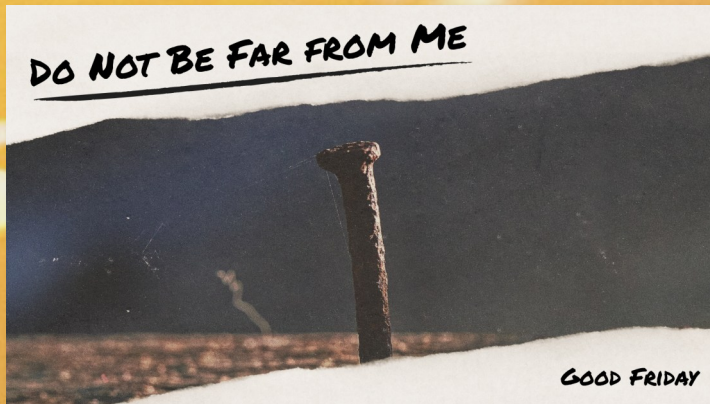




# ***Holy Week Worship Services***



April 13  
**Palm Sunday**  
10 AM



April 18  
**Good Friday**  
12 PM Noon



April 20  
**Easter Sunday**  
10 AM

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.  
Do not fear or be dismayed.”*

**Deuteronomy 31:8 NRSVUE**

Greetings Church Family,

As I look out at my backyard I see remarkable change from just a few weeks ago. The dormant bare ground has yielded to a wild growth of grasses and shrubs. It's incredible to watch the area around my home transform right before my eyes.

These seasonal fluctuations are something we come to depend on. We take energy from the longer days and do some Spring cleaning. We look ahead to a Summer vacation. We eagerly anticipate family time in the Fall. Then we settle in for another Winter before the cycle repeats. It's not an exact science, but it is a sort of template we rely on as we travel through time.

But within the structure there is wide room for variation. Sometimes things don't go according to plan: a particularly violent Winter that seems to last forever, or a Summer when it seems the whole world is on fire. These natural occurrences bear resemblance to the events in our personal lives. We establish a home, set it up for success, and settle into a routine. But then something happens that disrupts the status quo.

On Sunday, March 23, we said farewell to Clyde and Sheila Vaughn. After many years of fellowship with Aptos UMC they are moving away. If you were unable to join us you may view the entire service on our [YouTube channel](#). Their departure leaves a hole in our hearts and upsets the dynamics of our church home.

However there was one part of our sending liturgy that gave me comfort: “We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives.” Our congregation acknowledges our loss, even while we celebrate new beginnings. We say goodbye in the original sense of the word, God be with you.

And that is the true takeaway here. God is with us, in our carefully crafted plans, and in unexpected challenges and opportunities. Like the cycle of the seasons overarching the natural world, God's presence encompasses our spiritual existence. We journey through our lives to places far and wide, yet God is always there, preparing the path before us and accompanying us along the way. This is our Father's world, and as his children, all of creation is the home we share with each other.

I pray for strength and energy for Clyde and Sheila as they embark on their new adventure, and for our church as we navigate the way forward without their gifts. At the same time we remember that we remain connected as members of God's family. Our home is greater than any divide of distance or time; there is no separation for those under God's expansive roof. May the Holy Spirit continue to surround us with the presence that sustains us through all our transitions, and unites us as one body of Christ.

*“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

**Matthew 28:20b NRSVUE**

Grace and Peace be with you all,  
Pastor Gabe

On March 23, we said farewell to Rev. Clyde and Sheila Vaughn, as we wished them well on their new life adventure.

*“We feel sorrow in your leaving, yet we rejoice with you in anticipation of this new phase of your life. We will miss your love and support, yet we know you will add much to the lives of those who will be your new church family, as you have added much to our lives. We will pray for you and for the whole family of God.”*



**new address**  
Clyde and Sheila Vaughn  
1800 Atrium Parkway, H175  
Napa, CA 94559



## **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 7 & 21*)  
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURIM091ZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHOT09>  
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

**Join us for in-person worship in our Sanctuary every Sunday at 10 AM.**

**Our services are livestreamed 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 are available.

*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](#).

# Church and Society

*God saw everything that God had made, and indeed it was very good.*

*Genesis 1:10*

In April, we emphasize all of God's creation. April 22 is Earth Day around the world, and this year directly follows Easter. On April 27, we will acknowledge Earth Day 2025.

