

September/October 2023

# 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](mailto:atascaderoucc@gmail.com)  
[www.atascaderoucc.org](http://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  
(805) 466-9108  
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## As I Ponder...

Recently as I was passing a house on a walk in the area, a boy, possibly 7 or 8, called out to me. "Hi!" he cried. I responded in kind. "How are you?" he asked. "I'm doing great! How are you?" He also stated that he was good. "I'm getting wet," he said. I could see a girl, probably his sister, further up with a super soaker. "I'll bet you're getting soaked," I replied. He happily said, "Yes!"

"Can I tell you something?" Of course, with a 7 or 8 year old, there was no way of anticipating where this was headed. "Yes, please do." "I saw a snake... down there." And he pointed further down his front yard. I wasn't particularly excited to hear this, but at least I wasn't near where he was pointing.

"Wow! Was that scary?" I projected. After all, a snake in the grass seems pretty scary to me. But he shook his head. "You sure are brave," I exclaimed. And he nodded as he said, "Yes."

I was getting kind of eager to move on. "Have a nice day." "You, too," he replied. And I continued on my walk, relishing the serendipitous encounter.

Often I am studiously focused on where I'm going, or a podcast, or mentally planning what I need to get done, attending only to me and my own thoughts. It was such a gift to be interrupted from whatever I was thinking about to step into someone else's world of wonder. That joy stayed with me as I sweated onward. It remains with me as I relive it.

How often do we get so focused on our own lives, consumed with our own thoughts and perspectives? What simple delights do we miss?

I hope you are interrupted today by something or someone that brings you joy.

*Gratefully yours... heather*

## **Council News**

I was amazed and overjoyed at the amount of enthusiasm generated by the Mission Statement sessions. So many ideas came out of the sessions that it was hard to keep track. A committee has been organized (Eileen O'Grady, Marilyn Hamilton, and John Lawrence) to incorporate these fabulous ideas into a mission statement. They were so inspired they developed something very quickly. Pastor Heather has been sharing this with you over the course of 3 Sundays then plans for a conversation following worship on September 10<sup>th</sup> to finalize our new mission statement.

In the August meeting, the council approved two projects to be coordinated by Eagle Scouts, Keith Kania. Keith will be rebuilding the entrance to the basement of the fellowship hall. Izak will be tearing up the old, unwanted plants in the triangle area within the brick/cinderblock area between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Both projects are awaiting District approval from Eagle Scouts.

Also in the August meeting, the council voted to accept two lease contracts, one for Acorn Village Montessori and the other for Oakwood Enrichment Academy. Both programs will be under the direction of Kristina Prozesky.



The September Council Meeting is set for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at noon and the October meeting is set for October 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. Anyone can join us for our meetings. If you would like to impact the life of our community through these meetings indirectly, think about joining a ministry or a committee. Better yet, let us know if you would like to chair one. The Ministries are: Hospitality, Stewardship, Peace With Justice, Worship, Communications, Caregivers, Building Our Community, and Building and Grounds. The Committees are: Personnel, Budget, Nominating, Finance, and an Ad Hoc Committee to review and possibly revise our By-Laws.

Yours in Service,

Bill

## **INTERGENERATIONAL, FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORSHIP**

Behold, I am doing a new thing. It springs forth, can you see it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers where it's dry. Isaiah 43.19

We often sing that song during worship, a song that reminds us of God's Spirit actively bringing new life. Well, we are about to try something new in worship. During the Fall we will have an intentional intergenerational focus designed to include people of all ages throughout our service. We'll have some interactive portions, a bible story told in ways that help connect to our own experiences, and coloring pages that are particularly good for those of us who focus better when we're doing something (or doodling) — combined with music and our community prayer time. Joy-filled (and perhaps occasionally a tad chaotic), we hope that our worship experiment is personally engaging in some new ways.

Consider inviting your friends or neighbors who are looking for some religious engagement for their family that offers a more progressive perspective.

## **Building Our Community**

***Brenda May***

It has been an awesome year so far! We have had a marvelous time. We are back at it and making a difference.

