

# 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.

## Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 25, 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

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

~ Dalai Lama

“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

“Why is the church always a taillight rather than a headlight?”

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

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

**Prelude**

*Near the Cross*

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**

**\*Call to Worship** (Responsive)

Leader: Come to Christ, that living stone,  
rejected by the world, but in God’s sight chosen and precious.

**People:** We have responded to Christ's call,  
to follow the Way of Christ,  
to be Christ's presence on earth.

**Leader:** Once we were lost people, but now we are God's people,  
called out of the darkness into God's marvelous light.  
Therefore we sing in praise the Church in all ages:

**People:** Blessed be your name, O God, our Redeemer.  
By your mercy we have been born anew to a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ into new life.

**\*Gathering Song**                      *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*                      #158

**Children's Time**                      **"Cracking the Code: Why People Bully"**                      Pastor John

**Epistle Readings**                      **1 John 4:11-12, 16-21**

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>16</sup> God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There 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. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Romans 13:8-10**

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no evil to the neighbor.  
Hence love is the fulfillment of the Law."

**\*Gospel Readings**

**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 1:16-17**

<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**

*The Upper Room*

Words & Music by Robert J. & Betty C. Hughes

**Message**                      **Holy Disunity: What Separates Us Can Save Us**                      Rev. John Song  
Part 4) “**Legalistic Moral Religion or Life Flourishing Religion**”

**Hymn**                                      *Pass It On*                                      #572

**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**                                      *Room at The Cross for You*                                      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**                                      *We Are Marching in the Light of God*                                      FWS #2235-b (2X)

**\*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**                                      *He Lifted Me*                                      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, 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., Feb. 25 | 10:00 am | <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>                  |
|               | 11:10 am | Coffee Hour, Social Hall                      |
|               | 11:40 am | Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary                    |
| Mon., Feb. 26 | 1-3 pm   | <b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room      |
| Wed., Feb. 28 | 4:30 pm  | <b>Wed. Bible Study</b> , St. Stephen's room  |
| Sun., Mar. 3  | 10:00 am | <b>Holy Communion on Third Sunday in Lent</b> |
|               | 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!*

**Leadership Council**, Sun. March 17, 11:45 am, St. Stephen's room

### **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.

Church Website: [watsonville1stumc.org](http://watsonville1stumc.org)

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

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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