



February Special Offering

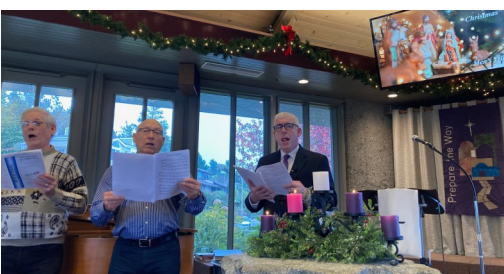
February 1 - *Missionary Katherine Parker*

Katherine is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as a Health and Community Transformation Advisor with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). The Methodist Church has supported the UMN since its founding 65 years ago. Katherine was previously based in one of UMN's field offices in western Nepal and now works in participatory research across the organization from a base in Kathmandu, where she is also a part of the UMN leadership team.



Our church has been supporting Katherine's work in Nepal for many years, and we have a covenant relationship with Katherine Parker to send at least \$1000 every year to support her work.

Please see page 6 for a New Year's message from Katherine.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”

Romans 12:4-5 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

It has been unseasonably hot lately. We’ve enjoyed a few weeks well above the average temperature for this time of year. It’s nice to feel the warmth in the middle of Winter.

The season of Epiphany is marked by the increase of light. It is a reminder than even in the coldest seasons of our lives, we have an internal heat source that sustains and drives us. In our darkest times, a bright hope leads us forward.

At Aptos UMC we’ve been feeling the warmth as well. Our recently elected church leaders have assumed their roles and we welcome their invigorating touch on our programs. We extended our church family by receiving Jane Carr and Greg and Paula Phipps as new members. Everything is ready for us to begin a new year of ministry.

It’s a bit like setting up a chessboard. The pieces are in place, each occupying their starting position, full of infinite possibilities and permutations. All that remains is to play the game. So what game are we playing?

Our game is love. Specifically it’s God’s love expressed in community. We each have our own gifts and graces. Now is the time to incorporate all our individual skills together into an integrated game plan.

And that’s the messy part. Because we have to make moves. The beautiful initial game state, with all the pieces lined up in perfect order, must evolve. Some pieces move slowly in one direction, others seem to be blessed with energy and fly across the board in various ways. But each piece is a valuable part of the whole strategy.

This year I encourage you to play the game of Love well. Make moves that fortify your faith and build your defenses. But always be on the lookout for those bold moves, the unexpected ones that can change the momentum of the game. Support the dynamic potential of our Rooks, Bishops, and Queens, encourage the unorthodox movements of our Knights, and never underestimate the value of our Pawns, all in one coordinated mission to serve our gracious King.

***“We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;
the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence;
the compassionate, in cheerfulness.”***

Romans 12:6-8 NRSVUE

Grace and Peace be with you all,
Pastor Gabe

Church and Society

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church has issued the following statement of support in response to the CIEMAL Pastoral Letter on Venezuela:

January 7, 2026

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church stands in full solidarity with *The Evangelical Methodist Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL)* and wholeheartedly affirms their [Pastoral Letter in the Face of the Military Action of the United States of America Against Venezuela](#).

We join our Methodist siblings across Latin America and the Caribbean in condemning all acts of violence, military aggression, and violations of national sovereignty. As followers of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we reject every ideology and action that diminishes the sacred worth of human life or deepens cycles of fear, instability, and injustice.

As our *Social Principles* guide us: “The church deplores war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. We reject the use of war as an instrument of foreign policy and insist that every peaceful and diplomatic means of resolution be exhausted before the start of armed conflicts.”

Violence cannot heal violence. We denounce all forms of dictatorship, oppression, and assaults on human dignity—wherever they occur and by whomever they are perpetrated.

We urge United Methodists around the world to unite in prayer for the Venezuelan people and for all communities affected by violence and instability. We call upon our congregations, clergy, and mission partners, to remain attentive to emerging humanitarian needs and to embody Christ’s light in the midst of suffering.

