

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



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Carmel, CA 93923

**Upcoming Dates  
For Your Calendar**

**Sunday, Feb. 26  
after worship  
1st Quarterly  
Meeting and  
Potluck**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

A Newsletter for the Community  
Church of the Monterey Peninsula

**Contact Information:**

Write: P.O. Box 222811  
Carmel, CA 93922  
Visit: 4590 Carmel Valley Rd.  
Call: 831-624-8595  
831-624-3060 (Shop)

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



February 2017

Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Independent and United Church of Christ

beyond  
sunday

**Inside**

Welcome

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.

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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!

Our Mission

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.

Next Newsletter Deadline:  
Sunday, February 19

## From Our Minister

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February 2017

Dear Friends,

We continue our study of the letters of St. Paul in the order in which they were written. Hopefully, this chronological approach will enable us to see more clearly the development and maturation of Paul's theology. Please read 2 Thessalonians, chapter 1.

We do not know the precise timing or circumstances behind Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians. We can surmise that he wrote it within a few months of his first letter, in response to further information he had received regarding certain problems. These problems clustered around some mistaken attitudes and actions concerning Jesus' return. Thus this second letter centers on the Second Coming.

This is a particularly difficult letter for us to understand. Paul is thinking in patterns and using images which are largely unfamiliar to us. For example, in 1:5 what can he possibly mean by implying that the Thessalonians are experiencing persecution and trial "as an expression of God's just judgment"?

At such difficult points it is essential to understand the particular text in light of the Bible and Christian tradition as a whole. Unless we follow this basic principle of interpreting the part in reference to the whole, our understanding will become hopelessly confused, and we will become a source of confusion to others.

After a brief greeting (1:1-2), Paul bursts into enthusiastic praise of the Thessalonian Christians (1:3-4). Their faith and love exhibit continuing growth. They are not resting on previous achievements. This witness is even more impressive considering the fact that it is a witness under persecution.

1:5 is a problem. What can Paul mean here? –Certainly not that God actively inflicts on people evils such as persecutions and trials.

We need to step back and see God's judgment in the larger context of God's will.

Because we know from the Gospel that God is unconditionally loving, we can say that God would never actively will anything but unconditional love toward anyone. God's love seeks relationship – a response of love from us. But for our response to be a real response of love, and not just a programmed response, we have to be able to say no. Real love demands real freedom. This is why God created us with free will.

Not all choose to respond positively to God's love. Evil is, at root, the outward expression of an inner failure to respond to God's love, based on a person's own free choice.

The biblical authors did not make the same distinction which we do between God's will and the will of the individual. They saw everything as being directly influenced by God. Thus, Paul could write a passage such as 1:5, which makes it sound as if God were sending the persecution.

The larger tradition of the church makes a distinction between God's permissive will, and God's active will, a distinction which the biblical authors did not themselves make. In our broken world injustices – such as the persecution of the Thessalonians in 1:5 – are, so to speak, evils which God "permits" only so that real freedom and thus real love may also continue.

Theology calls this aspect of God's will God's permissive will, being careful to distinguish it from God's active will, which is always unconditional love.

Seen in the context of this larger theological perspective, it is possible to understand this section (1:5-10) as saying that for now God permits certain evils to happen, but that at the Second Coming evil will be overcome completely. And given the nature of Jesus' own teachings in the Gospels, evil will be overcome without God having to inflict vengeance on anyone!

Blessings & Peace,



## From Our Board of Governors

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George Brehmer, President

### "NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD"

"Good 2017 to ALL you wonderful Members and Friends. I hope you will use this Beyond Sunday to help acquaint others with the CCMP opportunity to experience life deeply. Know that your presence is a gift to others. That is the way we are made.

A Special Meeting of the CCMP Board will be held following the Service on Sunday, February 12, 2017 in our Church library. The main item will be the approval of the proposed 2017 Budget for presentation to the Church Membership at the meeting of February 26, 2017, the first Quarterly Membership Meeting. Items for consideration at the Special Meeting are below. Each of you are requested to consider these items and, if a Board Member, come to the meeting prepared to discuss, listen and vote. All Members and Friends are welcome to attend the meeting.

