

April 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
10 am Sunday

Fellowship on Zoom
3 pm Wednesday

Pastor: Heather Branton
ccaucppastor@gmail.com
Cell phone (805) 470-9486
Office Hours: by appointment
Day off: Mondays

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

As I Ponder...

March 31 was Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV), a day to celebrate people who are transgender or for whom a gender binary doesn't fit. TDOV reminds us how fabulous it is to fully live as one's true self! We get to celebrate the many people who have been able to openly live as transgender. We get to appreciate all of the gifts and joy they bring into the world as their authentic selves. And we can celebrate all year long, not just one day.

But we also remember those many, many individuals who live in the shadows because it isn't safe for them to live openly authentic lives, true to their own gender expression. Across our country there has been an alarming increase in anti-trans legislation: prohibiting transgender youth from participating in athletics, limiting restroom use to the gender printed on one's birth certificate, criminalizing gender-affirming health care for adolescents, protecting discrimination on the basis of religious freedom, making it more difficult for people who are transgender to obtain updated IDs, and even removing books about gender and sexuality from school libraries.

I am reminded that the well-being of a society is determined by how well the children are treated. So, when I look at all of the attempts to legalize trauma, discrimination, and abuse... when I observe how much these bills are targeting children and youth – I feel sick.

We are a faith community that affirms the worth of each person, that lives into the belief that each individual is sacred. But for others to experience that inclusion and embrace, we must continually be active rather than passive. That means being intentional about the language and pronouns we use. It means speaking up in conversations, especially in ways that celebrate the spectrum of gender (even if we don't fully understand it). It means continually challenging our own assumptions and educating ourselves.* After all, who among us hasn't experienced changes within our own lives of what it means to be male or female – or something that embraces both? Who among us hasn't experienced changing identities? Don't we want to be celebrated for who **we** are?

Gratefully yours... heather

* For transgender education, check out: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/transgender>.

For anti-transgender bills: <https://freedomforallamericans.org/legislative-tracker/anti-transgender-legislation/>

Bible Study

Each week we gather on Zoom to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's scripture. We delve into background and what meaning it has for us today (or not). Wednesday mornings, 9:30-10:30.

Cross Decorating

Come help decorate the cross for Easter! Saturday, April 16, at 10 am. Refreshments following. Flower donations are needed. Please have them there by 10 am on Saturday.

White Savior: Racism in the American Church

This is a documentary on the way racism and white supremacy have functioned in American Christianity. Based on interviews and current research, the documentary film *White Savior* explores the historic relationship between racism and American Christianity, the ongoing segregation of the church in the US, and the complexities of racial reconciliation. This excellent documentary is available on Amazon Prime.

Building Our Community

PRIDEfest is May 21-22 at Laguna Lake Park from 10-6

We will be sharing a booth again with our friends from SLO UCC and Plymouth UCC in Paso Robles. We will probably have beads for kids to make necklaces or bracelets. This is a 2-day event and we will need volunteers for both days. Please let Brenda May know if you are interested and what times you would like to help at the booth. 805-466-8610 or dbmjmay@aol.com

May 14th City-wide Yard Sale

We are registered and good to go. We might be able to set up and sort earlier that week. Call Brenda @805 466-8610 or Sharon Whisenhunt @ 805 461-9541 with questions. A signup sheet will come out soon. More information to follow. Thank you.

Brenda May and Sharon Whisenhunt

Opportunities at Community Church

Have you been wondering what you can do, how you can help out at church? Here are a couple of needs for you to use your skills and help us be more informed and connected as a church community.

Newsletter editor. Perhaps you've thought it would be nice to know about new (and old) members. Perhaps you think we need a little more humor. Or perhaps you'd like a different layout. You don't have to write it all yourself, but you can play a big role in helping us be informed about what's happening at Community Church.

SCNC communications. Sometimes it feels like we are an island (or an oasis). But we are actually part of a much larger body, the United Church of Christ. And we engage with other UCC congregations in the Southern California and Southern Nevada regions. How would you like to be a conduit of communication with our Conference? You would receive a bimonthly email and glean what is important for us at Community Church to know about. You could also share what we are doing with others in our conference.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities.



We receive this offering with joy, believing that, with everything else going on in the world, that love remains. You can donate in person (indicate “OGHS” on your check) or online through Tithe.ly (select “Special offering”). Thank you for the love you share!

SCNC Conference Connections

Annual Gathering June 10 and 11, 2022

Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Keynote Speaker

As a Conference we are in a time of anticipation as we prepare to call a new Settled Conference Minister. We are also prayerfully reflecting on our mission and purpose; the Board of Directors believes all future endeavors should be built on a strong foundation of racial justice. To that end, and in collaboration with the Annual Gathering Planning Team, we encourage our churches and congregations to engage in a time of reflection, study, and dialogue in preparation for our upcoming Annual Gathering.

Please join this effort:

Watch [White Savior: Racism in the American Church](#) (on Amazon Prime)

Read [White Fragility](#) by Robin DeAngelo

Read [White People Facing Race](#) by Peggy McIntosh

Read [Long Divisions - The History of Racism and Exclusion in the US is the History of Whiteness](#)

Watch Ibram X. Kendi's [Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America](#) (YouTube)

Land Acknowledgement

The Seeking Justice Ministry Team of the SCNC Board of Directors invites local congregations to

begin and continue learning from the indigenous people in the communities they serve.

