song to sing? How about a joke to tell? Perhaps you’d like to show a piece of art – or some baking. It’s time to show off a bit! So, dust off that skill and get ready for an all-church talent show! We will gather on Zoom to admire and laugh as we share with each other those hidden talents.

**Sunday, August 30, at 7:00 pm**

(See Zoom links below)

**Building Our Community**

**ATTENTION! DRINK WINE?**

**WINE WALL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISER**

Coming in September we will have an opportunity to win wine valued at more than your ticket! $20, $30 and $40 bottles. Want to help? Contribute a bottle of $20, $30 or $40 value. Tickets can be purchased for one of those levels and we will have a drawing for each. This is a way to fundraise for our Fellowship Hall renovations. More information to follow! Chairpersons: Brenda May and Candice Hubbard

**RUMMAGE SALE**

Rummage Sale on hold for now so please don’t bring any more contributions at this time, the Hewitt Building is jammed. Try to hang on to them and hopefully we can resume a sale in the future in a safe manner!

**Opening Doors of Interfaith Understanding**

The goal is to promote interfaith respect, empathy, understanding and interpersonal relationships between and among individuals as the group studies and experiences the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith traditions. Meetings are usually every other month.

On Monday, Aug 10, Dr. Hisham Assal of Mosque of Nasreen will present the book *The Bible, the Qur'an and Science - The Holy Scriptures Examined in Light of Modern Science* by Dr. Maurice Bucaille. Then Fr. Jim Nisbet and Rev. Luanne Griguoli will talk about Pentecost, celebrating the birthday of the church universal. (See Zoom links below)

**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) (although you will still need to register with Tithe.ly, below)
3. Mobile app Tithe.ly
   - Search “Tithe.ly” in the app store (Google or Apple). Download and install the Tithe.ly app.
   - Click “Give Now” to start and then, in “Find a church”, enter “Community Church of Atascadero”
   - Enter the amount you would like to give
   - Enter a credit card or bank account to link to the app

**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.
➢ 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.
➢ 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 continuing to help Community Church of Atascadero be financially healthy!

**ZOOM LINKS**

If you join via the internet (computer or smartphone), you simply need to click on the internet link. If you are joining with your telephone (audio only), dial (1) 669 900 9128 and then, when asked, enter the Meeting ID and Password.

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Please contact Candice Hubbard at 805-602-8153 if you need assistance connecting with Zoom.

**Aug Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 12 – Stew & Sally Thomson Anniversary
- 14 – Brenda May
- 16 – Sharon Wisenhunt
- 18 – Judy Wulff
- 18 – David May
- 23 – Lynn Jansen
- 18 – Jon Seeman (Glenda Peck’s grandson)

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- 10 am Worship online
- 12 pm Council meeting
- Strengthen the Church Special Offering
- Echo Meal
- Please contact Celia

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Community Church of Atascadero
5850 Rosario Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422

Greta Peck Broker Owner
212 S. Main St., Suite 103
Templeton, CA 93466
(805) 464-0400 office
(805) 674-2249 cell
greta@msn.com
Lic #01298277

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Thank you for your referrals!

Always Look Your Best!

With 40 plus years' experience in the beauty industry, Brenda May cuts both men and women's hair and specializes in color. Her services are now available at Heart and Soles Day Spa (5405 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422).

For appointments, please call Brenda May at 748-7412 during the day and 466-8610 in the evening.