

## Valentine's Day Potluck



# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.”*

**Song of Songs 2:12a NRSVUE**

Greetings Church Family,

The tulips are blooming, the wildlife are emerging, and it's getting warmer. The promise of Spring is the hope we hold through the long days of Winter. And now it's so close we can start to feel it.

Then right as we begin to welcome the change in weather, in our church calendar we enter the somber, reflective, contemplative season of Lent. Perhaps it is another gracious gift of God, (for us in the Northern Hemisphere at least), that our darkest time of year is punctuated by the joy of Christmas, then once we navigate safely through and begin to emerge from the cold we pause to look back at what we've gone through and ahead to where we're going.

Here at Aptos UMC we look forward to continuing our journey together. On Valentines Day, we gathered for a wonderful celebration of food, fellowship, and love. Community is what makes us one in Christ, and one with each other.

That foundation equips us to extend our love to the greater world around us. On February 28, we joined with other faith communities in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Chili Cook-Off in support of the Mid-County Homeless Coalition shower ministry for our neighbors. Then we look forward to two ecumenical opportunities for Ash Wednesday on March 5. Services will be offered at Noon at Aptos UMC and at 7 PM at Christ Lutheran Church. All are welcome to attend either or both as we worship together with our local Christian family.


I am grateful to walk this path with you all. May the Holy Spirit fill you with light and love, comfort and presence, as we labor together to bring God's kingdom to earth here and now.

*“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!”*

**Psalm 133:1 NRSVUE**

Grace and Peace be with you all,  
Pastor Gabe

**Join us for in-person worship in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10 AM.**

**We are now livestreaming on YouTube.  YouTube**

To watch live click [HERE](#), or go to <https://www.youtube.com/@aptosumc/streams>.

In addition to watching worship live, recordings of services will be available there.

*Please also subscribe to our YouTube channel: [@aptosumc](#)*

Online giving is available on our website by clicking on the 'GIVE NOW' button, or by clicking [here](#).



## March 30 - UMCOR Sunday

UMCOR Sunday seeks to increase awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Gifts given on UMCOR Sunday play a vital role in enhancing the church's global humanitarian response because these funds cover UMCOR's administrative costs. This support ensures that 100% of donations given to UMCOR throughout the year can be directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it's needed most.

## Small Group Meetings

Small Groups are open to anyone. If you have questions about any of the groups, please contact Pastor Gabe.

- **Blaney Group** - Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Youth Room
- **PACT** - every other Monday at 10 AM (*March 10 & 24*)  
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM09lZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQ09>  
 Meeting ID **978 9598 2359** Passcode **813515**
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- **Upper Room** - Tuesday at 7 PM  
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhiczMVl2M2ME5Ddz09>  
 Meeting ID **974 1046 9403** Passcode **935450**
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

## Online Giving

To give online, go to [www.aptosumc.org](http://www.aptosumc.org) and click on the 'GIVE NOW' button, or click [HERE](#), or scan this QR code using your smartphone. Creating an account online is not necessary unless you would like to set up a recurring payment or if you would like to save your payment information for future transactions. Contact the church office ([office@aptosumc.org](mailto:office@aptosumc.org) or 831-688-2210) if you have any questions or need assistance.



## Church and Society

At Easter, United Methodists across the world join with other Christians to celebrate the Risen Christ!

The journey to Easter begins on Ash Wednesday (this year on March 5) as we pause to reflect on this holy day of repentance. As we move through the 40 days of Lent, we may choose to praise and worship the Lord, to read the Bible more, and to pray more often, all in preparation for celebrating the most sacred of days, Easter. And we may choose a spiritual path for ourselves that reflects our deepest yearnings to make a difference in the world. This may be a time to learn more about the crises that other human beings in our midst are experiencing and then to engage in work to help alleviate the sufferings we observe.

Climate change, economic disparities, and social issues divide Americans, and Christians, today. But immigration seems the most urgent concern, since the present administration has made it clear that the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants is at the top of its agenda. Shortly after the inauguration, a policy was revoked that prohibited arrests by U.S. immigration agents at places of worship and other "sensitive locations." Can you imagine immigration agents coming into our Sanctuary on a Sunday morning, interrupting our service, in order to drag someone away? How would we as a community of faith react?

