

May, 2021

# Still Speaking...

*A newsletter from the Community Church of Atascadero*



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

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

**Pastor: Heather Branton**  
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**Day off:** Mondays

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## **As I Ponder...**

As the verdict was read, I experienced different feelings. I expected to feel good – pleased, happy, maybe a sense of relief. I was certainly happy – and relieved. But not in an elated sense. Rather it was intermixed with something like sadness, a weightiness of knowing that what happened could not be undone. What was done should not have been. Now that would have made me happy! I felt that the verdict was right. But the grief remained. The grief was both for a life taken and for the ease with which it was taken. Surprisingly to me, my grief encompassed both George and Derek.

As I watched the reaction of the crowds and listened to interviews afterward, I found some of my feelings were shared by others. The joy was present, but not jubilation. So many expressions of relief that accountability was upheld were followed by acknowledgements that justice was yet to be established – systems that no longer embolden hate, systems that serve rather than violate, systems that uphold the dignity especially of those in marginalized communities.

It used to be I would point my finger at injustice and proclaim how evil it was. But I have come to recognize that I, too, am part of those systems. They happen because of my tacit support. They happen because they seem to work for me. They happen because I am comfortable not knowing the toll they take. They happen because I don't listen to those who are the ones trapped within the systemic injustice.

But fortunately there comes a point when it is difficult to deny – such as through a 9:29 video witness. The question for me – and for you – is whether we return to our comfort zones or participate in creating new systems built with different principles attentive to the ways that those most hurt by the current systems are protected.

Justice doesn't simply happen. It takes hard work, work that is ongoing. But there is joy in the work, for that is where the Spirit breathes life, and we, too, can breathe.

*Gratefully yours... heather*

## **Buildings and Grounds Ministry**

Sanctuary roof update:

Last week we started removing asbestos.

Monday - balcony ceiling tiles removed.

Tuesday- protection surrounding exterior was laid out and prep completed for roof tile removal and Wednesday-tile removal.

The work is going well. The balcony has same look of wood ceiling as the rest of the Sanctuary. We need to figure out how to finish this area. New ceiling or refinish to match?

– Chuck Kania



## **Building Our Community**

### SEE'S CANDY

See's Candy fundraiser profited \$363, the best we have done to date. Thank you, Marilyn Hamilton, for helping to keep track. Thank you to those who ordered and participated. You are the ones that make this successful. It takes a village! This fundraiser is usually for Christian Education. Thank you, thank you all!

### CROSS DECORATING

Cross decorating looked beautiful as usual. Thanks to those who came and embellished it with flowers. We can still do those things that fill our hearts with joy and love.

### JUNE 5TH RUMMAGE SALE

We have the opportunity to have a rummage sale in parking lot during the citywide yard sale. We pay \$40.00 for entry and they put us on a map that people will follow. This is a way to clear out some of what we have in the Hewitt building. There is enough in there for 3 rummage sales.

If you would like to help with this fundraiser, please contact Brenda at 805 466-8610. We will set up at 5 am and the sale is from 8am to 2pm, Saturday June 5th. Help is needed with set up and pricing, working the sale and then take down and clean up. Thank you in advance and be sure to wear your mask!

~ Brenda May



## 5 Simple Things You Can Do to make the world a better place for people with mental health challenges and their families:

1. Be a friend. Provide companionship and compassion on the road toward recovery. Offer a ride to church or to a local support group. Listen without judgement. Pray for those you know with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and for their family members.
2. Share your story. Has mental illness impacted you or your family in some way? Your story may empower others to seek treatment or have hope.
3. Watch your language. Pay attention to the words you use and avoid stigmatizing labels. Do not refer to people as “crazy,” “psycho,” “lunatic” or “mental.”
4. Be a “StigmaBuster.” Challenge negative attitudes toward mental illness among your friends and acquaintances and in the media.
5. Learn the facts. Educate yourself about the various mental health challenges, substance use disorders, neurodevelopmental differences, and other brain disorders. Check out the resources at the UCC Mental Health Network ([www.mhn-ucc.org](http://www.mhn-ucc.org)), take a Mental Health First Aid class and host one at your congregation for the larger community. Offer a class or going a support group with the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)) and check out the facts at the National Institute of Mental Health ([www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov)), the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) ([www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)), the Alzheimer’s Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org))

### Council Update

Church Council has given tentative approval to provide the use of the church basement and Hewitt Building to Project: Learn, providing in-person learning for homeschoolers in combination with a pre-K Montessori program. With Kristina Prozesky as Director, the school will meet 10:00-3:00, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Wednesday mornings (Montessori only). We are excited about the opportunity for our facilities to be used during the week as well as building relationships with the families. Stay tuned for more information about this adventure!

