



Easter Sunday



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

Matthew 28:7 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

“He is risen! He is risen indeed!”

“So, what now?”

The season of Easter, or Eastertide, can be difficult to navigate. On the one hand, there is the ongoing unexplainable joy of Resurrection and the hope of new life. On the other hand, there is the inevitable feeling of “So, what?” as we notice that the world seems pretty much unchanged or perhaps even worse.

“Christ is Risen!” That was our shout on Easter morning.

“So, what?” “What difference has it made, is it making, and will it make in our lives day by day?”

That is the question we will be asking for the beginning of the Easter season: “How shall we live?” To guide us through this series and to help us answer this vital question, we have the Epistle of John. Perhaps it’s a surprising choice for some, but these letters can give us insight on life after Easter and how we might be witnesses to the kingdom, even as we wait for the fulfillment of the promise. I invite you to join us as we explore what it means to be the church in a messy world, and consider how we shall live in it.



I pray that you experience the fullness of Easter this season. In our celebration of the Resurrection Day, and in the faith of our renewed lives, may we each live out our rebirth as agents of transformation for the world we share with those who God loves.

“If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”

1 John 1:7a 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](#).



New Members

On Easter Sunday,
Josie Sayous was baptized
and
Vicki Cull was received into membership.

*Congratulations Josie and Vicki.
Welcome to the Aptos UMC family!*



April 14 - Native American Ministries Sunday

When you give to the Native American Ministries Sunday offering, you help indigenous ministries thrive. Your gifts may support a Native American seminary student's tuition, provide continuing education for pastors enrolled in the Native American Course of Study, secure a grant to churches who need to restore their worship space or other challenges, assist the work of your annual conference's Committee on Native American Ministries, and much more. When you celebrate and give to Native American Ministries Sunday, you support ministries dedicated to uplifting Native Americans and sharing God's promises of restoration to the community. Fifty percent of the offering remains in the annual conference and is administered by the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM).



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 (*April 8 & 22*)
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM09lZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHOT09>
Meeting ID **978 9598 2359** Passcode **813515**
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- **Upper Room** - Wednesday at 7 PM
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhicZVML2M2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID **974 1046 9403** Passcode **935450**
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Church and Society

April in our area means spring has fully sprung. The air is milder, the trees are blossoming, and gardens are being planted. It's the perfect month for Earth Day, and this year's **Earth Day** will be celebrated on **April 22**. Through our church's association with Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), we are joining in to celebrate this year's theme of **Common Ground: Cultivating Connections Between Our Faith, Our Food, and the Climate**.

Food is an important part of our faith traditions - we use it to express our connection to each other, to the earth, and to our spirituality. Our traditions have certain beliefs about food, we use food symbolically in our liturgies and celebrate our community get-togethers with food. Our faith tradition calls us to care for the earth. So, how we grow our food is integral to the way we care for the earth and for each other as religious people.

Therefore, this year we are going to grow a garden! We have purchased a Pizza Garden Seed Kit from IPL that contains organic, heirloom, non-GMO seedlings to be planted in good soil and tended for the season. As we don't have enough space on our church grounds, we are asking members of the congregation to volunteer to plant a germinated seedling or two in their home gardens to support this project. **Please consider being one of our volunteers!** Embarking on the journey of cultivating a garden nourishes us physically with fresh, homegrown produce and serves as a spiritual reminder of our interconnectedness with all life.



Imagine introducing our children to the joy of coming together to plant, nurture, and harvest the bounty of a shared garden! Beyond strengthening community ties, tending to the earth promotes sustainable practices, demonstrating environmental care. On **Sunday, April 21 (the day before Earth Day) we will have our community's children plant some seedlings during the Children's time**, with Mike Proffitt supervising their efforts. Pastor will lead us in a blessing and songs to celebrate this occasion. Parents and grandparents, please bring your children to this special service!

Most fun will be the harvesting of this multi-participant garden later in the year, which will yield all the vegetables necessary to make pizzas! We plan to have a pizza potluck party in late summer to celebrate the harvest! We encourage everyone to support this endeavor and then come on the designated Sunday (yet to be determined) to enjoy the homemade pizza adorned with our very own vegetables!

Village Santa Cruz County is a non-profit, grassroots membership organization that seeks to help Santa Cruz city and county residents to network with one another to help each other out through all the transitions of aging. A local Aptos subgroup of Village Santa Cruz County will meet at our church on the first **Wednesday of April, April 4 at 1 PM**. Come all ye seniors and join us! Several individuals from our congregation are already participating, and they are valuing the connections they are making with others in the community.

April also has a 5th Tuesday, so that means Habitat Lunches will need to be prepared on **Tuesday, April 30**. More information will be available later in the month. Please consider contributing to this important mission of providing healthy meals to the workers who are helping others to build affordable homes in our community. Speak with Joyce if you would like to help.

