

# 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.

## **Native American Ministries Sunday on Third Sunday of Easter**

Sunday, April 14, 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**

I thank You God for most this amazing day  
For the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
And a blue true dream of sky  
And for everything which is natural,  
which is infinite, which is yes  
~ ee cummings

"The earth is not broken, but our relationship to the earth and one another is broken. Restoring the earth without restoring our relationship with the earth is an empty exercise."

~ Robin Wall Kimmerer in *Braiding Sweetgrass*

"Relationships start with respect—caring and taking care of a relationship. Caring stirs our responsibility for restoring the earth and the essential key: Reciprocity with the earth. The current emphasis of '**sustainability**' remains focused on, 'How much can we take?'

**Reciprocity** asks, 'How much can we give to the earth?' The earth is Source, not mere resource. It is through respectful and enduring relationship that healing and a restored land become possible. We get to choose how we relate to the earth. Our most challenging and inspiring work lies in restoring a relationship of respect, responsibility, reciprocity - reverencing Life and Love."

~ the Onondaga Nation (one of the five original nations of the Iroquois Confederacy in the Northeastern Woodlands) known as the “People of the Hills”

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

**Prelude** *Praise the King* 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** by Jeff Ramsland of *Mohawk*

Creator, help us to discover in all *You* have made in Nature,  
the good wisdom about the  
interconnectedness of all things,  
about balance and about living in harmony.

**Creator made all that is, and proclaimed that “it is good.”**

We are not above nature, we are part of Creation;  
we live by the same laws as all of nature,  
and need to learn from what God has made.

**Creator made all that is, and proclaimed that “it is good.”**

Creator, help us discover the power  
that lies in the wisdom and understanding  
of our role in the Great Mystery,  
and in honoring every living thing as a teacher.

**Creator God, may our spirits be in harmony with Yours  
as we gather in Your worship!**

**\*Gathering Song** *How Great Thou Art* #77

**Children’s Time** “**Have You Ever Eaten Cicadas?**” Pastor John

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

“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**

*Thunderbird*  
Written and composed by Brandon Kett

Brandon & Trisha Kett

I was inspired to write this song in the spring of 2020 during the pandemic when the whole country was in lockdown. I researched the meaning behind the symbolic thunderbird that is found in Native people's art and jewelry throughout North America. It basically means change, based on how hawks and eagles are often seen flying on rising air currents before incoming thunderstorms.

**Message**

**Darkness and Light:**  
Part 2) "What Cicadas Teach Us"

Rev. John Song

**Hymn**

*This Is My Father's World*

#144

**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**

*Be Still and Know*

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**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

#92 (vs 1-4, 6)

**\*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)

**Postlude**

*How Majestic Is Your Name*

Marina Thomas

*We warmly invite everyone to a lunch prepared in honor of Nathaniel Abenoja's birthday by the Estioko/Abenoja Family in the Social Hall following worship.*

\*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
Special Music	Brandon & Trisha Kett
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. 14	10:00 am	<b>Native American Ministries Sunday</b>
		11:10 am	Lunch, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
		11:45 am	<b>J2Hope Foundation Board</b> , St. Stephen's
Mon.	Apr. 15	1-3 pm	<b>Sewing Group</b> , St. Stephen's room
Thu.	Apr. 18		<b>NO Bible Study TODAY</b> (It will resume on May 9 <sup>th</sup> )
Sun.	Apr. 21	10:00 am	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School with Joan</b>
			<b>Guest Preacher, Rev. Clyde Vaughn</b>
		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 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Coffee Hour Hosts and Volunteers Needed**

For the past 2 and a half years we have enjoyed the Coffee Hour following worship to connect with one another over refreshment under the leadership of Marjorie Martinez. However, Marjorie will no longer be hosting the Coffee Hour. It's going to take collective effort on our part to fill her shoes.

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

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