Our Annual Charge Conference will be held Saturday, December 5 at 11:30 AM. We welcome DS Rev. Dr. Oliver Mangubat, who will preside at our meeting.

Alternative Christmas giving begins next Sunday and continues through December 20. Giving options include Second Harvest Food Bank, NAMI, Heifer International, and Missionary Katherine Parker.

Garden Paver Stone order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Need help with ordering? Contact Dick Wood or the office.

Thanks Today to:

Our **Lay Leader:** Jillian Holmberg
Our **Liturgist:** Boyd Brown
Our **Ushers**: Jane and Steve Green
Our **Tech Team:** Roger Swenson
Our **Coffee Volunteer:** Ruth Landmann

This Week:

Monday, 11/30: PACT 10 AM
Tuesday, 12/1: Alive Now 10 AM, Upper Room Group 7 PM
Wednesday, 12/2: Village Santa Cruz 1 PM
Friday, 12/4: Scott Group 10 AM
Saturday 12/5: Annual Charge Conference 11:30 AM

Coming Up:

Monday, 12/21: Blue Christmas Service 3 PM
Thursday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 5 PM

Aptos UMC sends out a weekly email blast on Saturdays. If you would like to be added to the email list, contact the office at office@aptosumc.org. *If you've given us your email address and aren't receiving the emails, please check your junk or spam folder.*

Online giving is available. Go to aptosumc.org and click on the 'GIVE NOW' button or scan this code using your smartphone.

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, contact the church office.

~ In Our Prayers This Week ~

The family and friends of Elsie Staley on her death on November 13.

APTOS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 29, 2026 ~ 10 AM Worship

First Sunday of Advent



Rev. Helene Milner

Daniel Goldsmith, Music Director

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

831-688-2210 aptosumc.org office@aptosumc.org

Facebook: Aptos United Methodist Church *YouTube:* @aptosumc

Order of Worship

Gathering Music

Call To Worship

Like generations upon generations before us, we enter Advent with longing for hope to reign where despair feels entrenched, for peace to rule where conflict and destruction overwhelm.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We gather, wondering whether joy will return when we have experienced so much heartbreak, whether love can make a difference when hate and apathy seem so widespread.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We gather to join our voices with the psalmists and musicians, the travelers, and the faithful from long ago, who also longed for restoration and salvation, who felt God was far away or perhaps felt how far they had wandered away from God.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Come, you who wait and watch for the coming Messiah, to worship God who invites us to join in the Spirit's restoration song until the day when earth and heaven both reflect the fullness of the kingdom of God.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.
Let us pray that we may always be ready to welcome him.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love.

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,

Come, Lord Jesus.

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy Paula and Greg Phipps

Prelude

Opening Prayer

God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may rise in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds. Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and come without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

Opening Hymn **#202** **"People, Look East"**

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read, and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Sermon "Restore Us, O God" Rev. Helene Milner

Hymn **#211** **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

Restore us, Lord. Once we prayed, knowing our help came from you. Once we defied injustice, knowing that you were on our side. Once, we prayed all night "'til our help came." Once, we apologized for calling someone a fool. Once, we believed it was important to please you. Restore us as people who follow God even when no one is looking. Restore us, Lord. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Doxology **#94** **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn **#206** **"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

Benediction

Postlude

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 NRSVue

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
    you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2   before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
    and come to save us!

3 Restore us, O God;
    let your face shine, that we may be saved.

4 O LORD God of hosts,
    how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears
    and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
    our enemies laugh among themselves.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
    let your face shine, that we may be saved.

17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
    the one whom you made strong for yourself.
18 Then we will never turn back from you;
    give us life, and we will call on your name.

19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
    let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Reader One:
The prophet Isaiah declares, "From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him" (Isaiah 64:4 NRSV). Today, we continue to wait and call out in hope for God's restoration to meet us here, believing that God knows our struggles and works even now for the fulfillment of our salvation.

Congregation:
When God feels far away, and our lament feels too heavy to bear, we remember God's steadfast love. May this love empower us to wait and watch in hope for the day when God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Reader Two:
We light this candle of hope as a sign of God's promises, that we might persevere in hope, a hope grounded not in wishes and whims but in the trustworthy and persistent love of God already at work among us to save and restore all creation.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.