

December, 2019

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

Worship 10 am Sunday

Pastor: Heather Branton

Atascaderouccpastor@gmail.com

Cell phone (805) 470-9486

Pastor's Office Hours:

Drop-in Thurs 1:30-3:00 at

Malibu Brew, 5955 E Mall

or by appointment

Church Office Hours:

Tues – Fri 9:30 – noon

Marth Thomson, Office Administrator

Atascaderoucc@gmail.com

Closed Sat., Sun., & Mon.

As I Ponder...

It is just a couple of days before Thanksgiving and I am pondering while soaking up the energy emanating from an active dog park in LA. Most of you know that I am a dog person, so it's no surprise to you that I get great delight observing *in-the-present* canine joy. There's so much to learn from how dogs (and other animals) are so much in the moment. I find it inspiring and something to aspire to.

But here we are about to begin Advent, a season of anticipation, of *waiting*—seemingly a seasonal antithesis to being in the moment. What are we waiting for? Presents? Cookies? Carols? Eggnog? I remember as a child how I would watch presents begin to appear under the tree, check out the labels (to see if they were for me), possibly shake or try to figure out what was inside the pretty wrappings. I couldn't wait for Christmas morning to open them up!

Yes, religiously Advent is anticipating the birth of the Christ child. But sometimes that seems somehow blasé, even trite. Jesus' birth was in a time of little hope. There were uprisings that drew violent response. There were increases of homelessness, loss of access to growing their own food. Roman taxation was abusive. The religiopolitical leadership was corrupt and complicit. The birth of a child would have been rather insignificant.

In some ways that context feels a little too familiar. And it brings back the question, *what are we waiting for?* There's so much to do—to help people, to work for justice, to heal our planet! And yet I wonder if waiting is actually an important part of the process. The things that we do, our work, isn't often realized in our time. We try to make things better now, but we're also sharing love that will blossom in its own time. Perhaps *waiting* reminds us to breathe, to refuel, to *anticipate* that we straddle both the *now* and the *not-yet*.

As you wait in this Advent season, may you breathe in a Spirit of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love. May these be the gifts that you unwrap.

Gratefully yours... heather

Holiday Care

The season of Holy Days has begun! *How are you doing?* The holidays fill all of us with a range of emotions and feelings, memories, hopes and wishes, worries and concerns. There's extra food (and calories). The music in the stores and the ads on tv urge us to shop with the money we do and don't have. The movies and commercials suggest happy families that might contrast our own experience. And the Christmas cards (have you begun yours yet?) imply a peace and tranquility that we often don't feel.

Part of getting through the holidays means paying attention to how we're doing, what we're feeling, what we need (vs what others might think we need). Be sure to take time for yourself. Get some exercise. Eat as healthy as you can. And pause to breathe, especially when things feel out of control.

May you experience the presence of the Holy One in the midst of the holidays.

Rabbi Janice and Pastor Heather invite you to a potluck dinner on Dec 15 at 6:00 pm in Community Church Fellowship Hall. Guaranteed to be tasty and fun, this is an opportunity to deepen some of the relationships we have between our two congregations. It also is an opportunity for us to learn about Womenade, a local organization responding to immediate needs of individuals and families in North County. Having a potluck is a novel way to raise funds by bringing money that we would have spent having a nice dinner out.

What should you bring? A dish to share and your checkbook. We look forward to an enjoyable evening!

Blue Christmas service

We will again have a Blue Christmas service, an opportunity for solace and a space to grieve, to remember, to reflect. There will be readings, prayers, songs, and candle lighting. For those of you who find this appealing, especially during this holiday season, please join us at 6:00 pm on Wed, Dec 18.

Christmas Eve service

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve service, a family-friendly celebration with Christmas music, scripture, readings, and prayer. And stay after for Christmas goodies!

6:00 pm on Christmas Eve

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Coats for Kids

Atascadero Coats for Kids Distribution this year is December 18th. Volunteers are needed for setup on December 16th and 17th. To volunteer, please contact Brenda at 805 748-7412 or 805 466-8610. Thank you all for all you do!

Financial Notes

An easy way to help our church while holiday shopping is through Amazon Smile. By purchasing through this website 0.5 percent of all purchases on Amazon are donated to the designated charity. You designate the charity when signing up. The website is identical to the normal Amazon site and all account information is carried over. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

-Dick Ramont, Treasurer

Moderators' Update

At the November meeting of the Church Council, one of the main items of business was allocating the General Mission fund of \$1,000. It is under the Peace with Justice Ministry, item #7311 in the 2019 General Fund Budget.

