

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula
P.O. Box 222811 Carmel, CA 93922



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**Upcoming Dates
For Your Calendar**

**April 19
Meeting to
Discuss
Membership**

**Tuesdays
9:30
Prayer Shawl
Ministry**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Newsletter for the Community
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Contact Information:

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Call: 831-624-8595
831-624-3060 (Shop)
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April 2016

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Independent and United Church of Christ

Welcome

Our Mission

Inside

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. We are both independent and United Church of Christ, as governed by the members. Openness, independent thinking and inclusivity are critical for our journey together. We encourage individual spiritual exploration and do not require adherence to a creed or a single view of what it means to be a Christian or to follow Christ. We journey by heart and our goal is to love God and all that God loves.

The Mission of The Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula is to welcome independent-minded people of all ages, build a diverse Christian community, and nurture one another to love God, neighbor and self.

Our mission is grounded on ten core values:

- God loves all people.
- We welcome all people, wherever they are on their life journey.
- Worship is the life breath of our community.
- We are the heart and hands of Christ serving others.
- We grow spiritually in Christ.
- We provide creative, open, lifelong Christian education.
- We are stewards sustaining all of God's creation.
- We promote understanding and cooperation among people of all faiths.
- We are a vital democracy and value independent thinking and dialogue..
- We joyfully support our mission with time, talent and treasure.

**Minister
Pg. 2**

**Birthdays
Pg. 4**

**Treasurer
Pg. 4**

**Calendar
Pg. 6**

**Prayer Shawl
Ministry
Pg. 7**

In our worship and activities beyond Sunday, we invite you to experience the transforming power of God and walk daily with Jesus as you live out your spiritual journey. Welcome to the journey!

Wherever you are
on your
faith journey, you
are welcome here!



Next Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, April 17!

From Our Minister

April 2016

Dear Friends,

If you've been listening to my sermons long enough, you've probably already figured out that I have a love/hate relationship with St. Paul and his writings. I've decided that it's time for me to "ease into" a relationship with St. Paul by beginning a series of reflections on his writings. This will serve as an "appetizer" to a future sermon series on the major theological themes in Paul's letters.

I've decided to consider Paul's letters in the order in which they were written. My approach to Paul will be that of development. His letters will be studied in chronological order so that we can see how his thought and spirituality matured from his middle years to his later ones.

In this aspect of adult growth Paul can serve as an inspiring model for each of us personally. Paul did not stand still in his understanding and faith, but continually allowed his relationship with Christ to carry him to new insights and deeper trust. The theological and spiritual progression of his letters can give us a helpful pattern for our own continuing growth in faith and understanding.

On our first round of reflections, we will witness the main themes of Paul's early letters as they develop from hope (the letters to the Thessalonians), through faith (the letter to the Galatians), to love (the letters to the Corinthians). This journey through St. Paul's hope, faith, and love can hopefully become a personal journey of our own leading us to a renewed sense of hope, a deeper faith, and a more abiding love.

On our journey through Paul's early letters we will encounter some of the wellsprings of our faith, wellsprings such as the communion of saints, bodily resurrection, and the presence of Christ in communion.

Exploring Paul's letters will provide us with a sketch of one of Christianity's greatest theologians in action. Paul was no "ivory tower" thinker. He hammered out his theology in the context of immediate need and biting controversy, always with an eye to the long-range implications of what he was saying.

To study St. Paul is to discover the general principles behind the specific applications of his theology. As we agree, and at times strongly disagree, with elements of Paul's theology, we will sharpen our own theological skills.

Next month we will begin with Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. Each of these reflections in Beyond Sunday will begin with the suggestion that you read several chapters of the letter under consideration. If you've never read all of Paul's letters before, now is your chance! I will offer a brief reflection on the suggested reading and some questions that you might want to think about in connection with that reading. I hope that this turns out to be a meaningful adventure for us all.

