

# 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  
ascaderoucc@gmail.com  
www.atascaderoucc.org

**Hybrid Worship**

Come in person or on  
Zoom

**10 am Sunday**

**Fellowship on Zoom**

**3 pm Wednesday**

**Church Office:**

Carrie Portillo, Office  
Manager

**Office Hours:**

9:30-12:30 Tuesdays  
9:00-12:30 Wednesdays  
9:00-12:30 Thursdays

## AS I PONDER

REV. HEATHER J. BRANTON, PASTOR

Years ago there was a WWJD campaign that emerged from evangelical Christianity: What would Jesus do? I'm sure some of you remember it. It was almost comical in the ways that it manifested, like, what would Jesus drive? I recently saw a cartoon of two men in conversation. One responded, "W.W.J.D. That's kind of yesterday, isn't it?" With the rise of Christian nationalism, it does seem like Jesus is rather passé in the public sphere now. It makes me wonder if people really did start thinking about what Jesus would do in response to the gay-bashing, immigrant-hating, misogynistic piety promoted by the Moral Majority. Power loves power and too often relinquishes ethics (and kindness and goodness) in that quest for more power. And so WWJD faded away.

But not for me. It continues to be a good question that makes me want to pay closer attention to the ways Jesus responded to injustice and hurt. To people who wanted to point fingers at what a vulnerable woman did, he responded that whoever had not made mistakes should throw the first stone. (They all silently walked away.) Jesus challenged those who had compromised their souls by colluding with Roman imperialism. He continuously reminded people that they couldn't love God without also loving their neighbor. (Incidentally, they understood that included the poor and the immigrants who resided there.) Jesus saw those who other leaders ignored, healed those who were hurting, listened to those who were told to be silent.

We are fully in election season. (Have you noticed?) I wonder what might happen if we resurrected the WWJD campaign? What might happen if we keep emphasizing the values Jesus demonstrated?

*Gratefully yours... Heather*



## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

BRENDA MAY, BUILDING OUR  
COMMUNITY CHAIR

Pride in the Plaza was an exciting event held on June 1st. Special time was spent with SLO UCC, Paso UCC, brothers and sisters. Always important connections were made with those walking by, making bead creations, face painting, stickers, and lots of hugs!

Atascadero Pride was June 16th and was just as wonderful as Pride in the Plaza. It was awesome!! There was lots of support and it was well attended!

A special thank you to; Carmen, Merle, Danielle, Christiana, Jason and Christopher, who helped work the booth! Candice Hubbard and Emelia helped get the popup up with me. And of course, all of our church family and others that came to the event to say hello.

### Upcoming Events & Volunteers Needed:

- Church Picnic – September 15th at Atascadero Lake Park, area 3 at 4pm. It will be a potluck with games. I need volunteers to help with both the barbecuing and to bring games.
- Celebrating Heather's 10th anniversary with Community Church October 27th. Anyone interested in helping to make this amazing, let me know.
- Rummage Sale – September 27th and 28th. I need volunteers to assist with the sale beginning with the setup on Wednesday the 25th.

**KEEP ON YOUR  
HEARTS & IN YOUR  
PRAYERS....**

CHERIE W, LISA K,  
LIVIA K, JOSEPH P, PAT  
C, UNCLE GEORGE.

AND ALL OF THE  
CAREGIVERS



## COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

EILEEN O'GRADY,  
COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY CHAIR



The Communications Ministry Team will meet on Thursday, September 12, at 1 p.m. We welcome anyone interested in working with our team

## WORSHIP

MARILYN HAMILTON

During the summer schedule for worship services, there has been an emphasis on intergenerational activities and interviews of a few church members by Heather. Very interesting and a great way to get to know people.

A celebration of Heather's 10-year anniversary with Community Church is scheduled for October and committees will be working on that event.

## THE CORE VALUES OF PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

1. Believe that following the way and teachings of Jesus can lead to experiencing sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life, even as we recognize that the Spirit moves in beneficial ways in many faith traditions.
2. Seek community that is inclusive of all people, honoring differences in theological perspective, age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, class, or ability.
3. Strive for peace and justice among all people, knowing that behaving with compassion and selfless love towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe.
4. Embrace the insights of contemporary science and strive to protect the Earth and ensure its integrity and sustainability.
5. Commit to a path of life-long learning, believing there is more value in questioning than in absolutes.

Updated 2024 © ProgressiveChristianity.org

In 1919, while they were planning the building campaign for their new church home, Dr. Berry offered his resignation as pastor, after five years of active and efficient service. He left many happy memories of his kindness and wise counsels. One picture in the writer's mind is that of his faithful old Ford starting out every Sunday morning, with both seats and the running-boards crammed and loaded down with men, women and children who lived too far from the church to walk; and smiling, cheery little Mrs. Berry, always ready with a happy greeting, and eager to help in every way she could. And she often could, for there was no hospital as yet and as a registered nurse, she was often called upon in emergencies to give professional service.

A farewell reception for Dr. and Mrs. Berry was held in the home of Mrs. M.A. Travis before their departure for Glendale, where they were to make their home.

After Dr. Berry, came the Rev. Hjalmar J. Loken, a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Sprague who lived in the house now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Bissell on Santa Ynez Avenue. He had come to visit the Spragues and preach for us a few times. His sermons were so inspiring and thought-provoking, and his personality so winning, that he was invited to remain as the permanent pastor of the church.

At this time, the church purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindsay on Palma avenue to use as the church manse, and Mr. and Mrs. Oken, with their son and two daughters, Robert, Dorothea and Viola, were soon settled in. This was in September 1919.