After considering eight different charities, the council decided to designate the donations as follows:

- Transitional Food and Shelter: \$400
- Atascadero Loaves & Fishes (Food Pantry): \$150
- ECHO (El Camino Homeless Shelter): \$150
- Meals that Connect (AKA Senior Nutrition): \$150
- RISE (Rise, Inspire, Support, Empower): \$150
Support for victims of domestic violence and abuse

We believe these local nonprofit agencies support our church's mission.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved with the Peace with Justice Ministry.

Jeanne Miller and Celia Bewley
Co-moderators



Dec Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 – Celia Bewley
3 – Heather Branton
4 – Jennifer Thorne Anniversary
14– Sally Thomson
17– Althea Welling

25– Lyle Baxter
26– Eddie Hubbard
28– Larry & Judy Anderson
Anniversary

Advent 2018 Children's Time



Left and right sides of our CCA choir



all photos by Dan Rich

Holiday Brass combines original compositions for brass
with holiday favorites by some of
Hollywood's greatest arrangers and composers.



Holiday **brass**

**SUNDAY 00
DEC 15 4:00**

**Community Church
of Atascadero**

**WEDNESDAY 00
DEC 18 7:00**

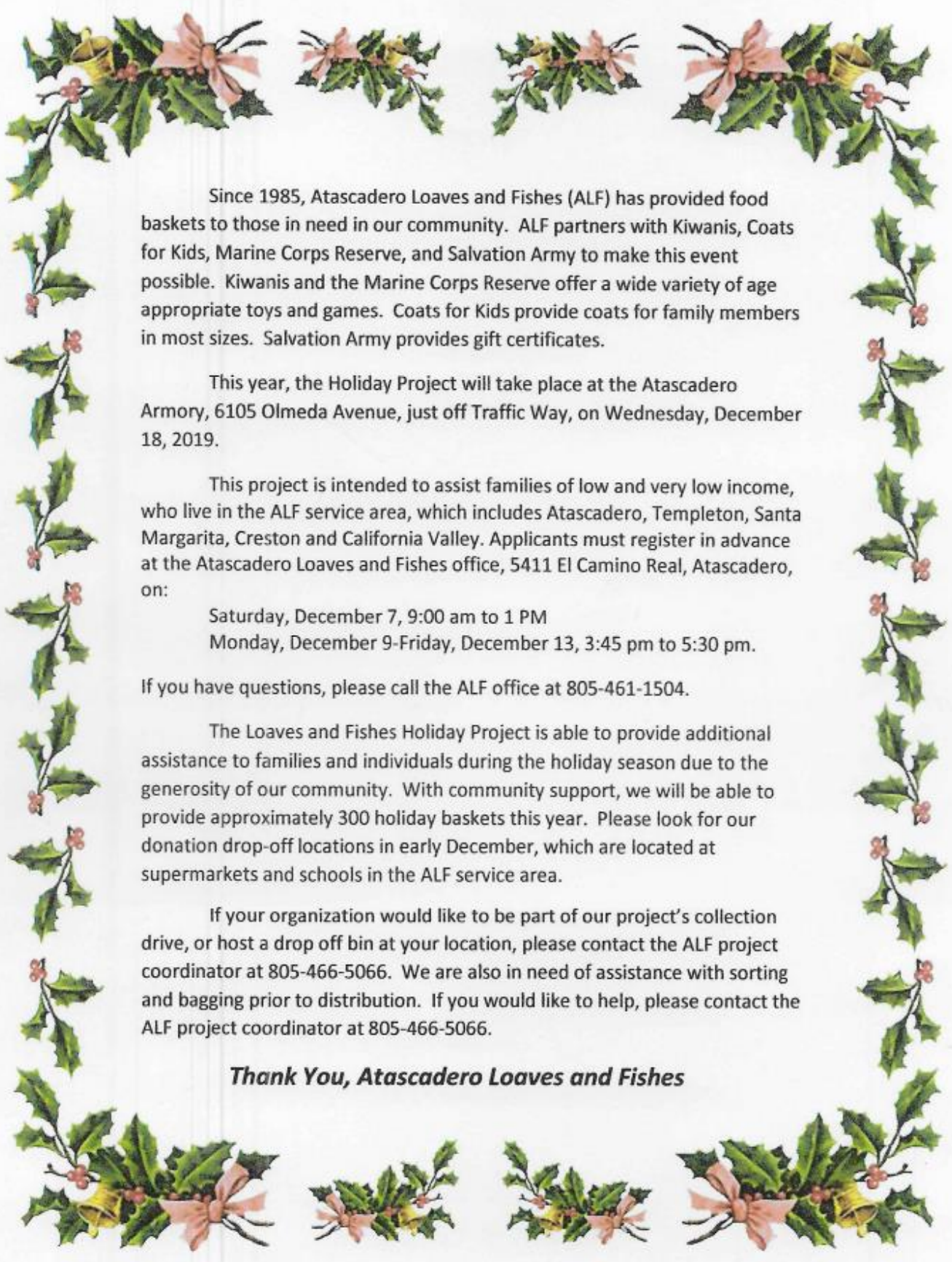
**The Monarch Club
at Trilogy, Nipomo**

Tickets \$15 - \$30

Students K-12 free with a paid adult!

