

September 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](mailto:atascaderoucc@gmail.com)

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

**Virtual Worship**  
**10 am Sunday**

**Virtual Fellowship**  
**3 pm Wednesday**

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

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Marth Thomson, Office  
Administrator  
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## As I Ponder...

Technically I am old enough to remember the end of the Vietnam War. But I don't. I do, however, remember people telling of that final exit and of people who were also trying to escape. It may (or may not) be the same as the US departure from Kabul; I don't know. I don't know what the horrors of war really are. But I do know people who fled Vietnam, who risked their lives under cover of darkness, setting off in a small boat. During their time at sea they were raided by pirates, their food and few possessions stolen. When they approached shores of safety, they were shot at. Years in a refugee camp did not dim their appreciation for a new home in the U.S.

I cannot know what it has been like for people in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan, either over the past 20 years or the past 2 months. I imagine there has been fear, pain, loss, grief, perhaps some occasional hope, and hopes dashed. In the midst of war, people have still lived lives – births and deaths, school and careers, food, music, and community. It is also clear from news reports that many bonds were formed between Americans serving there and Afghans who worked with them.

We are inextricably linked – us and Afghans, us and Vietnamese. We have connections and shared history that mean the future ties us together. As the refugees arrive to our shores, I hope we welcome them with grace and tenderness, knowing they bring with them a tremendous grief. I hope we rise to the opportunity to embrace and support them, to be humble in our inability to help them be safe in their own land. But I fear we will keep repeating the past, that there will be some who embrace and some who hate, that those who have lost everything will be blamed for their loss and accused of causing us discomfort.

Ancient scriptures command us to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger. A gift to our young nation proclaims, *Give me your tired, your poor...* Yet still we wonder what we should do.

*Gratefully yours... heather*

## **The Growing Our Community Campaign**



Community Church of Atascadero is deeply woven into the Atascadero Community. Our roots lead back to community worship under a tree in Stadium Park. Our members are actively engaged across the city and our campus serves as a location for elections, support groups, concerts, the winter emergency shelter, meetings, and education. Our facilities, however, have been in need of maintenance and renovation for several years.

In order to continue in our mission of extravagant welcome to the Atascadero community, CCA has embarked on a renovation project that will result in an updated and safer central location for our many church activities as well as for community events. Among the renovations are new roofing of our sanctuary building, new flooring

for meeting rooms/classrooms in both the sanctuary building and in the adjacent Hewitt building, sidewalk replacement, creating an accessible restroom in our Fellowship Hall, and repainting many areas of the church campus.

Our Growing our Community Campaign seeks to raise \$200,000 to cover the cost of repairs, improvements, renovations, updates, and safety features. Over \$97,000 has already been raised for these projects; now we are asking members and friends to help us complete this important project. Of course, we welcome direct financial donations. In addition, we are planning several fund-raising events and opportunities. Donations of time and talent may also be appropriate for some projects.

The needs range from the small – paint a room – to the large – paint the sanctuary exterior! They include replacing the broken sidewalks that had become a fall hazard, adding bannisters where needed, and resurfacing the parking lots. Re-roofing our sanctuary has been completed and we now move on towards creating a handicap-accessible bathroom in Fellowship Hall, painting the exterior of the Sanctuary, and completing the repainting of Fellowship Hall. Already, the Hewitt Building boasts new flooring and newly painted rooms while the Sanctuary basement has changed from dingy to welcoming.

Community Church is a safe, inclusive location that fills a unique purpose in Atascadero. Please join us in building on our history of welcoming and support as we continue Growing our Community.

– 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.

## **Bible Study**

Bible study resumes! We listen to the BibleWorm podcast conversation between Bobby and Amy, a Christian and a Jew. We then have our own discussion. Wednesday mornings, 9:30-10:45, beginning Sept 15.

## Building Our Community

### RUMMAGE SALE SEPTEMBER 18th 9AM-3PM

We are set for another Rummage Sale Saturday, September 18! It will be held outside in the parking lot on the east side. People can deliver their things Friday, September 17, starting at 10 am to Fellowship Hall. No sooner please because of lack of space to store.

