

May-June 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
ccauccpastor@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...

We put grape jelly out for the orioles. They love it! They line up as though waiting to get in at the local diner. A little beeper goes off and the next in line races to the bowl to hurry the previous one along. We need to invest in jelly; it's probably the only stock currently increasing in value.

Nothing seems to be quite normal, does it? It's even true at the Avian Diner. It seems birds not previously eating here are now noshing on grape jelly. Blue jays, finches, and other birds have gotten in line. I feel like we've become jelly pushers, and they all have to get their fix. I feel a little anxious, not knowing if we're affecting their nutritional needs.

Years ago, I visited a small, private game reserve in Zambia. The guide told us that several years prior there had been a big fire and one side of the reserve was badly burned. An interesting thing happened, however. Animals adapted their diets, including (if I remember correctly) carnivorous animals eating plants on the unburned side.

We are surrounded by so much upheaval – climate change, Covid uncertainties, economics, war... the list seems unending. In many ways nothing seems stable and so much seems to be dying, both people, species, and whole ways of life. And yet the history of life tells a story of adaptation and innovation, by all kinds of species.

I do not know what the future holds. But I'm trying to hold onto hope, whether Divinely inspired or in the cycles of nature. I suppose it might seem a little simplistic but I listen to the song in my head, *Behold, I am doing a new thing*, believing there is something greater than me continuing that call toward life that is deep and full, abundant.

Maybe I'll also try a little of that grape jelly.

Gratefully yours... heather



Growing Our Community

Yes, Spring is here! Time for growing things... and we continue to raise money for our capital campaign project *Growing Our Community!*

Look around the church campus and you'll see some of the more obvious facility improvements we've been able to make so far: new sanctuary roof, new flooring in the sanctuary basement along with repainting the rooms used for Sunday School and Project Learn, a complete overhaul of the

Hewitt building with new flooring and paint – not to mention the ability to use the large room at the end of the building now that it's no longer dedicated to storage.

Our cracked sidewalks are gone, but we still need to create a walkway from the sanctuary to the office building. The parking lots need to be rehabbed with asphalt and new striping. Most obvious is the need to paint the exteriors of the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

Our first priority now is to repaint the sanctuary. We have nearly \$26,000 but need at least \$7,000 more to make this happen. Together we can achieve our goals. Please consider what you can give. This is one of the ways you can contribute to improving our church community.

– Jeanne Miller & Bethany Maxwell, Campaign Co-chairs

Building Our Community

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

We will be sharing a booth with our friends, old and new, from SLO UCC and Plymouth UCC in Paso Robles. This is a great opportunity to share about our congregation! There will be rainbow stickers, rainbow bubbles, and rainbow snap bracelets. And we will have beads for kids

of all ages to make necklaces or bracelets. This is a 2-day event and we still need volunteers for both days. Please let Brenda May know what times you would like to help at the booth.

805-466-8610 or dbmjmay@aol.com

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.

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

California Assembly Bill 506

AB 506 became law in September of 2021. The new state law requires administrators, employees, and regular volunteers of all organizations that serve children (including churches, schools, day cares, nonprofits and others) to:

- Complete a background check including fingerprinting to check against a California criminal database.
- Complete training in child abuse and neglect identification and reporting.
- Ensure mandatory reporting of suspected incidents of child abuse to persons or entities outside of the organization.
- Ensure the presence of two mandatory reporters whenever in contact with or during the supervision of children under their care.

What does that mean for Community Church of Atascadero?

Just as our church services have evolved during to the pandemic, so must our consideration for the safety and welfare of all children entrusted to us. The Church Council has designated an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the process needed to complete these requirements. The AB 506 committee includes Pastor Heather Branton, Ron Staib, Bill Duckett, and Martha Staib. And Kristina Prozesky joined the committee as an *ex officio* member. Together they have identified the LiveScan fingerprinting process available locally and reviewed the online training. All employees and administrators have been informed of the new requirements. Regular volunteers will be identified as our church programming expands. The reporting process for suspected abuse is being drafted as well as a draft church policy.

