

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.

Epiphany / Epifanía Day of the Kings / El Día de los Reyes

Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10 am

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.

Children are invited to enjoy the resources in the **Children Learning Center** located at the back of the sanctuary during worship. Children are welcome to check out books and activity items to take home by signing the simple “*Check-out Sheet*” on clipboard there.

Words of Meditation

“Together may we reach the bright future we desire to light together. May we, like the Wise Magi, believe in the Light and follow it no matter where it leads us.”

~ Alice Ann Glenn, UM Diaconal Minister

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

Christmas Medley
B. Johnson

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Marilyn Hyde

***New Year Greeting:** Wave to your neighbors and exchange greetings of
Happy New Year! Próspero Año Nuevo!

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

People: We are called out of our darkness into light.

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

People: We rejoice in the gift of light.

Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

All: We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate.

***Prayer in Unison**

God of promise and light,
open our eyes this morning,
that we may see your light in the darkness.

Open our hearts,
that we may perceive your promises
of justice and righteousness
fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.

May we, like the Magi,
have a star to guide us
on our journey quest
to find the one who will truly set us free.

May this time of worship
bring us closer to you,
that the good news
of the birth of light and love
will transform our lives. Amen.

***Gathering Song**

We Three Kings

#254 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2: 1-12

The Visit of the Magi

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

*⁶ And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

Marina Thomas, Piano Solo

Message

“My Faith Journey”

Nathaniel Abenoja

Hymn

The First Noel

#245 (vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Like the Magi, let us bring our gifts to honor the babe of Bethlehem and bring the light to all the dark places in our community and our world.

Offertory

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Marina Thomas

A. Page

Presentation of Offering

*Doxology

Love Has Come

FWS #3059 (v.1)

Love has come — a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

*Offertory Prayer (In unison)

God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. May these gifts of money, time, and self shine for all to see, so all may experience peace and love. Amen.

*Recessional Song

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#251

*Benediction

In 2023 and beyond,
May you be blessed with
*Peace in your heart,
Christ lighting your path,
Grace in every step you take,
Wonder, laughter, and beauty.*

[*This ends Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

- a. Sharing of Joys & Concerns (Please raise your hand & mic will be given to you)
- b. Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer/Padre Nuestro (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

- a. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
- b. Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga tu reino; hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbanos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria por siempre. Amen.

Postlude

Sing We Now of Christmas
B. Johnson

Marina Thomas

No Coffee Hour today!

***We at Watsonville First United Methodist church
Wish you and your loved ones
Happy New Year! Próspero Año Nuevo!***

Worship Leaders

Worship Leader	Marilyn Hyde
Preaching	Nathaniel Abenoja
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgists	Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua, Mark Sorensen
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Stephane Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Jan. 1	10:00 am	Epiphany Sunday Preaching: Nathaniel Abenoja, Lay Leader
Tue., Jan. 3		OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
Wed., Jan. 4	9 am - 5 pm	OFFICE OPEN
Sun., Jan. 8	10:00 am	Second Sunday of Epiphany Guest Preacher: Dr. Haley Feuerbacher LEGO Sunday School
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall

Up-coming Opportunities

30 Minute Conversation with Pastor on All Things Faith & Christian Living
Begins Sunday, Jan. 22, 11:30 am – 12 pm, during Coffee Hour, St. Stephen’s room

Winter Dinner Program @ Salvation Army: Fri. Jan. 27, 5 pm

All Church Leaders Planning Day: Sat. Jan. 28, 9:30 am – 12 pm, St. Stephen’s

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