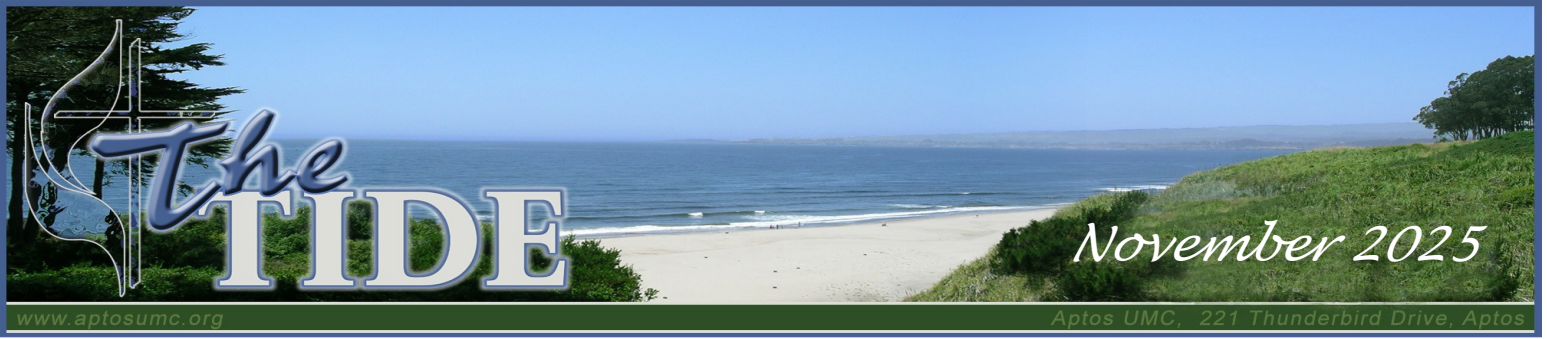




FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

Psalm 24:1 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

Aptos UMC is a congregation known for our commitment to social justice for the marginalized, for creation care, and for a world reflecting God’s inclusive love. Yet we also embrace the Methodist principles of financial conservatism and responsibility. This isn't a contradiction! It’s the harmonious balance of Christian stewardship.

In the great Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shares the Parable of the Talents. A master entrusts different sums of money to his servants. The first two invest and double their funds. The third, paralyzed by fear, buries his one talent. The faithful servants showed prudent fiscal management. They didn't waste the funds or let them sit unattended, they multiplied them. And God expects us to actively invest our time, our resources, and our selves, to grow God’s Kingdom here on earth.

We’re all stewards of the talents God gave us. And that means so much more than money. It means using our skills to serve our mission: caring for the poor, working for justice, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Your gift of organizing meals for a sick neighbor is stewardship. Your patience in listening to a grieving friend is stewardship. Your heart for serving the marginalized in our community is stewardship.

And our financial faithfulness, through pledges and offerings, funds our service. Our money isn’t church membership dues, it’s a tool for ministry. By ensuring our church is financially stable, we also ensure that our mission projects are sustainable and effective. We can do the world transforming work we are called to when we are faithful managers of the resources God has provided.

I am inspired by your personal principles and your public witness. The work you support brings help and hope to many who would otherwise go without. May God continue to shower you with blessings, so that you may be a blessing to others.

***“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”***

1 Peter 4:10 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 (*November 3 & 17*)
<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
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhiczM2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID **974 1046 9403** Passcode **935450**
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Special Offering Totals July through September 2025

UMCOR General Fund for Texas flood relief \$600



"...when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." - Jesus (Matthew 25:40 CEB)

Dear Friends in ministry,

Thank you!

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

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people 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 the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary
General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR

Supporting

Amount: \$600

901670 - UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

Date Received 09/30/2025

Church and Society

Here at Aptos United Methodist Church, we are a church that welcomes and celebrates pets. You could say that in our sanctuary, the hands and feet of God are accompanied by paw prints and wet noses. Did you know that there are some Methodist churches that have pet ministries? Let me tell you a little about that, and you can think about these ideas for our own church.

