As I Ponder…

Right now, I am watching an oriole eat grape jelly outside our window. Throughout the day, various shades of yellow flit past. Such brilliant color! (And a seemingly insatiable appetite!) It reminds me of Jesus’ words,

*Look at the birds of the air. They don’t sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life?*

The message? Don’t worry because God cares for the birds and we, as humans, are worth so much more than birds.

Ok, first of all, I’m quite sure the writer of Matthew was not an ornithologist. How does he know whether or not birds worry? As we watch these orioles, sometimes it seems like they are frantic to get to the food! Birds are directly affected by the availability of food and water within natural environments that can be uncertain and even violent. These orioles sure can get into it over access to grape jelly! So really, how do we know whether they worry?

And then there is the blatant anthropocentrism. Of course, we think we are worth more than birds! That is some kind of natural human psychological response, for us to be the centers of our universes. But are we? At the moment this makes me wonder if Matthew’s Jesus was making a joke at our expense.

We are in the midst of a pandemic that is surging. We are in the midst of a fracture in the walls of racism, letting in a little light for us to see what we’ve walled off. Things are filled with uncertainty! And I can’t help but worry. But that doesn’t mean I have to be overcome or controlled by my worry and fears.

The orioles keep coming. They keep doing whatever it is that they do. And with it they bring beauty. Surely God is active in them. Doesn’t that remind us that the Spirit continues with us as well?

*Gratefully yours… heather*

---

**Summer Bible Study**

We continue listening to a podcast conversation between a Jewish woman and Christian man, each of them leaders in their traditions. Then we have our own conversation. We are now beginning Song of Songs. Guaranteed to be interesting and engaging! Thursday mornings at 10:00. (See Zoom link below)
"RECOMMENDED FOR YOU"

Black Lives Matter – what to read? Where to start? Overwhelmed by lists of 75 books to read about Black Lives Matter, 50 books on white privilege, the 10 best histories of race in America? This is the first of what we hope will be a set of shared resources, recommended by other church folks. If there is a book or movie you’ve seen that you’d suggest to others, just write up something as short as this and send it to Jeanne (jemiller@umich.edu) or to Pastor Heather (ccauccpastor@gmail.com). We’ll make sure it gets into our newsletter and/or our Facebook page. Don’t hesitate to give your recommendation during our Wednesday Fellowship Time also. So, here’s my first recommendation:

How to Be an Anti-Racist
I just finished reading Ibram X. Kendi’s How to Be an Anti-Racist (2019). Kendi maintains that the opposite of “racist” isn’t “not racist” but “antiracist” which he defines as “One who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea.” I nearly obliterated the text with underlining as he made his points so clearly.

This book challenged me to think beyond denouncing racism and consider how I can promote antiracism personally or through supporting policies.

In addition to specific suggestions of how to be antiracist, Kendi provides some history and background to help you understand where systemic racism comes from.

What books, movies, videos, etc. are helping you be more informed as you consider Black Lives Matter?

The African Influence in American Music
My favorite music is rock & roll, blues and jazz, including Latin jazz. My parents as well as my older brothers were all musicians and plentifully supplied a large record collection that I grew up with. My home town and secondary schooling were very multiracial and here my musical tastes were made even more pluralistic and diverse.

It wasn’t until my adult life that I realized that African culture was the root and foundation of so much of my favorite music. Jazz, rock and blues are African.

A contemporary movie that highlights this is Cadillac Records, released in 2008. The film explores the musical era from the early 1940s to the late 1960s, chronicling the life of the influential Chicago-based record-company executive Leonard Chess, and a few of the musicians who recorded for Chess Records.

The film stars Adrien Brody as Leonard Chess, Beyoncé as Etta James, Cedric the Entertainer as Willie Dixon, Mos Def as Chuck Berry, Columbus Short as Little Walter, Jeffrey Wright as Muddy Waters, and Eamonn Walker as Howlin’ Wolf.

It is a well-made movie, with exciting story line and plot, and great performances by the actors.

This movie is a concise refraction of the seminal influence African Americans have had on popular music, including connecting the dots from slave hymns to the British Invasion. It also discusses how white artists copied black music. In the movie, Chuck Berry is irritated that Bryan Wilson and the Beach Boys basically plagiarized his song, Sweet Little Sixteen and renamed it Surfin’ USA.

But this issue of “copying” over time turned out to be a blessing rather than a curse, in my opinion. Not only because of the proliferation and enrichment of African styles into the mainstream of American music, but also because it brought out and made explicit the African origins including the individual human originators of this music into the American mainstream. Muddy Waters and others [who didn’t die young – like Etta James] got the recognition, success and wealth that they deserved.

While I like the original performances by the original African-American artists, I also like white performances of some of these originally African American songs. For example, Joni Mitchell singing Marvin Gaye’s Trouble Man, Joe Cocker singing Marvin Gaye’s Inner-City Blues and Art Garfunkel singing the Flamingo’s I Only Have Eyes for You. And then there is Carlos Santana’s cover video of George Harrison’s While My Guitar Gently Weeps, with African-American India Arie and Chinese-American Yo-Yo Ma – a masterful, “fusion-spectrum” production of a poignantly beautiful song.

