

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!

Kingdomtide

(Kingdomtide is a liturgical season that is observed in the autumn by the United Methodist Church.)

Sunday, September 10, 2023, 10 am

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.

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.

Words of Meditation

"We are not alone in human struggle."
~ Alara Tiernan

Community is medicine.
If we replace the 'i' in illness with 'we',
illness becomes '**wellness**',
~ Howie Morningstar, M.D.

(*Please stand if you are able)

Prelude *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* Marina Thomas
G. Stebbins

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

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

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Lord, open our lips and we will proclaim your praise.

People: We arise today, through God’s strength to power us:

Leader: God’s way to set us on the right path,

People: God’s loving gaze to affirm us,

Leader: God’s ear to hear us,

People: God’s wisdom to guide us,

Leader: God’s shield to protect us.

People: God’s hand to lift us when we fall,

Leader: God’s grace to sustain us,

All: **God’s host to bring us joy. Amen.**

***Gathering Song** *God of the Ages* #698

Choir Anthem *My Jesus I Love Thee*

Words by WM Rolf Featherstone. Music by James Spillman, Arr. By Stewart Landon.

Adapt. from Scotland Folk Music *Flow Gently Sweet Afton*

*Children may now leave for Lego Sunday School
with the teacher, Joan Culbertson, to the Nursery Room.*

Hebrew Reading **Nehemiah** (namely chapters 5 and 8) Eli Holliday

Message **“Rebuilding a Relational Culture
After the Pandemic Isolation”** Eli Holliday

Eli Holliday is an Organizer with Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA). He grew up in a farming community in Eastern Washington, and eventually found himself working with refugee children from Guatemala and Honduras on the US-Mexico border in Texas. While working with refugees he began to feel like he was always putting a band aid on the same problem over and over, and powerless to address any further root causes. Disempowered and dejected he showed up to an organizing meeting for Dallas Area Interfaith (a sister organization of COPA) and was enchanted by the idea of common people standing up and agitating for their own interests. He’s organized for several years in Houston around healthcare access and public education and is now excited to organize with COPA in counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey.

Hymn *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* #430

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 Will Praise Him* Marina Thomas
M. Harris

***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

***Offertory Prayer** (In unison)

God of all generations, as we worship today, we offer our whole selves to you, all that we have and all that we are. We pray that you will help us be bold in our mission and in our witness. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Recessional Song** *This Is My Song* #437

***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)

- a. 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.
- b. Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu nombre; venga tu reino; hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbanos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria por siempre. Amen

Postlude *Lead On, O King Eternal* Marina Thomas
H. Smart

*We warmly invite everyone to a delicious cup of 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

Guest Preacher	Eli Holliday
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Bob Culbertson
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano

Nursery Attendants
Coffee Hour

Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis
Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

*Pastor John is away today on a weekend retreat.

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Sep. 10	10:00 am	LEGO Sunday/ Guest Preacher: Eli Holliday
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	30 min Q&A with Eli Holliday , Social Hall Table
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Sep. 11	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Thu., Sep. 14	12:00 pm	UMW Meeting , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Sep. 17	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:45 am	J2Hope Foundation , St. Stephen's room

Opportunities

Meals for Pajaro Flood Recovery Volunteers

The volunteer team from our Conference to help with the recovery effort for the flood victims in Pajaro will be staying with us again on **Friday, September 22** and **Saturday 23**.

If you would like to prepare breakfast, lunch or dinner for a group of 6 workers please contact Carol Parker at [\(831\) 728-3852](tel:8317283852) or lomasslough@gmail.com.

30 min Q&A with Eli Holliday

(Every Sunday from 11:30 am – 12 noon, Social Hall table)

Crop Hunger Walk

Sat. Sep. 30, 8:30 am @ front of Watsonville First UMC
(Fundraiser for Second Harvest Food Bank)

Day Workshop on Forgiveness

By Dr. Peter Coster

Sat. Oct 7, 10 am – 3:30 pm, Social Hall
(Members: \$20, Students: FREE)

Mental Health Workshop

Dr. Hanna Song & Mayra Bernabe

Sat. Oct 21, 10 am – 12 pm, St Stephen's room
FREE: All are welcome!

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

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229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

Baptism, Membership, Wedding, Funeral, and Pastoral Counseling are available