

# Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

## *Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door*

Welcoming to humans of all races, genders, and sexual orientations. We invite, respect, and support all people who speak to love, dignity, and justice. You are affirmed and accepted as a full participant in the life and work of this United Methodist congregation

### **Our Vision**

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

## **Thanksgiving Sunday**

Sunday, November 19, 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.

### **Words of Meditation**

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”  
~ William Ward

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.  
It turns what we have into enough, *and more*.  
It turns denial into *acceptance*,  
chaos to *order*,  
confusion to *clarity*.  
It can turn a meal into a *feast*,  
a house into a *home*,  
a stranger into a *friend*.”  
~ Melody Beattie

“If the only prayer you said in your whole life was ‘**Thank you**,’ that would suffice.”  
~ Meister Eckhart, the 14<sup>th</sup> century German mystic and theologian

(\*Please stand if you are able)

**Prelude** *Give Thanks* Marina Thomas  
M. Hayes

**Bringing in the Light**

**Welcome & the Life of the Church** Rev. John Song

**\*Greetings** (Wave to your neighbors and exchange greeting of “*Happy Thanksgiving*”!)

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Let us gather together in thanksgiving to God.

**People: For God has made us and this earth from His love.**

Leader: Let us gather in gratitude to one another.

**People: For we are the bearers of God’s blessing and love for the earth and its people.**

**All: Let us praise God! Let us join hands! Let us work together in cooperation with what God wants to do for us and for the world so that the goodness and blessings of God may be experienced by all people. Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* #694

**Children’s Time** “Most Beautiful Words You Can Utter” Pastor John

**Epistle Reading** **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Choir Anthem** *Praise Ye the Lord* (based on Psalm 106:1)

Words : Elsie Duncan Yale & Henry Downton, Music: Stewart Landon  
Introducing the tune “Posen” by George C. Strattnner

**Message** “A Meaning Behind ‘Thank You’ ” Rev. John Song

**Hymn** *We Gather Together* #131

**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** *Let All Things Now Living* Marina Thomas  
V. Labenske

**Presentation of Offering**

**\*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.

**\*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** *Give Thanks* FWS #2036

**\*Benediction**

[\*This ends 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** *Now Thank We All Our God* Marina Thomas  
J. Crueger

*\*There is NO Coffee Hour today due to Church Conference at 11 am.*

**Worship Leaders**

Ministers	Each one of us
Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgists	Allyson & Maira Sandoval West
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins
Head Usher	Marieta Flores
Tech Team	Antonio Pantaleón, Lucila Pantaleón, Elizabeth Reitano
Nursery Attendants	Tatyana Martinez, Julissa Solis

## Calendar for the Week

Sun., Nov. 19	10:00 am	<b>Thanksgiving Service</b>
	11:00 am	<b>Church Conference</b> , Sanctuary
	11:40 am	<b>SPRC</b> , St. Stephen's room
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Nov. 20	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Nov. 22		<b>NO Wed. Bible Study</b> (resumes on Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> )
Thu., Nov. 23		OFFICE CLOSED / Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri., Nov. 24		OFFICE CLOSED
Sun., Nov. 26	10:00 am	<b>Worship Service</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:30 am	<b>Christmas Decoration Party</b> , sanctuary & social hall

## *Opportunities!*

**Church Conference:** TODAY at 11 am, sanctuary  
El Camino Real District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Samuel Hong, presiding

### *Christmas Decoration Party*

Next Sun. Nov. 26, 11:30 am, sanctuary & social hall

**Sunday, Dec. 3** is the **First Sun. of Advent**  
with the *Hangings of the Greens*

\*We invite all children to attend and help hang ornaments on the Christmas tree while we all sing our favorite Christmas carols.

### **Weekly Wed. Bible Study!**

Every Wed. from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, St. Stephen's room  
(No Bible Study on Nov. 22, Dec. 27, Jan. 3)

We will be studying the *Gospel of Luke* and *Acts* led by Pastor John.

The traditional view is that the *Gospel of Luke* (life and teachings of Jesus) and *Acts* (account of early Christian movement) were written by the physician Luke, a companion of St. Paul and the most literary of the New Testament writers. Many scholars believe him to be a Gentile Christian, though some scholars think Luke was a Hellenic (Greek) Jew.

Since Luke was an author of both *Gospel of Luke* and *Acts*, it is recommended to read them both as a single work. Therefore, we'll begin studying *Luke* followed by *Acts*.

Bring your Bible. Don't have one? We'll provide you.

*All are welcome!*

Church Website: [watsonville1stumc.org](http://watsonville1stumc.org)

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Office Hours: Tue-Thu 9 am – 5 pm, Fri 9 am – 12 pm (Closed for lunch 12-1 pm)

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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