Soulful spontaneity, improvisation and collaboration is a hallmark, I believe, of the African style of musical expression. I like it so much!

-Torrey Byles, M.S.
MODERATOR’S REPORT
The saga goes on, and we are finding ways to be the church in new and exciting ways during this pandemic. We are meeting online every Sunday, we have fellowship time on Wednesday, a Bible Study on Thursday and our Church Council and team ministries have been online. Atascadero Community Church is alive and well and is making a difference in people’s lives.

A Reopening team has been appointed to develop a policy regarding the use of our church facilities by support groups and other uses. They have met once and will meet next week. We have no immediate plans to reopen worship in the near future, and are creating a plan to do so. The team consists of Pastor Heather, Brenda May, Martha Staib, Judy Anderson and me. Financially we have been doing very well, our pledge income has been solid, but our income from the use of our facilities, fundraisers and other things has been limited. We have received a small loan through the Governments Payroll Protection, most of which will likely be forgiven. We will be receiving special offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) on July 12; and Strengthen the Church on August 23.

Another issue that has concerned us is racial justice. Some of our members have participated in the protest held in Atascadero and other places. Our church is a strong supporter of Black Lives Matters and we are looking for ways that we can talk about race and systemic racism.

Even though we have been apart, the life and ministry of Community Church of Atascadero continues to be vital. I thank all of you for that. Your attendance in worship and your participation in the life of the church is making a difference.

Blessings, Larry D. Young

Building & Grounds
The roofing has been completed with a signed-off city inspection. I have authorized the treasurer to make the contractual payments to Page Roofing and ABC Materials.

There are some painting decisions required to complete the roofing project. The facia boards and some of the wall replacements have been primed, but not painted. This painting needs to be completed. To decide the color scheme for the complete project, Judy and I have invited input from Martha Staib, Brenda May, Kent Kenney, Jim Carlisle, and Pat Cairns. Judy and I are anxious to provide a viewing option for the congregation by soliciting help to clean and paint the outside of the outside wall of the kitchen, facing the parking lot.

Our consulting architect has offered a suggestion for an enclosed entrance with a gabled roof above, and the entrance doors on the outside in line with or set back from the wall to the kitchen. This approach would combine 2 separate sub-projects into one, requiring more up-front expense. I would really appreciate some input.

Thank-you, Larry Anderson

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
When violence reigns, disaster strikes, or resources are scarce, a future with hope can seem far away. In those times, our communities can act as sources of important support, embodying the love of the Holy Source of all hope and healing. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, you support the disaster, refugee and development ministries of the UCC.

For example, UCC disaster ministries representatives have been in Florida since Hurricane Michael in 2016, with additional deployment to support communities affected by Hurricane Irma in 2017. Internationally, micro lending and assistance efforts help families and communities worldwide.

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday is July 12. You can participate by sending your offering to the church office, noting OGHS. Or, you can choose the “Special Offering” tab on Tithe.ly if you are contributing that way.

Community Church is recognized each year at Annual Gathering as a “5 for 5” church – meaning
we respond to all five of the UCC’s special offerings. Here’s your chance to keep that record going.

3 Ways to Give Financially
1. Send a check to the Community Church: 5850 Rosario Ave.
2. Online at www.atascaderoucc.org (although you will still need to register with Tithe.ly, below)
3. Mobile app Tithe.ly
   ➢ Search “Tithe.ly” in the app store (Google or Apple). Download and install the Tithe.ly app.
   ➢ Click “Give Now” to start and then, in “Find a church”, enter “Community Church of Atascadero”
   ➢ Enter the amount you would like to give
   ➢ Enter a credit card or bank account to link to the app
   ➢ 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.
   ➢ 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 continuing to help Community Church of Atascadero be financially healthy!

White Privilege: Let’s Talk
7:00 – 8:30 pm Thursdays, July 2 – August 6

Join Pastor Heather for 6 weekly gatherings to discuss various aspects of racism and the advantages we, as white folk, experience yet may not be aware of. The goal is to provide a forum for self-reflection for personal growth to help us better engage as advocates for racial justice. We will combine a UCC webinar series with our own conversation through 4 areas of focus: telling the story of our spiritual journey through the lens of race; looking at the dynamic of a culture in which whiteness is the established norm; learning how America attaches a cash value to whiteness; and inviting us to commit to becoming an ally in the pursuit of racial equity.

Please note that this is vulnerable work. The process is intended to be self-reflective, not a setting for pointing fingers at others – whether out there in the world or present within the conversation space. This means using I-statements and refraining from saying what others should be doing.

As this will occur in Zoom, video access is strongly recommended, allowing participants to view each other which can help create a leveler for trust.