A pet ministry provides care, comfort, and connection for people and their pets, including grief and loss support, educational classes and resources, therapy dogs, community outreach, support of a pet food pantry, and a blessing of the animals. One such ministry is at Resurrection UMC in Leawood, Kansas. Linda Haney, co-founder of their pet ministry, brings her Labrador Retriever, Dance, to small groups at the church. When she and another woman proposed a pet ministry, seed money was provided to kick things off. Plus, the minister, Rev. Adam Hamilton, was starting a sermon series on God and dogs at the same time that the pet ministry was finding its legs.

Initially, the founders set up a table in the church narthex with signup sheets for those interested in pet ministry. When people would stop to talk to them, they would ask, "What's important to you? What would you like to see?" And one of the things that really came out, at almost every juncture, was "We need support for grief after the loss of a pet." People recognized that grieving a pet is different than grieving for a person, but that some kind of support when a pet dies would be very helpful.

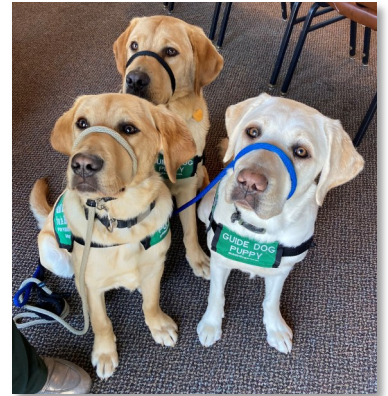
As the ministry developed, it provided emotional and spiritual support for those who had lost their pets. Cards were sent, and space was given so that folks could talk about their loss. There was follow-up after a couple of months to see how the folks were doing because one thing they discovered is that people hang on to their grief about the loss of a pet for a long time.

The pet ministry also provides visits from therapy dogs. The dogs, certified through Canines4Christ, attend events at the church, anything from support groups for grief or Parkinson's, to Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, potlucks. They also get requests for visits to elderly members who are shut in, sick children, divorce recovery, things like that.

"There is something special about being with a dog when you're feeling sad, or anxious, or even happy," said Haney. "Just having the dogs there for 15 minutes or so levels that anxiety, levels that sadness a little bit," she said. "Some of the dogs — I have one like this — have a special, I think, divine connection, where they almost pull that negative energy out."

There are some things the pet ministry will not do, Haney said. *"We don't pet sit, we don't provide somebody to come to your house. If we get requests sometimes for people that maybe have been injured, or they're elderly, can you come and walk my dog? We don't do that. We don't work with rescues and shelters directly. So we're not going to the Humane Society and volunteering there. We do refer people out there, but I think that's a request we do get sometimes where people think we can help them with their individual pet."*

"One of the biggest things that we don't do is we are not a rescue," another added. "We do get a number of people who will reach out to us and say, 'I've got this pet that I need to ... , 'I need to find out what to do with' We can then refer them to a lot of different places."



Pet ministry can easily be adapted to other churches. What do you think? Is there more we could be doing here at Aptos UMC to provide grief and loss support for people and their pets? We are not as big a church as Resurrection, but we have the people, the pets and the needs, so let's be creative in our thinking about how to make this a ministry here!

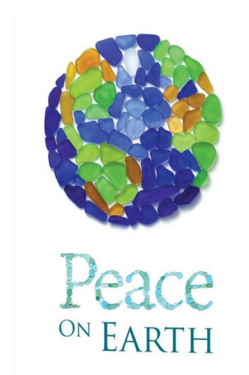
"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh." Luke 6:21

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

Joyce D. Rodgers
Chair of Church and Society/Missions/Green Team

Alternative Christmas returns in December!