Buy tickets at the door or online at our website.

www.symphonyofthevines.org



Since 1985, Atascadero Loaves and Fishes (ALF) has provided food baskets to those in need in our community. ALF partners with Kiwanis, Coats for Kids, Marine Corps Reserve, and Salvation Army to make this event possible. Kiwanis and the Marine Corps Reserve offer a wide variety of age appropriate toys and games. Coats for Kids provide coats for family members in most sizes. Salvation Army provides gift certificates.

This year, the Holiday Project will take place at the Atascadero Armory, 6105 Olmeda Avenue, just off Traffic Way, on Wednesday, December 18, 2019.

This project is intended to assist families of low and very low income, who live in the ALF service area, which includes Atascadero, Templeton, Santa Margarita, Creston and California Valley. Applicants must register in advance at the Atascadero Loaves and Fishes office, 5411 El Camino Real, Atascadero, on:

Saturday, December 7, 9:00 am to 1 PM

Monday, December 9-Friday, December 13, 3:45 pm to 5:30 pm.

If you have questions, please call the ALF office at 805-461-1504.

The Loaves and Fishes Holiday Project is able to provide additional assistance to families and individuals during the holiday season due to the generosity of our community. With community support, we will be able to provide approximately 300 holiday baskets this year. Please look for our donation drop-off locations in early December, which are located at supermarkets and schools in the ALF service area.

If your organization would like to be part of our project's collection drive, or host a drop off bin at your location, please contact the ALF project coordinator at 805-466-5066. We are also in need of assistance with sorting and bagging prior to distribution. If you would like to help, please contact the ALF project coordinator at 805-466-5066.

Thank You, Atascadero Loaves and Fishes

Thank you, December Worship volunteers!

Please see Marilyn Hamilton to join the lineup.

	Liturgist	Usher	Greeter	Sound	Kids Music
12/1	Jeanne Miller	Chuck Kania	Lisa Kania	Lee Perkins	Kristina Prozesky
12/8	Larry Young	Marilyn Hamilton	Marsha Robbins	Dick Ramont	Sunday School
12/15	Celia Bewley	Chuck Kania	Lisa Kania	Candice Hubbard	Kristina Prozesky
12/22	Brenda May	Jim Carlisle	Pat Cairns	Marylin Hamilton	Sunday School
12/24	Brenda May	TBD	TBD	TBD	Christmas Eve
12/29	TBD	Chuck Kania	Lisa Kania	Jeanne Miller	Sunday School

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Dec 1 9:00 am Band rehearsal 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion, Band & Kids Music followed by fellowship w/Dec birthdays	2 Women Aging w/Humor 3-5pm	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:40AM Choir rehearsal 10:00 am Worship followed by fellowship	9	10 11:00 am Personnel Meeting	11 Echo Meal 4PM Please see Celia to volunteer	12	13	14
15 8:40 am Choir rehearsal 10:00 am Worship w/ Kids Music followed by fellowship 11:30 am Church Council mtg 4:00 pm Brass Quintet 6:00 pm Potluck w/ Rabbi Janice	16 Women Aging w/Humor 3-5 pm	17	18 6pm Blue Christmas Worship	19 3:00 pm Caregivers meeting	20	21
22 8:40 am Choir rehearsal 10:00 am Worship followed by fellowship 11:30 Worship Ministry mtg	23	24 6pm Christmas Eve worship	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29 10:00 am Worship followed by fellowship – 5 th Sunday offering to Pastor's discretionary fund	30	31	Jan 1 No way - it is 2020!	2	3	4

Pastor Heather's drop-in hours - Thursdays 1:30-3:00pm at Malibu Brew Coffee



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Community Church of Atascadero
5850 Rosario Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422



Always Look Your Best!

- With 40 plus years' experience in the beauty industry, **Brenda May** cuts both men and women's hair and specializes in color. Her services are now available at **Heart and Soles Day Spa** (5405 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422).

- For appointments, please call Brenda May at 748-7412 during the day and 466-8610 in the evening.

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



Selling real estate throughout SLO County since 2000

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!