

March, 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

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

As I Ponder...

An email just dropped into my inbox with the subject line: **Its. Been. A. Year.** I suppose I could just stop there, couldn't I? One year ago, we were voting in the primaries. One year ago, we were rehearsing for Band Sunday. There was an AAUW concert coming up at church. Jeanne and I were about to head to Arizona to visit family. Lots of things were happening. Then it hit: COVID-19. With the runs on toilet paper and bleach and a sudden lock-down. All of a sudden, the world paused. The freeways were quiet. Wildlife walked into towns and cities, almost like they were scratching their heads in disbelief. Videos spread around the world with music and signs offering hope and appreciation for the frontline workers. A year later over 500,000 Americans and 2.5 million global citizens have died from this virus. And we are inching out of our confines. Maybe. We are braver and eager. We long to actually see each other again!

There are many people who are reflecting on the past year. And many who are looking ahead, wondering. Even prior to the past year we knew that life was changing. Fast. Perhaps the past year was an exclamation point. Change can be exciting – new possibilities, resolutions to old problems, new ways of living that offer hope. Change can mean justice and healing, healthier relationships and bodies. Simply put, change can bring a lot of good. But change also means uncertainty, instability. Change is disorientating, confusing. As Isaac Newton said, *For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.* That suggests conflict, backlash. <sigh> I was kinda hoping a new, lovely world would just emerge.

And yet I am also reminded that the only constant in life is change. We grow and change physically. Emotionally we develop and (hopefully) become better in relationships. We learn, changing our perspectives. Even our faith is something that changes with our different experiences and the ways we experience the sacred. Even though change is frightening it is also filled with possibility and hope. So as we begin our second year in a global pandemic, may we create change that offers hope to others as well as ourselves.

Gratefully yours... heather

Congratulations!

Martha Staib, Marilyn Hamilton, and Shirley Summers have their memoirs included in the new book, *Pivotal Moments: Memoirs from Boomer Women*. For several years they have been participating in a memoir writing group hosted by the Atascadero branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). You can order a copy from Amazon. Atascadero AAUW receives a portion of each book purchased.

Creating a Garden Community

*Mary, Mary, we're not contrary!
Together our garden can grow.
We'll build raised beds with many heads.
And we'll plant some seeds to sow.*

There is a grassroots movement to create a garden which we can also share with our neighbors. The ideas and excitement are growing! If you are interested in helping with this activity, please contact Kristina Prozesky (512-461-6767 / khoracek@gmail.com) or Dave May (805-466-8610).

Community Church Choir: 9 am on Sundays (except for 3rd Sundays)

During our weekly virtual choir rehearsals, we learn vocal techniques and have fun singing. Come check us out!

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man

During Lent we continue learning about race in American society through a video series by Emmanuel Acho. From the series description:

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man, is a safe place to have the uncomfortable conversations about race that many people have never been able to have. But enough is enough - I want to remove the barriers for why we've never had these conversations. I want to provide a free space for curious white people to answer the questions they've always had but have been too nervous to ask. Like, "How can I have white privilege if I'm not wealthy?" or "is racial profiling ok if black people tend to commit more crimes?"

Come join the learning and conversation. Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30. Begins Feb. 24.

Bible Study

We have a Narrative Lectionary bible study where we listen to the BibleWorm podcast conversation between Bobby and Amy, a Christian and a Jew. We then have our own discussion. Thursday mornings, 9:30-10:45.

CCA Works with Atascadero High School Students

The entrepreneur club at AHS, *Zumrmedia*, is offering its services to businesses and organizations around town, including Community Church. As Communications Ministry Chair, I met with a couple of club members and their advisor to talk about how they might help us use social media to “get the word out” about our church. They suggested a number of things, from creating an Instagram account (guess what folks – Facebook is old news) to developing a short video that highlights our church and what we do in the community. We might be asking you to appear in something.

