

# 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.

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 10 am

This Sunday is **Sunday School with Joan!**

First, children will be in worship. Following the Special Music, the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Nursery Room

**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

“Even the devil can quote scripture for its own purpose.”  
~ William Shakespeare from the play *The Merchant of Venice*

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to the neighbor.  
Hence love is the fulfillment of the Law.”  
~ Romans 13:8-10

“Learn and know the law very, very well,  
so you can break them appropriately in the service of love.”  
~ Dalai Lama

*\*(Please stand if you are able)*

**Prelude**

*There Is a Higher Throne*

Marina Thomas

**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.**”)

**\*Centering Breath**

**\*Call to Worship**

Allyson & Maira Sandoval West

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 embrace to gather us as ONE. Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song**

*How Great Thou Art*

#77

**Children's Time**

**"Learning the Sign Language of Love"**

Pastor John

**\*Gospel Readings**

**Luke 13:10-17**

*Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath*

<sup>10</sup> On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

<sup>14</sup> Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

<sup>15</sup> The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? <sup>16</sup> Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

<sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

**Matthew 5:17**

*The Fulfillment of the Law*

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;  
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

**John 1:1-9, 14-18**

<sup>16</sup> "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

<sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses;  
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## Choir Anthem

*“Fix Your Eyes on Jesus”*  
Words & Music by John W. Peterson

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

**Message**                      **Holy Disunity: What Separates Us Can Save Us**                      Rev. John Song  
Part 3) **“Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality”**

**Hymn**                                      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*                                      #384

## Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

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**                                      *Safe Am I*                                      Marina Thomas

**\*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

Accept our gifts from our hearts, O God, and dedicating our lives in tipping the world toward love by following the Way of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\*Recessional Song**                                      *God of the Ages*                                      #698 (vs, 1, 2, 4)

**\*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**                                      *I Believe in Miracles*                                      Marina Thomas

*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 & Maira Sandoval West

\*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**

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
Coffee Hour	Marjorie Martinez, Marieta Flores

### **Calendar for the Week**

Sun., Jan. 28	10:00 am	<b>Worship Service / Sunday School with Joan</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Jan. 29	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Jan. 31	4:30 pm	<b>Wed. Bible Study</b> , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Feb. 4	10:00 am	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### ***Opportunities!***

#### **2024 Pledge Cards Are Now Available!**

Your 2024 pledge cards are available for pick up in the back of the church narthex area or the church office. We can also mail it to you at your request!

Please fill out your card and mail or drop it off at the church office.  
Thank you for your pledge and continued support for the ministry  
of the Watsonville First United Methodist Church!

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

Every Wed. from 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm, St. Stephen's room

We are studying the Gospel of Luke led by Pastor John.

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