

September, 2020

Still Speaking...

A newsletter from the Community Church of Atascadero



**Community Church
Of Atascadero
United Church of Christ
5850 Rosario Avenue
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**Virtual Worship
10 am Sunday**

**Virtual Fellowship
3 pm Wednesday**

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As I Ponder...

Is there such a thing as a pastoral rant? This week, at a rally supporting Dan Dow, our County DA, someone proclaimed that there is no structural racism, that it is “manufactured.”

I want to appeal to people’s intelligence. Blacks earn less than whites and experience substantially greater poverty levels. With far more mortgages being denied, Blacks are significantly less likely to own their own home. Blacks are less likely to have health insurance. Hispanics are killed by police twice as often as whites; Blacks are killed 2½ times more often. * According to the CDC, almost 3 times as many Blacks, Hispanics, and indigenous peoples have COVID and are way more likely to be hospitalized, indicating their health is more significantly affected. This is often due to their occupational exposure as essential workers.

I want to call on people’s compassion. Can they imagine what the families of Jacob Blake, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor are going through? Can they empathize with the need for parents of black and brown children to teach them how to appear less threatening, especially to the police? Can they imagine the far too common fear that their child won’t make it home safely simply because the color of their skin puts them at greater risk?

I want to challenge people. While *race* may be a recent phenomenon, biblical laws demanded that the poor be provided for and immigrants be welcomed with hospitality and treated as fellow citizens. The prophets decried the abuse of ethics and mistreatment of the poor. As Micah proclaimed, *What is required of us? To do justice, embrace faithful love, and to walk humbly with our God.* How is ignoring (and being ignorant of) systems that perpetuate discrimination and violence against people of color just? What is loving about shrugging our shoulders? How haughty are we when piously denying both the facts and people’s lived experience? Structural racism is real! And it has been killing people for centuries. What will it take for us to repent, to turn a different direction?!?

In this venue I recognize I am probably preaching to – or ranting at – the choir. But the choir has a role to play as well. It has voice and volume. The choir has other ways of proclaiming justice, expressing love, with expressions of humility. What part will you sing?

Gratefully yours... heather

*Information drawn from <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-systemic-racism-in-charts-graphs-data-2020-6>

When will we re-open?

How long, O Lord? That is the question that many of us ask. COVID-19 has touched every aspect of our lives, leaving many of us disconnected and anxious. Our last worship service in the sanctuary was on March 15, and since then activities have either paused or happen virtually (online). Our virtual gatherings are meaningful, joy-filled, and even intimate; but not everyone is able to be there. So, we have this lingering feeling of incompleteness. We long to be together again! We long to use the facilities that are our home.

How long? is certainly a difficult question to answer. There have been many new discoveries about the virus, and yet the basic public health guidance continues to be the same: gathering together in groups is not safe, especially for those at greater risk for this corona virus. And so, until the risk is less and there are adequate protections, Church Council is in agreement that we do not gather together in person.

And so, let's do our best to care for each other, to connect in other ways, to continue to be community even if we are not gathering in person.

Premier Virtual Talent Show

What a night it was! With a few nerves, a few glitches, and a lot of laughter, individuals displayed an amazing array of music and art. It was an unusual setting for a talent show – almost like being on Hollywood Squares. But our Zoom room was filled with an appreciation for the many talents shared. I can't wait until the next virtual talent show!

Community Church Choir

Did you know that online choir is a thing? Join Kristina and others for our weekly virtual choir where we learn vocal techniques and sing. Yes, it is a different experience than choir in person. But we continue to grow as a choir and have fun singing. Come check us out!

1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays at 9 am.

So you want to talk about race

In October we will begin another weekly discussion on race. This time we will use the book, *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Each chapter asks a question about race in contemporary America and offers suggestions about how to talk about the issues. The goal of the book and this discussion series is to learn how to engage in race-related topics without becoming defensive or getting off track. The book also has some tangible advice on ways we can address racism.

You can purchase the book through a book store online. It is also in our county library system. It gets great reviews for its accessibility, readability, and applicability to our daily lives. As always, talking about race is hard work. It involves listening and vulnerability. But doing this work offers us the opportunity to participate in personal and social transformation. And we have great conversation!

Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm, Oct 1 – Nov 5.

ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84071409388?pwd=TnpEOGc5M3NzZURSNctwcDFZTWJZQT09>

Meeting ID: 840 7140 9388

Passcode: 488049

Fall Bible Study

Our summer bible study series was fun! This Fall we will following the Narrative Lectionary and continue with the same format – listening to the BibleWorm podcast and then having our own discussion.

Wednesday mornings, 10:30-11:45, Sept 30 – Nov 18

ZOOM Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 5293 1382

Passcode: 303403

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=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVvdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dtD3lwNmSwUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Midweek Fellowship	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dtD3lwNmSwUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09	MEETING ID: 817 5041 2891 PASSCODE: 228391
Fall Bible Study	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403
Fall Series on Race	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84071409388?pwd=TnpEOGc5M3NzZURSNctwcDFZTWJZQT09	MEETING ID: 840 7140 9388 PASSCODE: 488049

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

November 3 Election

The SLO County Clerk’s office is changing the process for voting this November. The need for social distancing, fears of the coronavirus, and the greater demand for mail-in ballots have resulted in new processes.

Fellowship Hall will NOT be a polling location this year. And, Community Church will NOT be making money as an Adopt a Poll group, as we have in past years. In its August meeting, Church Council voted not to take on an Adopt-a-Poll after hearing the details of what it would entail in 2020. We would need about 14 volunteers per precinct each day, for 4 days of voting. Of these, 5 people would have to work all of each day (3 days of 8 hours each and one 14-hour day). Council agreed that it is unlikely that we could field that kind of volunteer corps.

If you personally are interested in working as a poll worker, Google “SLO County Vote,” which will take you to the election’s office and information on poll workers.

If you have worked our Adopt-a-Poll in the past and are interested in being a poll

worker in November, please contact Ashley at 805-781-4989 or at precinctworker@co.slo.ca.us and tell her you’ve worked an Adopt-a-Poll precinct before (we have been Precincts 512 and 513). They are particularly interested in people they have worked with before.

Here are the details of the election, as the County Clerk has determined it:

- There will be 4 days of voting. Saturday 10/31, Sunday 11/1, and Monday 11/2 will be shorter days and Tuesday 11/3 will be the traditional hours.
- There will be 22 “Voter Service Centers” where voters can obtain and complete a ballot or drop off a Mail-in Ballot. There will also be a Ballot Drop Box at the Atascadero Library.
- As you’ve heard through multiple sources, you are encouraged to vote EARLY in this election. To see if you are registered (or to register) Google “SLO COUNTY VOTE.” Be sure to remind your friends to check their registration, to register, and to vote.

2020 Census

Have you filled out your Census form yet? How about your relatives and friends? Be sure to encourage everyone you know to participate in their democratic right to be counted! <https://2020census.gov>

Are you registered to vote?

Check out your status here: <https://www.vote.org/>

Building Our Community

Brenda May and Candice Hubbard, are planning an on line "Wine Wall" fundraiser and need those donations! One, or more, bottles of wine at \$20.00 value or more. Brenda will pick up or please call 805 466-8610 to make arrangements. We are flexible!

Just a reminder, please do not bring any rummage sale items to store at the church. We have run out of room in the Hewitt building.

Thank you - Brenda May

Former CCA member, Helen Chatham, passed away August 6th at age 96. She was very active in the church and our condolences go out to her family and friends. She will be missed.

Sept Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Dan Rich
2 – Capp Capper
12- Shirley Summers

13- Matias Bernal
17- Marsha Robbins
18 -David & Brenda May Anniversary

25- Kaylee Ryan

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
30 10 am Worship online	31	1	2 3pm Fellowship online	3	4	5
6 10 am Worship online	7 Labor Day	8	9 3pm Fellowship online 4pm ECHO meal – please see Celia B to help out	10	11	12
13 10 am Worship online	14	15	16 3pm Fellowship online	17	18	19
20 10 am Worship online 12 pm Council meeting	21	22	23 3pm Fellowship online	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship online	28	29	30 3pm Fellowship online	31	1	2

