

Aug/Sept 2022

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

Hybrid Worship
Come in person or on Zoom
10 am Sunday

Fellowship on Zoom
3 pm Wednesday

Sabbatical Pastor:
Nancy Bacon
RevNBacon@gmail.com
Cell phone (661) 900-5536
Office Hours: by appointment

Church Office:
Marth Thomson, Office
Administrator
(805) 466-9108
atascaderoucc@gmail.com

As I Ponder...

I am in the midst of final preparation for my sabbatical! Grounded in the first creation story from Genesis, a sabbatical highlights the importance of rest. Quite frankly, I am in great need of that rest and renewal. I long to replenish my spirit, to restore some balance, to refill my wells of creativity and resilience. According to the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team, a sabbatical encourages longer pastorates, refocuses ministry, contributes to a pastor's spiritual growth, prevents burnout, and establishes new patterns for work and self-care. Honestly, I need those things to again be my best self and the best pastor I can be.

Normally (and contractually) a pastor takes a sabbatical every 5 years. For me, that would have been in 2019. Not quite, I decided Year 6 would be the right time and began planning my sabbatical. But then the pandemic hit and everything changed – for everyone.

Finally, September thru November, I will have my 3-month sabbatical. Jeanne and I will begin my sabbatical with a cruise to Alaska, something we have dreamed of and talked about for many years. We will then head to Colorado Springs for the remainder of the 3 months. During that time, I will rest, read, hike, play guitar, visit family, reflect, and reground my body, mind, and spirit.

MESA also points out that a sabbatical promotes congregational self-sufficiency. It reminds us that each of us matters in the life of the church and our involvement stimulates imagination and resourcefulness. So, co-moderators Ron Staib and Bethany Maxwell will continue their stable and steady church leadership. And Rev. Nancy Bacon, also a member of Community Church, will be our sabbatical pastor. As some of you already know, Nancy is a creative preacher and gifted in pastoral care. I have no doubt she will bring freshness to worship and ways of being church together to inspire you and keep you eager to be engaged. We are blessed!

I will see you in Advent!

May the Spirit revitalize each of us during this time. Amen.

Gratefully yours... heather

Building Our Community

Church Picnic August 21 at 4:00 pm

Come one, come all for a lot of fun! Please plan to attend a picnic in Atascadero Lake Park. This will be a chance to visit outdoors, play some games, eat BBQ along with some potluck side dishes. Please bring a salad or dessert. *We need volunteers to BBQ and bring some games.* If you would like to help, please contact Brenda May, 805-466-8610 or dbmjmay@aol.com.

June's Tuesday in the Park results

We made about \$200.00 and it was great fun! Thank you to all that donated baked goods and helped with selling them.

Colony Day is coming up quickly - October 1st

Please contact Brenda & David May if you want to participate. 805-466-8610

Mary Said by Quinn Caldwell

Mary said... Luke 1:34&38 (NRSV)

These are two of the most important words in Scripture.

The angel of the Lord comes to Mary to announce what God is proposing for her body, for her fertility, and for her life. It's a big moment, and through the years, many have recorded what they thought was most important about it: the angle of Mary's gaze, the position of her hands, the drape of her clothes, the lily she's holding for some reason.

Not Luke. Luke thinks what's important to record is what she had to say.

Mary said: *How can this be? Give me the information I need to make a reproductive choice.*

Mary said: *Let it be with me according to your word. I give you my consent.*

That Luke takes the time to report what Mary said means this: part of the gospel, part of the good news of Jesus Christ, is that God takes the time to listen when women speak about their bodies. God, full of knowledge, thinks the questions and thoughts young girls have about their reproductive health are worth paying attention to. God, full of power, will not move without the consent of the moved-upon.

If you're a person who looks to Mary as a model of motherhood, then you best be sure you're also a person who looks to the way God treated her, both when she was a mother and, just as importantly, when she wasn't.

If you're a person who's trying to build a nation that God would approve of, then you best be sure you pay attention to what Luke, and God, did when Mary spoke.

Prayer

For all the ways you listen, for all the bodies you protect, for all the consent you wait for, for all the autonomy you respect, thank you.

From the UCC's stillspeaking Daily Devotional, June 8, 2022



Growing Our Community

We are closer to having enough funds to repaint the Sanctuary – and boy does it need it! Not simply for aesthetic reasons, but in order to preserve the building. We are asking you to consider giving a gift to the Growing Our Community capital campaign so that we may accomplish this important project before winter.

– Jeanne Miller & Bethany Maxwell, Campaign Co-chairs

Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...