We reaffirm our commitment to justice, peace, and the healing of the nations. May God’s grace, mercy, and steadfast love guide us as we “*seek peace and pursue it...*” (Hebrews 12:14a)

In Christ’s peace,

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

Missions

Please support the **Mid-County Homeless Coalition**, that provides showers for the unhoused, by attending the **February 20th [Chili Cook Off](#) at Twin Lakes Church**. Tickets may be purchased at the door that evening.

Our church provides space to the Aptos group of **Village Santa Cruz**, an organization dedicated to helping seniors in the community maintain their independence. That group will next meet on February 4 at 1 PM. You are welcome to attend if interested.

Green Team

An Action Alert from California Interfaith Power & Light: The Department of Transportation (DOT) has a responsibility to regulate how far vehicles travel on a gallon of fuel through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. The present administration is trying to rollback those standards. You may go to the website for [California Interfaith Power and Light](#) to sign a petition to urge the DOT to keep the standards moving forward.

“Know Your Rights” cards

“[Know Your Rights](#)” cards are 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.



Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate

Every first Sunday of the month, Laurel offers coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange for sale in the Fellowship Hall.

New Members

On January 11, Greg and Paula Phipps were received into membership.

Welcome to the Aptos UMC family!



Fourth Quarter and Alternative Christmas Special Offering Totals

Thanks to generous giving by members of our congregation, the following organizations and projects received these financial gifts during the fourth quarter of 2025:

Alzheimer's Association - \$150

World Communion Sunday - \$376

NAMI - \$325

Second Harvest Food Bank - \$450

Missionary Katherine Parker - \$500

Heifer Project - \$470

Finance Update

Greetings and Happy New Year! As we wrap up our church finances for 2025 and launch 2026, your Finance Committee is pleased to report that our church is in very good financial shape. Thanks to your ongoing support through pledges and the plate, and careful management of the church's expenses, we end 2025 very near budget. And, as we celebrate a successful year for our church's finances, it would be remiss not to recognize your generous support of others. Your special offering gifts totaling \$6400 have helped to fund ministry to local, national, and worldwide causes. These range from food for the local needy, to advances in health care, support for indigenous and international communities, and students who represent the future of our church: Alzheimer's Walk, Heifer Project, Human Relations Day, Missionary Katherine Parker, NAMI, Native American Ministries, UMCOR Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, Second Harvest Food Bank, United Methodist Student Day, and World Communion Sunday. Thank you!

Mike Sampson
Chair, Finance Committee

December Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
Pledge, Plate, Other Giving	185,174.00		
Secret Garden, Building Use	61,545.26		
Investment Income	<u>4,304.48</u>		
TOTAL INCOME	\$251,023.74	\$252,188.00	-\$1,164.26
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Church Program & Office			
Conference Apportionments	26,154.00		
Church Program Funding	2,296.41		
Maintenance, Supplies	673.15		
Office Expenses	2,405.53		
Employee Compensation	<u>48,820.54</u>		
Subtotal, Church Program & Office Expenses	\$80,349.63	\$84,177.00	\$3,827.37
Church Campus			
Custodial	2,760.00		
Utilities	26,398.88		
Insurance	9,581.12		
Taxes	2,836.59		
Maintenance, Improvements	<u>12,906.60</u>		
Subtotal, Church Campus Expenses	\$54,483.19	\$54,031.00	-\$452.19
Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage			
Salary	56,913.12		
Housing & Utilities	4,500.00		
Travel, Annual Conference, Education, Supplies	3,338.73		
Health Insurance	10,147.92		
Pastor's Pension	12,334.68		
Parsonage Mortgage, Insurance, Taxes, Maintenance	<u>27,493.72</u>		
Subtotal, Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage Expenses	\$114,728.17	\$115,590.00	\$861.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$249,560.99	\$253,798.00	\$4,237.01
NET INCOME - EXPENSES	\$1,462.75	-\$1,610.00	\$3,072.75

kparker@umcmmission.org
 PO Box 126, Thapathali
 Kathmandu, NEPAL



GLOBAL MINISTRIES
 MISSIONARIES

Dear friends and covenant partners,

This 2025 New Years Eve, I write from the warmth and good cheer of a short holiday visit with my extended family in the State of Washington. Christmastime here with my lively two-year-old niece Juniper has been a joyful time for us all. As I write, I'm in my family's cabin on Puget Sound, and early tomorrow morning I head for the airport for the 22-hour return to Nepal.

