

October 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...

Recently I read an article in *The Atlantic* about *long-haulers*, people who continue to be debilitated by symptoms such as difficulty breathing, brain fog, and extreme fatigue months after being first diagnosed with COVID-19.¹ There doesn't seem to be any predictor for who will experience long COVID – young or old, athletic or a couch potato, vaccinated or unvaccinated. I'm sure we've all heard of this syndrome (and fear it). The article tells of the additional struggles long-haulers face, to be heard and believed.

This is a story which rings true. It resonates with the women who have been told they were simply "hysterical" when doctors couldn't explain their symptoms. It resonates with the early years of AIDS, when it was the patients themselves who became experts of HIV and of treatments that helped. It resonates with those individuals who have chronic fatigue syndrome and other ongoing health challenges unnamed, not understood, and too often ignored.

It seems that medical science is often focused on fitting everything into its already structured models rather than listening to the patients, to those whose bodies are experiential experts. Unfortunately, this is a story not limited to the medical and scientific community. It's also a story of politics, business, education, and religion. Every time someone's experience doesn't fit our narrative, what we expect (or want) to happen, their story is ignored and they are diminished.

I'm sure that many of us identify with those who aren't heard, aren't believed, whose stories are discounted. But I wonder if we are also among those who are less likely to listen, who ignore people who don't fit our expectations or the ways we think life should go. Far too often I figure I know more than the person struggling with health, or grief, or sadness, or interpersonal relationships. Far too often I don't believe those who don't fit my knowledge base.

How about you? When have you found your own preconceptions interfered with real connection and caring? Will you join me in listening – *and believing* – other people's experiences?

Gratefully yours... heather

¹ Long-Haulers Are Fighting for Their Future by Ed Yong. *The Atlantic*, Sept 1, 2021. www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/09/covid-19-long-haulers-pandemic-future/619941/

The Growing Our Community Campaign



Our campaign to raise funds for the facility improvements we need at Community Church is getting underway. You will soon receive a letter that outlines some of our needs and how you can help directly. In addition, though, we invite you to participate in fundraisers that will be happening throughout the year.

The first fundraiser will be **November 7** and is a **Drive Through Barbecue Dinner** featuring either tri-tip or chicken. The dinner for four will include beans, coleslaw, bread, and dessert all for \$45. Not a family of four? How about splitting a dinner with another couple or with friends? You can check our website

www.atascaderoucc.org for ordering information. A link for online ordering will also be there soon.

In addition to eating a Barbecue Dinner, you can help by making brownies for the dessert portion of this meal. Please contact Jeanne Miller (jemiller@umich.edu) for instructions if you are interested in brownie-making.

Fundraisers to come:

- ❖ A possible online auction of jewelry and other delights featuring Christine Carlo and Kaye Rasband's work.
- ❖ A book comprised of Pastor Heather's Friday Prayers and monthly Ponderings, compiled and organized by Martha Staib.

Thanks for all your support of this effort.

– Jeanne Miller & Bethany Maxwell, Campaign Co-chairs

Sharing our Facilities: Education Use

Sept 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022

Project: Learn will be meeting in the church basement and outside from 10:00-3:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Acorn Village Montessori will be using Hewitt Building 8:30-3:30 Tuesdays thru Thursdays.

Building Our Community

We had a great Rummage Sale, bringing in approximately \$1,680.90! In addition, the old wicker furniture sold for over \$300 through a local consignment store.

I thank all who helped and participated in any way to help make this so successful! Whether it was donating, baking, setting up, taking down or working the sale! It takes a village is my motto!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Brenda May

AWES

Last winter we opened our facilities to the Atascadero Winter Emergency Shelter (AWES), providing a safe, warm, and dry place for up to 25 homeless folks to spend the night. Often the people who use the winter shelter are those who do not know about El Camino Homeless Shelter (ECHO) or who do not trust organizations. Previously operated by Transitional Food and Shelter, this was the first year that ECHO ran the shelter. Directly as a result of the shelter, 18 individuals were able to enter into ECHO programming, about half of whom now have housing.

