

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



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Permit #19  
Carmel, CA 93923

**Upcoming Dates  
For Your Calendar**

Tuesdays 9:30  
Prayer Shawl;  
Ministry

Sunday, Feb. 28  
Quarterly Potluck  
following worship



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

A Newsletter for the Community  
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

**Contact Information:**

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February 2016

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Independent and United Church of Christ

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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.

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!

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.

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



Next Newsletter Deadline:  
Sunday, February 21.

## From Our Minister

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February 2016

Dear Friends,

What is love? Take a look at a rose. Is it possible for the rose to say, "I shall offer my fragrance to good people and withhold it from bad people?" Or can you imagine a lamp that withholds its rays from a wicked person who seeks to walk in its light? It could only do that by ceasing to be a lamp. And observe how helplessly and indiscriminately a tree gives its shade to everyone, good and bad, young and old, high and low; to animals and humans and every living creature – even to the one who seeks to cut it down. So this is the first quality of love: its indiscriminate character.

This is what Jesus is getting at in the Sermon on the Mount when he says of his heavenly Father: "For he makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45b). The shocker comes when Jesus invites us to be like God: "Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete" (Matthew 5:48).

Let us contemplate in astonishment the sheer goodness of the rose, the lamp, the tree, for they remind us of how God loves everyone, and of how God challenges us to love everyone.

A second quality of love is its gratuitousness. Like the tree, the rose, the lamp, it gives and asks nothing in return. How we despise the man whose love of wife is determined not by any quality she may have, but by the amount of money she brings to the marriage. Such a man, we rightly say, loves not the woman but the financial benefit she brings him.

But is our own love any different when we seek the company of those who bring us emotional gratification and avoid those who don't, when we are positively disposed toward people who give us what we want and live up to our expectations, and are negative or indifferent toward those who don't? Here, too, Jesus is right on target: "If you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing?" (Matthew 5:46-47).

A third quality of love is its unselfconsciousness. Love so enjoys the loving that it is blissfully unaware of itself. The way the lamp is busy shining with no thought of whether it is benefiting others or not. The way a rose gives out its fragrance simply because there is nothing else it can do, whether there is someone to enjoy the fragrance or not. The way the tree offers its shade. The light, the fragrance, and the shade are not produced at the approach of persons and turned off when there is no one there. These things, like love, exist independently of persons. Love simply is, it has no object. They simply are, regardless of whether someone will benefit from them or not. So they have no consciousness of any merit or of doing good. Their left hand has no consciousness of what their right hand is doing: "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty and help you?" (Matthew 25:37).

A fourth quality of love is its freedom. The moment coercion or control or conflict enters, love dies. Think how the rose, the tree, the lamp leave us completely free. The tree will make no effort to drag us into its shade if we are in danger of a sunstroke. The lamp will not force its light on us lest we stumble in the dark.

Think for a while of all the coercion and control that we submit to on the part of others when we so anxiously live up to their expectations in order to buy their love and approval or because we fear we will lose them. Each time we submit to this control and this coercion we destroy the capacity to love which is our very nature, for we cannot but do to others what we allow others to do to us.

Let us contemplate, then, all the control and coercion in our lives. Hopefully this contemplation alone will cause them to drop. The moment they drop, freedom will arise. And freedom is just another word for love.

Blessings & Peace,



## Fellowship Department

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Fellowship is looking for two people to host the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour for a month. Millie Daniel and Liz Tarozzi will host for the month of February. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Woodhull Hall. Please remember that donations of store bought or baked goods are always welcome! (This helps defray cost of coffee hour supplies and to stay within our budget!) Blessings, Liz Tarozzi

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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Our Prayer Shawl Ministry resumed on January 19 and will be held weekly on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All knitters are welcome! We meet in the Broadus Room just off Woodhull Hall. Call Pam with questions at 624-8759.

## I-Help For Women

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We will be hosting and feeding a small group of homeless women here at CCMP on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Our dinner for February is on the 16th. We will have a simplified menu with about 8 items, rather than the 14 items we have for our larger group of 24 men. OutReach Unlimited will supply the counseling and transportation and other resources as they do for the men. This is a pilot program operating 7 nights of the week and will expand as more churches participate in it. For questions: Dolores (224-5215 cell; 484-2489 home; djoblon@sbcglobal.net)

### 1st Quarterly Potluck of 2016



**Sunday, February 28**  
**following the worship service**  
**Bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share!!**

## Pastoral Relations

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The Pastoral Relations Committee exists as a liaison between Pastor Paul and the congregation. The following people meet with him every three months to discuss any problems that might have come up: Jane Heider, Lisa Sargisson, Kathy Warthan, Peggy and Larry Kuck, Joanne Anderson, and Tami Sojka.

