

# 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.

### **Our Vision**

*Tipping the world toward love and justice  
in alignment with God's deepest desire  
for our lives and all God's creation.*

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Sunday, March 10, 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.

**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.

**UMCOR Sunday** is an opportunity to celebrate and support the missions and outreach of the United Methodist Church. This special offering is how UMCOR funds their core operations. That way, when we give to a specific need, such as the wildfire on Maui, 100% goes directly to that need. Please give generously. Thank you!

### **Words of Meditation**

“Risking honesty with yourself is a sacred act.  
It takes courage to disclose truth, even to yourself.”  
~ James Finley

“The essence of bravery is being without self-deception.”  
~ Pema Chodron, an American Tibetan Buddhist nun

“All of our regrets come from a lack of courage.”  
~ Bronnie Ware

“Who we are now is where we come from. How do we have history that’s not uncomfortable? How do we have any kind of education that doesn't make you in some way uncomfortable? Education asks you to examine the truth and make changes for better present.”

~ Drew Gilpin Faust, president of Harvard from 2007-2018, warning against white washing history

“Who controls the past controls the future.”  
~ George Orwell

\*(Please stand if you are able)

**Prelude** *The Hiding Place* 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** (from Psalm 80)

Leader: Shepherd God, you companion us through the wilderness

**People: You cultivate the soil of our goodness**

Leader: You nourish us with the food of love

**People: With streams of living water**

Leader: Look upon us and see what love can do

**All: Rejoice in the new birth that you create!**

**\*Gathering Song** *Shall We Gather at the River* #723

**Children’s Time** “Don’t Be Afraid to Try New Things” Pastor John

**\*Gospel Readings** **Matthew 9:17**  
*Old and New Wineskins*

“Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are ruined, but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

**John 8:32**  
“The truth will make you free.”

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Special Music** *Open Rolling Hills* Brandon & Trisha Kett  
Words & Music by Brandon Kett

I was inspired to write “*Open Rolling Hills*” in while hiking the hills above the Pajaro Valley that spreads out below where I live. It was inspired by a hike up into the hills of a cattle ranch above Carlton Road east of Watsonville in 2021. The song is about while walking in nature, one looks back his life and reflecting on memories and how aging reminds us that we will have to leave someday.

**Message** **“Past Is Prologue”** Rev. John Song

“What's past is prologue.”

~ a quotation of William Shakespeare from his play *The Tempest*

**Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* #577 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

## Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

### UMCOR Sunday Offering – March 10, 2024

This Sunday is our special offering for **UMCOR** (the United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR envelopes are available next to the bulletins in the narthex. Your gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable. Please make your check to “Watsonville First UMC” and mark “UMCOR” and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Thank you!

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** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* Marina Thomas

**\*Hymn to the Trinity** *Gloria Patri* (Glory Be to the Father) #70

#### **\*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. Amen.

**\*Recessional Song** *Forward Through the Ages* #555

**\*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** *Let's Just Praise the Lord* 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**

Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	Maira & Allyson 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., March 10	10:00 am	<b>Worship on Fourth Sunday in Lent/ UMCOR offering</b>
		<b>*Spring Forward/</b> Daylight Saving Time begins
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon., Mar. 11	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Mar. 13	4:30 pm	<b>Wed. Bible Study</b> , St. Stephen's room
Thu., Mar. 14	12:00 pm	<b>United Methodist Women Meeting</b> , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Mar. 17	10:00 am	<b>Worship on Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:45 am	<b>Leadership Council</b> , St. Stephen's room

## ***Opportunities!***

### **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

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

Flyers are available in the narthex.

### **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)

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*