At present, we as a nation are grappling with new directives from the presidential administration of our country that eliminate the standards of environmental justice toward which so many of us have been working. It means that we, as citizens and as caring people of faith, must work even harder to preserve and enhance the progress that has been made over the Earth Days of the past 53 years.

What has been happening to environmental concerns since the latest inauguration? The United States has pulled out of the Paris Agreement. The new people in charge have doubled down on oil and gas by "declaring a national emergency". They have had harsh words for the Endangered Species Act and for Arctic protections. They have revoked the goals of electric vehicles. Every directive since January has been a push **against** environmental justice.

Meanwhile, today, we understand more deeply than ever before, the profound consequences of our failure to serve as caretakers of God's creation. Ecological crises and extreme poverty are a reflection of our inability to share the abundance God has entrusted to our care. Ever-expanding scientific knowledge helps us better understand and informs our response to challenges ranging from the health impacts of environmental toxins to the threats posed by climate change, but this scientific knowledge is being disregarded and dismissed.

As stewards of this precious Earth, what can we as United Methodists do? We are called to a ministry of reconciliation between God, humankind, and creation. In and alongside frontline communities experiencing environmental injustices, many Methodists are participating in God's healing of creation. Through acts of personal, social and civic righteousness, United Methodists are modeling a new lifestyle and advocating for God's people and God's planet so that all God's children can share in the goodness of Creation.



## **Three Things You Can Do:**

1. Learn how your lifestyle and the institutions you are a part of are connected to the climate crisis. Use an online [carbon footprint calculator](#) to measure your emissions and take steps to reduce your carbon footprint.
2. Celebrate God's creation in worship and discuss the climate crisis with others in your faith community. While some may see climate change as a 'hot button' issue to be avoided, we understand it to be a moral crisis demanding an urgent response.
3. Advocate for policies and practices that build a clean energy future and support frontline communities struggling to survive in a changing climate.

*The Earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish together with the earth.  
The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated statutes,  
broken the everlasting covenant.*

**Isaiah 24:4-5**

The Aptos group of Village Santa Cruz will meet at church on Wednesday, April 2 at 1 PM. You are invited if you are interested.

Joyce D. Rodgers

Chair of Church and Society/Missions/Green Team

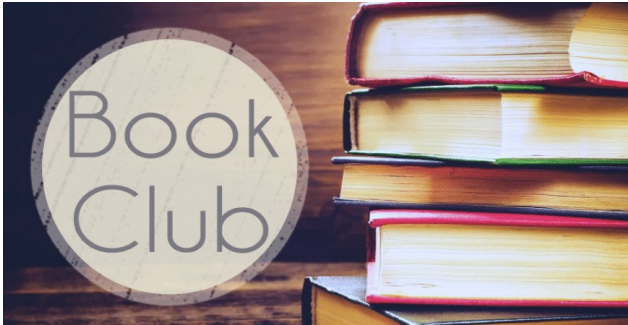


**You are invited to join our Prayer Team.**

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.

**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



**April 16**

*The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

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](mailto:bcoybulicz@gmail.com).

**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](#).**

**Worship Assistant sign-ups are available in the Fellowship Hall.**

Altar  
Flowers



Ushers



Liturgist



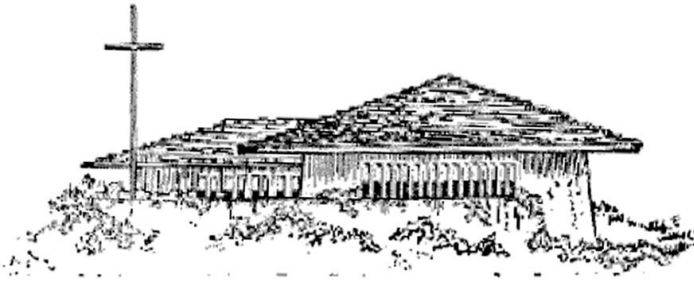
Coffee  
Volunteers



**Online Giving**

To give online, go to [www.aptosumc.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 18

*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](mailto:gabriel.house@cnumc.org)

831.535.2912 (cell)

**Sandi Thomas**

*Office Manager*

[office@aptosumc.org](mailto:office@aptosumc.org)

831.688.2210

**Daniel Goldsmith**

*Music Director*

[pianodan@gmail.com](mailto:pianodan@gmail.com)

831.345.4995

**Ruth Landmann**

*Facebook*

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831.334.0900