

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

*"I BELIEVE IN A WORLD WHERE
GOOD STILL OUTWEIGHS EVIL"*

There are days when it is hard to have faith. I don't mean faith in a Sacred Presence beyond this physical realm. Rather, I have difficulty having faith in humanity.

It begins with looking at news headlines—that daily litany of horrors that egocentric (or narcissistic) leaders twisted by greed and lust for power have inflicted on other human beings. My stomach clenches at the cruelty and abuse lauded from bully pulpits and inflamed by social media. My gut churns with the immorality of blatant lies and disinformation – and the culpable naïveté that swallows it.

I could easily allow myself to be slowly destroyed by it, headline by headline, life by life. I could let hope effortlessly slip away. But deep within there is a kernel of something that won't let me go, a breath that won't let me throw up my hands and surrender to futility.

During WWII, there was Catholic resistance to the Nazis in Cologne, Germany. They used some underground passages in old buildings to hide Jewish fugitives from the Gestapo. People lived there for stretches up to 4 months, hidden in darkness where they could only cook at night food shared from friends' rations. A year after the end of the war a Swiss reporter visited the shelter and saw the following inscription on one of the walls:

I believe in the sun, though it be dark;
I believe in God, though He be silent;
I believe in neighborly love, though it be unable to reveal itself.

I, too, believe. I believe that in a world of death, there is also life... where beauty still emerges like a flower in the sidewalk's crack. Although human beings have a deep capacity for cruelty, I believe in a world where there is also profound compassion inherent within humanity, a world with people looking out for each other, sharing even meager offerings with others. I believe in a world where good still outweighs evil, a world where love cannot be destroyed.

And I believe in you. When I am overwhelmed by it all, I look to you and see the ways you continue to share compassion, neighborly love. Together.

Gratefully yours... heather

EASTER

resurrection says that what we do with our lives matters
in this body
the one that we inhabit right now
every act of compassion matters
every work of art that celebrates the good and the true
matters
every fair and honest act of business and trade
every kind word
they all belong and they will all go on in God's good world
— Rob Bell

Join us for a celebration of Life on Easter Sunday!

Worship with Communion

Fellowship following the service





UPCOMING EVENTS

4/19/26: Yom HaShoah service. Join with Congregation Ohr Tzafon for a Holocaust Commemoration. Keynote speaker: Irwin Shelub – son of two Jewish partisans, with a remarkable heroic story. 3 pm at COT 2605 Traffic Way, Atascadero.

5/1/26 & 5/2/26: Church Rummage Sale (Set-up April 29th & 30th)

5/29/26 & 5/30/26: First Congregational Church of Los Angeles for the Southern California Nevada Conference Annual Gathering

6/14/26: Atascadero Pride in the Park. Join CCA at our church booth as we share in this celebration of beautiful diversity.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Our next rummage sale fundraiser is in the planning stage. The sale is scheduled for May 1st and 2nd. It will be here before you know it! 😊

How you can help:

- Check your cupboards, garage, closets for those items you no longer want or need. Clothes, dishes, household items, knickknacks, tools, linens, toys, and books are needed.
- Volunteer! Help is needed for each day. Wednesday, April 29th is set up; Thursday, April 30th is pricing and the sale is Friday and Saturday (May 1st-2nd).

Sign up Sunday morning at church or contact Sharon W. at 805-461-9541. Just a couple of hours will make a difference.

We are looking forward to another great rummage sale fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

Look for additional information (via E-mail) as we get closer to the sale.



A UCC SPECIAL OFFERING

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people both in the US and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by natural disaster, provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners.

Each year, OGHS is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee. In the United Church of Christ, the Global H.O.P.E. team oversees the distribution of the offering.

This year's theme, Our Love Offering to the World, invites us to remember our blessings, to be a people of generosity, and to build a legacy of love. We will receive this offering on April 19 & 26.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL/MAY 2026



April

4 - Anniversary - Dick & Lois Ramont
16 - Marlene Pearce
17 - Lisa Kania
21 - Anniversary - Nancy & Steve Bacon
22 - Anniversary - Bill & Marilyn Hamilton

May

2 - Shirley Osibin
7 - Cyndy Smith
10 - John Lawrence
15 - Kent Kenney
17 - Anniversary - Bethany & Alex Maxwell
20 - Jim Carlisle
23 - Anniversary - Ron & Martha Staib
27 - Kyra Maxwell

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

KENT KENNEY, HISTORIAN



2026 Community Church of Atascadero, United Church of Christ Church Officers

Celia Bewley, Mark Bewley, and Dan O'Grady present the following slate of candidates as Church Officers for 2026:

- Moderator: Danielle Dilger
- Moderato: Elect Jesús Cruz
- Clerk: Lynn Federman
- Financial Secretary: Christiana Dilger
- Associate Financial Secretary: Marilyn Hamilton
- Treasurer: Dick Ramont
- Associate Treasurer: Annajane Lowe
- Historian: Kent Kenney

1934 Community Church Officers Elected

Officers elected at the annual meeting Tuesday evening were W.A.Scott and Mrs J.H.Bissell, added to Board of trustees; George Noyes and Everett, Fenny to Deacons; Mrs. C.O. Baker and Mrs. CW Starkey to the deaconesses, Mrs. Campbell Miller and Mrs. Jenny Brown deaconesses for shorter terms, Mrs. M. A. Travis, clerk, Lawrence Hess, treasurer, Miss Bessie Amsbury, auditor and Reverend J.C.B. Appel, SS superintendent.

In his own report, pastor Mr. Jones mentioned attendance at 80 prayer meetings during the year conducting 65 of them and 22 which were special prayer services held in the month of October with attendance running as high as 52, followed by a month of visitation in which members carried out assignments given out by the pastor. For himself, Mr. Jones reported a total of 1383 calls during the year, besides 67 at the hospital. He had attended 152 meetings of church boards, committees, and organizations, and 63 meetings of outside organizations, making and keeping up a connection and relationship between the church and secular groups. He reported addresses given at the minister's retreat conference at Avalon, and at the Southern California conference in Los Angeles, together with the baccalaureate at the high school and invocations at the Moran school, and grammar school graduations.

The women's council reported among other things, the raising of \$600 to assist with the church expense and the benevolences report including contributions amounting to \$454.54 for Liberty College, the John Brown school, the Million Testament campaign, the Bible Colportage Association, the Wood Leper Fund, Indian work, local relief and the Lee Memorial School.

SCNC ANNUAL GATHERING



For more information: <https://www.scncucc.org/annual-gathering-2026/>

THE SONGS WE SING

What are the songs you sing? What do they elicit within you? How do they move you? Encourage you? Help you feel what is hidden inside?

Each Sunday we sing a variety of songs – old and new, varied in style, language, tempo. Some invite joy; others foster reflection. Some center us in the Spirit; others send us out to do justice. They remind us of a sacred love for all creation – including us, but not just us. Collectively, they remind us of who we are – and who we are called to be.

What we sing matters. Language can be inclusive or limiting. The language that echoes within us in melodies and harmonies can inspire us – or that language can denigrate us (or others).

So, as well as choosing songs we have licenses for, we incorporate music with an expansive and inclusive theology, one that includes a wider vocabulary for both God and human beings. We attempt to intermix songs from long ago with newer music that is in sync with what we believe, with our values, with our mission.

One newer resource for “just and generous worship music” music is the Convergence Music Project (<https://convergencemp.com>). Their goal is to provide “beautiful new songs to deepen and serve the worship experiences of congregations and individuals who embrace a more inclusive and justice-focused way of following the Judeo-Christian tradition and the path of Jesus.” Our annual license enables us to expand our musical repertoire and sing out who we are and who we keep becoming.

As Christopher Grundy composed, “I will sing of your Love, Love, Love!”

AN APRIL DAY

BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW



When the warm sun, that brings
Seed-time and harvest, has returned again,
'T is sweet to visit the still wood, where springs
The first flower of the plain.

I love the season well,
When forest glades are teeming with bright forms,
Nor dark and many-folded clouds foretell
The coming-on of storms.

From the earth's loosened mould
The sapling draws its sustenance, and thrives;
Though stricken to the heart with winter's cold,
The drooping tree revives.

The softly-warbled song
Comes from the pleasant woods, and colored
wings
Glance quick in the bright sun, that moves along
The forest openings.

When the bright sunset fills
The silver woods with light, the green slope throws
Its shadows in the hollows of the hills,
And wide the upland glows.

And when the eve is born,
In the blue lake the sky, o'er-reaching far,
Is hollowed out and the moon dips her horn,
And twinkles many a star.

Inverted in the tide
Stand the gray rocks, and trembling
shadows throw,
And the fair trees look over, side by
side,
And see themselves below.

Sweet April! many a thought
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are
wed;
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn
brought,
Life's golden fruit is shed.



Source: <https://www.thenatureofthings.blog/2022/04/poetry-sunday-april-day-by-henry.html/>



Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Join the Sanctuary Choir

Community Church Choir

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.

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

Prayers for...

Lisa K, Livia K, Bethany & Alex
M, Jeanne M, Dan O, Joseph P,
Cherie W, Marilyn H.

Those whose are anxious and afraid

Those who mourn and struggle to
have hope

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!

We believe that the best recipes come with a story. Do you have a favorite dish that brings you comfort, or a go-to meal that always impresses? We would love for you to share it with us!

