

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

*"A HUMAN BEING WHO TRIED HER
BEST TO LOVE OUT LOUD"*

These times continue to feel surreal, don't they? The list of things spinning out of control feels endless. And that is certainly on top of the all-too-human experiences of health and finances, relationships and transitions, the hopes and dreams happening or seemingly out of reach. So, how are you doing? Do you feel like Atlas, trying to hold the world up on your shoulders? Is it a struggle to get out of bed in the morning? Or perhaps difficult to turn off the swirling of your thoughts? Are you pausing the notice the beauty around you? Or does it seem to fade into the background? Do you take time to breathe, to be still? Are you connecting with others? Or do you feel isolated?

As most of you know, my mom died in January. Once Jeanne was strong enough to travel to Seattle, I began making arrangements for two (yes, 2!) celebrations of life – one in the senior living community in Seattle where my parents moved into in 2013, the other at the progressive American Baptist church up the hill from their new residence. As I planned the events, I had the opportunity to reflect on my mom's life, to ponder who she was and the ways she tried to live out her faith and values. And then during the services, I had the common and wonderful experience of hearing others share how they experienced my mom, the ways she influenced their lives. It was a healing process, one that helped me see her with different eyes – not just as my mom but as a human being who tried her best to love out loud.

AS I PONDER CON'T.

Jeanne flew back home but I drove, slowly, noticing the natural beauty, stopping for occasional hikes. I allowed my mind to wander, remembering, reflecting. I thought about how most of us try to do our best, something that involves trial and error, growing and changing. I thought about how most of us bring love to others, reach out, care in the best ways we can. I thought about how helping another has ripple effects, reaching down through generations.

We can never control life. But we get to have an impact. I am so thankful to be part of a faith community—you—that invites healing, infused with joy, powered by love.

Gratefully yours... heather

P.S. I have been requested to share my mom's obituary. You can view it here:
<https://www.elementalnw.com/obituaries/eleanor-doreen-branton/369/>



NEW LOOK FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL

This project included replacing 16 old windows with modern double-pane windows. The 13 windows in the main room are fitted with new two inch cordless mini-blinds. Additionally, sound absorbing panels were placed across the wall above the room divider. The result is an attractive environment with improved energy efficiency and acoustic properties. Contractor Michael Beck performed the installation. The project was largely funded by the Lois Ramont Memorial Fund.

Dick Ramont



We were pleased with the work and service that Michael Beck Drywall Construction (MBDC Inc.) provided upgrading our Fellowship Hall.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ATASCADERO PRIDE WEEK JUNE 10-14

Wed, June 10 - The Birdcage at Colony Theater

Fri, June 12 - Pride Dance Party at The Printery

Sun, June 14 - Atascadero Pride in the Park.

- Join CCA at our church booth as we share in this celebration of beautiful diversity. Pride in the Park is one of Atascadero's largest self-produced community events - a free, family-friendly celebration of LGBTQIA+ visibility, belonging, and joy. There will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday June 7th but if you can't come at a specific time just come when you can, bring your chair and hang out with us.

For more information, check out

<https://sites.google.com/view/weareatascaderopride/pride-in-the-park-2026>

A MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE!



Our spring rummage sale fundraiser was a big success. Thank you to all who participated. There were 28 of you! We raised over \$2,300.00.

We are grateful for those who helped with setup on Tuesday evening and for those who organized, displayed and priced donated items. Thanks to those who greeted and assisted our customers. We are also thankful to the volunteers who helped with cleanup and those who took unsold items to ECHO and local thrift shops.

And, it goes without saying that we would not have had a successful sale without your donated items! Our successful rummage sale fundraiser was only possible because of the help we received from you for this all-church event.

Beyond Grateful - Sharon Whisenhunt

SUMMER WORSHIP

We will again move into our upgraded Fellowship Hall for the summer, beginning July 5. We'll have music and conversation around tables as we worship in a different format. Come join us!

FESTIVAL MOZAIC COMMUNITY MIDDAY CONCERT: SEO & GRACE

JULY 25 AT NOON

Violist Jenni Seo, Assistant Principal of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, is joined by pianist Susan Grace for a recital of works for violin and piano. This free concert from Festival Mozaic returns to Community Church! Community Midday Concerts are free but require a reservation. You may choose a Free Reservation or select a reservation that includes a \$10 donation. You may also make a donation of any amount when you reach the check-out screen. This event will last about one hour, without an intermission.

Reserve your ticket at: <https://www.festivalmozaic.org/show-details/community-midday-concert-seo-grace>

WE'RE THE ONES! SCNC ANNUAL GATHERING

Community Church was well represented as delegates Danielle and Christiana Dilger, guests Jesús Cruz and Jeanne Miller, and Pastor Heather joined a few hundred others at the annual gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. We attended workshops that included: music, Bible study about women who were agents of transformation, a sensory garden tour, ways to grow your church, poetry, a framework for navigating conflict, a faith perspective on migration, and a sound bath. We elected leaders for the upcoming year and approved a new budget grounded in using our bounty for good. We joined in worship that incorporated a wide variety of voices and cultures. Inspiration infused the gathering as we celebrated being the church together through the ways we do justice and share love that transforms all of us.

This year's theme was We're the Ones! It was grounded in Matthew 11:1-6, a story about John sending a message to Jesus from prison asking, Are you the one we have been waiting for? In Jesus' usual way of not directly answering the question, he responded, Pay attention to what's happening around you! Are the injured healed? Are those felt dead brought back to life? Are oppressed people finding hope for freedom and reconciliation? Jesus didn't focus attention on himself. Rather he turned their gaze to see that the kin-dom of God is happening all around them. And so, when when we feed those who are hungry, we are the ones participating in the kin-dom of God. We are the ones calling on our leaders to end the inhumane conditions of detention centers. We are the ones joining others supporting equity and inclusion. We are the ones celebrating the rich diversity of God's people. By following the example of Jesus and responding to the needs of our day, we are the ones!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

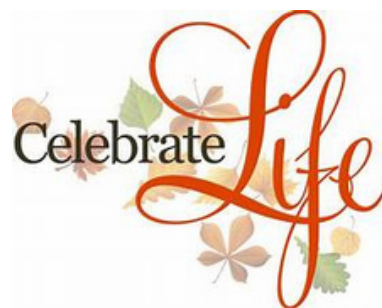
A UCC SPECIAL OFFERING

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. This may look like hosting a prayer walk, supporting game nights, providing bicycles for students, or creating a drop-in center for youth. There are countless ways that United Church of Christ faith communities are strengthening the church in their communities. The Strengthen the Church offering helps support ministries like these. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

We will receive this offering on July 5 and 12. If you would like to give online through Tithe.ly, please select “Special Offering” from the drop-down menu.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE/JULY 2026



JUNE

- 4 – Linda Finister
- 7 – Jason Lawrence
- 16 – Dean Young
- 22 – Larry Young
- 22 – Anniversary – Mark & Celia Bewley
- 22 – Anniversary – Steve & Myra Douglass
- 24 – Christiana Dilger
- 26 – Danielle Dilger

JULY

- 5 – Bethany Maxwell
- 7 – Anniversary – Jim Carlisle & Pat Cairns
- 12 – Dick Ramont
- 15 – Cherie Weber
- 31 – Phyllis Cerny

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

KENT KENNEY, HISTORIAN

Early Atascadero Memories: Gracie Clemence and the Harris Family



Grace (Gracie) Evans Clemence was an early day resident of Atascadero who was married to Victor Clemence, who had amassed a huge butterfly collection. Gracie was a pianist who sometimes played for the Community Church in it's formative years. Victor was a consummate tenor and they often performed together in Atascadero as well as at the Paso Robles Inn where Victor worked. Gracie was involved in local cabarets and was a world traveler. She wrote interesting travelogues for the Atascadero News and the following is an account about a young girl, Polly Harris, from Atascadero, who was tragically killed in an accident.

Once upon a time when Atascadero was younger and prettier than it is now with its hodgepodge existence, homes were far apart and not crowded together as they often are now. When people decided to move here, neighbors called to make newcomers welcome.

And so it was when my mother, grandmother and I arrived and bought a home, every day for the first two weeks different souls would come to meet and greet us.

Among others was Dr. Ned Harris, his wife and 10 year-old daughter, Polly. As time passed, they became some of our nearest and dearest friends. They had originally come from Michigan, but four years before we met, they had lived in Melbourne, Australia, where the doctor had practiced. However, came a time when Polly began to make the accent of the country, her own, and her parents decided that perhaps it was better to return to the states.

She came home one day to announce that there was a new baby in the neighborhood saying "he's a silly old thing and he lives in a bawsket" also, having been in the park and overheard some soldiers talking, she had announced to her parents that one chap had said, as they stood looking at some peacocks, "don't "stond"there all the dye and wyting", He won't rise his Tile"

They planed a spacious home here, but found that their finances were limited and so only had been able to build a rather large building, the lower part of which was to be a garage and Shop, and which they had then divided for living quarters, while the entire room above carpeted with Persian rugs, and furnished with other beautiful pieces with windows to the West, were given over to Mrs. Harris, who being an artist used it as her studio. It was also a family room and many were the happy hours we spent with them there.

Polly, in the meantime, had been going to school and had graduated with a record of having the highest grades of any student who had gone up to that time. She had never dated, considering the boys dull and not worth the effort. So came a time when she was ready for further education, and the question arose of where she was to go, as the parents hadn't the money to send her to college. That problem was taken care of when a friend living in the Palo Alto area, offered to share her home so that Polly could go to a junior college there. That seemed a splendid idea, and for the first time Polly was separated from her parents.