### **Church Picnic September 24th**

The Picnic is all set at Area 3 with start time of 3pm. This is the same area we have used for a few years. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Bring any games you would like to play!! Chuck Kania and David May will BBQ. We provide sausages, hotdogs, water and some sodas.

### **Fall Rummage Sale October 13-14**

Fall Rummage Sale is happening! Please save your cupboard, garage, and closet cleanouts. I have a signup list for when you can help with both the setup and working during the sale. As I often say, it takes a community.

We welcome anyone interested in being a part of Building Our Community. Keeping Community Church of Atascadero visible in our community is vital to supporting LGBTQ, the homeless, the mentally ill, people of color and wherever we need to make sure justice prevails.

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



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### ***Community Church Choir:***

Come join us as we learn vocal techniques and have fun singing. Rehearsals are listed in the calendar.

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## **NORTHERN ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING**

**November 4**

Join us for the Fall gathering of the Northern Association, held at Tehachapi Community Church. It is a wonderful time to renew old relationships and create new ones as we connect with other UCC congregations in our association. Stayed tuned for more details.

## **Bring on the Cereal!**

ALF Food Pantry (which you may still think of as Atascadero Loaves and Fishes, aka ALF) is facing financial concerns as both client numbers and food costs have increased in the past two years. YOU can help...

ALF Food Pantry's aim is to provide nutritious food to residents of Atascadero, Templeton, Santa Margarita, Creston or the California Valley. One of the items that the food pantry provides to families each week is cereal. Much of the food provided by the pantry comes at very low cost from the SLO Food Bank, or through gleaning. Cereal, however, is purchased at one of our local grocery stores, making it one of the most expensive items provided.

ALF Food Pantry is inviting local churches to help offset the cost of cereal by making cereal donations throughout the year. Schools will be invited to contribute too.

***OCTOBER** is our month to make a difference for families with inadequate resources for food. During the month of October you can bring cold cereal (in boxes or bags suitable for families) of any type. Or, you could bring instant or quick oatmeal, again in sizes no larger than a family could use in a couple of weeks.*

Other ways to help ALF Food Pantry include making a financial donation or becoming a volunteer working a few hours a week in one of many jobs. As the month progresses, you'll hear more about ALF Food Pantry and what we do from a couple of Community Church members who are volunteers. If you have questions, you can contact me at [jemiller@umich.edu](mailto:jemiller@umich.edu).

***Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...***

Cherie W, Joseph P, Lisa K, Livia K, Mary Jane M, Ted M

*...and all of the Caregivers*



## **MISSION STATEMENT UPDATE**

We spent two weeks engaged in the process of developing a new mission statement. It was reflective and engaging, particularly as we shared together who we are as a church and what we value. A small committee has worked out a draft mission statement. (Thanks to Eileen O'Grady, Marilyn Hamilton, and John Lawrence.) We will gather again after worship on **Sept. 10** for a follow-up conversation to finalize our new mission statement. Please plan to join us!

## **Neighbors in Need**

Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion through-out the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries.

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on **October 1**, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national Justice and Local Church Ministries office, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfytatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

**Behold!** With your assistance, we together can help our **Neighbors in Need**. Please give generously either in worship on Oct 1 or online through Tithe.ly on [www.atascaderoucc.org](http://www.atascaderoucc.org). Thank you!

### **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!**

**Historians Corner**

PREFACE TO HISTORY OF THE FEDERATED CHURCH  
MANSE FOR COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ATASCADERO

The Manse was built as a private home for Charles Lindsey in 1917 (16). In 1919 it was purchased by the Federated Church as the parsonage. The Federated Church was composed of more than twenty denominations who met together. At this time they met in the Pine Mountain Stadium Park, in a theatre building which was located at the end of Bajada Ave. on Traffic Way, and other places. H.J. Loken was the first minister to occupy the Manse. The Manse was home to all of the church’s ministers with the exception of one, who moved, after they bought a home in Templeton. At that time, the house was used as a residence for the caretakers of the Church grounds.

