

July 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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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

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As I Ponder...

These days, when someone asks me how I am, I pause. It seems like a complicated answer. Fundamentally I am well. I am healthy. Physically, I feel quite good. But I also feel stressed, somewhat anxious. Recently I read a blog post written by Rev. Jenny Smith, a pastor in Washington, who compared ministry over the past 16 months with running a marathon. She listed some of the following. (<https://www.jennysmithwrites.com/post/the-second-marathon-a-word-for-pastors-on-walking-the-new-normal>)

We closed our doors to in-person worship.

We figured out online worship. Maybe. Kind of.

We tried to continue as many ministries as we could sustain.

We dreamed up new ones.

We crashed and burned.

We spent hours looking at blank screens summoning sermons to write themselves.

We spoke hope and grace and possibility.

We agonized over the safest ways to return to in-person gatherings.

We received grace and stunning kindness from people in our communities.

She then said that, with reopening, we don't cross the finish line. Instead, a 2nd marathon begins. Because injustice continues.

This resonates with me – the soul fatigue. Yes, I am tired. I feel uninspired. I have difficulty focusing on a single thought.

I know that I am not alone. Many of you have similar experiences, similar weariness. Rev. Jenny suggests slowing down, stopping the race, the frenzy of competition, the unending rush to do it all.

Resting when it's time to rest.

Saying yes to a new idea when it glistens with possibility.

Saying no when something feels too heavy.

Asking new questions in places we assumed the old answer.

Breathing deeply of God's grace and love and restoration.

Along with the fatigue, I feel energized by the ways the Spirit is blowing among us. I am excited by some of the new things that are happening. Perhaps we don't have to run. Maybe we can pause to breathe in the questions and new ways of being church together. Will you walk with me?

Gratefully yours... heather

Moderator Note

A busy June has past us by into an equally busy July. Another successful Rummage Sale cleared up a lot of items while thinning out storage items going into our new storage trailer. Still have some items left to clear out but we are about ready to do floors in the Hewitt and then the basement of the Sanctuary. Just around the corner is new families with children attending school in our classrooms. This is an exciting time to meet and greet while welcoming them to our Church Facilities. Soon children will be playing in our playground again. Lot of work left to do so please help out where you can.

God Bless.
Chuck Kania

Building Our Community

CITY YARD SALE

Great success on the Yard Sale. We are so thankful for everyone that participated. It was so nice to see new faces! We especially needed those Kania muscles! It takes a village of CCA'ers to get the job done, thank you all for stepping up.

A special thanks to Sharon Whisenhunt for helping clear out the right side of the Hewitt Building and David May for getting the cleanout to some thrift stores that would take it.

Hopefully there can be a Rummage Sale in the fall. If so, things are still up in the air as far as having it inside.

Thank You.
Brenda May, BOC

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY October 2nd (Colony Days)

The main focus is there will be an opportunity to participate in the parade this year. There is no Tent City. Vendors who participate will be spaced. The event is making changes in recognition of the need and the desire to be more welcoming and inclusive of everyone.

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

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.

An Update on COVID-19

We have not yet reached the end of the pandemic. As of July 6, 60% of all Californians aged 12+ are fully vaccinated. SLO County stands at 50.7% and North County is below that at 46.6%. The Delta variant is twice as infectious as the Alpha variant and now accounts for over half of all infections in the US and has reached SLO County. The good news is that all three vaccines are quite effective against serious illness and death – as long as you are fully vaccinated. If you have only received one shot (of Pfizer or Moderna), you need to obtain the second shot to be fully protected.

Unfortunately, it is still possible for even fully vaccinated people to become infected with the virus (whether or not they are symptomatic) and transmit it to others. Therefore masks continue to be required for many in-person gatherings including medical offices, banks, and now, the State Capitol. As of Wed, July 7, a mask mandate has been reinstated for all legislators and Capitol staff, regardless of vaccine status. This is after 9 people, 4 of whom were fully vaccinated, tested positive for the coronavirus.

Encourage everyone you know to be vaccinated, if they are eligible age- and health-wise. And continue to do the things that reduce your risk of contracting or sharing the virus.

Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...

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

And all of the caregivers

A fond farewell to Althea Welling

May she find joy and adventure in her
new home in Las Vegas.

Come back and visit, Althea!

Re-opening Plans

Most of us are eager to be physically together again as a church community. It seems like everything is opening up around us, but we're still on Zoom. We are aiming for a reopening date in early September.

As Community Church moves closer to reopening, we are trying to be very thoughtful to implement the best practices that will keep people as safe as possible. We are considering those who have been fully vaccinated and those who have not, individuals whose immune systems are weaker or compromised, and children under age 12 who are not eligible for getting the vaccine. We have to incorporate recommendations from our insurance company so that we can be financially as safe as possible. And as a faith community we recognize that how we can best love our neighbor continues to guide our decision-making.

Another factor in when we can reopen is that renovations are happening in the church basement, which affect bathroom access. Hopefully that will be completed by early-mid August.

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.



General Synod 33 is here! Every 2 years the United Church of Christ gathers as the General Synod to discern the Spirit's calling to the church in this present day. This year we gather across the country (and the world) virtually.

For registered participants, there are 50 diverse workshops already available to attend "on demand." An interactive exhibit hall will be open during the week of Synod. Delegates will be conducting the business of the Church.

And there will be 3 worship services open to everyone and not requiring registration: 2 pm Sunday, July 11; 5 pm Wednesday, July 14; and 3 pm Sunday, July 18. These will be streamed live on the UCC YouTube and Facebook channels as well as on www.generalsynod.org.

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 Community Church of Atascadero 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.

DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE CHURCH SURVEY

Many of you have already completed the church survey which will help guide what worship will look like as we reopen. We are working on creating a hybrid worship experience that fully includes those who continue to participate on Zoom with those who attend in person. Worship will look a little different. But it will continue to be Spirit-filled and vibrant!

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Judi Solari
 5 – Valerie Hubbard
 7 – Anniversary – Jim Carlisle & Pat Cairns
 12 – Dick Ramont
 21 – Jennifer Thorne
 24 – Anniversary – Bruce Bevans & Kaye Rasband
 31 – Phyllis Cerny

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=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWlXQkVvdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dt d3lwNm swUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Thursday Bible Study	On summer hiatus	

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
4 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship with Communion online	5 Pastor's day off	6	7 3pm Fellowship online	8	9	10
11 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship General Synod begins	12 Pastor's day off	13	14 3pm Fellowship online 4pm ECHO meal – please contact Celia	15	16	17
18 10 am Worship online 11:30 Council meeting General Synod ends	19 Pastor's day off	20	21 3pm Fellowship online	22	23	
25 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	26 Pastor out of town	27	28 3pm Fellowship online	29	30	31 thru 8/9

Pastor Heather will be away July 26 – August 9

It's time to visit Mom in Seattle!



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Community Church of Atascadero
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Thank you for your referrals!