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 and cultural origins, religions, social classes, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and ages. We believe that a wider spectrum diversity help create a more vibrant community to serve God and the world.

Mother's Day Sunday
Festival of the Christian Home

Sunday, May 12, 2024, 10 am

This Sunday is ***Sunday School with Joan***!
First, children will be in worship. Following the Special Music,
the teacher, Joan Culbertson, will lead our children to the Nursery Room.

Flowers for mothers are arranged by Marieta Flores.

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

The Mother
By Kahlil Gibran from "*The Broken Wings*", a poetic novel set in Beirut

The most beautiful word on the lips of mankind is the word "Mother,"
and the most beautiful call is the call of "My mother."
It is a word full of hope and love,
a sweet and kind word coming from the depths of the heart.

The mother is everything –
she is our consolation in sorrow,
our hope in misery, and our strength in weakness.
She is the source of love, mercy, sympathy, and forgiveness….

Everything in nature bespeaks the mother.
The sun is the mother of earth and gives it its nourishment of heart;
it never leaves the universe at night until it has put the earth to sleep to the song of the sea and the hymn of birds and brooks.

And this earth is the mother of trees and flowers.
It produces them, nurses them, and weans them.
The trees and flowers become kind mothers of their great fruits and seeds.
And the mother, the prototype of all existence, is the eternal spirit, full of beauty and love.

*(*Please stand if you are able*)

Prelude *Through It All* Marina Thomas

Bringing in the Light

Welcome & the Life of the Church Rev. John Song

***Greet One Another!** (Wave to your neighbors near you with…
"***Happy Mother's Day / Feliz día de la Madre***")

***Centering Breath**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Come! Be present in this place. Bring your body, mind and spirit.
People: Listen to the words of welcome to the gracious invitation to worship.

Leader: Know that this gathering is a gift where God's presence can meet you.
People: And to gather together in love.

Leader: To honor and show reverence to our mothers who have given us life and love.
People: For mothers who have nurtured and cared for us.

Leader: Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
People: Let our love for one another reflects the true and compassionate love of God shown to us through the gift of His son.

All: We come together unafraid, for we know that perfect love casts out fear.

***Gathering Song** *Sweet. Sweet Spirit* #334

Report from the Historic General Conference Rev. John Song

Choir Anthem *"Happy the Home"*
Words by Henry Ware (1794-1843) Adapted by J.M.R, Music by John M. Rasley

Children's Time "**Mother Mary and Jesus"** Pastor John

Lay Your Heart On My Soul

Lay your head on my pillow, um – uhm.
Lay your heart on my soul.

[A song from the African-American slaves. A mother grieving over her child when they were separated from the slave trade.]

Children may now leave for Sunday School with the teacher, Joan Culbertson, to the Nursery room.

Matthew 12:46-50
The True Kindred of Jesus

46 While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. 47 Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." 48 But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 And pointing to his disciples,

he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

Message “**Mother Mary as a Template for Motherhood**” Rev. John Song

Hymn *The Gift of Love* #408

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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Marina Thomas

***Doxology** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #95
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

We come before you, O Lord, dedicating our gifts and our lives in your service.
In gratefulness for calling us as your own, we offer you our thanks and praise.
Receive our pledges and the gifts of our hands, and use them to bring light
to the darkness and hope to places of despair and suffering, through our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Recessional Song** ***Faith of Our Mothers

1. Faith of our mothers, living still
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;
In nursery lore and fireside love,
Thy presence still pervades the air;
Faith of our mothers, living faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

2. Faith of our mothers, loving faith,
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
Oh, may thy consecration prove
Source of a finer, nobler race:
Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

3. Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision, blind our way,
Thy providential care without:
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

4. Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
   In truth beyond our stumbling creeds,
   Still serve the home and save the Church,
   And breathe thy spirit thro' our deeds:
   Faith of our mothers, Christian faith!
   We will be true to thee till death.

***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 *Happiness* 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

Ministers	Each one of us
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	Marieta Flores

Calendar for the Week

Sun.	May 12	10:00 am	**Mother's Day Celebration**
		11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Mon.	May 13	1-3 pm	**Sewing Group**, St. Stephen's room
Thu.	May 16	4:30 pm	**Thur. Bible Study**, St. Stephen's
Sun.	May 19	10:00 am	**Pentecost Sunday**
		11:10 am	Coffee Hour, Social Hall
		11:40 am	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary