

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

We are a publicly declared **Reconciling Congregation** and a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network that advocates and works for a truly all-inclusive church. As a Christian community, we lean in on radical inclusion welcoming to humans of all races, genders, and sexual orientations who are affirmed and accepted as a full participant in the life and work of this United Methodist congregation.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 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.

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

I Sacred Head, Now Wounded

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**

The practice of Chanting the **Names of Jesus Christ** is invoking the **indwelling Presence of Christ** within you and within all of us.

Jesus Christ

You are my Lord

You abide in me (v. 2) I abide in you

*** Prayer of John Wesley (In unison)**

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

***Gathering Song**

How Great Thou Art

#77

Personal Testimony

“The Second Act”

Bob Lee

Bob Lee will be sharing personal testimony this Sunday. Bob is a lay person from Los Altos UMC and a Certified Early Response Team (ERT) Leader for Cal/Nevada Conference. He has participated in Disaster Response Missions since Katrina in the late 1990s. He and the Early Response Team are staying at our Social Hall from Thursday through Monday evening while they do their early respond work in Pajaro and flood affected areas.

Bob is retired from 40 years of hospitality management and worked in the public sector as a Parks & Recreation Director of Santa Cruz County Parks Department and the Assistant City Manager of Pinole.

Reading from the Prophet

Jeremiah 5:21

Hear this, O foolish and senseless people,
who have eyes but do not see,
who have ears but do not hear.

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 13:14-17

¹⁴ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

‘You will indeed listen but never understand,
and you will indeed look but never perceive.

¹⁵ For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.’

¹⁶ “But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

¹⁷ Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people
longed to see what you see but did not see it
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 13:12 (The Message)

“We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist.

But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem

Burdens Are lifted at Calvary
Words & Music by John M. Moore

Message

Rendezvous with God
Part 4) "Sign of the Cross 4.0"

Rev. John Song

Hymn in Response

Take My Life, and Let It Be

#399

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

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Marina Thomas

***Hymn to the Trinity**

Gloria Patri (Glory to the Father)

#70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

Presentation of Offering

***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**

Give Thanks

FWS #2036

***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

O Praise the Name

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 & 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
Personal Testimony	Bob Lee
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, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

Sun., March 26	10:00 am	Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Minute Conversation with Pastor , St. Stephen's room
	12:00 pm	Community Garden meeting , Social Hall
Mon., March 27	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Thu., March 30	11:00 am	COPA Clergy Lunch , Social Hall
Sun., April 2	10:00 am	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:45 am	Leadership Council Mtg. , St. Stephen's room
		*No 30 Minute Conversation with Pastor Today

Opportunities

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

The **Sewing Group** meets every **Monday from 1-3 pm** in **St. Stephen's Room**. There are lots of supplies. All are welcome! For more information please contact Carol Parker.

Community Garden Gardeners 1st meeting: Sun. March 26, 12 noon, Social Hall

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

Leadership Council: Sun. April 2, 11:45 am, St. Stephen's room

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