I've spent the last year exploring the possibility of moving on from Nepal and, among other things, undertaking some new work in Central Asia – a possibility that, after discernment, has been moved to the back burner, following a decision that now is not the right time. Simultaneously, over the past year, I've been focusing on training and handing over various projects I have been championing with the United Mission to Nepal.

When UMN rolled out its next five-year strategic plan, we settled on some new terminology for various aspects of the ministry. We plan now to talk about those whom we want to prioritize as "people with multiple marginalizations." I am hopeful that this catch-all term will help us in UMN to embrace the complexity of individual experiences, as well as the intersectionality of poverty and other forms of marginalization which limit full participation in community life.

I was able to facilitate several conversations in UMN that led to us settling on this term and it has been exciting in the past few months to see a range of other Nepali colleagues now jump in to champion why it is important for us to focus on those who experience multiple forms of marginalization.

In the context of some uncertainty about precisely what the future holds for me, I am reminded of the tradition of using John Wesley's covenant prayer on Watch Night (New Year's Eve), the same prayer we use at the commissioning of United Methodist missionaries: "I am no longer my own, but thine . . ." Uncertainty is a hard place to be and yet the prayer reminds me that I can lean into this uncertainty because of my security that God will have a use for me through whatever doors open. I'm still exploring and considering options for my future.

Katherine

With much gratitude, yours in Christ, Katherine Parker



Gifts to support community development work in Nepal through UMN can be designated through The Advance:

Integrated Community Development project of the United Mission to Nepal:

Advance # 3021568

I appreciate your financial support through the Covenant Relationship program that enables me to be here in Nepal:

Missionary Advance # 15187z

Send your gifts through The Advance to your conference treasurer or to Advance GCFA, PO Box 9068, New York, NY. 10087-9068 with the Advance number clearly designated on your check. For more information or to donate online [visit www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org)



The Advance
 Advancing hope in Christ's name



Global Ministries
 The United Methodist Church

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 (*February 9 & 23*)
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM09lZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQT09>
Meeting ID **978 9598 2359** Passcode **813515**
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- **Upper Room** - Tuesday at 7 PM (New study book - *The Upper Room Disciples*. Click [here](#) for more information.)
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhiczM2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID **974 1046 9403** Passcode **935450**
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall



Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Lucas Treffkorn |
| 4 | Tom LaHue
Megan Mackh |
| 5 | Margie Jurach |
| 9 | Bob Folker |
| 10 | Drew Rossi
Anita Little |
| 12 | Vicki Cull |
| 14 | Anthony Fatta |
| 18 | Alexi Baker |
| 19 | Laurel Blaney |
| 21 | Sheila Vaughn |
| 25 | Marcia Burns
Bob Grimes |
| 26 | Susan Cooper |
| 28 | Jane Green |

Anniversaries

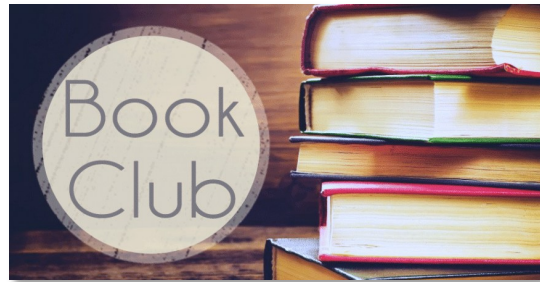
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Mollie McGuire &
Tamer Abbas |
|---|---------------------------------|

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



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](#).



February 18 *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood

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.

Online Giving

To give online, go to www.aptosumc.org and click on the 'GIVE NOW' button, click [HERE](#), or scan this QR code using your smartphone.





Aptos Community United Methodist Church

"The Church Worth Finding"

221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

831.688.2210

www.aptosumc.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Worship at 10 AM in person

and livestreamed on  YouTube

YouTube channel: @aptosumc

**Deadline for
March Tide**
Friday, February 20

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

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