

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!

Human Relations Sunday

Sunday, January 14, 2024, 10 am

[**Human Relations Day Offering:** Every January, on the Sunday before the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, United Methodists come together to help bridge the gap between church and community. We do this by participating in an offering on *Human Relations Day*. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: Every one of God's children is important.]

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

Have you heard about the "**Word of the Year**"? It's what algorithms determine as the most important word amongst humankind over the last 12 months. Guess what it was for 2023? "**AUTHENTIC.**"

"Only way to be in a world is be **free** and **authentic**."

Only way to be in a relationship is be **free** and **authentic**."

Only way to be in a community that is worth belonging to is be **free** and **authentic**."

~ John Song

"God loves you. No exceptions."

~ a registered trademark tagline of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

God of All My Days

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**

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 bring us joy. Amen.**

***Gathering Song**

Awesome God

FWS #2040 (2X)

Children’s Time

“Stand Up and Be Counted”

Pastor John

How Could Anyone

(Words and music by Libby Roderick, 1988)

How could anyone ever tell you, you are anything less than beautiful?

How could anyone ever tell you, you are less than whole?

How could anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle?

How deeply you're connected to my soul!

New Testament Readings

Acts 10:28

“God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.”

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile,

neither slave nor free,

nor is there male and female,

for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him,

“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and

with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is

like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music

I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
Words & Music by Ira Stamp

Carmelita Abenoja, Solo

Message

Holy Disunity: What Separates Us Can Save Us
Part 1) "Disaffiliation in the UMC"

Pastor John

Unison Prayer in Response

O God, remove from our mind's hatred, prejudice, and contempt for those who are not of our own racial or ethnic background, nation or political affirmation, gender or sexual identity, and class or creed, that, departing from everything that estranges and divides, we may by you make amends, reconcile with one another, and be brought into unity of spirit, in the bond of peace. Amen.

Hymn

Sanctuary

FWS #2164 (2x)

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

O How He Loves You and Me

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**

The Church's One Foundation

#545 (vs. 1, 2, 5)

***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)

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

Only King Forever

Marina Thomas

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

*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. 14	10:00 am	Human Relations Day Service
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Jan. 15		Martin Luther King Jr. Day!
	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Jan. 17	4:30 pm	Wed. Bible Study , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Jan. 21	10:00 am	Worship Service / Sunday School with Joan
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Opportunities!

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

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