

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

Welcoming to humans of all races, genders, and sexual orientations. We invite, respect, and support all people who speak to love, dignity, and justice. You are affirmed and accepted as a full participant in the life and work of this United Methodist congregation. We are a publicly declared *Reconciling Congregation* that advocates and works for a truly all-inclusive church.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2022, 5 pm

We welcome all visitors today! Thank you for being here and gracing us with your presence. Please fill out the *Visitation Card* found in the pew and either place it in the offering plate or deposit into the *Suggestion Box* in the narthex nave.

Words of Meditation

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness;
on them light has shined.*

~ Isaiah 9:2

*Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*

~ John 8:12

*"Do not be afraid!
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."*

~ Luke 2:10-1

(*Please stand if you are able)

Prelude	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i> B. Johnson	Marina Thomas
Bringing in the Light		
Gathering & Welcome		Rev. John Song
Ringling of the Bell & Opening Prayer		
Introit	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Emily Sinclair, Soprano
Advent Song	<i>Light the Christmas Candle</i>	FWS #2090 (vs. 5)
Lighting of the Christ Candles		Abenoja/Estioko/ Reitano Family

People's Response:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the Light of love and peace reign. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He is called Emmanuel, God with us.

***Call to Celebration**

Leader: Let's go right now to Bethlehem

People: and see what the shepherds saw.

Leader: Let's go right now to see what's happened

People: and rejoice in the birth of Christ.

Leader: Let's go right now to ponder with Mary,

People: to listen and remember,

All: and to rejoice in the miracle of Christmas.

***Christmas Prayer (in Unison)**

O wondrous God of the stars,
we come tonight with breathless wonder,
to see the babe who will change our lives.

We hear the names Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Prince of Peace,
and we are in awe.

You have touched the earth this night
with your unconditional love.

Touch our hearts and minds and souls—
that we may never tire of this story,
or take it for granted.

Make this night magical again
filled with awe and wonder. Amen.

***Opening Carol**

What Child Is This

#219 (vs. 1, 2)

Christmas Offering

This evening's offering will be given to the nonprofit *Pajaro Valley Children's Center*. The Pajaro Valley Children's Center has been providing childcare for over 30 years, and they are one of the few centers that provides low fees and flexible childcare hours. Please make your checks payable to "Watsonville FUMC" with an annotation to PVCC. Thank you for your generosity this Christmas.

***Presentation of the Gifts**

***Doxology**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

#240 (v. 3)

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

***Offering Prayer** (in Unison)

Out of the noise and glitter and ho-ho-ho of the world’s Christmas, we have come away, O God, into this hour in your presence. Help us to discover here the true meaning and joy that lie beneath the surface of the holy day. Help us to see beyond the Baby in the manger to the fully human and fully divine Jesus became so that we, too, can become fully human and fully divine. Be born in us this night, renew our spirits, and strengthen us to be your people in the world. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Story of Christmas from the Gospel According to Luke

Luke 1: 26-38

THE ANNUNCIATION
The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Song *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #230 (vs. 1, 2)

Luke 1: 39-56

THE MAGNIFICAT: Mary’s Hymn of Praise
Mary Visits Elizabeth

Song *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #218 (vs. 1, 2)

Luke 2: 1-7

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Song *The First Noel* #245 (vs. 1, 2)

Luke 2: 8-14

THE APPEARANCE OF ANGEL CHOIR
The Shepherds and the Angels

Song *Angels We Have Heard on High* #238 (vs. 2, 3,)

Luke 2: 15-20

THE VISIT OF SHEPHERDS

***Song** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* #251 (vs. 1, 3)

Receiving the Light of Christ

*[Please take your candle and form a large circle.]

John 8:12

“Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your God in heaven.”

***Unison Prayer**

**To the home of peace, to the field of love
to the land where forgiveness and right relationship meet**

**We look, O God, with longing for earth's children
with compassion for the creatures
with hearts breaking for the nations and people we love.**

**Open us to visions we have never known
strengthen us for self-giving we have never made
delight us with a oneness we could never have imagined
that we may truly be born of You, the maker of Peace, the Light of the world.**

Receiving the Light of Christ

[When you offer the Light of Christ to the person next to you, say,
“Receive the Light of Christ so that you become the light of the world.”]

***Sing in Acappella**

Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin
mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds' quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Thank you for joining us for the Christmas Eve service. You may depart in silence to preserve the solemnity of receiving the Light of Christ. Please place the candle in the basket at the back of the sanctuary as you depart.

**There is hot cider, coffee, and Christmas sweets in the narthex for those who want to linger a while for fellowship.*

***We at the Watsonville First United Methodist Church
Wish you and your loved ones blessed
Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad!***

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Soloist	Dr. Emily Sinclair
Liturgists	Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua, Mark Sorensen
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Stephanie Pantaleón

Calendar for the Week

Sat., Dec 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!
Sun., Dec. 25	10:00 am	Christmas Sunday
	11:10 am	Preaching: Carmelita Abenoja Coffee Hour, Social Hall
Tue., Dec. 27 – Fri., Dec 30		OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
Sun., Jan. 1	10:00 am	Epiphany Sunday in New Year's Day
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

Email: office@watsonville1stumc.org | Phone: (831) 724-4434

Office Hours: Tue-Thu 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm (Closed for lunch 12-1 pm)

Pastor Office Hours: Tue – Thu 10 am – 12 pm, 3 pm – 5 pm

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

Baptism, Membership, Wedding, Funeral, and Pastoral Counseling are available

Poinsettias on the Altar

Erika Bernabe & Isaias Gomez	One in honor of our sons Andrew Bernabe, Isaiah, Giovanni "Gio" & Joseph Gomez-Bernabe.
Bob & Joan Culbertson	One in memory of Ruth & Jon Gurnee.
Marieta Flores	One in memory of George Flores and one in memory of my parents, Anacleto and Maria Tuico.
The Hydes	One in memory of Hal & Perky Hyde, and one in memory of Madge Horner & Fern Hyde.
The Millers	One in memory of Eunice Mary Miller Bunnell, Terry Lorry Piestewa and Ernie Truitt Piestewa; one in honor of Johanna Marianne Miller, Meghan Elizabeth Miller, Marc Andre Roy and Pia Simone Miller.
AR & Fred Pointer	One in memory of our Parents, and one in honor of our Family.
Hilda Rocha & Alberto Vasquez	One in honor of our daughter, Ariella America Vasquez.
Marina Thomas	Two in honor of my family in Ukraine.