Church Council has voted to again be the location for AWES, open 7 pm – 7 am nightly, Nov. 1 through March 31. Would you like to help in some way? We will need property checkers to simply walk around the church and make sure things are ok. ECHO will be looking for volunteers to help put things away in the mornings. And it would be a treat for guests to be occasionally welcomed with some homemade cookies! If you would like to help, please contact the church office and we will connect you with the right people. 805.466.9108 / atascaderoucc@gmail.org

KEEPING CONNECTED

Many within our congregation do not use email or have access to online communication. Please give them a call or send a card to keep them in the loop. Thank you.

North County NeighborAid

North County NeighborAid is a coalition of human service agencies, faith communities, and big-hearted people giving direct care to our neighbors in critical need. Under the pressure of crises, families in our region fall through the cracks every day. This project responds to those emergencies and brings our community closer together.

But recently they have been unable to respond to many of the requests, including the need for school clothes, car repairs, help with water bills, and a mattress to sleep on.

Pastor Heather serves on the NCN Steering Committee and, like other clergy in the area, is able to refer people to The Link and receive assistance through NCN. This helps provide better coordination of services and follow-up.

If you would like to donate to NCN, you can send a check to 7343 El Camino Real #217 Atascadero, CA 93422 or donate online at <https://donorbox.org/north-county-womenade>.

You can also support NCN during Oktoberfest, a dinner presented by St. James Episcopal Church & Center for Family Strengthening. **4:00 pm on Saturday, October 30.** Harris Stage Lines, 5995 N. River Road, Paso Robles. Tickets available at St. James Church 805.238.0819 & Pacifica Commercial Realty 805.237.4040.

Bible Study

Each week we gather on Zoom to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's scripture. We delve into background and what meaning it has for us today (or not). Wednesday mornings, 9:30-10:45

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!

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

The people of Afghanistan, the people of Germany, and all those affected by the transition of power
The nearly 13,000 Haitian immigrants on the US/Mexico border and the 19,000 in Colombia crossing
into Panama

The 5 Palestinians killed during raids by Israeli forces in the West Bank, and healing from the grief of
violence and conflict

Those impacted by recent storms, wildfires, and earthquakes

An end to this pandemic

Season of Creation Prayer, 2021

Creator of All,

We are grateful that from your communion of love you created our planet to be a home for all. By your Holy Wisdom you made the Earth to bring forth a diversity of living beings that filled the soil, water and air. Each part of creation praises you in their being, and cares for one another from our place in the web of life.

With the Psalmist, we sing your praise that in your house “even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young.” We remember that you call human beings to keep your garden in ways that honor the dignity of each creature and conserve their place in the abundance of life on Earth.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

7 - Livia Kellerman

8 - Martha Staib

9 - Mary Jane McConville

14 - Izak Kania

16 - Ron Staib

20 - Anniversary - Heather Branton & Jeanne Miller

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=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVvdz09	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
Wednesday Bible Study	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcx N2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403

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



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Community Church of Atascadero
5850 Rosario Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422



MARISOL'S CLEANING
Marisol Perez
Cleaner specialist
madrdsara23@gmail.com
mmargarita 0420@yahoo.com
(805) 975-4225
(805) 610-0276

The business card for Marisol's Cleaning features a photograph of a modern kitchen and bathroom. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with contact information and a list of services.

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

The business card for Jeff Stevens features a close-up photograph of piano keys. The text includes the name, title, phone number, and affiliation with The Piano Technicians Guild and the 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

A real estate business card for Greta Peck, Broker Owner. It includes a professional headshot of Greta Peck, the EQUITY Real Estate Professionals logo, and contact information for her office and cell phone. A bold statement at the bottom highlights her experience in the SLO County market.

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!