

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!

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 31, 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.

Words of Meditation

“Ever since the first Christmas, Jesus has been more than just a name,
It's been our comfort in life and in death, our only hope in a hopeless world.”

~ Kevin De Young

*(*Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

Joy to the World
B. Johnson

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Advent Song

Light the Christmas Candle

FWS #2090 (vs. 5)

Lighting the Christmas Candles

Martinez / Pozoz Family

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

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Bob Culbertson

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

Merry Christmas (English)

Feliz Navidad (Spanish)

Maligayang Pasko (Tagalog)

*Call to Worship

Bob Culbertson

Leader: Christ is born, give Him glory!

**People: Come and worship, worship Christ
the newborn King.**

Leader: Christ is the light of the world;
In Him, we see things as they are;
God as He is, His grace offering is
forgiveness, and the new life, ourselves
as we are in need of Him; and life
as it was meant to be.

**People: We come to receive the gift of God's love
in Christ and offer Him the gift of ourselves.**

**All: O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.**

*Gathering Song

Joy to the World

#246 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Children's Time

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

*Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own,^[c] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

Children Christmas Piano Recital
Isaiah Gomez & Allyson Sandoval-West
Under the tutelage of Marina Thomas, Piano Teacher

Message

“Repair the Story”

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

Hymn

The First Noel

#245

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

Angels We Have Heard on High
V. Labenske

Marina Thomas

Presentation of Offering

***Hymn to the Trinity** *Gloria Patri* (Glory Be 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.

***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 Hymn**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#251

***Responsive Benediction**

Bob Culbertson

Leader: May this joy be yours as you hail Jesus Christ,
your Messiah, your King.

**People: May you taste of the hope and mercy he
offers as you receive him as your Savior.**

Leader: May you feel his peace as you accept
that he is your Emmanuel.

**People: May you allow his light to dwell in you
and be reflected through you.**

Leader: May he be your Lord, his love and light,
Leading, guiding and directing your path now and always.

People: And also with you.

All: Shalom and Amen.

[*This ends Live Streaming]

Prayers of the People

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

- 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 Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful
V. Labenske

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

Worship Leaders

Guest Preacher	Dr. Haley Feuerbacher
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Bob Culbertson
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

*Pastor John is away on vacation and retreat and will return to office on Jan. 9th.

Calendar for the Week

Sun., Dec. 31	10:00 am	First Sunday after Christmas Service Guest Preacher: Dr. Haley Feuerbacher
Jan. 1 – Jan. 3		OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS
Wed., Jan. 3		NO Wed. Bible Study
Thur., Jan. 4	9:00 am	OFFICE REOPENS
Sun., Jan. 7	10:00 am	Epiphany Sunday with Appearance of the Three Kings Preaching: Oscar Lomeli

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