*God's care like a cloak wraps us humble folk,
Makes all green things grow, ripens what we sow.
Through God we are strong; sing our harvest song.
Sing praise, field and flower, praise God's mighty power.*

"Praise Our God Above," hymn 2061

Joyce Rodgers
Church and Society chair/Missions/Green Team

Finance Update

Greetings from the Finance Team. Our team met on Wednesday, March 20. Below is a summary of the topics we discussed and the decisions we made.

The first quarter of 2024. Both our finance secretary, Barbara Coy-Bulicz and accountant/auditor, Peggy Kaysen reported that income from pledges and other resources have come in as expected over these first months of the year. THANK YOU, for staying up to date on your pledges!

Our Trustee representatives Keri Swenson and Jana Daley talked about the Education building upgrade project. The good news is that the necessary renovations have been completed to the exterior (playground overhaul and new fencing) and interior (painting, deep cleaning and all new kitchen appliances, plus the unanticipated major upgrade to the fire alarm system). Trustees applied for and received a \$25,000 grant from the United Methodist Union. This would have covered the cost of the project were it not for the required but unexpected upgrade to our fire alarm system, which more than doubled the cost. As a result of an appeal to our congregation for financial support to fill the gap, over \$14,200 was raised. THANK YOU! This still has left a \$22,000 shortfall which hopefully will be fulfilled with the approval of a second grant request to the United Methodist Union. Stay tuned.

Thank you for all of your generosity! You are such a giving group of people. Since the beginning of 2024, not only have you supported the appeal to close the gap on the Education building, you also gave to special Sunday offerings and other important causes. Here is a summary: United Methodist Student Day - \$407, Human Relations Day - \$301, Missionary Kathryn Parker - \$320.

Mike Sampson joins the finance team. In the February Tide I mentioned I will be stepping back as Finance Chair at the end of June and was looking for someone to take over the job. Mike Sampson has graciously agreed to join the committee and become the chair this summer. Mike comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience and has chaired many of our committees over the years, including finance chair prior to the tenure of Anne Scott. Thank you, Mike!

Thank you.

Dick Wood, Finance Chair

Join us at the Pride Parade and Festival!

Aptos United Methodist Church has a long and proud history of being present at the Santa Cruz Pride parade and festival. This year the festival takes place **Sunday, June 2**. Last year we shared a booth with Trinity Presbyterian Church, which worked out great. We will be doing that again this year.

Please consider signing up for a 2-hour shift helping at our booth. This is a sit-down job, and all you need to provide is a smile and welcoming attitude. We hand out stickers, candy, and water bottles. All these are gratefully received by the parade goers. Many of the parade goers have had a negative experience with religion, being told they are wrong, evil, or worse. This is an opportunity to show people that God loves EVERYONE, regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation. To show them who WE are.

Please contact [Jana Daley](#) if you can cover a shift between 11 AM and 4:30 PM.





Birthdays

- 3 Wendy Baker
- 6 Marilyn Manning Lonergan
- 10 Terra McCourt
- 11 Sue Sampson
- 12 Charlie Mackh
- 13 Joe MacDonell
- 14 Margaret Williamson
- 17 Mary Tarverdi
- 18 Bob Blaney
- 19 Barbara Sizelove-Secola
- 22 Brian Williamson
- 26 Joyce Rodgers
- 28 Carol Williamson

Anniversaries

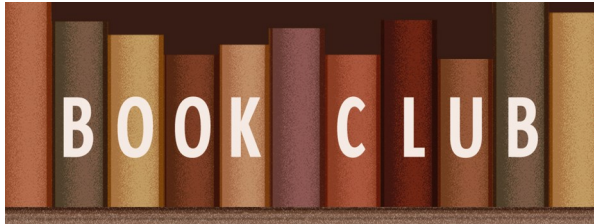
- 3 Anita & Buzz Little
- 14 Bob & Laurel Blaney
- 19 Mike & Marion Proffitt
- 22 Ken & Kathleen Cook
Roger & Keri Swenson
- 26 Bill & Jana Daley

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.



Book Club

April 17: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See

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, or click [HERE](#).

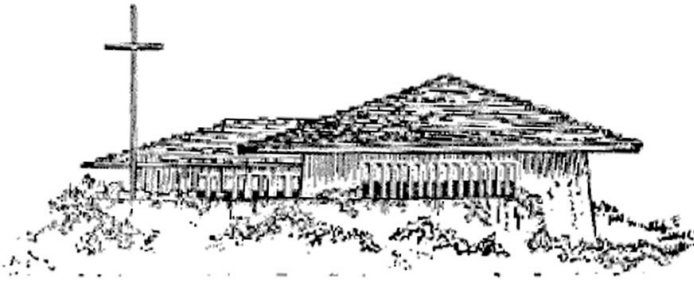
Or, scan this code using your smartphone:

- *For iPhone (iOS 11 or later):* Launch the Camera app, frame the QR code, and tap the notification at the top of the screen.
- *For Android devices:* You'll need to download a third-party app, such as QR Code Reader.



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
May Tide**
Friday, April 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.

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