Help is needed so please email Brenda at [Dbmjmay@aol.com](mailto:Dbmjmay@aol.com) for a time you can help to sort, set up, work Rummage Sale, and/or cleanup. Or call 805 466-8610.

**Please sign up for an hour or two. Every little bit helps!**

<b><u>Friday 9/17</u></b> 10 am – DROP OFF DONATIONS SORTING	<b><u>Saturday 9/18</u></b> 7 am - SET UP 9 am - 3 pm - CASHIERS 9 am - 3 pm - WORKING THE SALE 3 pm until done - CLEANUP
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Thank you!  
Brenda May

### COVID-19 and Re-opening

We are still working toward a hybrid of online worship with a safe, in-person experience. But the current state of the pandemic locally has increased the emphasis on establishing safe procedures. Almost all cases in SLO County are the Delta variant, which is apparently twice as infectious as previous strains. ICUs locally are being overwhelmed. The heavy toll of COVID-19 on the hospital system is exhausting medical personnel and means other health needs are also impacted. The best defense against the virus is to be vaccinated. Unfortunately, while this will reduce the seriousness of the illness, it does not mean we cannot still become infected. People who have been fully vaccinated can still contract the virus. Anecdotally, to be vaccinated and have a breakthrough infection may feel like being hit by a truck! It is also possible to be symptom-free, unknowingly transmitting the virus to others including unvaccinated children.

All of this means it is essential to keep doing the other protective measures like wearing a mask when indoors with other people outside your “pod,” maintaining physical distance, compulsively washing your hands after being out somewhere, and, as hard as it is, to refrain from hugs.

This brings challenges to indoor worship. But we will keep moving ahead toward providing worship opportunities with some strong protocols. Thank you for your patience as we continue to figure out the best and safest path.

#### 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.

## Refugee Emergency Fund

At Community Church we participate each year in One Great Hour of Sharing, the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. Gifts made to the offering support Refugee Ministries. If you would like to directly support the UCC's Refugee Emergency Fund, 100% of funds are used for refugee assistance programming.

To donate online, go to <https://bit.ly/3kJS9G8>. Or you can mail a check, memo line 'Refugee Emergency Fund,' made payable to the United Church of Christ, to 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

### Additional opportunities:

*UCC Haiti Appeal* seeks to raise \$100,000 for immediate relief and longer-term recovery for the thousands of people in Haiti who are reeling from sequential disasters. You can get more information and donate at <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-haiti-appeal>.

To help with recovery from *Hurricane Ida* and other storms through UCC Disaster Ministries, you can donate at <https://www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation> and designate your gift with the dropdown menu as "2021 Severe Storms."

### 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)
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 and all those who are affected by the transition of power

Those impacted by recent storms and wildfires

An end to this pandemic

From Bill Duckett's daughter:

*Please pass along to any fellow prayers to pray for a 5th grader (former student of mine) and his family. He just lost his mom yesterday to COVID. Absolutely heartbreaking; she was a sweet lady. Worried for him. His name is Jadiel.*

## Sept Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Dan Rich

2 – Capp Capper

12 – Shirley Summers

17 – Marsha Robbins

18 – Anniversary – David & Brenda May

30 – Janet Morales

## 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	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWlXQkVvdz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWlXQkVvdz09</a>	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dtZ3lwNmSwUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dtZ3lwNmSwUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09</a>	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Wednesday Bible Study	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09</a>	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>Aug 29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Sept 1</b> <b>Project: Learn and Acorn Village Montessori begin!</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship	<b>6 Labor Day</b> Pastor's day off	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 3pm Fellowship online <b>4pm ECHO meal</b> please contact <small>items can be brought to</small>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship	<b>13</b> Pastor's day off	<b>14</b> ELECTION DAY	<b>15</b> 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b> 7am setup 9am sale begins
<b>19</b> 10 am Worship online <b>11:30 Council meeting</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor's day off	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	<b>27</b> Pastor's day off	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

*Still Speaking - Sept 2021*



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

Community Church of Atascadero  
5850 Rosario Ave  
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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!