

# 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!***

## **Festival of God's Creation on Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday, April 21, 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.

### **This Sunday is *Sunday School with Joan***

First, children will be in worship. Following the Choir Anthem, the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Sunday School Room

### **Words of Meditation**

"I've had to confront a kind of resilience ... that doesn't really ask us to forget, but that carries the memory of whatever harm, or whatever fire we have been through. The resurrected Jesus, after all, carried his nail-marks with him."

~ Cole Arthur Riley, author and poet

"Because of Easter we dare to believe that death and hatred and despair will never have the last word."

~ Bill Toohy

Jesus reminds us,  
“What is impossible for man, it is not impossible for God.  
For God can do what man cannot.”  
~ Luke 18:27

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

**Prelude** *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* Marina Thomas

**Bringing in the Light**

**Welcome & the Life of the Church** Rev. Clyde Vaughn

We welcome Pastor Clyde this morning while Pastor John is away on a retreat.

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

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Lord, open our lips and we will proclaim your praise.

People: **We arise today, through God’s strength to power us.**

Leader: God’s way to set us on the right path,

People: **God’s loving gaze to affirm us,**

Leader: God’s ear to hear us,

People: **God’s wisdom to guide us,**

Leader: God’s shield to protect us from snares of devils,

People: **God’s hand to lift us when we fall,**

Leader: God’s grace to sustain us,

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** *Christ Has Risen* FWS #2115

**Children’s Time** “**Why are butterflies a symbol of Easter?**” Pastor Clyde

**\*Gospel Reading** **Luke 24:36b-48** Mark Sorensen

*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*

<sup>36</sup> While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms

must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**Choir Anthem**

*“Praise the Lord! O Heavens Adore Him”*

Words from Psalm 148 & Edward Osley

Music by Hal H. Hopson, based on the tune Holy Manna Southern Harmony, 1835

\*Children may now leave for Sunday School with the teacher, Joan Culbertson.

**Message**

**“I Can’t Believe My Eyes”**

Rev. Clyde Vaughn

[Rev. Clyde Vaughn is a (semi-) retired minister, currently serving part time at the Boulder Creek UMC. He is known to most of the Watsonville UMC as he has been a frequent visitor over the years. Married to Sheila they have lived in Aptos for almost 30 years. Clyde is an active Board member of the Santa Cruz Symphony League, a fund-raising organization that supports the Santa Cruz Symphony. Children and grandchildren keep both Clyde & Sheila quite (happily) busy.]

**Hymn**

*Hymn of Promise*

#707

**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**

*Sent Forth by God’s Blessing*

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**

*Christ is Alive*

#318

**\*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.

*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**

Guest Pastor	Rev. Clyde Vaughn
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. 21	10:00 am	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School with Joan Guest Preacher, Rev. Clyde Vaughn</b>
		11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon.	Apr. 22	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Thu.	Apr. 25		<b>NO Bible Study TODAY</b> (It will resume on May 9 <sup>th</sup> )
Sun.	Apr. 28	10:00 am	<b>Worship Service</b>
		11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

***Opportunities!***

**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](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*