In 1921, the Community Center (Present day Atascadero Bible Church) was built and became the hub for all sorts of activities as well as the home of the Federated Church.

In later years, The Federated Church fell on hard times when the mortgage payments couldn’t be met, possibly due in part to it’s dwindling membership. By this time some denominations had found other homes. Mrs. Ewalt paid off the mortgage and the Church of the Living Word was formed, the beginning of the present ABC Church.

Another group made plans to build on the present site of the Community Church of Atascadero. The land for Fellowship Hall was given by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hess and the land for the Parking Lot was given by Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Marshall. Many fundraisers were held and when the church (now the Fellowship Hall) was built, it was debt free.

Most of this information is from “A HISTORY OF THE FEDERATED CHURCH & THE FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ATASCADERO CALIFORNIA” by Frances (Fullinwider) Fenny, 1968. She said “noted at this time was the fact that while the Manse had been purchased and planned as just that, during these last years of the Federated Church and the beginning of the Community Church, it was used more as a Parish House, for there was a continuous procession of meetings and conferences held there.”

Donna Shinoda graciously digitized this account for the Centennial of the church.

Ciao...kent

**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=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEIGcWlXQkVvdz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/937257009?pwd=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEIGcWlXQkVvdz09</a>	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Council	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81215310853?pwd=YlDsNTUzdKx0NzJkcHZvamlyRjJodz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81215310853?pwd=YlDsNTUzdKx0NzJkcHZvamlyRjJodz09</a>	MEETING ID: 812 1531 0853 PASSCODE: 481994

## September/October Birthdays & Anniversaries

### September

1 – Dan Rich  
 12 – Shirley Summers  
 17 - Marsha Robbins  
 18 – Anniversary: David & Brenda May

### October

7 – Livia Kellerman  
 8 – Martha Staib  
 9 – Mary Jane McConville  
 9 – Anniversary: John & Kate Lawrence

14 – Izak Kania  
 14 – Eileen O’Grady  
 16 – Ron Staib  
 20 – Anniversary: Heather Branton & Jeanne Miller  
 21 – Belinda Blacketer

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR

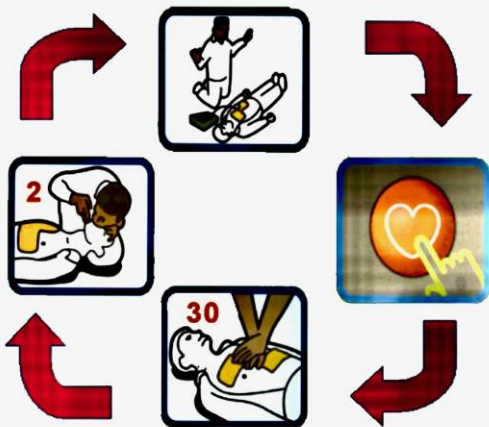
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>September 3</b> 10 am Hybrid worship with Communion	<b>4</b> <i>Labor Day</i>	<b>5</b> Pastor’s day off	<b>6</b> 3pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship	<b>11</b> Pastor’s day off	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 Zoom Bible study 3pm Zoom Fellowship 4pm Echo Meal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship 12 pm Church Council	<b>18</b> Pastor’s day off	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:30 Zoom Bible study 3pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship 3 pm <b>Church picnic</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor’s day off	<b>26</b> <b>← Pastor Heather vacation →</b>	<b>27</b> 3pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>October 1</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship with Communion	<b>2</b> Pastor’s day off	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 Zoom Bible study 3pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Colony Days booth
<b>8</b> 10 am Hybrid worship	<b>9</b> Pastor’s day off	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Rummage sale setup</b> 3pm Zoom Fellowship 4pm Echo Meal	<b>12</b> <b>Rummage sale setup</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship 12 pm Church Council <b>← Family leave →</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 3pm 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> 3pm Zoom Fellowship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship <b>← Vacation →</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



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Atascadero, CA 93422

## 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

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5850 Rosario Ave