



Holy Week Worship Services

MARCHING ORDERS



March 29
Palm Sunday
10 AM

REACHING DESTINATION



April 3
Good Friday
12 PM Noon

A NEW START



April 5
Easter Sunday
10 AM

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.”

Isaiah 61:11 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

Is it hot in here?! Or is it just the joyful heat of all this dynamic energy within our congregation? There's definitely a sizzle of excitement and anticipation in the air, mirroring the natural world around us. Spring is officially here, and with it, a tangible burst of energy that seems to touch everything.

This season is a powerful reminder of God's incredible, unstoppable force of creation. The grass is greening up, the gardens are blooming, and even the squirrels seem to have an extra bounce in their step.

But this natural renewal isn't just about pretty flowers and slightly hyper squirrels. It's a physical manifestation of a deeper, spiritual truth. This season of Spring always points us towards Easter, and that is where the real energy is found.

Easter isn't just a historical event that we commemorate with pastels and brunch. Easter is a living reality. It's the ultimate victory of life over death, of hope over despair, of light over darkness. It's the moment when the force that creates and sustains the universe didn't just drive the flower, but drove Jesus right out of the tomb.

That kind of energy is powerful! It's the kind of power that can spark new life into our tired souls, breathe fresh purpose into our ministries, and ignite a deeper, more profound love for God and for one another.

So, how do we tap into this Easter energy?

Be Still: Just as the seed must lie dormant in the ground before it bursts forth, sometimes we need to be still and quiet to experience the new life moving within us. Take some time for reflection and prayer.

Look for Signs: Keep your eyes peeled for resurrection in your own life and in our community. Where is something dead or dying coming to life? Where is Hope making a surprise guest appearance?

Spread the Light: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." Let's use that Easter power to shine God's love into the corners of our world that feel dark and hopeless. Get involved, volunteer, make a difference.

So, let's embrace this beautiful, slightly sweaty season of Spring. Let's let the warmth and light remind us of the incredible energy of God's love and the profound hope of Easter. May this season truly be one of renewal and resurrection for you, and for our entire community.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!”

2 Corinthians 5:17 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 (*April 6 & 20*)
<https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM09lZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQOT09>
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=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhicZVML2M2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID **974 1046 9403** Passcode **935450**
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

April 19 - Native American Ministries Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday is more than just an offering—it's a movement to support Native American communities in The United Methodist Church. Your gifts help fund scholarships for Native American students pursuing ordained or licensed ministry, ensuring that Native voices continue to lead and serve in the church. Additionally, 50% of all donations stay within our conference to support local Native ministries. Join us on April 19 as we give, learn, and honor the sacred traditions of Indigenous peoples.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

50% of your donation remains in your local conference

25% of your donation funds scholarships for Native Americans

25% of your donation funds outreach and ministry grants

Your support funds vital ministries in Native American communities

UNITED IN IMPACT

“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.

Church and Society

United Methodist Bishops Call for Prayer and Peace in the New Middle East War

WASHINGTON, D.C. — We know that our hearts are heavy as we witness the mounting loss of life from the ongoing military strikes carried out by the United States and Israel, and from retaliatory strikes by Iran. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, and entire communities are shaken by the weight of uncertainty, fear, and profound sorrow. Innocent civilians are caught in the crossfire of a widening conflict they did not choose.

Scripture reminds us that “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). As bishops of The United Methodist Church, we hold fast to this promise as we pray for all who have been killed, all who are injured, and all who now carry trauma and fear in the wake of this violence. We stand resolute in remembering the uncompromising call of Jesus: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). This calling is a summons to act with courage and with a steadfast commitment to honoring the dignity and life of every human being.

We urge leaders on every side to turn from the escalation of violence and seek paths toward justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace. We implore them to place the protection of innocent lives at the center of every decision.

As followers of Christ, let us be steadfast in prayer for those whose lives were taken that they may rest in God’s eternal peace. Let us pray for the wounded that healing and comfort may surround them. Let us pray for families and communities in mourning that they may find strength for the days ahead. And let us pray for leaders and nations that they may choose the path of peace over the path of destruction.

May God’s Spirit move among us and within us, guiding our hearts toward justice, compassion, and the hard, holy work of peacemaking. May we be instruments of Christ’s peace in a world yearning for healing.

In Christ’s mercy,

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

Green Team

April showers bring May flowers! That little capsule of truth reminds us how interconnected we are, which is especially true in relation to water. What we do matters.

Through the waters of baptism, we are reminded of God's renewing grace and gift of water that literally keeps us alive. Working to keep water safe, clean, and available to all is a sacred trust. Be mindful of your water use and of how you can avoid wasting it.

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 April 1. You are welcome to attend if interested.



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.

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
- 19 Barbara Sizelove-Secola
- 22 Brian Williamson
- 23 Maëlys Joubert
- 26 Joyce Rodgers
- 28 Carol Williamson



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](#).

Anniversaries

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



April 15 *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

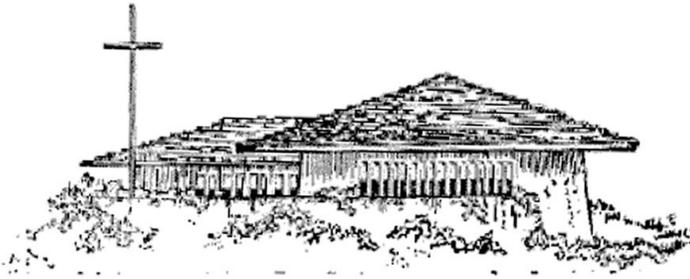
The Book Club meets at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of every month in the Youth Room. *Anyone is welcome to attend.* For more information, please contact Barbara Coy-Bulicz at 689-9772 or bcoybulicz@gmail.com.

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
May Tide**
Friday, April 17

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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