Aptos UMC again will welcome Alternative Christmas on December 7, 14, and 21. Alternative Giving is a program whereby you may donate to a charity and give a card representing that donation to a loved one. This is a gift that honors your loved one while helping others in need. The four Alternative Christmas charities this year will be Heifer International, NAMI, Second Harvest Food Bank, and Missionary Katherine Parker.



Finance

Greetings from your Finance Team. A brief report on our church finances as 2025 winds down: Overall, our finances are projected to be somewhat short of budget expectations, and could use some support. Your pledge contributions continue to be the base of the finances that makes our church possible. While these are largely fulfilled, please review your quarterly pledge statement, and if behind, catch up if you can. Our 2025 finances have benefited greatly from a full year of Secret Garden Preschool lease payments. However, we have again seen higher costs for utilities, insurance, building and campus maintenance, and necessary supplies due to inflation. Identified giving and birthday/anniversary gifts are meeting expectations. We are hopeful that we can avoid tapping reserves this budget year.

October was Stewardship Month, where we encouraged our church members and constituents to get ***All on Board***, pledging financially to support the church for 2026. If you didn't receive a pledge card or have misplaced yours, cards are available at worship. All pledges will be blessed and tallied on Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 2.

These are difficult times in many ways, yet we have much to be grateful for. Please prayerfully consider your level of giving as we plan and prepare for another year in our journey together.

Blessings to all,

Mike Sampson
Chair, Finance Committee



September Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
Pledge, Plate, Other Giving	\$132,889.00		
Secret Garden, Building Use	\$46,371.21		
Investment Income	<u>\$3,460.88</u>		
TOTAL INCOME	\$182,721.09	\$189,141.03	-\$6,419.94
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Church Program & Office			
Conference Apportionments	\$19,797.00		
Church Program Funding	\$2,285.33		
Maintenance, Supplies	\$369.59		
Office Expenses	\$1,809.63		
Employee Compensation	<u>\$36,321.67</u>		
Subtotal, Church Program & Office Expenses	\$60,583.22	\$63,132.57	\$2,549.35
Church Campus			
Custodial	\$2,070.00		
Utilities	\$18,977.99		
Insurance	\$9,581.12		
Taxes	\$1,152.79		
Maintenance, Improvements	<u>\$8,446.61</u>		
Subtotal, Church Campus Expenses	\$40,228.51	\$40,523.22	\$294.71
Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage			
Salary	\$42,684.84		
Housing & Utilities	\$3,375.00		
Travel, Annual Conference, Education, Supplies	\$3,269.27		
Health Insurance	\$7,610.94		
Pastor's Pension	\$9,251.01		
Parsonage Mortgage, Insurance, Taxes, Maintenance	<u>\$20,345.18</u>		
Subtotal, Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage Expenses	\$86,536.24	\$86,692.59	\$156.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$187,347.97	\$190,348.38	\$3,000.41
NET INCOME - EXPENSES	-\$4,626.88	-\$1,207.35	-\$3,419.53



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.



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](#).



November 19 *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn

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.

Birthdays

- 2 Helene Milner
- 3 Richard Lonergan
- 4 Noelle Harvey
- 8 Darin Dailey
- 9 Gary Williamson
- 13 Debbie Mason
- 14 Debra-Gail Martin
- 15 Ruth Landmann
Paul Treffkorn
- 16 Don Baldwin
DeAnne Hart
Tamer Abbas
- 19 Lillian Wilson
- 21 Mike Beebe
- 24 Patricia Williams
Dan McCourt
- 28 Christopher Martin

Anniversaries

- 20 Sue & Mike Sampson
- 21 Netha & Jerry Thacker

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

Online Giving

To give online, go to 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 or 831-688-2210) if you have any questions or need assistance.





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
December/January Tide**
Friday, November 19

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

831.535.2912 (cell)

Sandi Thomas

Office Manager

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831.688.2210

Daniel Goldsmith

Music Director

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831.345.4995

Ruth Landmann

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