The Special Meeting Agenda will include the following motions for Board consideration:

1. MOTION: Board meetings for the 2017 year should be held after the worship service on the third Sunday of each month. FOR: Convenient; no night driving; saves time. AGAINST: ? (Procedural) (Primer Art. IV, Sec 3).
2. MOTION: Department Directors should consent to members of their committees serving on other Directors committees. FOR: Church Family is small; Need to serve on more than one committee; Desire to serve on more than one committee. AGAINST: May spread committee member to thin. (Procedural) (Primer Art. VI, Sec 1).
3. MOTION: Approve the proposed budget for 2017 for presentation to the membership at the February 26, 2017 First Quarterly Meeting. FOR: The expenditures proposed are important to achieve the purpose of our Church which is "to provide an enquiring environment and an opportunity for intellectual, moral and spiritual growth through study and discussion of the Admonitions, Revelations and Teachings of Jesus Christ. AGAINST: ? (Primer: Art, I, Sec 4)(Proposed by Finance Committee).
4. MOTION: Members and Friends should be trained to serve as Pastoral Associates to visit those who are unable to attend activities. FOR: Some Members and Friends can't attend Church Activities. Pastor Paul does not have time to visit all of them. Pastoral Associates serve God, the visited and themselves in a deeply vital way. Training will be provided. AGAINST: ? (Proposed by Membership Committee)
5. MOTION: A biography program is approved which will match Members and Friends with high school students who would interview them and prepare the biographies. FOR: We yearn to know where our paths have crossed. Each is a bulging package of life's experiences. We bond through discovering each other. Do this with dispatch and open the door to sharing and joy, and, yes, tears too. AGAINST: ? (Proposed by the Membership Committee).

Motions 1, 2 and 3 must be voted upon at the special meeting. Motions 4 and 5 could be voted upon if time allows. Board Members are asked to keep in mind that the Board is not responsible for developing the nuts and bolts details of programs. That work belongs to the Departments. The meeting shall not exceed 1 hour and 15 minutes in length without a vote.

Thank you all. Please telephone me with questions or concerns. (624-8961)

“Must first rid himself of physical needs...  
 Bathroom, bedroom and kitchen.  
 Then he must attempt to put aside emotional needs...  
 Love, Hate, distrust and worry, etc.  
 Finally, intellectual pursuits must go...  
 Reading, philosophizing, politics, and the like.  
 Then, when he meets up with a patient, he will be like an empty closet,  
 Ready to receive.  
 Only then will he be able to work  
 Towards freeing the patient from pain and disorder.”  
 [The above quotation was taken from The Charismatic Leader, a psychology textbook for college seniors, 1992]

A stunning description of someone  
 Who must make himself somewhat like  
 Our dear Lord Jesus,  
 The Christ  
 Of Nazareth.

Dodie Scardina

Givingtree Benefit Shop

Hours: Wednesday- Saturday 12-4

Donations welcomed during shop hours.  
 Open Sundays after church for an hour.  
 Volunteers welcome!



Fellowship



Coffee Hour is an opportunity to create friendship and connect with congregation members, and most importantly welcome visitors. Please wear your name tags which makes it easier to initiate conversation with new visitors. The goal of the coffee hour is our weekly chance to demonstrate the love of God and welcome all who walk through our doors. Donations of baked or store bought cookies, cake or fruit are always appreciated. Thank you Lloyd & Barbara Wells for the donation of three cakes for the coffee hour this week.

My wish list: Sign ups to Host the Coffee Hour for a Sunday or preferably a month.

Needed for kitchen - a broom and dust pan, and three large Sugar & Cream Pitchers. Blessings Liz Tarozzi

Deep Sorrow Deep Sorrow

*Old wounds open up; they are revealed for what they are*

*Old wounds; old wounds nearly destroyed me; may destroy me still. Based on the belief given to me by my parents...*

*I am not worthy.*

*I am diseased by deep wounds ancient and still festering and they held no truth in the first place.*

*If I am too damaged*

*To love God unconditionally these old wounds*

*would have won*

*when all they are*

*are old wounds based not on the truth*

*and my life will have been controlled and consumed by old*

*wounds ancient and festering based on a lie.*

You are invited to our 2017  
 1st Quarterly Meeting and Potluck

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26



Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share!

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets Tuesdays 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.



## I- Help Dinners

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The I-Help Dinner for Homeless Men will be held on February 8. (They occur on the second Wednesday of each month.) You can help by signing up to bring something for the meal. The men arrive about 5 p.m. and we eat at about 5:30. The sign up sheet is in Woodhull Hall. The Women's I-Help Dinner will be on February 21 (the third Tuesday of the month). Thanks to those who constantly support these fine outreaches!

## Church Women United

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Church Women United meets on February 3 to celebrate "Black History Month." The meeting will be held at Church of the Wayfarer, 7th and Lincoln Street, Carmel.

## Birthdays In February

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



## Chuck Scardina

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## Elected Bd. of Govs. 2017

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Pres:	George Brehmer
V. P.	Julia Brandt
Sec.	Tami Sojka
Treas.	Richard Gray
Fellowship	Liz Tarozzi
Membership	Bonnie Bragg
Mem-at-Lge	Tom Marshall
Missions	Lois Varner
Prop Stew	Peggy Kuck
Pub Rels	Traci Reid
Rel Educ	Ryan Costello
Worship	Lisa Ledin