Althea W, Cyndy S, David M, Joseph P, Livia K,
Stew & Sally T, Virginia C, “Uncle George”
...and all of the caregivers

Bible Study

While Pastor Heather is on Sabbatical our weekly Bible study will pause (unless someone is inspired to lead a discussion).

Volunteer with the Food Pantry

ALF Food Pantry (you may have known it as Atascadero Loaves and Fishes) is looking for volunteers in a variety of roles. Each month we provide food to over 300 households in North County.



Morning teams prepare boxes of food for afternoon distribution and unload deliveries of groceries. Drivers do pickup at local grocery stores. Afternoon distribution teams add fresh produce, meat, milk, etc. to boxes of staples like rice, cereal, and peanut butter and distribute to clients. Afternoon lobby teams welcome clients, check them in, and review their needs. File reviewers meet briefly with clients to review our client information with them and learn if they have other needs. If you are interested – and vaccinated – email contact@alffoodpantry.org

Even small things count

"This is the quarterly notification to inform you that AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to the charity you've selected, Community Church of Atascadero, in the amount of \$28.44 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers between January 1st-March 31st."

Today I received this note from Amazon. It reminds me that while it's a small amount, over the year we could manage to provide \$100 to the church coffers, which is not bad. — Jeanne Miller

Fostering Understanding in Our Community

California During Jim Crow: Reparation Successes

Presentation by Alison Rose Jefferson, M.H.C., Ph.D. Hosted by Diversity Coalition of SLO County in partnership with R.A.C.E. Matters and City of San Luis Obispo. SLO Public Market Banquet Room – indoor & outdoor seating available. 6:00-7:30 pm Wednesday, August 24. For more information and to register: <https://www.diversityslo.org/fosteringunderstanding>

For Your Spirit

Speaking of Faith by Krista Tippett. In this illuminating story of her life and conversations, the host of public radio's Speaking of Faith describes her journey of spiritual exploration - a journey shared by countless others. This is the resource Pastor Heather used for worship inspiration over the summer.

Searching for the Sacred: Sixty Meditations on Faith, Hope, and Love by Cameron Trimble. As we walk into a future marked by the challenges of global warming, political unrest, technology, globalization, and the unraveling of institutions, here is a book of stories and parables that gives the reader hope, insight, courage, and resilience.

Different Kinds of Fruit by Kyle Lukoff. Annabelle thinks 6th grade is going to be just like every other year. But then she meets a new kid in town. Annabelle loves hanging with Bailey and going to their house. Then Annabelle's father reveals big news: he's like Bailey.

United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings

These offerings exist to allow congregations and individuals to collectively meet people at points of critical need in their lives. Community Church participates in each of these offerings.

One Great Hour of Sharing. Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

Strengthen the Church. Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, youth and young adult ministries within conferences.

Neighbors in Need. One-third of this offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and two-thirds supports a variety of other justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

The Christmas Fund. Provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

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
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 - Stew & Sally Thomson anniversary
 14 - Brenda May
 15 - Carmen Baker & Doris Souza anniversary
 16 - Sharon Whisenhunt
 18 - Judy Wulff
 23 - David May
 28 - Zen Ellsworth

30 - Janet Morales

September

1 - Dan Rich
 2 - Capp Capper
 12 - Shirley Summers
 17 - Marsha Robbins
 18 - David & Brenda May anniversary

Sabbatical Pastor: Rev. Nancy Bacon

RevNBacon@gmail.com

661-900-5536

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
August 21 10 am Hybrid worship 12:00 Council meeting 4 pm Church Picnic	22 Pastor's day off	23	24 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	25	26	27
28 10 am Hybrid worship	29 Pastor's day off	30	31 3pm Fellowship online	September 1	2	3
4 10 am Hybrid worship with Communion	5	6	7 3pm Fellowship online	8	9	10
11 10 am Hybrid worship	12	13	14 3pm Fellowship online 4pm Echo Meal	15	16	17
18 10 am Hybrid worship 12:00 Council meeting	19	20	21 3pm Fellowship online	22	23	24
25 10 am Hybrid worship	26	27	28 3pm Fellowship online	29	30	

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	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEIGcWIXQkVvdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Council	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81215310853?pwd=YldsNTUzdkx0NzJkcHZvamIYRjJodz09	MEETING ID: 812 1531 0853 PASSCODE: 481994



Community Church of Atascadero
5850 Rosario Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422



When you go to smile.amazon.com to shop, Amazon donates to Community Church! It's easy. Just choose Community Church of Atascadero as your "Smile" recipient when you sign in to smile.amazon.com. While your individual "donations" may be minimal, those small amounts add up.