

April, 2020

Still Speaking ...

A newsletter from the Community Church of Atascadero



**Community Church
Of Atascadero**

United Church of Christ

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**Virtual Worship
10 am Sunday**

Pastor: Heather Branton

ccaucppastor@gmail.com

Cell phone (805) 470-9486

Pastor's Office Hours:

by appointment

Church Office:

Marth Thomson, Office Administrator

(805) 466-9108

atascaderoucc@gmail.com

As I Ponder...

I encourage you to take this opportunity to do something with intention during this season. May you be thoughtful about the meaning and purpose of your Lenten discipline. And in the process may you encounter the ever-lifegiving Spirit within you.

Above is how I ended last month's Pondering. I did not realize then how intentional this season—not the Lenten but the COVID-19 season—would become! Intentional about washing our hands. Intentional about physical distance. Intentional about being stocked with toilet paper and pasta. Perhaps intentional about digging into that stack of unread books, writing poetry, listening to and making/creating music, spending time with family and friends via phone/computer. And perhaps intention sometimes melds into obsession—constantly checking for a news update, a laser-eyed focus on what *others* are/aren't doing, being busy.

Personally, I have had this mix of slowing down a bit—a fire in the fireplace, reading, actually a little bit of coloring—and frantically working on ways to help us as a congregation be more connected during this time of physical distance, steep learning curves for using online resources. This mix of slowing and frantic has left me feeling jarred. Intention combined with feeling overwhelmed.

I've had conversations with people about how long this will last. A few weeks? 2-3 months? Longer? For me, I think we should prepare for a new normal, that we are unlikely to return to life as it has been. Yes, this brings some worries and fears for the toll this virus will take.

But I believe it also offers some new opportunities. We get to (re)learn how to be intentional—in how we relate to others, how we connect. We can be intentional about where we spend our money, where we get our food. We can be intentional about learning new skills, with technology, musicmaking, gardening, ... And being still, unbusy. In short, Spirit stuff.

And so, with new intention, may you be renewed with the ever-lifegiving Spirit.

Gratefully yours... heather

FROM THE MODERATOR

We are discovering new, innovative and exciting ways (at least for us) to be the church during this COVID-19 crisis. I thank Pastor Heather for her leadership and diligence in finding ways to keep us connected with one another, providing spiritual care and keeping us focused on our mission as Christ's Church

While all of this is going on, we cannot forget about our finances. Our ministry continues and we need to support it financially. Even though we cannot give through our Sunday morning offering we can do so by mailing a check to the church or by taking our offering to the church office and placing it through the pastor's slot.

In this digital age we are in the process of developing a way to pay online. We are researching several possibilities of doing so, and hopefully that will happen very soon. I know a lot of you have taken a hit financially because of this crisis and some of you may not be able to give as much as you were. That is okay and we understand. All I ask is that you give generously as you are able to help us to be the church in these difficult and challenging days. Above all keep the faith and be safe.

Blessings,

Larry D. Young, Moderator & Stewardship Chair

WORSHIP

Friends, we are on an adventure! It's not one that we planned for or necessarily want, but we are venturing into new and different ways of worshipping together. Since we cannot gather in person, we are joining online. The good news is that we can do this! We have begun meeting in Zoom, a "place" where we can join either by computer or by phone. At first, this can feel daunting. But the more we do this, the more familiar and comfortable it will become.

Each Sunday we will begin worship at 10:00 am. The "meeting room" will be open by 9:50, so plan to join ready to begin worship.

For those of you connecting through computer (including tablets and smartphones), simply click the link in your email invitation to worship or enter the following into your browser URL:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/937257009>

For those of you connecting with your phone, there are two options.

1) If you are using a smart phone, open your telephone keypad and enter:

7207072699,,937257009#

2) If you have a traditional landline telephone, dial one of the following possible telephone numbers:

720-707-2699

253-215-8782

301-715-8592

When asked, enter the following **Meeting ID: 937 257 009**

(Please note one caveat about calling any of these phone numbers: unfortunately, they are long-distance, so you may have long distance charges on your phone bill.)

