

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.*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 17, 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.

Words of Meditation

“Learning history is an antidote to the hubris of the present.”

~ David McCullough, the 20th century American historian

“The headmistress of my girls school many years ago said to us, ‘Have the courage to be disturbed, to learn about the Holocaust and see what evil can mean, to learn about slavery and think about exploitation that is empowered by an ideology of race that we haven’t entirely dismantled. Understand what people did in the past so that you can, in the present, better critique your own assumptions, your own blindnesses, and make a world that’s a better world.’ If we don’t acknowledge those realities, we are disempowered as human beings.”

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

“Who we are now is where we come from. The past is with us. We can’t pretend that it’s not, even as we misrepresent it or try to erase it. 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

My Tribute

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**

Invocation

Pastor

Dear God, may we never forget that the best of humanity is all around us. We just have to open our eyes and look for it. It's so easy to feel alone or excluded or like everything is doom or gloom, but there is so much good in our midst. Let us open our hearts and honor it. Amen.

***Call to Worship** *May God Bless Us with Discomfort*

[by Judy Newton, United Methodist Missionary, Peace Educator & Activist]

Leader: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers,
half-truths and superficial relationships

People: so that we may live deep within your heart.

Leader: May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression of people,
and exploitation of the earth.

People: so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader: May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation, and war

**People: so that we may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.**

Leader: And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe
that you can make a difference in this world

People: so that we can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

***Gathering Song**

Marching to Zion

#733

Children's Time

“St. Patrick's Day”

Pastor John

***Gospel Readings**

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

I believe in a Hill Called Mt. Calvary

Carmelita Abenoja, solo

Words by Dale Oldham, Gloria & William Gaither,

Music by William J. Gaither Arranged by Joy T. Nilo,

Incorporating “*The Old Rugged Cross*” Words & Music by George Bennard

Message

Past Is Prologue
Part 2) “Implication for the Collective Life”

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

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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

Were You There?

Marina Thomas

*We warmly invite everyone to a **St. Patrick's Day lunch**
with corned beef and cabbage 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., Mar. 17	10:00 am	Worship on Fifth Sunday in Lent
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	11:45 am	Leadership Council , St. Stephen's room
Mon., Mar. 18	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Mar. 20	4:30 pm	Wed. Bible Study , St. Stephen's room
Wed., Mar. 23	9am-12pm	Free Morning Workshop , St. Stephen's room
Sun., Mar. 24	10:00 am	Palm/Passion Sunday
	11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
	11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

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

229 Stanford Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

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