A top executive leader of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race, Rev. Giovanni Arroyo, has issued this statement: *"We have to have a prophetic voice responding to the policies and the practices that will impact racial and cultural minorities in this country. The concern for our immigrant siblings is very well into the realm of xenophobia, and we are very committed to addressing xenophobia."*

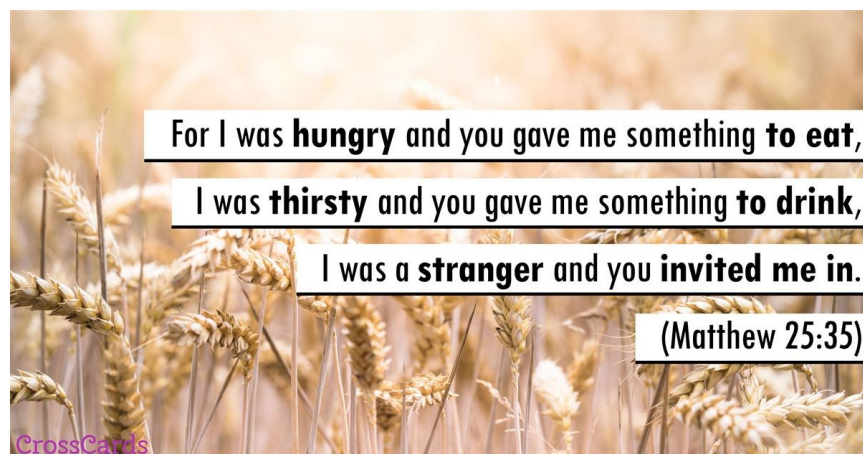
In a January 13 statement, the United Methodist Board of Church and Society said it *"vehemently opposes the mass deportation plans put forth by the new administration. These proposals are not only antithetical to the foundational values of our democracy but also starkly contradict The United Methodist Church's Social Principles on immigration and the Wesleyan theological tradition."*

The Aptos UMC Church and Society Committee invites you to learn more about these issues and to reflect upon what you can personally do to inform others and to resist any measures that you see being enacted to deny immigrants in our nearby communities from exercising their rights. We have *"Know Your Rights"* cards available in the church office which you can pick up and give to people who are being affected. English and Spanish versions are available, and 19 additional languages can be found [here](#), or by contacting the [church office](#). Phone calls to senators and representatives are being documented and have thus far been effective.

The Aptos group of Village Santa Cruz will be meeting at our church on Wednesday, March 5, at 1 PM. You are invited to attend if interested.

Joyce D. Rodgers

Chair of Church and Society/Missions/Green Team



Donor ID:	01896853J
Receipt Number:	16252437
Date Received:	1/15/2025
Amount:	\$225.00

Purchase: General Fund (225.00)

(0005256)\*000011\*\*\*\*\*MIXED AADC 720  
Aptos Community United Methodist Church  
221 Thunderbird Dr  
Aptos, CA 95003-5757



January 27, 2025

Dear Friend:

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: people continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve.

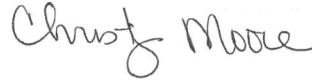
Which is why I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of \$225.00 to Heifer. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. I'm reminded of the quote by Mr. Fred Rogers: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." **And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift!**

Each day, we witness the need of families in the poorest corners of the world, who are simply trying to figure out how to get by. Hardworking parents wonder if they'll have enough food to feed their children at the end of the day ... if they can afford school or medication ... if their home can withstand natural disasters.

Thanks to your group of Heifer donors, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children ... dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away ... you are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation.

I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate you all. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,



Christy Moore  
Senior Vice President of Marketing



## Aptos Community United Methodist Church

for your unwavering dedication and support that inspires us all.  
Your faith-filled generosity changes lives and brings hope to families around the world.

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,  
and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11*

  
Heifer International




January 2025  
Date



January 14, 2025

15 / 2264

  
Aptos, Community  
United Methodist Church  
221 Thunderbird Dr  
Aptos, CA 95003-5798

***“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” – Luke 10:27 CEB***

Dear Friends in Mission,

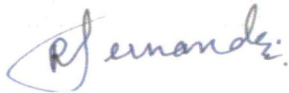
**Thank you!**

The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – *Thank you!*

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of The United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms – sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,



Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

**Supporting**  
UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

**Gift Amount**  
\$ 100.00

Date Received 12-20-24

Account #94144

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution. Thank you for your continued support.