The building campaign was started at a time when Atascadero and the country as a whole was prospering, and pledges were made for the entire amount needed to build, and the future looked bright. But alas, they no sooner had the building completed than the prospects changed in Atascadero, and the bottom fell out of things. People who had made pledges moved away and failed to keep up their pledges. A little handful, comparatively speaking, the faithful few, were left to carry on.

And they held the fort. Right valiantly they held it. For nine long years they struggled on, staggering under the triple burden of supporting a church and in benevolences at home and abroad, keeping up payments on the principal and interest of an overwhelming debt and supporting their Community Center building with all its overhead of maintenance.

It was a large and very useful structure that they built, white stucco two stories high. A wide front porch with stately pillars ran across the front between the two projecting wings, and behind that, opening on to it by a succession of glass doors, was the big lobby and fireplace, "the community heart." This was comfortably furnished with long davenport, overstuffed chairs and mahogany tables.

Opening out of it on the right was the large auditorium with a balcony running around three sides. Behind the auditorium was a large, well equipped kitchen and a long dining room. Behind the lobby were three smaller rooms, used as game rooms and on Sundays for classrooms. The left wing of the building was given over to the public library and one smaller room for prayer meetings and other small assemblies.

Underneath that wing, in the basement, were showers and dressing rooms for those using the big swimming pool adjoining the back of that wing.

Upstairs were several club rooms for the use of the various organizations and for classrooms on Sunday. The Boy Scouts' room was fitted up in the basement under the auditorium, and the Girl Scouts had a cabin of their own behind the building on the bank of the creek.

On Sundays and one evening a week, this building belonged exclusively to the church, but all the rest of the week, it was a Community Center, used as a meeting place for all local groups with play rooms for the children. Here was even roller skating for the young people in the auditorium, and an occasional, well-chaperoned and supervised dance. Concerts and entertainments of all kinds and district conventions of the various organizations were held in the auditorium.

To be continued...



Let Your Voice  
Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

### **Community Church Choir**

Have you been appreciating the choir? Or perhaps wondering if you can join? Well, you can!

Come join us as we have fun making music together.

Rehearsals are most Sundays at 9 am. Follow the announcements for updated .



### 3 Ways to Give Financially

1. Send a check to the Community Church: **5850 Rosario Ave., Atascadero, CA 93422**
2. Online at [www.atascaderoucc.org](http://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 CCA be financially healthy!**

## August/September Birthdays & Anniversaries



### August

- 12 - Anniversary - Stew & Sally Thomson
- 14 - Brenda May
- 15 - Anniversary - Carmen Baker & Doris Souza
- 16 - Sharon Whisenhunt
- 17 - Anniversary - Dan & Eileen O'Grady
- 18 - Judy Wulff
- 23 - David May
- 28 - Zen Ellsworth
- 30 - Janet Morales

### September

- 1 - Dan Rich
- 12 - Shirely Summers
- 17 - Marsh Robbins
- 18 - Anniversary - David & Brenda May



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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWElGcWlXQkVldz09>  
MEETING ID: 937 257 009 → PASSCODE: 528041

### Church Council:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81215310853?pwd=YldsNTUzdKx0NzJkcHZvamlyRjJodz09>  
MEETING ID: 812 1531 0853 → PASSCODE: 481994

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				<b>1-Aug</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> No Choir 10 am Hybrid worship with communion 11 am Fellowship	<b>5</b> Pastor's day off	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> No Choir 10 am Hybrid Worship	<b>12</b> Pastor's day off	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship 4 pm Echo Meal 7 pm Moderators	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> No Choir 10 am Hybrid Worship 12 pm Church Council	<b>19</b> Pastor's day off	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> No Choir 10 Hybrid worship	<b>26</b> Pastor's day off	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>1-Sept</b> No Choir 10 am Hybrid worship with Communion 11 am Fellowship	<b>2</b> Pastor's day off	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship	<b>9</b> Pastor's day off	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship 4 pm Echo Meal 7 pm Moderators	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> No Choir 10 am Hybrid worship 12 pm Church Council 4 pm Church Picnic	<b>16</b> Pastor's day off	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship	<b>23</b> Pastor's day off	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 am Zoom Bible study 3 pm Zoom Fellowship Rummage Sale set-up	<b>26</b> Rummage Sale set-up	<b>27</b> Rummage sale	<b>28</b> Rummage sale
<b>29</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship	<b>30</b> Pastor's day off					

**POEM**

BY REV. HEATHER J. BRANTON, PASTOR

I relish the stillness of the morning  
the bird calls and the tap-tap-tap of the woodpecker  
the sounds of human activity muted in the distance  
the sun's warmth moderated by the still-cool air  
It is so peaceful and pleasant.

It is luxury – not something I earned or deserve.  
Luck, perhaps?  
this location  
this “me time”

There are others who have neither the time nor the location  
others with no break or escape from the noise  
others who don't have the luxury of space  
others who cannot pause from the demands of survival

Holy One, may I not take this luxury for granted. May it spur me into entering other spaces where I might bring some peace. May I listen with an open heart, humbled by my privilege.


For your love flows deepest in the spaces where it is most needed.

**A Breath Away**  
Community CPR and First Aid Training



To get on the schedule for training Contact  
Instructor Cell: 805-859-4430  
Admin Cell: 757-651-7187  
[charles.kania@gmail.com](mailto:charles.kania@gmail.com)  
[lisalkania@gmail.com](mailto:lisalkania@gmail.com)

**Body Motion**  
*A fitness class geared toward seniors*  
Led by Brenda May



9-10 am MWF  
Community Church of Atascadero  
5850 Rosario Ave