Send us your favorite recipe along with a short blurb about why you love it—whether it's a family heirloom, a quick weeknight win, or a memory on a plate. We'll be featuring a few of your submissions in our upcoming newsletters for everyone to enjoy.

RECIPE CORNER: BIRDS NEST COOKIES NO BAKE EASTER TREATS

BIRDS NEST COOKIES ARE A FUN AND EASY EASTER NO BAKE TREATS MADE WITH BUTTERSCOTCH AND CHOCOLATE CHIPS, CHOW MEIN NOODLES, AND TOPPED CANDY EGGS.

Ingredients:

- 1 bag Butterscotch Chips
- 1 bag Chocolate Chips Semi Sweet
- 10 ounces Chow Mein Noodles
- Chocolate Eggs Cadbury Mini Eggs, M&M Eggs, Robins Eggs, or Jelly Beans.



Instructions

- In a large bowl combine Butterscotch and Chocolate chips. Melt chips in the Microwave. (see below)
- Stir Chow Mein Noodles into melted chocolate mixture until fully coated making sure to lift the excess chocolate from the bottom of the bowl.
- Using large spoons place spoonfuls on parchment lined baking sheet. Or use a Silicone Liner.
- Shape cookies to look like a nest and create an indentation in the center for the eggs.
- Place 3 candy eggs inside of nest and allow cookies to cool.
- Store Cooled Cookies in a sealed container for up to a week. Best if enjoyed within 2-4 days

Melting Chocolate

- Microwave: Mix Butterscotch and Chocolate chips together in a large glass bowl and microwave on high for 30 seconds. Then stir chips and microwave for another 30 seconds. Remove and stir. If chips need more time to melt, place back in microwave for 15 seconds and stir, repeating until chocolate is melted.

Courtesy of The Rebel Chick: <https://bestcookierecipes.com/birds-nest-cookies/>

April/May 2026 CCA Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 - APRIL 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	2	3 Good Friday	4
5 - EASTER 9 am Choir 10 am Communion Worship 11 am Fellowship	6 Pastor's day off	7	8 3 pm * Fellowship 4 pm Echo Meal P a s t o r T i m e O f f 7 t h - 1 3 t h	9	10	11
12 10 am Hybrid Worship P a s t o r T i m e o f f	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 am Hybrid Worship 12 pm Church Council Mtg. 3 pm Yom HaShoah service	20 Pastor's day off	21	22 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	23	24	25
26 9 am Choir 10 Hybrid Worship 11 am Fellowship	27 Pastor's day off	28	29 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	30	1 - MAY	2 Rummage Sale
3 9 am Choir 10 am Communion Worship 11 am Fellowship	4 Pastor's day off	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 - Mothers Day 9 am Choir 10 Hybrid Worship	11 Pastor's day off	12	13 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship 4 pm Echo Meal 7 pm * Moderators Mt	14	15	16
17 9 am Band Rehearsal 10 Hybrid Worship 12 pm Church Council Mtg.	18 Pastor's day off	19	20 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	21	22	23
24 - Pentecost 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship	25 Pastor's day off	26	27 9:30 am * Bible study 3 pm * Fellowship	28	29	30 SCNC Annual Gathering 29th-30th
31 9 am Choir 10 am Hybrid worship						

* These are Zoom-only events

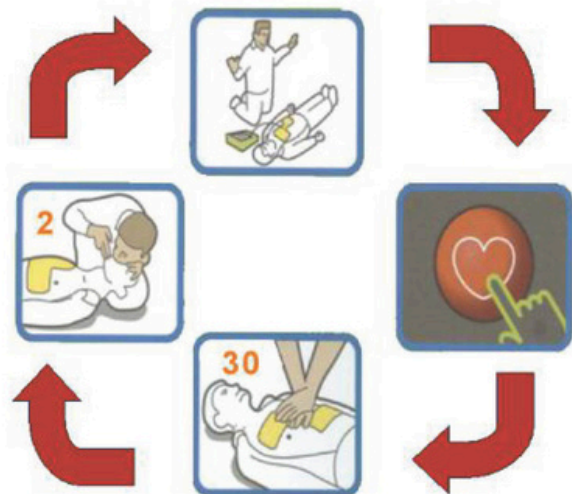
FAMOUS SPIRITUAL QUOTE

**"TO WALK THE SPIRITUAL PATH IS
TO CONTINUALLY STEP OUT INTO
THE UNKNOWN."
-WALLACE HUEY**

CPR & FIRST AID TRAINING

A Breath Away

Community CPR and First Aid Training



To get on the schedule for training Contact

Instructor Cell:

Admin Cell:

charles.kania@gmail.com

lisalkania@gmail.com