

# 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.

## Second Sunday After the Epiphany

Sunday, January 8, 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.

### **This Sunday is *In-Person Lego Sunday!***

First, children will be in worship. Following the Special Music, the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Nursery Room.

*(\*Please stand if you are able)*

**Prelude**

*A Rossetti Christmas*

Marina Thomas

**Bringing in the Light**

**Welcome & the Life of the Church**

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

**\*Passing of Peace** (Wave to your neighbors near you with “**Peace of Christ be with you.**”)

**\*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

**\*Gathering Song**

*We Three Kings*

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

**Children's Time**

**"A Lesson from the Magi"**

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

**Hebrew Reading**

**Genesis 8:1, 6-12, 9:8-11**

<sup>1</sup> "But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

<sup>6</sup> At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup> and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.<sup>8</sup> Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, <sup>9</sup> but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup> He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, <sup>11</sup> and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup> Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not return to him any more."

**Genesis 9:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> "Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

**\*Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

*The Visit of the Magi*

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

*<sup>6</sup> 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.*

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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**

*St. Ita's Vision*  
(Samuel Barber)

Dr. Emily Sinclair, Soprano

*Children may now leave for the Lego Sunday School  
with the teacher, Joan Culbertson, to the Nursery Room.*

**Message**

**"Floods, Birds, and Stars"**

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

**Hymn**

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

#122 (vs. 1-3)

**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**

*Brightest and Best*

Marina Thomas

**Presentation of Offering**

**\*Doxology**

*We Three Kings*

#254 (refrain only 2X)

*O, star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light*

**\*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**

*Hymn of Promise*

#707

**\*Benediction**

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

[\*This ends Live Streaming]

**Prayers of the People**

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

- 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)

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.

**Postlude**

*Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

Marina Thomas

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of quality coffee, refreshments and fellowship in the Social Hall following worship.*

Today's refreshments: Marjorie Martinez

\*If you want to bring Refreshments in the future you can sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or see Marjorie Martinez.

### **Worship Leaders**

Guest Preacher	Dr. Haley Feuerbacher
Soloist	Dr. Emily Sinclair
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
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

\*Pastor John is attending Spiritual Retreat this weekend at the Mercy Center, Burlingame.

### **Calendar for the Week**

Sun., Jan. 8	10:00 am	<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b> Guest Preacher: Dr. Haley Feuerbacher <b>LEGO Sunday School</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
Sun., Jan. 15	10:00 am	<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>
	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](http://watsonville1stumc.org)

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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*