As I Ponder...

To say these are unusual times is stating the obvious. While the pandemic appears to abate enough that communities are reopening, epidemiologists and public health leaders are expressing concern and escalating their warnings that the Virus will rebound with ferocity. It feels like we hang in limbo, struggling to make the best decisions for safety while our need for human connection grows. For those who have taken a direct financial hit from this pandemic those choices become more fraught and desperate.

And not surprisingly, while the Virus doesn’t discriminate, our system does—resulting in disproportionate impact to communities of color where resources are fewer and access to treatment is less. These communities that have greater health risks inherited through generations of poverty. These communities that experience disproportionate access to justice. And so, it is also unsurprising that, in the midst of the greatest pandemic of our lifetimes, another black man dies at the hands of police. And it seems far too common, far too normal, as parents of black and brown children must teach them how to reduce the far-too-likely violence from the hands (or knees) of law enforcement officers. These parents must teach their children, especially their sons, how to be diminutive and non-threatening, since simply the color of their skin is a threat.

So, it shouldn’t be surprising that rage has erupted onto the streets. A rage fueled with generations of grief. A rage fueled in communities harder hit by this pandemic. This is not just a police issue, or something to be changed with policies. For we, too, are complicit in not challenging our own fears, in identifying the prejudices we all have. The human brain sees and looks for difference. It is something that can trigger fight or flight and has been instrumental in human evolution. But we have a choice in educating ourselves, intentionally noticing our own reactions. We can have vulnerable conversations with our friends and families about when our fears and prejudices get pricked. We have a choice in what narratives we believe, thoughtfully exploring who is given voice. As people longing for our communities and world to be healthier, we have to begin with ourselves, with what we ourselves can do.

This isn’t the pondering I expected. I had thought I would focus on how to engage more in our new normal. On second thought, maybe I have.

Gratefully yours… heather
**Worship**

We continue to meet for Sunday worship virtually on Zoom. Please note that due to Zoom upgrades, we now also require a password. If you click on the email link, you won’t notice any difference. If you call in via phone, you will be asked for both the Meeting ID (937 257 009) and the password (528041). Each Sunday we will begin worship at 10:00 am. The “meeting room” will be open by 9:50. Come, let us worship together!

**Kids Connect**

Just like adults, our younger ones need to have some connection with each other. So, Kristina Prozesky and Pastor Heather are meeting with them for some music, a little conversation about God, and some silliness. We have tried different days and times and now are (hopefully) settling on **11:30 – noon each Sunday morning**. Check the Zoom links below or in email to join us.

**Summer Bible Study**

_A podcast and a conversation focusing on the “forgotten” books of the bible: Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Song of Songs, Ruth, and Esther_

We will listen to a podcast conversation between a Jewish woman and Christian man, each of them leaders in their traditions. Then we will have our own conversation. Guaranteed to be interesting and stimulating! Thursday mornings at 10:00. (See Zoom link below)

**Financial Giving**

_There are now 3 ways to give financially to Community Church!_

First, you can give by sending your check to Judy Anderson, our Financial Secretary. Either mail it to the church (5850 Rosario Ave.) or directly to her at 8580 Corriente Rd. (She gives a particular thank you to those who include a short note!)

Second, you can give through a mobile app.

1. **Search “Tithe.ly” in the app store (Google or Apple). Download and install the Tithe.ly app.**
2. **Click “Give Now” to start and then, in “Find a church”, enter “Community Church of Atascadero”**
3. **Enter the amount you would like to give**
4. **Enter a credit card or bank account to link to the app**
5. **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.**
6. **Click “Give” and you have now successfully given to Community Church! (Oh, and you have the option to set up recurring giving.)**

Third, you can use Tithe.ly to give online at our website **www.atascaderoucc.org**. You will still need to set up your account but don’t need a smart phone and app to give.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to help Community Church of Atascadero be financially healthy!

**Mask project** - As of today we have provided 74 masks to CHC, 96 masks to ALF, and 10 masks to CCA members (or more). Thank you, Martha Staib!
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 (long distance charges may apply) and then, when asked, enter the Meeting ID and Password.