Early Atascadero Memories, cont.

Polly had scarcely started to school in the northern city, when she began to go with a boy in her class, which was a surprise to everyone. Then came the fatal Thursday when he was driving her to school, and they went over a railroad, crossing at exactly the wrong moment. The engineer later said that he saw Polly look up at him, but it was too late to stop the train and they were both killed instantly. The shock was so great to all of us who knew the family and we felt like the parents would be devastated at the loss of their only child. Of course they went north that morning and returned Saturday when a lovely memorial service was held here in Atascadero.

I knew that I must go to call and hesitantly turned my footsteps in their direction. They lived on a lovely little hillside about two blocks north of us. I wondered what I'd say. What does one say to the mother of a lovely only daughter. To my utter amazement, Mrs. Harris greeted me at the door, and then we stood outside, where we would look over the landscape and distant Hills, and on the beautiful October day, she said words that have been graven on my heart, and which I shall never ever forget. With almost a glow on her face she said "I shall never be grateful enough that Polly chose me for a mother and that I had her for 17 years"

And I thought "how wonderful", would that all parents could feel the same under such circumstances, without the resentment of why did this have to happen to me?

She and Dr. Harris came to dinner at our home that evening and of course all conversation was about Polly, until one felt that she was in the next room. They told us of the serious, unusual, profound statements that she often made as a tiny child, things that they felt she could never have heard from anyone, such as "God is everywhere"

They also felt that Polly was an old soul who had lived many times before, and that she and the young man who was killed with her, had been together in some previous lifetime, that the powers that had brought them together again, that they had finished the work they needed for this experience and they were taken at the same time. Mrs. Harris said that while in Palo Alto, much of her time was taken up, trying to comfort the boy's mother, who did not share her beliefs.

Later, Dr. Harris told me that when they decided to have a child, both being in their 30s, they tried to prepare themselves mentally and physically to attract the finest soul that they could, their belief being that when a soul prepares to incarnate again, it chooses a family where it will get the experience that it needs in that particular lifetime.

Thus, it was, that I was introduced for the first time to thoughts of reincarnation. The Harris has moved to Halcyon, near Oceano, which is a theosophic center where they live for many years, and where my mother and I visited often, going to lectures and hearing their tenants. Mrs. Harris had, during their years, been extremely interested in club activities and had helped to found the Girl Scout government movement here and, as you probably know, the little building where they met, was later named the Polly Harris Girl Scout cabin. That little scout log cabin has been moved up to a new facility next to the library.

From Aria...

I will be undergoing gender-affirming surgeries this summer, and my sister Anna has created a GoFundMe account for friends and family to help cover the costs. Don't worry if you can't contribute, but please consider donating if you can!



Donations aside, I want to thank each of you for supporting me as a friend undergoing a journey you probably don't relate to firsthand. Your continued friendship means the world to me regardless of whether or not these surgeries come to fruition. Thank you for being a part of my life!

To donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-arias-gender-affirming-surgeries>

Community Church Choir

NOTE: Choir will be off July-August.

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 schedule.



Let Your Voice
Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

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

Prayers for...

Lisa K, Livia K, Bethany & Alex M,
Jeanne M, Joseph P, Cherie W.

Those in transition
Those facing difficult decisions
Those in pain and those needing help

And those who provide
care and support



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!

HOW TO JOIN OUR CHURCH MEETINGS ON ZOOM



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=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWElGcWlXQkVudz09>
MEETING ID: 937 257 009 —————→ PASSCODE: 528041

Church Council:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81215310853?pwd=YldsNTUzdKx0NzJkcHZvamlYRjJodz09>
MEETING ID: 812 1531 0853 —————→ PASSCODE: 481994

SHARE A SLICE OF YOUR KITCHEN!

Send us your favorite recipe along with a short blurb about why you love it. We'll be featuring a few of your submissions in our upcoming newsletters for everyone to enjoy.

RECIPE CORNER: FESTIVE FRUITED CHEESECAKE FLAG

Ingredients:

- 3 cups (426 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 ¾ teaspoons salt
- 12 ounces (340 g) butter, softened (3 sticks)
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons light-brown sugar
- 4 packages (8-ounces each) (908 g) cream cheese, room temp.
- 1 ½ cups (318 g) granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 1-2 cups (about 227 to 255 g) blueberries
- 1 pound strawberries, hulled and sliced lengthwise into thirds
- 3 cups (about 340 g) raspberries
- Powdered sugar, for dusting



