

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

Celebration of Christmas **on the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, December 24, 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.

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

What Child Is This?
B. Johnson

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light (The flame symbolizes Christ’s light in the world.)

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

***Christmas Greetings:** Wave to your neighbors and exchange greetings of...

Merry Christmas (English)

Feliz Navidad (Spanish)

Maligayang Pasko (Tagalog)

“Centering Breath

***Advent Candle Song**

Light the Advent Candle

FWS #2090 (vs. 4)

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

Abenoja & Reitano Families

***Call to Worship**

Febe Avitua

Leader: As we journey through the Christmas story,

People: more than a star guides us,

Leader: more than a messenger shows us the way,

People: more than an angel shields us from harm.

Leader: As we live the Christmas story,

People: more than a fairy tale touches our heart,

Leader: more than Santa Claus leaves gifts under the tree.

People: When we live the truth of Christmas,

Leader: we touch the presence of the living God,

All: we taste the joy of our salvation.

*Gathering Song	<i>Joy to the World</i>	#246 (vs. 1, 2, 4)
Children's Time	"God's Message to Us on Christmas"	Pastor John
Reading from the Prophet	Isaiah 9:6	
	For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.	
*Gospel Readings	John 14:27	
	"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, I give unto you."	
	Matthew 5:9	
	"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."	
	Leader: The word of God for the people of God. People: Thanks be to God!	
Choir Anthem	<i>Ring Christmas Bells</i> Words & Music by Joe E. Parks Carmelita Abenoja, Choir Leader	
Message	<i>The Magnificat, the Song of Mary</i> Part 4) "Prince of Peace"	Rev. John Song
Hymn	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	#240
Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings	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>Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming</i>	Marina Thomas
Presentation of Offering		
*Doxology	<i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i>	#240 (v. 3)
*Unison Prayer of Dedication	We come before you, O Lord, dedicating our gifts and our lives in your service. In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise. Receive our pledges and the gifts of your hands and use them to bring light to the darkness and hope to places of despair, through your Son, the Prince of Peace. Amen.	
*Recessional Song	<i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	#251
*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)

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful
J. Wade

Marina Thomas

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

Today's refreshments: Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

*Following worship there will be a Children Christmas Craft of making **Traditional Filipino Parol** (Bethlehem star) led by Marjorie Martinez and her helpers in the Social Hall during the Coffee Hour. Parols are star-shaped lanterns that symbolize the star that guided the 3 wisemen to the Christ child in Bethlehem.

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Febe Avitua
Greeters	Harry & Clarice Wiggins, Peter Telc
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., Dec. 24	10:00 am	Family Christmas Celebration
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour & Children Christmas Craft , Social Hall
	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Mon., Dec. 25		Merry Christmas! Office Closed Dec. 26 – Jan. 3
Wed., Dec. 27		NO Wed. Bible Study
Sun., Dec. 31	10:00 am	Last Sunday of the Year Service Guest Preacher: Dr. Haley Feuerbacher
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall

TODAY Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 5 pm

The church office will be closed from Dec. 26 – Jan. 3. It will open on Thur. Jan. 4th.

Dedication of Poinsettias on the Altar

Carmelita Abenoja	One in memory of my late husband, Lemuel Abenoja, parents AL & Pat Dumas, sister Ceferina Dumayas & Cousin Rogelio Mariano in the Philippines who passed away last month. One in honor of my children especially Mizpah Joy who has a heart problem.
Erika Bernabe & Isaias Gomez	One in honor of our sons Andrew Bernabe, Isaiah, Giovanni “Gio” & Joseph Gomez-Bernabe & one in honor of our parents.
Bob & Joan Culbertson	One in honor of Marian Laret (Bob’s 98-year-old aunt).
Edgar & Solida Estioko	One in memory of Rebecca Estioko.
Marieta Flores	One in memory of George Flores and one in memory of my parents, Anacleto and Maria Tuico.
Paula Gonzales	One in memory of Sophia Bernabe-Gonzales & one in honor of Jaslene & Arianna.
The Hydes	One in memory of Hal & Perky Hyde, and one in memory of Madge Horner & Fern Hyde.
Trisha Kett	One in memory of my mom & dad, Betty & Joe O’Connor.
The Millers	One in memory of our siblings: Eunice Mary Miller Bunnell, Terry Lorry Piestewa and Ernie Truiett Piestewa. One in honor of Meghan Miller, Johanna Miller, Marc Andre Roy and Pia Simone Miller.
Richard & Carol Parker	One in honor of my family: Richard, Marina, Jordan, Brittany and Alice & one in memory of my brother, John, and my parents John and Alice Scoby.
AR & Fred Pointer	One in memory family & friends, and one in honor of loved ones.
Hilda Rocha & Alberto Vasquez	One in memory of my uncle, Jose Manuel Ayala Montejano & One in honor of our daughter, Ariella America Vasquez.
Billie Sorensen	One in memory of Helen & Nick Sorensen.
Harry & Clarice Wiggins	Three in memory of Nelson & Mary Lou Giberson, Mary Alice Wiggins, & Richard Nelson Wiggins.

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)

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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