



Stewardship Campaign Kickoff ~ October 4



All Saints Photo Deadline ~ October 15

We will once again be putting together a slideshow for All Saints Sunday on November 1. If you would like to have a photo of your loved one(s) who have passed away recently, please email your digital photo, along with their name and their relationship to you, by October 15 to the church [office](#).

If you have submitted a picture in the past, we still have those on file. Please just let us know their name so we can pull up the old file.

Please keep your photos to 1mb, and at least 350x350ppi (ish).

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Philippians 4:6 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

Most of us know what it feels like to hit a wall. Whether it's caregiving exhaustion, lingering grief, or quiet anxiety about the world, we've all felt that marathon moment where your lungs burn and every fiber screams, Why did I sign up for this?

Life, much like faith, is repetitive and tiring. It requires ordinary endurance.

In Philippians 3, Paul uses athletic imagery: ***"...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal..."***. Two things help us here:

1. He refuses to live in the rearview mirror. Grace gives us permission to leave yesterday's failures at the foot of the cross.
2. He strains forward. Like a runner with muscles flexed toward the finish line, we lean into what God has next. In our United Methodist tradition, we call this moving on to perfection. We never graduate from grace, but continue to grow in love for God and neighbor.

Here's the catch: Paul never tells us to do this alone. Pressing on isn't an individual extreme sport, it's a group relay. When you're strong, you carry the pace for a weary friend. Then on days when your feet are dragging, the community carries you.

As we look toward our upcoming series, "Always Give Thanks", we'll discover how gratitude becomes the ultimate fuel for endurance. So let's keep running, loving, and leaning on one another. The road ahead may be long, but the company is gracious, and the destination is love.



"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7 NRSVUE

Grace and Peace be with you all,
Pastor Gabe



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 (*October 5 & 19*)
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURIM091ZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQT09>
Meeting ID 978 9598 2359 Passcode 813515
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- **Upper Room** - Tuesday at 7 PM (Study book is *The Upper Room Disciplines*)
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhicZVML2M2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID 974 1046 9403 Passcode 935450
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

A Miracle in the Making: United Methodists Pass \$2.1 Million Milestone to Fuel the Future of Pastoral Leadership

The read the press release in its entirety, click [HERE](#).

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Across the globe, United Methodists are answering a vital call to support the next generation of spiritual leaders. The Miracle Sunday Initiative (MSI) has officially passed **\$2,123,420** in gifts and pledges, marking an extraordinary step forward to permanently support theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

What began with a vision in September 2025 and an official kickoff with Miracle Sunday in April 2026 has quickly blossomed into a vibrant movement, inspired by the spirit of joyful, collective generosity found in 1 Chronicles 29. The initiative is driven by a shared dream: to ensure that courageous, compassionate leaders are equipped to shepherd congregations for generations to come.

Already, 50 annual conferences and hundreds of passionate supporters have reported back to us, resulting in 322 distinct contributions from local churches, conferences, and individual donors. Generosity is shining in every corner of the connection—from the South Congo and Zambia Episcopal Area, which leads with over \$340,000 raised and pledged, to remarkable 100% church participation in regions like North Macedonia and Denmark.

Other annual conferences around the world will report their contributions in the coming months. Some have intentionally postponed the Miracle Sunday Initiative to this fall in order to have broader participation and involvement in their local churches. Where local churches have used the six-week study, the motivation and support by United Methodists have been extraordinary.

"Assisting a few students with their theological education is significant; but we believe God wants us to do even more—provide support for 500 leaders each year, every year." said Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa, MSI Co-Chair in his open letter to United Methodists. "That takes a miracle, and God is ready to perform it through us as we pray, learn, and give together."

"Miracle Sunday shows the true power of a united community—a day when superintendents, pastors, deacon-pastors, and lay members alike gather joyfully to give, serve, and break bread together," said Bishop Marie-Jeanne Mujinga Kashala. "In honoring our commitments side by side, we give thanks to God, whose grace inspires His children and turns every faithful offering into an abundant blessing."