Many of us are unfamiliar with the history and ongoing treatment of indigenous peoples around the world, or even in our own communities. What we learned in school was often incomplete or without the violent details, and that was if you even learned about local indigenous peoples at all.

Do you know whose land your church is occupying? To start, visit: <https://native-land.ca/>

Chapman University Founder's Day April 30, 2022

Rev. Dr. William Barber, Speaker

A key human rights leader in North Carolina, Rev. Dr. Barber built a coalition protesting blatant gerrymandering and voter suppression and the state's radical cuts in funding for public schools and health care for the poor. His Moral Mondays protests have become a model for other states. He has revived Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign and is now touring the nation building coalitions of those who care about issues of poverty, health care, systemic racism, climate change, and white nationalism to come together to do critical analysis, reflection and strategizing on these vital issues.

For more information to attend in person or virtually: <https://www.chapman.edu/campus-life/church-relations/founders-day>

Northern Association Spring Meeting 2022
April 23rd at noon – First Congregational Church of Bakersfield

We have 14 churches in the Northern Association. We need a quorum for this meeting and ecclesiastical council. Our by-laws specify that a quorum consists of a majority of the churches in the Association. They can be represented in person or on zoom.

AGENDA:

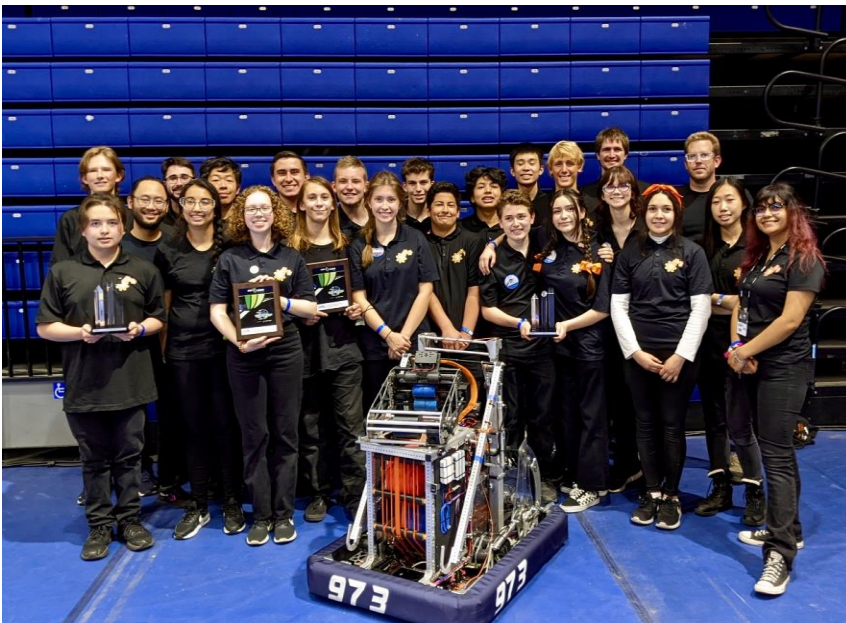
Noon: a lunch of sandwiches and salad (\$15 donation)

1:00: Ecclesiastical Council followed by a brief worship service and business meeting

An ecclesiastical council is an important event towards ordination. It is an opportunity to listen, ask questions, and celebrate this process in Keslinn's life.

Please contact me at sincerelySusan@sbcglobal.net at least a week before to register for in-person or Zoom. If attending in person, do they want to join us for lunch.

Rev. Susan Brecht (moderator)



Congratulations to Keith Kania and the Atascadero Greybots!

Keith Kania and the Atascadero High School Robotics Team will be heading to Houston for the world championships this month.

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!

Keep on your hearts & in your prayers...

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

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

4 – Anniversary - Dick & Lois Ramont
 14- Candice Hubbard
 16- Merlene Pearce


17- Lisa Kania
 22- Virginia Carsley
 22- Anniversary - Bill & Marilyn Hamilton

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
3 10 am Hybrid worship w/ communion	4 Pastor's day off	5	6 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	7	8	9
10 10 am Hybrid worship	11 Pastor's day off	12	13 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online ECHO meal please contact Celia Bewley	14	15	16
17 Easter Sunday 10 am Hybrid worship 12:00 Council meeting	18 Pastor's day off	19	20 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	21	22	23
24 10 am Hybrid worship	25 Pastor's day off	26	27 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	28	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=UGZVRHdoNVRYS09TWEIGcWlXQkVjdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dt d3lwNmswUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09	MEETING ID: 858 1515 0012 PASSCODE: 202869
Wednesday Bible Study	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82952931382?pwd=dFcx N2RtQzVoUit4RXZac2RMbXdZZz09	MEETING ID: 829 5293 1382 PASSCODE: 303403

 When you go to smile.amazon.com to shop, Amazon donates to Community Church! It's easy. Last year, CCA received \$250.34 from amazonsmile. 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.



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A business card for Marisol's Cleaning. The top half features a photograph of a modern kitchen and bathroom. The bottom half has a dark grey background with white text.

MARISOL'S CLEANING
Marisol Perez
Cleaner specialist
madrdsara23@gmail.com
mmargarita 0420@yahoo.com
(805) 975-4225
(805) 610-0276

A business card for Jeff Stevens, a piano technician. The background is a close-up photograph of piano keys. The card includes a circular logo for the Piano Technicians Guild of America and contact information.

Jeff Stevens
Registered Piano Technician
562.335.7142
Certified Piano Technician | University of Western Ontario