I expect that in addition to some new methods for advertising CCA we'll be reaching some folks in a newer, younger demographic. Along the way, I think I'll learn some new tricks that we can continue to use as we tell the greater community about our values and our activities.

Many thanks go to our liaison Keith Kania, who suggested us to the club and who is working on our project.

– Jeanne Miller

Building Our Community

See's Candy fundraiser

We will be selling See's candy as a fundraiser for Easter. Jeanne will put this on Facebook and our web page to get the word out. People can contact Brenda May and receive information by phone or the flyer will be delivered to those that want one. Checks should be made out to the church. We keep 50% of some of the items sold. Candy will be delivered to your door with a prior phone call, so no contact.

Brenda 805 466-8610 or 805 748-7412 (cell)

Decorating the Cross

We will still put the Cross up for Easter and request flower donations. It is covered with rosemary so any flowers donated just adds to its beauty.

Rummage Sale

We hope to do a parking lot rummage sale in June, but are of course restricted by Covid-19. With a \$40 fee could join with the city in supporting Parents for Joy. But we will keep you informed of this possibility.

COVID Vaccine Update

San Luis Obispo County community members who are eligible for their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can now register either online or by phone for the County's new appointment lottery – currently anyone age 65 or older or anyone in Phase 1a of the County's vaccine distribution plan.

Because vaccine supply is very limited, not everyone who signs up will get an appointment right away. Each Thursday, a computer-generated random sample will be drawn from the registry and the County will assign appointments based on how much vaccine is available the following week. Eligible individuals can register for the lottery online at www.RecoverSLO.org/VaccineAppointments and complete the registration form. Those without internet access or who have difficulty with the online form can call the phone assistance center at 805-543-2444 or 805-781-4280.

Individuals who have already received their first dose should not sign up for the lottery to get their second dose. They will be contacted about a month after their first dose to schedule their second dose appointment.

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!

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.

ZOOM LINKS

We continue to meet virtually. If you join via the internet (computer or smartphone), you simply need to click on the internet link. If you are joining with your telephone (*audio only*), dial **(1) 669 900 9128** and then, when asked, enter the Meeting ID and Password.

Sunday Worship	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEIGcWIXQkJvdz09	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
Midweek Fellowship	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEIGcWIXQkJvdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Race Conversations	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84071409388?pwd=TnpE OGc5M3NzZURSNctwcDFZTWJZQT09	MEETING ID: 840 7140 9388 PASSCODE: 488049
Thursday Bible Study	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcx N2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403

Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...
Larry A, Belinda B, Virginia C, Lisa K, Livia K, Kate L,
Mary Jane M, Joseph P, Stew T
And all of the caregivers

March Birthdays

- 12- Evan Hubbard
- 20 - Sharon Healy
- 22 - Larry Anderson
- 23 - Kaye Rasband



Still Speaking – Mar 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28	Mar 1 Pastor's day off	2	3 3pm Fellowship online 7pm Race Conversations	4 9:30am Bible study	5	6
7 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship with Communion online	8 Pastor's day off	9	10 3pm Fellowship online 4pm ECHO meal – please contact Celia to help out 805.466.3413 or bewley1974@att.net 7pm Race Conversations	11 9:30am Bible study	12	13
14 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	15 Pastor's day off	16	17 3pm Fellowship online 7pm Race Conversations	18 9:30am Bible study	19	20
21 10 am Worship online 12 pm Council meeting	22 Pastor's day off	23	24 3pm Fellowship online 7pm Race Conversations	25 9:30am Bible study	26	27
28 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	29 Pastor's day off	30	31 3pm Fellowship online 7pm Race Conversations	1 9:30am Bible study	2	3



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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MARISOL'S CLEANING

Marisol Perez
Cleaner specialist
madrdsara23@gmail.com
mmargarita_0420@yahoo.com

(805) 975-4225
(805) 610-0276



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

Greta Peck Broker Owner



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



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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!