Celebration of Life for Marcia Burns

Saturday, October 10 at 10 AM

Corralitos Community Church

26 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos

All who knew and loved Marcia are welcome.

Marcia's obituary can be found [here](#).



October 21

The Things We Never Say by Elizabeth Strout

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.



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.

Church and Society

United Methodist Creation Justice Tips for October 2026:

According to research, just two hours a week in nature have a positive effect on health and psychological wellbeing—and the benefit holds regardless of age, income, or chronic illness. **Build nature time into your routine** and your family's. Take a 10-minute nature break, eat lunch outside, talk and walk. Love yourself and your loved ones.

Green space is critical infrastructure for health and wellbeing. And like all infrastructure, access to it isn't equally distributed. Lower-income neighborhoods consistently have less tree canopy, hotter temperatures, more pollution, and worse health outcomes. **Speak up for parks and trees to be placed so that all neighbors benefit.**

Weave love of creation and neighbor into your worshipping community's practices through liturgy, fellowship, education, and contemplation. See to it that creation justice is not just an occasional program or a single campaign or the purview of one committee but a dimension of the congregation's shared life.

Put your money to work for justice. When you buy organic, you guarantee more farmers can grow healthy, safe food. When you buy fair trade, you provide living wages and fight poverty. When you bank with a community bank or credit union, you are investing locally and likely not funding fossil fuel projects. Choose justice.

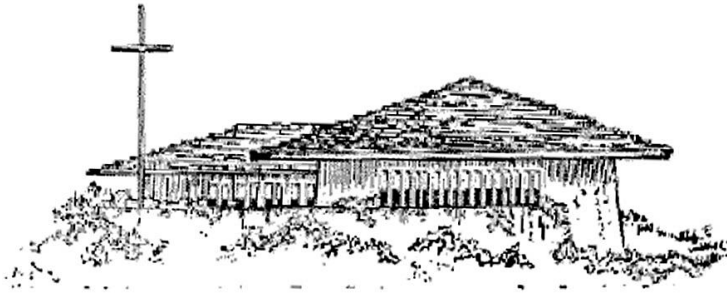
Persist in the "little things" you do to help the planet—recycling, composting, planting, thrifting, ride sharing, consuming less, using alternatives to plastic—and talk about what you are doing and why. People pay attention to the practices and words of people they know. You make a difference.

Missions

Aptos United Methodist Church continues to offer space to Village Santa Cruz, an organization that helps seniors age in place, stay socially connected, and receive help with short-term projects as needed. The Aptos subgroup of the Village meets at our church on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 PM. The next meeting will be October 7. You are welcome to attend if interested.

August Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
Pledge, Plate, Other Giving	113,504.50		
Secret Garden, Building Use	43,730.67		
Investment Income	3,398.20		
TOTAL INCOME	\$160,633.37	\$169,706.72	-\$9,073.35
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Church Program & Office			
Conference Apportionments	17,412.00		
Church Program Funding	1,211.37		
Maintenance, Supplies	444.56		
Office Expenses	2,249.65		
Employee Compensation	33,218.25		
Subtotal, Church Program & Office Expenses	\$54,535.83	\$57,270.63	\$2,734.80
Church Campus			
Custodial	2,100.00		
Utilities	17,769.14		
Insurance	10,268.38		
Taxes	1,713.90		
Maintenance, Improvements	8,253.66		
Subtotal, Church Campus Expenses	\$40,105.08	\$37,178.64	-\$2,926.44
Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage			
Salary	40,218.72		
Housing & Utilities	3,000.00		
Travel, Annual Conference, Education, Supplies	3,925.06		
Health Insurance	9,026.56		
Pastor's Pension	7,617.88		
Parsonage Mortgage, Insurance, Taxes, Maintenance	18,282.19		
Subtotal, Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage Expenses	\$82,070.41	\$81,983.36	-\$87.05
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$176,711.32	\$176,432.64	-\$278.68
NET INCOME-EXPENSES	-\$16,077.95	-\$6,725.92	-\$9,352.03



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
November Tide**
Friday, October 16

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.

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

Church Staff

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