*Cathy Wright and Bob Folker on the death of their mother,  
Marion Folker.*

*Pharis Harvey and the family and friends of Jane Harvey  
on her death on February 24.*

**Birthdays**

- 1 Sibille Treffkorn
- 2 Elizabeth Hoaglund-Joubert
- 6 Tammy Philbin
- 7 Trish Hucklebridge
- 9 Cailan Darling
- 10 Jake Hancock
- 15 Hiroko Goto
- 17 Ken Kaysen  
Gary Whitehouse
- 20 Kyle Hucklebridge  
Marty Mason
- 22 Jacob Baker
- 26 Jim Theiring
- 29 Tommy Kaysen

**Anniversaries**

- 30 Bob & Jeanne Grimes

**If your birthday or anniversary  
is missing from our calendar or  
incorrect, please contact the  
[office](#).**

**“Know Your Rights” cards**

“[Know Your Rights](#)” cards are now available in multiple languages.

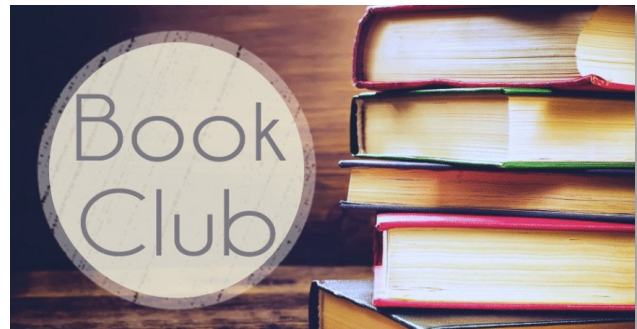
This resource has been provided by Rev. J. Martin Lee, California-Nevada Conference, Executive Director of Connectional Ministries. Please print and share as needed to ensure this vital resource is available in our community.

Contact the [church office](#) for more information or questions.



**You are invited to join our Prayer Team.**

The Prayer Team receives a weekly email with prayer requests. To **join** the Prayer Team or **submit** a prayer request, please contact the church office.



**March 19**

*All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley

The Book Club meets at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of every month in the Youth Room. *Anyone is welcome to attend.*

For more information, please contact Barbara Coy-Bulicz at 689-9772 or [bcoybulicz@gmail.com](mailto:bcoybulicz@gmail.com).

**Worship Assistant sign-ups  
are available in the Fellowship Hall.**

Altar  
Flowers



Ushers

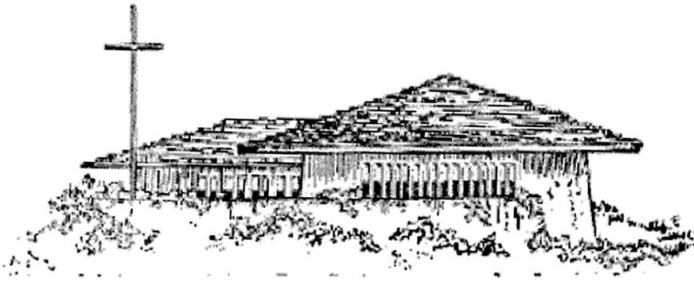


Liturgist



Coffee  
Volunteers





## **Aptos Community United Methodist Church**

*"The Church Worth Finding"*

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

831.688.2210

[www.aptosumc.org](http://www.aptosumc.org)

### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Sunday Worship at 10 AM in person  
and livestreamed on YouTube**

*YouTube channel: @aptosumc*

**Deadline for  
April Tide**  
Friday, March 21

*The Tide* is published monthly by Aptos United Methodist Church. Aptos UMC is an inclusive community that welcomes and encourages full participation of *all persons*, regardless of race, culture, age, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical/mental abilities.

We affirm our denomination's motto – ***Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.***

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 2:30 PM.

## **Church Staff**

**Gabe House**

*Pastor*

[gabriel.house@cnumc.org](mailto:gabriel.house@cnumc.org)

831.535.2912 (cell)

**Sandi Thomas**

*Office Manager*

[office@aptosumc.org](mailto:office@aptosumc.org)

831.688.2210

**Daniel Goldsmith**

*Music Director*

[pianodan@gmail.com](mailto:pianodan@gmail.com)

831.345.4995

**Ruth Landmann**

*Facebook*

[tddynewf@cruzio.com](mailto:tddynewf@cruzio.com)

831.334.0900