

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.

Whoever you are...
whatever you've done,
whoever you love,
and **wherever you are in your journey of faith...**
whatever you believe
or whatever you don't believe,
You are welcome here!

Our Vision and Purpose

Our Vision

*Tipping the world toward love and justice
in alignment with God's deepest desire
for our lives and all God's creation.*

Our Purpose

*Watsonville First United Methodist Church
invites all to experience the love of God
and be on a transformative journey
following the Way of Jesus Christ.*

Easter Celebration **with Holy Communion** **and Reception of New Members**

Sunday, April 9, 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)

Words of Meditation

“Grief is a last and final translation of an act of love.
Grieving is the last act of loving someone.
And this last act never ends because you can never stop loving the other.”

~ Ocean Vuong, the Vietnamese-American poet, essayist and novelist

“One who sits in the house of grief will eventually sit in the garden of joy and laughter.”
~ Hafiz, 14th century Persian poet and mystic

“Eat the bitter first and the sweet will follow.”
~ Chinese Proverb

“Because of Easter we dare to believe
that death and hatred and despair will never have the last word.”
~ Bill Toohy

Prelude

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

***Easter Greetings** (Wave to your neighbors around you with “**Happy Easter!**”)

***Centering Breath**

***Call to Worship**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Crucified and risen Christ, flood our hearts with your light

and our souls with your living presence,

that we may trust the victory of God in Christ Jesus,

the power of forgiveness over vengeance,

the victory of love over violence,

the triumph of life over death.

By your rising, give us courage to know that evil and oppression,

though they seem to reign on earth, have already been defeated.

You who bear us in your heart,

you have raised us up with you,

and set us free from our fear,

free from shame and despair,

free from all that would imprison us,

from all that would keep us from loving perfectly and living in freedom in Christ.

***Gathering Song**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

#302

Children's Time

"What Is Easter?"

Pastor John

***Gospel Reading**

John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Epistle Reading

II Corinthians 5: 16-17

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem

Hallelujah!

Easter Medley, Arr. By Robert J. Hughes

There are 7 traditional Easter songs incorporated in this medley.
Congregation is invited join the choir in singing the following two medleys.

“Hymn to Joy” by Beethoven

Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, to the former days belong:
All around the dawn is breaking, Now the joy of sins release:
In God’s likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.

“Easter Hymn” by Charles Wesley

Christ the lord is risen today, Hallelujah!
Sons of men and angel say: Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Hallelujah!
Sing ye heavens and earth reply, Hallelujah!

Message	“Grief & Praise of Mary Magdalene”	Rev. John Song
Hymn in Response	<i>All Glory Laud and Honor</i>	#280

Service of Reception of New Members

Presentation of Candidates for Membership:
Peter Telc, De-Ding Wong

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Brothers and sisters in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Since the earliest times, the vows of Christian baptism have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ.

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?
I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?
I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,

in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

As members of Christ's universal church,
will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church,
and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

As members of this congregation,
will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your **prayers**, your **presence**,
your **gifts**, your **service**,
and your **witness**?

I will.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include these persons now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.**

**We will surround these persons
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that they may grow in their trust of God,
and be found faithful in their service to others.**

**We will pray for them,
that they may be true disciples
who walk in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith stated in *The Apostles' Creed*
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in **God the Father**?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in **Jesus Christ**?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]

Do you believe in the **Holy Spirit**?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
[the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.]**

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the household of God,
I commend these persons to your love and care.
Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
that you may live in grace and peace.

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 Know That My Redeemer Liveth
G. Handel

Marina Thom

***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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Proclamation (in unison)

Christ lives among us.

Christ lives within us.

Christ lives around us.

Prayer of Preparation

Institution of the Elements

***Receiving of the Bread and the Cup**

(The United Methodist Church practices open Communion. All are invited, including children, to come forward in the middle isle in two lines to receive the Communion. If you wish to receive the Communion at your seat, please raise your hand or ask one of the ushers.)

***Recessional Song** *Up from the Grave He Arose* #322

***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 *Hosanna, He Comes! All Glory, Laud and Honor* Marina Thomas
St. Theodulph

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

Today's refreshments: Abenoja & Avitua Families

*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
Liturgists	Tahja Martinez, Febe Avitua, Mark Sorensen
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Communion Stewards	Marieta Flores, Laura Andrade Sorensen
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 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
Mon., April 10	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Thur., April 12	12:00 pm	United Methodist Women Mtg. , St. Stephen's room
Sun., April 16	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 Minute Conversation with Pastor , St. Stephen's room

Opportunities

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

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