This forum necessitates individual vulnerability—not to help us feel better but to help us delve into our own spaces of discomfort. It requires honesty and a willingness to allow a range of emotions. As a result, the Zoom meeting will have tight security – each person will individually be granted entrance (rather than just being able to join the meeting). Please plan to come a few minutes early so that we can begin on time.

Building Our Community
Working on a fun online fundraiser soon!! Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming information.

Just to let everyone know, the house is coming along but slowly. Things got held up a bit. Still no flooring in the living areas. Trying to be patient. Prayers are needed to keep our minds peaceful. Thank you all for support, love, generosity, and caring thoughts!

Good 4th of July and lots of love to all!
– Brenda and David May

Hello from Truckee

We are hoping that you all are staying busy and healthy. This social distancing, wearing a mask, and not being able to meet new people certainly is challenging up here. We social distance in Mark’s back yard or Hayley’s porch. They go to the store for us.

We are enjoying spring in Truckee. Although it snowed the first weekend of June. Our front yard is almost done. We took out tree stumps, pruned trees, moved a whole lot of rocks, and laid a concrete sidewalk. We literally live on an old volcano and there are a lot of rocks. And I mean a lot!! Boulders too small. We now have a rock wall for a planter which in the fall I want to put in peonies, lupin, oriental poppies, and columbine and who knows what else. We can’t grow lots of plants that you can. We did plant some tomatoes in pots, so we will see how they do. I enjoy walking around the neighborhood to check out everyone’s yard.

The Western Tanager has been coming to the back yard as well as lots of chickies, stellar blue jays, and robins. Chipmunks love all our rocks. Just yesterday we had a marmot that thought it would like to make a home in our rocks. We flooded it out and Olive (our dog) helped to discourage it from moving in. They
would have liked to eat all our plants. Haven't seen a bear yet, but we did have a coyote walking down the street.

Our next project is the backyard and moving more rocks. We want to expand the size of our deck.

I have been busy painting our office. It is a small room added on, so you have brown wood paneling, as well as blue house exterior. Two coats of primer. Now I am ready to do the final coat. Paul has been playing the piano and we both have been reading a lot.

Raelynn is now 15-month-old, walking and quite a handful for Hayley. Kyle, Hayley's husband, just went back to work as the sous chef, but now they are threatening to shut down the restaurant again because of the Covid 19. Mark's boys will be coming up here for a few weeks. They love to go rafting the Truckee River, biking, and hiking.

Wishing you all a great summer. Wish we could see everyone.

Hugs, The Mitchell's

ZOOM LINKS

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Link</th>
<th>MEETING ID</th>
<th>PASSWORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Worship</td>
<td><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/i/937257009?pwd=UZGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEiGcWIXQkJvdz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/i/937257009?pwd=UZGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEiGcWIXQkJvdz09</a></td>
<td>937 257 009</td>
<td>528041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midweek Fellowship</td>
<td><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/i/81750412891?pwd=K2dtd3lwNmswUmRkOXlwZytidSSCZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/i/81750412891?pwd=K2dtd3lwNmswUmRkOXlwZytidSSCZz09</a></td>
<td>817 5041 2891</td>
<td>228391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer bible study</td>
<td><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/i/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RIQzVoUt4RXZac2RMxbXZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/i/82952931382?pwd=dFcxN2RIQzVoUt4RXZac2RMxbXZz09</a></td>
<td>829 5293 1382</td>
<td>303403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Privilege series</td>
<td><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/i/87931750188?pwd=TndRS09nZ1RhQ1oyV1o4RIBTa0x3Zz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/i/87931750188?pwd=TndRS09nZ1RhQ1oyV1o4RIBTa0x3Zz09</a></td>
<td>879 3175 0188</td>
<td>836598</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact Candice Hubbard at 805-602-8153 if you need assistance connecting with Zoom.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 – Judi Solari
5 – Valerie Hubbard
5 – Rocky Thiel
7 – Anniversary – Jim Carlisle & Pat Cairns
12 – Dick Ramont

21 – Jennifer Thorne
24 – Anniversary – Bruce Bevans & Kaye Rasband
25 – Anniversary -- Paul & Carolynn Mitchell
31 – Phyllis Cerny

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Weds</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 Independence Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am Worship online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3pm Fellowship online</td>
<td>10am bible study 7pm White Privilege</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am Worship online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3pm Fellowship online</td>
<td>10am bible study 7pm White Privilege</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am Worship online One Great Hour of Sharing special offering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3pm Fellowship online Tax Day</td>
<td>10am bible study 7pm White Privilege</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am Worship online 12 pm Council meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3pm Fellowship online</td>
<td>10am bible study 7pm White Privilege</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am Worship online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3pm Fellowship online</td>
<td>10am bible study 7pm White Privilege</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Church of Atascadero
5850 Rosario Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422

Greta Peck Broker Owner
212 S. Main St., Suite 103
Templeton, CA 9346
(805)464-0400 office
(805) 674-2249 cell
gretapec@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!

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.