

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.

First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 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

“Your life does not need to be an echo of your past.”

~Marion Woodman, renown Jungian analyst

“Stop looking for the one and become the one.”

~ Allana Pratt

“Your **True Self** is life, being, and love.

Love is what you were made for, and love is who you are.”

~ Richard Rohr

“God is waiting for you to seek Him as if you are the only one in the world.”

~ Abraham Joshua Heschel, the 20th century Jewish rabbi, theologians and philosophers

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

Jesus Paid It All

Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church

Rev. John Song

***Passing of Peace** (Wave to your neighbors near you with “**Peace of Christ be with you.**”)

***Centering Breath**

***Unison Prayer**

“Lent”

#268

O, God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

***Gathering Song**

Spirit Song

#347

Children's Time

"Cracking the Code: Why People Bully"

Pastor John

Hebrew Reading

Genesis 3:1-13

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Exodus 20:3

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

***Gospel Reading**

John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Epistle Reading

1 John 4:18-19

God Loved Us First

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Choir Anthem

I Come To The Cross (Gal.6:14)

Music by Bob Somma & Bill Bastone, Arr. by C.D. Abenoja

Incorporating Hymn "Near the Cross" Words by Fanny J. Crosby. Music by William H. Doane

Message

Addicted to Love:

Rev. John Song

Part 2) "A Path to Wholeness"

Hymn

Seek Ye First

#405 (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 *Hallelujah! What a Savior!* 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** *Amazing Grace* #378 (vs1-3)

***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 *Because He Lives* 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

*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	Mark Sorensen
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., Feb. 18	10:00 am	First Sunday in Lent
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Feb. 19	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Feb. 21	4:30 pm	Wed. Bible Study , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Feb. 25	10:00 am	Second Sunday in Lent
	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!

Morning Workshop Free to Public!

Un-Clobbering the Bible:

What Does the Bible Really Say about LGBTQ+ Identities?

Sat. March 23, 9 am – 12 pm, Social Hall

What It Is:

We want to celebrate all people, but how do we reconcile with “those” passages in the Bible? Join Dr. Haley Feuerbacher, a queer ecofeminist theologian, minister, and activist, to read the Bible faithfully and discover what the Bible really says as we “unclobber” those handful of texts, known as “clobber texts,” that have been used to vilify the Queer Community. As it turns out, the Bible has a lot more to say in celebration of our diverse and queer identities than we may think - and a lot less to say in condemnation!

*To register, please email or call the church office.

Mark your calendar: July 7-13, 2024

Children & Youth Toyon Camp in Aptos!

Registration is NOW open! This summer, we want to send our children & youth (3rd-12th grade) to the Conference wide **Camp Toyon 2024** held in a nearby Aptos United Methodist owned Toyon campground. More publicity to follow.

Questions? Call or email the church office.

Church Website: watsonville1stumc.org

Email: office@watsonville1stumc.org | Phone: (831) 724-4434

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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