

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.

Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, April 2, 2023, 10 am

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.

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)*

Words of Meditation

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

~ T. S. ELIOT from *Four Quartets*

Prelude

At Calvary
D. Towner

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

***Opening Prayer** (in Unison) “Passion/Palm” #281

***Gathering Song** *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* #278

***Gospel Reading** **John 18:28-40**
Jesus before Pilate

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰ They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

Not Jesus but Barabbas!

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, “**Not this man but Barabbas!**” Now Barabbas was a thief.

Mark 8:17-18

“Do you still not perceive or understand?
Are your hearts hardened?
Do you have eyes, and fail to see?
Do you have ears, and fail to hear?”

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

The Holy City
words by F.E. Weatherly Music by Stephen Adams

Carmelita Abenoja, Solo

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Rev. John Song
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
Sunday School Teacher	Joan Culbertson
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

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
Mon., April 3	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Fri., April 7	10:00 am	Good Friday Labyrinth Walking Meditation , Social Hall
Sat., April 8	2:00 pm	Easter Egg Coloring (Children & Youth), Social Hall
Sun., April 9	10:00 am	Easter Celebration Service with Holy Communion & Reception of New Members
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:45 am	Children's Easter Egg Hunt , Front of Church lawn *No 30 Minute Conversation with Pastor Today

Opportunities

Holy Week & Easter Week Activities

Good Friday Labyrinth Walking Meditation, Fri., April 7, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Social Hall

Easter Egg Coloring (Children & Youth): Sat., April 8, 2:00 pm, Social Hall

Easter Celebration Service with Holy Communion & Reception of New Members:
Sunday, April 9, 10:00 am in-person worship service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 9, after Easter Celebration Service

Day Retreat: April 29, 10 am – 3:30 pm with Dr. Peter Coster
(9:30 am Check-in; 12 pm – 1 pm Lunch provided) \$10: adults, Free: students & under 30

The 20th Anniversary COPA Convention: Sat. May 20, 5 pm, Golden State Theatre
(417 Alvarado St, Monterey, CA 93940)

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