We would LOVE to represent the congregation in this regard, but we seldom get any comments from anybody. If nobody says anything we have to assume that everyone is as happy as a clam. So we usually spend the time congratulating Paul for a job well done.

Please help us do our job of smoothing problems between the pastor and the congregation! If you have ANY issues with the way the church is running, please talk to one of us. We can't guarantee that we will solve the problem but, rest assured, we will share it with Pastor Paul. Compliments are welcome too! We all thank you.

I want to be confident that I am alright and go forward remembering God created me and I am just fine...I want to accept and love my eccentricities and imperfections and remember to keep my sense of humor.

I want to think positive about myself and others and life. I would like to be trustworthy, compassionate and empathetic and forgiving.

I want to be available to others and think of them before myself...and pause and think before I give and answer to a request. I want to listen without judgment, be willing to bear witness when someone needs to talk and give freely of my time.

I want to be a good example to my daughter and realize she can still learn from me.

I want to be able to give and accept unconditional love without fear.

I want my actions to come from my heart and my motives be good ones.

I want to believe in Christ, have self-discipline in my spiritual life e.g. read the Bible, go to church..

I want to be courageous and discuss my blossoming faith with others instead of being silent.

I want to:

Be concerned only about what God thinks of me.

Use my God given gifts to reflect His glory.

As Erma Bombeck said, "When I stand before God at the end of my life I would hope I have not a single bit of talent left and could say "I used everything You gave me."

Make music with words since I cannot sing...I want to write and write and write, especially dialogues with God.

Try and be the person God created me to be and when in doubt ask Him...pray and talk to God all ways.

Have a ferocious desire to love so I take care of myself....remembering my life is God's gift and to be grateful.

Gladly surrender my will to God's .

Learn from my mistakes and unkindness and defiance and look forward eagerly to my next lesson not knowing what it is; knowing it could be difficult, knowing it is God's will, knowing I will grow, knowing change is indispensable to being a vital alive person, remembering God does all things from love.

Be trusting of God and others and work diligently on having faith.

Be still so I can listen to God and have peace in my life and peace in my actions.

Be grateful to God and for Us to be joyous partners in Our love for each other and in my life.

May I have a heart full of God; may my life be a testament to His glory, and may this glory shine within me and without.



## Birthdays In February

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9th	Larry Kuck
12th	Devon Hayes
15th	Faith Clay
16th	Amy Krupski

## Poetry Corner

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We know!

You terrorize us,  
We bomb you.  
And on it goes.

Dear brother / sister terrorists,  
What made us love and adore,  
The profound Mohammad,  
The sweet gentle Jesus,  
The breathtaking Buddha  
The Hindu prophets  
And the wisdom of Moses  
In the ancient times?

We know!

Why does that love for them burst in our hearts,  
Haunting us with an everlasting passion?

Did they guide us to become Christians, Muslim, Buddhists?  
Or to engage in any religions,  
Wars or persecutions?  
Did they offer us palaces, diamonds, money  
or any material treasures?

Now, 'midst the bloom of a new century,  
Those blessed souls return like a tiny wisp of fog,  
Casting their dazzling songs upon our very bones!

Dodie Barkley

## Treasurer's Report

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### Financial Report January Through December

Operating Income	\$223,732.19
Operating Expenses	186,506.76
Net Income through Ded.	37,225.43
Total Cash in Operating Accounts	81,025.87
Cash in Capital Reserve Account	19,384.87
Foundation Trust Fund	6,863.00

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

## Church Women United

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Church Women United of the Monterey Peninsula had a productive year in 2015! Twelve church denominations were represented at the gatherings. There were excellent programs each month and they were able to support many fine causes.

They accept donations at each meeting for the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the Leprosy Fund. They appreciate all the support of the ladies attending, the Executive Board, and the church hosts, and are happy to be involved in many non-profits in the community.

In February 2016, the meeting will be held on Friday the 5th to celebrate "Black History Month." They will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Ocean View Baptist Church, 1200 Amador Avenue, in Seaside. All church women are invited to attend.

[Kathy Warthan is representative from Community Church and would be happy to tell you more about CWU and their activities!]

## I- Help Dinner for Men

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Our I-Help dinner for men in February is on the 10th. Please sign up to bring something for the meal - the signup sheet in 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!

From Chuck Scardina

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