### Pastor’s Retreat

Pastor Heather will be on retreat May 10-14, attending (virtually) the Courageous Church Summit. Leaders within the progressive faith movement will be addressing questions such as: *What does church look like on the other side of COVID? How does this experience fundamentally reshape our ministries? What are the big theological questions raised by this global pandemic?* Get ready for the new ideas, insights, and, of course, questions she brings back from this time of learning and reflection!

## General Synod 33 is coming... and it's like nothing you've seen before!



Since 1957, when the first “uniting” General Synod gathered in 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio, to the meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2019, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has faithfully convened a meeting every two years in physical locations throughout the United States.

2021 will be different. The 2021 gathering of the General Synod will take place entirely online. We will gather under the theme: **Rooted in Love, July 11-18, 2021.** You can expect the vibrancy of Spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music- and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. You can expect the same Spirit-

filled energy in an engaging meeting of the General Synod that tends to the business and forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. And, you can expect to learn more and connect with the UCC by attending workshops and other opportunities being prepared for you.

### Albergue Las Memorias

*A refuge for people, some with children, managing HIV & substance abuse*

Albergue Las Memorias, a Global Ministries partner of the UCC, works in Tijuana assisting and taking care of adult persons and minors living with HIV/AIDS and addictions, as well as their family members since 1999. Come have a virtual visit to learn how the pandemic has affected the shelter. See the recent progress on their new Tuberculosis Clinic. Isolation affects us all. Let's virtually support our neighbors by spending a little time getting acquainted!

**3:00-4:00 pm Sunday, May 16 on Zoom:**

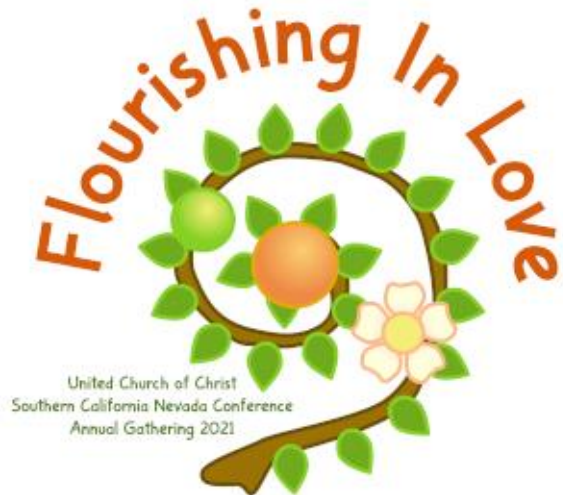
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82070488111?pwd=eXZxYU0yNkJOOGZlZTmlyNHpNVE0vdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 7048 8111

Passcode: 039578

### Save the date

The 2021 Annual Gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ will be June 11 & 12. This virtual meeting will connect us with what has been happening throughout the Conference over the past year and plan for our future together.



### Congregation Ohr Tzafon GALA 2021

We join with Congregation Ohr Tzafon in honoring Rabbi Janice Mehring and her 20+ years of service to COT. Rabbi Janice is a humanitarian and civic leader involved in interfaith and community projects throughout San Luis Obispo County, building respect and understanding among all people. Gala 2021 is 5-7 pm Sunday, May 23. For more information and to register: [www.congregationohrtzafon.org/gala-2021.html](http://www.congregationohrtzafon.org/gala-2021.html)



*Still Speaking – May 2021*

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Shirley Osibin  
 4 – Anniversary – Bob & Mary Jane McConville  
 15 – Kent Kenney  
 20 – Jim Carlisle  
 21 – Stew Thomson  
 23 – Anniversary – Ron & Martha Staib

## Community Church Choir:

9 am Sundays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

During our weekly virtual choir rehearsals, we learn vocal techniques & have fun singing.

Come check us out!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>May 2</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship with Communion online	<b>3</b> Pastor's day off	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>6</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Sunday worship	<b>10</b> <b>Pastor on retreat</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 3pm Fellowship online <b>4pm ECHO meal</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10 am Worship online <b>12 pm Council meeting</b> 3-4 pm Albergue Las Memorias virtual visit	<b>17</b> Pastor's day off	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>20</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online 5-7 pm Congregation Ohr Tzafon GALA 2021	<b>24</b> Pastor's day off	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>27</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9 am CCA Virtual Choir 10 am Worship online	<b>31</b> Pastor's day off	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b> 3pm Fellowship online	<b>3</b> 9:30am Bible study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

## 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=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVjdZ09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVjdZ09</a>	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dtZ3lwNm5wUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dtZ3lwNm5wUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09</a>	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Thursday Bible Study	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXZz09</a>	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403



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