If you need assistance with connecting to Zoom, feel free to call Candice Hubbard at 805-602-8153 who will try to help you join us.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

In the midst of our stay at home life, Community Church is making more use of our Facebook page and our website.

[Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/communitychurchatascadero/](http://www.facebook.com/communitychurchatascadero/)

This will be the place where we post the worship services that take place online so that you can watch them later. Consider sharing our Facebook postings with friends and family. Follow us on Facebook. Post your comments and photos.

[Our website: www.atascaderoucc.org](http://www.atascaderoucc.org)

The website will also have a link to the recordings of worship services. It is also where you will find updates from Pastor Heather. We hope that soon it will include a method for sending contributions online.

Pastor Heather has also put into place some communication networks between those of us who use email and those who don't. See more in her article, p. 3-4. Are there other communication tools you think Community Church could be using, for example Instagram? If so, please let Jeanne know (jemiller@umich.edu 734-355-4606).

BOC MINISTRY REPORT

[Rummage Sale postponed](#)

We still plan to have the spring rummage sale so keep collecting your items!

[BBQ in the Park](#)

Currently schedule for July 14th, save the date! We will be partnering with Quota again this year.

-Brenda May

ECHO UPDATE

Many things have changed in the last few weeks, but one thing has not. Fortunately, we still have the opportunity to reach out and help people in our community who are hungry.

Please call me at 805-466-3413 or email me at bewley1974@att.net if you can help.

Thank you,
Celia Bewley

Buildings & Grounds

B & G has been in communication about the Fellowship Hall renovation, and agreed which parts of the project are to be researched and priced. These 5 are:

- New roof on the Fellowship Hall
- Double doors for the entry
- Facade for entry
- ADA restroom and parking
- Acoustic treatment/sound system improvement

Celia and Mark Bewley are researching the doors and have a meeting with a contractor on Monday. Martha Staib has made contract with Page Roofing, and they have agreed to make an inspection and give us an estimate. I have messaged architect, Jesse Voss, regarding the entry facade, and am awaiting a response. The acoustic treatment/sound system has many aspects, and is going to take a number of steps. Kent Kenney is looking into the sound system to determine if it connected and set correctly. Other aspects to be considered are window treatments, ceiling treatment, and tasteful sound-absorbing wall hangings.

Larry Anderson

FELLOWSHIP

Have you been missing our fellowship time? Me, too! How about gathering together (virtually, of course) for an opportunity for us to get caught up?

Let's try having a midweek fellowship time together. If we have 5 or 6 people join, we can just talk together. As more people join us, we will be able to have some various conversation groups—just like sitting down at a different table on Sunday, except we will be at home joining through Zoom. (Please see extended instructions in the worship article.)

Joining via computer: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/271718366>

Joining via smartphone: 7207072699,,271718366#

Joining via landline phone: 720-707-2699 Meeting ID: 271 718 366

So, grab something to eat & drink, and join us for fellowship on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00.

Helping others be safe in the age of COVID-19

Do you like to sew? How about sharing your gifts to help make masks for those in our congregation as well as neighbors in the community? If you have the time and motivation to sew some masks, I have a pattern that is quick and easy! Contact Martha Staib at 805-286-4548

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 - Dick & Lois Ramont anniversary
- 14- Candice Hubbard
- 16- Marlene Pearce
- 17- Lisa Kania
- 22- Virginia Carsley
- 22- Bill & Marilyn Hamilton anniversary
- 30- Nicholas Rich



Martha Staib "I'm "good to go" now..."

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
29 10 am Worship online	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 10 am Worship online	6	7	8 Echo Meal 3PM Please contact Celia help needed	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship online	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship online	20	21	22 EARTH DAY Plant a tree!	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship online	27	28	29	30		

Pastor Heather's drop-in hours cancelled until further notice.