Blessings & Peace,

Paul

OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

paulccmp@yahoo.com
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Fellowship Department



Hosting Sunday Morning Coffee Hour: We need two people to sign up for hosting Sunday Coffee Hour. Prior to taking on the position you will be walked through the setup. This is a wonderful way to connect with members of our congregation and to welcome visitors. There are always people ready to lend a helping hand in the kitchen, but we need your help in the set-up for the coffee hour. Please contact Liz Tarozzi.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All knitters are welcome! We meet in the Broaddus Room just off Woodhull Hall. Call Pam with questions at 624-8759.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



MEETING WITH POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS: Does part of you think and feel that you would like to make your relationship with Community Church "official?" If so, Pastor Paul and George Brehmer, Chair of our Membership Committee, would like to meet with you after church on Sunday, April 10th. We would like to answer any questions that you may have and to briefly share with you our church's history, mission, and core values. We will take no more than an hour of your time. If you will be out of town on April 10th, individual meetings can be scheduled at your convenience. Of course, coming to this meeting in no way obligates you to anything!

Our Outreach Programs

Thank you to all who participate in the following outreach programs. Without your support, it would not be possible!

INTERFAITH HOMELESS EMERGENCY LODGING PROGRAM (I-HELP) The Women's Association collects warm clothing and toiletries for homeless men. Donations of clothing are much appreciated! Our April dinner is on the 13th. Dinner will be served at 5:30!! Then the men spend the night here. Please sign up in Woodhull Hall if you can bring something for the dinner!

FOOD BANK: "Many Requests For Food"...St. Mary's Food Pantry provides non-perishable foodstuff to those in need each month. Please bring donations at any time and leave in food basket in the narthex. Thank you to Larry & Peggy Kuck for transporting to St. Mary's, P. G.

THE TOWEL TEAM MINISTRY collects towels from around the peninsula. They sort, bundle and deliver them to various ministries in the county so that people without permanent homes have a clean towel for a shower. Call Anne Blume at 375-6164 or Amy Krupski at 324-4803.

"CANS FOR CAREERS": Donations of rinsed/crushed aluminum cans & plastic bottles can be placed in the containers outside our front entrance. **NO GLASS BOTTLES PLEASE!** They really do appreciate the monies that this generates. Thanks to Barbara and Lloyd Wells for the instigation of this project.

WOMEN ALIVE!: Women Alive! is a program for homeless women to come to Dorothy's Place, the shelter in Salinas, for dinner, a shower, and a good night's sleep in a safe environment. We can always use deodorant, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and underwear.

Property Steward

Peter Sewald



Not a lot to report; just wordy. Weed-whacker is enroute and termites/carpenter ants have been taken care of for the time being. As these were non-budgeted items, contributions replenishing operating funds are appreciated. Bill Daniel is collecting for the weed-whacker (or give to Carole duly noted as to which item check is to apply).

Bill, Larry, and Russel have been mowing, weed-whacking and killing rats/mice. Some plumbing fixtures required replacing. And removal of ice plant is progressing nicely; we'll get that sign moved eventually.

A tiny gripe (something I have been guilty of). If an area (such as the fellowship hall) is left empty for any lengthy period of time-during church service, for example - please turn out the lights. Oh, and if the room is being pre-heated, please close the doors.



Birthdays In April

5th	Patricia Henry
"	Dodie Scardina
6th	Jeanne Brehmer
17th	Katharine Chaffin

Poetry Corner

Songs of ABBA

ABBA, we hear Your music everywhere.
Even from the solemn yearnings of a
stunning polar bear.

As Your song from dear Christ streams
Into our souls,
E'en in our dreams.
We are twice renewed!

Dorothy Scardina

I- Help Dinner for Men

Our I-Help dinner for men in April is on the 13th. Please sign up to bring something for the meal, The signup sheet is in Woodhull Hall. These homeless men will have a meal, some fellowship, and spend the night. Thank you to those who faithfully support this program!

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report Through February

Operating Income	\$24,273.86
Operating Expenses	34,017.23
Net Income through January	-9,743.37
Total Cash in Operating Accounts	\$54,345.84
Cash in Capital Reserve Account	39,309.88
Foundation Trust Fund	6,863.00

Your Finance Committee: Ruth Elmgren, Patricia Henry, Clyde Klaumann

From Chuck Scardina

Church Women United



The April meeting of Church Women United is going to be held on Friday, April 1, at Marina United Methodist Church, 281 Beach Road, Marina. The General Gathering will begin at 9:30 a.m. Collections will be held for the Leprosy Fund and the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Please see our church representative Kathy Warthan for any questions you may have concerning the upcoming meeting or Church Women United in general.