

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

First Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 26, 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* back in the narthex.

Prayer Candles are located back at the narthex for anyone who wants to light a candle for someone or something and offer it to God in prayer.

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.

Today’s altar flowers are dedicated by Marieta Flores.

Words of Meditation

“A contemplative practice is any way
one has of penetrating illusion and touching reality.”

~ Parker Palmer

“We lean into the gift and mercy of our lives and what is being asked of us.

We can only learn to know ourselves and do what we can –
namely, surrender our will and fulfill God's will in us.”

~ St. Teresa of Ávila, the 16th century Spanish mystic

“A contemplative prayer opens a space for a quiet rendezvous with God, whose presence shines a light back onto our daily life and on a new and better way to live our lives. By listening deeply, we will receive guidance and insights that can set a spiritual trajectory toward greater awakening.”

~ James Finley

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

The Old Rugged Cross

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

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

***Centering Breath** Be/ still/ and know/ that I am/ God. (Psalm 46:10)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: You have placed your truth in the inner being;

People: Therefore, teach us the wisdom of the heart.

Leader: Create in us a clean heart, O God,

People: And put a new and right spirit within us.

Leader: Enfold us in the arms of love,

People: And fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Leader: Free us from all that binds us in fear,

People: Cleanse us that your light may shine in us.

Leader: Restore in us the joy of your salvation,

All: That we may radiate love and live in freedom.

***Gathering Song**

Create in Me a Clean Heart

by Keith Green

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me

Restore unto me, the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Children's Time

"Why Do We Pray?"

Pastor John

Hebrew Reading

1 King 19: 11-13

The Sound of Silence

¹¹ God said to Elijah, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

***Gospel Readings**

Mark 1:35-36

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

Matthew 14:23

"And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone."

Mark 11:24

“So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

Special Music	<i>The Lord's Prayer</i> by Albert Hay Malotte, 1935	Dr. Emily Sinclair, Soprano
Message	Rendezvous with God Part 1) “Prayer”	Rev. John Song
Hymn	<i>Take Time to Be Holy</i>	#395

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Leader: Let us respond to this word of grace and hope by the giving of our tithes and offerings, which support the varied ministries of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church, mission at home and throughout the world.

Offertory	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessings</i>	Marina Thomas
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Presentation of Offering

*Hymn to the Trinity	<i>Gloria Patri</i> (Glory to the Father)	#70
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***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Accept our gifts from our hearts, O God, and dedicating our lives in tipping the world toward love and justice by following the Way of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Amen.

*Recessional Song	<i>Bind Us Together</i>	FWS 2226
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***Benediction**

[*This ends Live Streaming]

***Benediction** [*This ends the 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)

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	<i>The Old Rugged Cross Made the Difference</i>	Marina Thomas
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*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 & Marieta Flores

*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

Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Soloist	Dr. Emily Sinclair
Liturgists	Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua, Mark Sorensen
Spanish Reader	Laura Andrade Sorensen
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Feb. 26	10:00 am	First Sunday of Lent Worship
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Minute Conversation with Pastor , St. Stephen's room
Thu., March 2	4:00 pm	Food for Children , Back Parking Lot
Sun., March 5	10:00 am	Second Sunday of Lent with Holy Communion
		LEGO Sunday School
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Minute Conversation with Pastor , St. Stephen's room

Opportunities

Lenten Day Retreat with Dr. Peter Coster

What to do with ANGER: Understanding Our Sacred Emotion

Sat. March 18, 10 am – 3:30 pm

(9:30 am Pre-registration; 12 pm – 1 pm Lunch provided)

Cost for members & friends of the church: \$10 Students, Staff & anyone under 30: FREE

30 Minute Conversation with Pastor on All Things Faith & Christian Life
(Every Sunday, 11:30 am – 12 pm, during Coffee Hour, St. Stephen's room)

Winter Dinner Program @ Salvation Army: Fri. March 24, 5 pm

COPA Housing Civic Academy: Saturday, March 25, 3:00 pm @ Wats1st UMC

COPA Clergy Luncheon: Thursday, March 30, 12:30 pm @ Wats1st UMC

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