

August 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
☎ (805) 466-9108
✉ atascaderoucc@gmail.com
www.atascaderoucc.org

Virtual Worship
10 am Sunday

Virtual Fellowship
3 pm Wednesday

Pastor: Heather Branton
ccaucppastor@gmail.com
Cell phone (805) 470-9486
Office Hours: by appointment
Day off: Mondays

Church Office:
Marth Thomson, Office
Administrator
(805) 466-9108
atascaderoucc@gmail.com

As I Ponder...

I write this as I am preparing for my vacation. Jeanne and I are headed to Seattle to visit with my mom, not having seen her since Christmas 2019. I am eager to get on the road. That seems to be the sentiment of many others as well. People are buying RVs and trailers, airplanes are full, and some hotels have rates higher than pre-pandemic. Meanwhile Covid-19 infection rates are rising again (although not at the levels of last year) and every day brings news of the Delta variant with its rapid spread.

I am fully vaccinated, as is Jeanne. So is my 91-year-old mother, yet I find myself thinking about where I go, reminding myself to mask and to wash my hands. On an individual level I am not worried about catching Covid-19 at this point. I understand that the vaccine is designed to reduce the severity of the illness (even more than to prevent infection). Almost all hospitalizations are of unvaccinated people. I figure that even if I do get it, I won't get really sick.

Research has found that most infections are asymptomatic. Recently a bachelorette party went barhopping in downtown Oklahoma City, unmasked—7 of the 12 vaccinated individuals later tested positive. Eventually 17 guests at the indoor wedding became infected. Although their symptoms were mild, I am reminded that if I am not careful, I can inadvertently spread the virus, especially the vastly more infectious Delta variant.

I suspect some people feel like I am overly cautious. Perhaps I am. But I don't want to risk getting my mom ill. Nor do I want to be the person who inadvertently shares this virus with others, this disease that we still know so little about or what the long-term affects may be.

I am thrilled to be heading out on our road trip! I am excited that we will be able to see my mom! And we will love her by being as safe as we can, for her sake.

Gratefully yours... heather

Building Our Community

RUMMAGE SALE

On September 18th there will be an all-church rummage sale. Please hang on to your donations until then as we are still limited on storage. We will work on Sept 17th to get organized. Volunteers will be need and sign up sheet will be sent out shortly.

With the protocols for Covid changing, we are not sure if this can be inside so stay posted. We appreciate all donations but please, no mattresses or large appliances.

Thank you!

Brenda May and Sharon Whisenhunt

Communications Ministry

I attended the Synod workshop called *Faithful Innovation* mostly because I couldn't figure out what that meant. It was an interesting discussion, led by Phiwa Langeni, who based it on Genesis 1:1-5 (when God creates something out of nothing) and John 2:1-11 (the story of Jesus changing water into wine at Cana). Phiwa maintains that we are images of an innovating, creating God and that we too should create and re-create, or innovate. "To not be innovative causes separation from God." One purpose of recognizing this is to focus not on "Doing things Right" but to focus on "Doing the Right Thing." For example, how are we inviting people into our spaces? do we need to think innovatively or make changes? Innovation requires action and usually involves working with others. One point they made was that what you are called to do may be a tiny thing. But from the perspective of the future, it may be seen as an innovation. It may be seen as having been "the Right Thing to do."

Clearly part of the Communications Ministry at CCA is an ongoing review of how we communicate and whether we need to do it in a new way. This workshop allowed me to see change as a positive thing, something that is Biblically based, and it provided an interesting new perspective.

Jeanne Miller

Chair, Communications Ministry

Community Church Survey

Thank you for participating in the church survey. We had 46 responses! Here are the results.

78% of the people who responded have attended worship online (63% often/regularly, 15% occasionally). The vast majority of those find the pastor's meditation to be meaningful (97%). 78% find prayer time to be meaningful, 67% appreciate the music, and 56% like the video postludes. These are followed by Cultivating Joy (47%), Communion (36%), and the candle lighting reflection time (17%). The comments of what else people appreciated focused on being able to connect with others from church and liking the ease and comforts of being at home. Most of the comments on what people did not like about Zoom worship is not having the in-person connection and missing singing together. It seems that

people who have not been attending online don't like online gatherings, that they feel impersonal. They miss connecting in-person and the music.