Instructions

- Coat a 13-by-18-inch rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray. Line with parchment, leaving a 2-inch overhang on the long sides. Coat parchment with cooking spray.
- Sift flour and 1 3/4 teaspoons salt into a medium bowl. In a large bowl, cream the butter with a mixer on medium-high speed, occasionally scraping bowl, until fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes. With the mixer running, slowly add light brown sugar, beating until very pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add flour mixture all at once, and beat on low speed until just incorporated.
- Transfer the dough to the prepared baking sheet. Press the dough into an even layer that covers the bottom of the sheet. Cover and refrigerate until firm, about 20 minutes. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Bake the dough until the entire surface is golden brown, about 30-35 minutes. Let the cookie base cool completely in the baking sheet. Raise oven temperature to 350 degrees F.
- In a large bowl, beat the softened cream cheese with a mixer on medium speed, occasionally scraping bowl, until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Reduce speed to low and add granulated sugar in a slow, steady stream. Scrape the bowl, then mix in lemon zest, vanilla and a pinch of salt until well combined. Scrape the bowl, then beat in the eggs, 1 at a time, until incorporated. The mixture should be very smooth; scrape the bowl as necessary. Pour the cheesecake batter over the crust and spread into an even layer.
- Bake the cheesecake until the filling is set, about 20-25 minutes. Let the cheesecake cool completely in the baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm and cold, about 4 hours (or overnight).
- Run a sharp knife along short sides of sheet, and use the parchment overhangs to lift out the cheesecake. Run the knife under hot water and dry well. Use it to cut the cheesecake into 48 squares, wiping the knife clean between cuts.
- Transfer squares to a serving platter, reforming the rectangle. Decorate the top left squares (3 down and 4 across), with a mound of blueberries on each square. Use raspberries (about 4 per square) to decorate the 1st, 3rd and 5th rows (the 1st and 3rd rows are shorter rows since part of them are decorated with blueberries). Decorate the remaining rows in one of two ways: either dust them with powdered sugar for a completely white row or place three cut strawberries on each square and dust the tops of the strawberries with powdered sugar. If using this method (to dust the strawberries with powdered sugar), dust the strawberries immediately before serving as the powdered sugar will begin to dissolve into the juiciness of the strawberries.
- Serve immediately (or refrigerate for up to 3 hours).

Courtesy of Mel's Kitchen Cafe: <https://bestcookierecipes.com/birds-nest-cookies/>

JUNE/JULY 2026 CCA Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 -JUNE Pastor's day off	2	3 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	4	5	6
7 9 am Choir 10 am Communion Worship 11 am Fellowship	8 Pastor's day off	9	10 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship 4 pm Echo Meal	11	12	13
14-Atas. Pride in the Park 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid Worship	15 Pastor's day off	16	17 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship 7 pm * Moderators Mtg.	18	19	20
21 - Fathers Day 9 am Band Rehearsal 10 am Hybrid Worship 12 pm Church Council Mtg.	22 Pastor's day off	23	24 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	25	26	27
28 9 am Choir 10 Hybrid Worship 11 am Fellowship	29 Pastor's day off	30	1 -JULY 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 10 am Communion Worship 11 am Fellowship	6 Pastor's day off	7	8 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship 4 pm Echo Meal	9	10	11
12 10 Hybrid Worship	13 Pastor's day off	14	15 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship 7 pm * Moderators Mtg.	16	17	18
19 9 am Band Rehearsal 10 Hybrid Worship 12 pm Church Council Mtg.	20 Pastor's day off	21	22 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	23	24	25 Festival Moziac Concert
26 10 am Hybrid worship	27 Pastor's day off	28	29 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	30	31	

* These are Zoom-only events

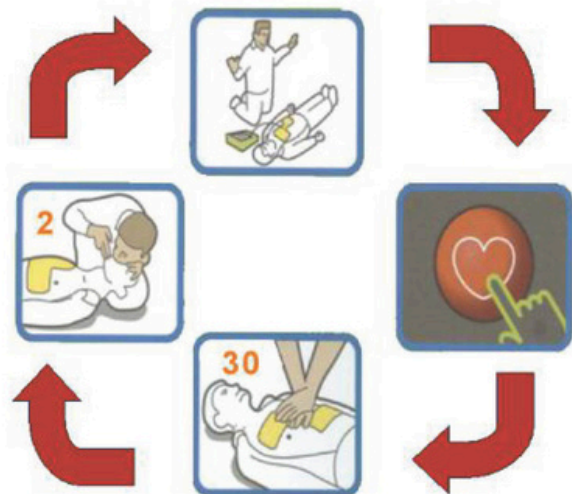
FAMOUS SPIRITUAL QUOTE



CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING

A Breath Away

Community CPR and First Aid Training



To get on the schedule for training Contact

Instructor Cell: 805-468-9666

Admin Cell: 757-651-7187

charles.kania@gmail.com

lisalkania@gmail.com