

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church
Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

Earth Day Sunday

Sunday, April 23, 2023, 10 am

Today is Native American Ministries Sunday

Since 1989, United Methodist congregations have observed the third Sunday after Easter as Native American Ministries Sunday. The purpose is to elevate and support the contributions and voices of Native/Indigenous people in our church. A special financial offering on this day goes to support specific ministries in annual conferences.

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.

This Sunday is Lego Sunday!

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

Today’s altar flowers are dedicated by Marieta Flores.

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Words of Meditation

I thank You God for most this amazing day
For the leaping greenly spirits of trees
And a blue true dream of sky
And for everything which is natural,
which is infinite, which is yes
~ ee cummings

Prelude

So Will I

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

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

***Centering Breath**

***Call to Worship**

May the love of life
 fill our hearts.

May the love of earth
 bring joy to heaven.

May the love of self
 deepen our souls.

May the love of neighbor
 heal our world.

As nations, as peoples, as families,
 may the love of life heal our world.

God, You are the stillness of the night.
 You are the genesis of the morning.

Let there be peace in the human soul.
 Let there be awakenings to new consciousness.

In the life of the world this day
 and in our own hearts,

All: Let there be fresh tears of love.

***Gathering Song**

For the Beauty of the Earth

#92 (vs. 1, 4, 5, 6)

Children's Time

"Things We All Can Do to Care for the Earth"

Pastor John

Psalm Reading

Psalm 80

Shepherd God,
You companion us through the wilderness,
You cultivate the soil of our goodness,
You nourish us with the food of love,
With streams of living water.

Look upon us and see what love can do;
Rejoice in the new birth that you create!

***Gospel Readings**

Matthew 22:34-40

The Greatest Commandment

"When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: '**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

He Speaks to Me

Lynne E. Abenoja, Solo

Words by Betty C. Hughes, Music by Robert J. Hughes
*Children may now leave for Lego Sunday School
with the teacher, Joan Culbertson, to the Nursery Room.*

Message **“What Kind of World Are We Leaving Behind?”** Rev. John Song

Prayer in Response (in Unison)

God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything, please help us to love in our very small way what You love infinitely and everywhere. We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer and that will be more than enough, because in reality every thing and every one is connected, and nothing stands alone. To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole, and so we do. Help us each day to stand for love, for healing, for the good, for the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation, because we know this is what You desire: as Jesus prayed, that all may be one. We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God, we offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn in Response *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* #122

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 *All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name* Marina Thomas

***Doxology** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #95
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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** *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* #122

***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 *You Alone Can Rescue* Marina Thomas

We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of good 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
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., April 23	10:00 am	Earth Day / Native American Ministries / LEGO Sunday
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Minute Conversation with Pastor , St. Stephen's room
Mon., April 24	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Sat. April 29	10 am-3:30	Day Retreat Workshop with Dr. Peter Coster
Sun., April 30	10:00 am	Worship Service
		Guest Preacher: Dr. Peter Coster on "The Divine Anger of Jesus"
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Minute Conversation with Pastor , St. Stephen's room

Opportunities

Day Retreat Workshop with Dr. Peter Coster

What to do with ANGER: Understanding Our Sacred Emotion

Sat. April 29, 10 am – 3:30

(9:30 am Check-in; 12 pm – 1 pm Lunch provided)

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

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