The vast majority of respondents (45) are fully vaccinated (98%). 41% feel "very comfortable" being around other people while 54% feel "slightly comfortable." The rest are evenly split between "somewhat uncomfortable" and "very uncomfortable." A great majority (80%) stated that they are willing to wear a mask in worship, while 7% weren't sure and 15% said no.

In planning for a hybrid worship service, slightly less than half (47%) said they are more likely to attend in person and 13% are more likely to attend on Zoom. 11% said it depends on the safety protocols implemented; 29% stated it depends on the week and personal circumstances.

The final comments ranged from expressions of frustration that church hasn't already opened up and not wanting to wear a mask to statements of appreciation for the caution and safety suggestions.

Connect: Small Groups

Are you interested in joining a small in-person group? Do you want to connect with others at church who you haven't seen in a long time or perhaps have never met? Small groups are a great opportunity!

What do you need to do? Sign up for a day and time! Please email or call the Church office (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

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.

Re-opening Plans

We are working toward being able to open the doors for in-person worship in September. Because the pandemic is still a factor locally, we will have some Covid-19 protocols in place to keep people as safe as possible, including masks and physical distancing. We are planning for a hybrid worship experience, which will be designed to fully include those who join on Zoom along with those who attend in person. It will look a little different than before the beginning of the pandemic but will hopefully offer exciting new ways of being an inclusive faith community. Of course, there will be glitches and hiccups, so please bring some patience and a sense of humor when we begin this new style of worship.

The actual date for reopening depends on the arrival of some new equipment and getting everything set up. So, stay tuned for the celebration of our re-opening!

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.

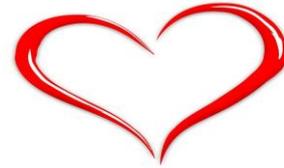
Did you realize that beneath all that storage and rummage was this light-filled room?



Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...

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

And all of the caregivers



Memorial Service for Bruce Bevans

Honoring Bruce's life in our community and his military service in the US Army during the Viet Nam War

August 14 at 9:00 am

Atascadero Faces of Freedom Veterans Memorial

Refreshments and fellowship will follow at Kiwanis Hall

3 Ways to Give Financially

1. Send a check to the Community Church: **5850 Rosario Ave.**
2. Online at 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 CCA be financially healthy!

Sharing our Facilities: Education Use

Sept 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022

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.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12 - Anniversary - Stew & Sally Thomson
- 14 - Brenda May
- 16 - Sharon Wisenhunt
- 18 - Judy Wulff
- 23 - David May



Community Church Choir:
9 am Sundays (except 3rd 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	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWlXQkVjdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dt d3lwNmswUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Thursday Bible Study	<i>On summer hiatus</i>	

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship Pastor away →	2 Pastor's day off	3	4 3pm Fellowship online	5	6	7
8 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship	9 Pastor's day off	10	11 3pm Fellowship online 4pm ECHO meal – please contact Celia	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship online 11:30 Council meeting	16 Pastor's day off	17	18 3pm Fellowship online	19	20	21
22 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	23 Pastor's day off	24	25 3pm Fellowship online	26	27	28
29 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	30 Pastor's day off	31	1 3pm Fellowship online	2	3	4



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Community Church of Atascadero
5850 Rosario Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422



MARISOL'S CLEANING
Marisol Perez
Cleaner specialist
madrissara23@gmail.com
mmargarita 0420@yahoo.com
(805) 975-4225
(805) 610-0276

The advertisement for Marisol's Cleaning features a photograph of a modern kitchen with a white countertop and a dining area with three white bar stools. The text is overlaid on a dark grey background at the bottom of the image.

Jeff Stevens
Registered Piano Technician
562.335.7142
Certified Piano Technician | University of Western Ontario

The advertisement for Jeff Stevens features a close-up photograph of piano keys. A circular logo for the "PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD" is visible, along with the text "Certified Piano Technician | University of Western Ontario".

Greta Peck Broker Owner



EQUITY
Real Estate Professionals
212 S. Main St., Suite 103
Templeton, CA 9346
(805)464-0400 office
(805) 674-2249 cell
gretapeck@msn.com
Lic #01298277

Selling real estate throughout SLO County since 2000

The advertisement for Greta Peck includes a black and white portrait of her. The text is arranged in a block, with the EQUITY logo in green and blue. The background is white with a thin black border.

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!