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If you need assistance with connecting by Zoom, please contact Candice Hubbard at 805-602-8153 who will try to help you join us.

ECHO Update

In the last few months, life has changed in many ways, but one thing which has not changed is that there are still hungry people in our community who depend on our dinner once a month. Our church continues to provide dinner for eighty people on the second Wednesday of every month. Many thanks to Martha S., Sharon W., Janet M., Judy W., Marsha R., Shirley S., Alan, Jodi, Francia, Debbie, and Karen B. for contributing in May.

Now I need volunteers for our upcoming meal on June 10th. Please contact me if you can provide a vegetable, salad, or dessert this month. Each dish needs to be enough to serve about twenty people.

You may deliver it to the church kitchen on June 10 between 8:00 and 10:00am, or between 4:00 and 4:15 at ECHO.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Celia Bewley - 805-466-3413 - bewley1974@att.net

Moderator’s Report

It has been very difficult for me to write a moderator’s report, due to the outrage that I feel in my heart, regarding the racial injustice that continues to prevail in our land. The police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis is just the latest of many incidents that have taken the lives of black Americans. It will continue until we speak out with a strong powerful voice in support of our black brothers and sisters and work to change a system that is broken and allows these injustices to thrive and continue.
In the midst of the civil unrest in our land and the Covid-19 crisis, the Community Church of Atascadero continues to be the church. Through efforts of Pastor Heather, we have been worshipping every Sunday through the Internet. Through Zoom we have had opportunities for fellowship, ministry with children and this week we will begin a Bible study.

As many businesses and organizations in our community begin to reopen, the church council has decided not to reopen for worship until it is deemed to safe do so. And so, we will be worshipping online for the near future. The council did decide to reroof our Fellowship Hall and that work is happening right now. Yes, we are continuing to be the church.

Keep the faith, be vigilant for justice and stay safe.

Blessings,

Larry D. Young

BOC MINISTRY REPORT

We are not sure when we are allowed to have our Rummage Sale but it will be the biggest ever! There is not much room left in the Hewitt Building so please hang on to additional items. Any new ideas for a fundraiser contact BOC?

No Tuesday in the Park! So how about just another small donation to the Church? Wow and you don’t need to do anything 😆

(Just a thought.)

Watch the action on the new roof on Fellowship Hall.

Thank you so much to all of you, for all you do!!

Brenda May
Financial Notes

With the current pandemic our church has lost two significant sources of Income: facility use and fundraising. In addition, the manse tenants have moved out so there will probably be a drop in revenue associated with the transition to new tenants. We are striving to keep most of our staff employed as well as deal with the fixed costs incurred in maintaining our facility. The good news is that most of our members have maintained and sometimes even increased their pledges. We were also able to get a loan of $16,587 from the federal Paycheck Protection Program. We expect that at least $14,000 of the loan will be forgiven. Our financial future will be dependent on careful management of expenditures and the generosity of members and friends.

Further good news is that generous donations to the Fellowship Hall Renovation Fund have enabled us to proceed with installing a much-needed new roof.

Remember that if you shop from Amazon you can help our church by signing up for Amazon Smile and designating Community Church of Atascadero as charity beneficiary.

Dick Ramont, Treasurer

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Please contact Celia  
3pm Fellowship online | 10am bible study online |       | SCNC Annual Gathering  
https://www.scncucc.org |
| 14  | 15  | 16   | 17   | 18    | 19  | 20  |
| 10 am Worship online |       |     | 3pm Fellowship online | 10am bible study online |       |     |
| 21  | 22  | 23   | 24   | 25    | 26  | 27  |
| 10 am Worship online  
12 pm Council meeting |       |     | 3pm Fellowship online | 10am bible study online |       |     |
| 28  | 29  | 30   | 1    | 2     | 3   | 4   |
| 10 am Worship online |       |     | 3pm Fellowship online | 10am bible study online | 4th of July |     |
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Atascadero, CA 93422

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