SCNC Conference Connections

**Annual Gathering
June 10 and 11, 2022**

Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Keynote Speaker

We are preparing for our Conference Annual Gathering. This year it will again be virtual, which means that all of us can attend and participate! The pandemic has further illuminated the disparities and inequities in our society. Annual Gathering will begin with a chaplain-led session on finding comfort in grief. Then Rev. Dr. Velda Love will lead us in sacred and long overdue conversations on how we can live into racial justice and equity.

Plan to participate and prepare:

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)

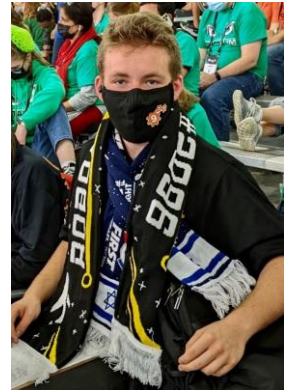
Bible Study

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.

Congratulations to Keith Kania and the Atascadero Greybots!

They are 3rd in the world of high school robotics

!!!!!!!!!!!!



From "Thirty Poems of Healing"

By Tina Datsko de Sánchez

Mother Earth weeps for her children—
day after day, rain drumming down.
She cleanses herself and cleanses us—
of our greed that pillaged and polluted her,
of our hatred that pocked her skin with wars,
of our cruel haste that poisoned her air.

She weeps for us to save us from ourselves.
Let us weep also for the death and inequity we have caused.
Let us shed our narrow concept of self and other,
to embrace oneness with all creation,
to bubble over with compassion,
our hearts a living spring,
tending the thirst of our neighbor.

Tina Datsko de Sánchez serves as Poet in Residence at the First Congregational Church of Long Beach. She is the author of the bilingual poetry book *The Delirium of Simón Bolívar*. Her four-book series of interfaith spiritual poetry inspired by Rumi and Hafiz is forthcoming from The Pilgrim Press.

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/a-poem-for-earth-day-from-thirty-poems-of-healing/>

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!



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.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May

- 2 - Shirley Osibin
- 4 - Anniversary - Bob & Mary Jane McConville
- 7 - Cyndy Smith
- 10 - John Lawrence
- 15 - Kent Kenney
- 20 - Jim Carlisle
- 21 - Stew Thomson
- 23 - Anniversary - Ron & Martha Staib

June

- 4 - Linda Finister
- 12 - Torrey Byles
- 16 - Dean Young
- 19 - Anniversary - Eddie & Candice Hubbard
- 22 - Larry Young
- 22 - Anniversary - Mark & Celia Bewley
- 22 - Anniversary - Steve & Myra Douglass

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
May 15 10 am Hybrid worship 12:00 Council meeting	16 Pastor's day off	17	18 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	19	20	21 Pridefest
22 Pridefest 10 am Hybrid worship	23 Pastor's day off	24	25 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	26	27	28
29 10 am Hybrid worship	30 Pastor's day off Memorial Day	31	June 1 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	2	3	4
5 10 am Hybrid worship w/ communion	6 Pastor's day off	7	8 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online ECHO meal please contact Celia Bewley	9	10 11 SCNC Annual Gathering	
12 10 am Hybrid worship	13 Pastor's day off	14	15 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	16	17	18
19 10 am Hybrid worship 12:00 Council meeting	20 <<<- - - - Pastor	21 away - - - - >>>	22 << - - - - - - - - >>> 3pm Fellowship online	23 << - - - - Pastor	24 away - - - -	25 - - - - >>>
26 10 am Hybrid worship	27 Pastor's day off	28	29 9:30am Bible study 3pm Fellowship online	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=UGZVRHdoNVRYs09TWEIGcWIXQkVjdz09	MEETING ID: 937 257 009 PASSCODE: 528041
Church Choir	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81750412891?pwd=K2dt d3lwNm5wUmRkOXlwZytiSStCZz09	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



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An advertisement for Marisol's Cleaning. The top half shows a photograph of a modern kitchen and bathroom. The bottom half has a dark background with white text.

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

An advertisement for Jeff Stevens, a piano technician. The background is a close-up of piano keys. The text is in the bottom right corner.

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

The logo for the Piano Technicians Guild, featuring a circular emblem with a piano key and the text "THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD INC." around the perimeter.