

Welcome to Watsonville First United Methodist Church

Open Mind, Open Heart, Open Door

We believe that God's vision for human community include people of all races, ethnicities, national origins, religions, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and ages. We believe that a wider spectrum of genders, sexual orientations, cultural origins, social classes, races/ethnicities, and ages will help create a more vibrant community to serve God and the world.

Let us all be good humans on earth and be good neighbors to one another. Be the reason why someone feels included, welcomed, valued, listened to, supported, and loved.

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!

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 28, 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

"**Destruction before creation,**" reminding us that the first thing that happens when we take a bold stand for a bright future is a loss of your former life. Understand why the cycles of creation and destruction, death and rebirth, are necessary for the growth of the human soul.

~ Joseph Campbell, the 20th century American scholar
on comparative mythology and comparative religion

"Who looks **outside**, dreams; who looks **inside**, awakes."
~ Carl Gustav Jung (on *Inner Work*), the 20th century American Swiss psychiatrist

"What happened in the life of Christ will happen in us.
In our transformed lives, God lives in us without us losing our own being."

~ Raimon Panikkar, *Christophany: The Fullness of Man*, 2004

Prayer in Times of Suffering

by Don Bisson

O God, remind us that suffering is not a failure but a part of human condition. When we feel this ACHE in our hearts, we will create a space for you to abide in us so that we may experience a new life and a new way of belonging that is waiting for us. Let us remember that “Just when the **caterpillar** thought the world was over it became a **butterfly**.” Amen.

**(Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude *I Am Thine, O Lord* 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 *How Great Thou Art* David Rios, Trumpet Solo

***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** *Awesome God* FWS #2040 (2X)

Children’s Time “**The Hare & The Tortoise**” Pastor John
Aesop’s Fable

Epistle Reading **Romans 1:20** (NRSV) Mark Sorensen

“Ever since the creation of the world God’s eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things God has made.”

Romans 8:22-25 (The Message)

“All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it’s not only around us; it’s *within* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We’re also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course,

don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy."

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Special Music *Amazing Grace* David Rios, Trumpet Solo

Message **Darkness and Light:** Rev. John Song
Part 3) "What Cicadas Teach Us About Transformation"

Hymn *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* #382

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 *Man of Sorrows* 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 and justice by following the Way of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
Amen.

***Recessional Song** *Take My Life, and Let It Be* #399

***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 *You Alone Can Rescue* Marina Thomas

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

Today's refreshments: Marieta Flores

*If you want to bring Refreshments in the future
you can sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or contact the office.

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Rev. John Song
Pianist	Marina Thomas
Choir Leader	Carmelita Abenoja
Liturgist	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	Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

Sun.	Apr. 28	10:00 am	Worship Service
		11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon.	Apr. 29	1-3 pm	Sewing Group , St. Stephen's room
Thu.	May. 2	4:00 pm	Food for Children , Back Parking Lot NO Bible Study TODAY (It will resume on May 9 th)
Sun.	May 5	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion Journey to Hope Foundation Scholarship Recipient: Josefina Lopez
		11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Opportunities!

Thur. Bible Study will take a break and it will resume on May 9th.

Coffee Hour Hosts and Volunteers Needed

Here are 3 ways you can help:

- Host a Sunday to provide refreshments and prepare, set up, and clean up.
- Volunteer to help clean up afterwards.
- You may donate towards the *Coffee Hour Fund* by making your cash or check donation payable to the church and labeling it "Coffee Hour"

Signup sheet located in the narthex area.

Thank you for helping us continue Coffee Hour Ministry.

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