March 2

The sanctuary will be available from 10-11:30 AM for drop-in meditation and reflection.
Pastor Gabe will be available for imposition of ashes to anyone who wishes.

Our new online giving platform!
Greetings Church Family,

Long races can be intimidating. When we look at the pandemic and its lasting effects on our brothers and sisters, we can feel helpless and discouraged. The daunting road to recovery can seem overwhelming.

But we have already begun the path of restoration. When global goals seem unattainable, we focus on what we can do locally. Even as our own vulnerabilities and discomfort have physically separated us, our Christian fellowship has brought us even closer. Your expressions of care, through cards, meals, calls, and presence, have made the difference for those who have struggled the most. Your acts of compassion authenticate the work we do as a community of faith, and inspire us to achieve even greater heights of love for each other.

We have completed our series in 1 Corinthians, “Love Never Ends: Being the Body of Christ”. First we explored the varieties of gifts we have been blessed with, and how each has its place in the greater body of Christ. Then we reached the famous “Love” chapter, which reminded us of the importance of love as our motivation in all things. Finally we looked back at Jesus’ resurrection, and forward to our own resurrection as both a present renewal and also our hope for the future. Next we will briefly glimpse the glory of our Lord on Transfiguration Sunday, before we observe Ash Wednesday and begin our Lenten journey.

Now as we navigate the final days of Winter, we look forward to a much anticipated Spring. I pray that in this time of transition, you are strengthened and encouraged by the comforting presence of God.

   Matthew 18:20 - “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Grace and Peace be with you all,
Pastor Gabe
Getting to Know SPRC

The Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee plays an important role in every United Methodist congregation. This year our SPRC members are Laurel Blaney, Steve Green, Bob Grimes, Kathleen Hoaglund, Jillian Holmberg, Ruth Landmann, Joyce Rodgers, Sheila Vaughn, and Pastor Gabe House.

Our meetings are not secret, but what we discuss is confidential. Our job is different from every other committee or team in the congregation. We’re to be spiritual leaders, supporters, and a sounding board for our pastor and other church staff members. We also serve as liaisons between members of the congregation and our pastor. We also are responsible for job descriptions for present and new staff positions, and evaluations of people in those positions. We make recommendations to the Administrative Council about new staff positions, and we also make recommendations to the Finance Team for financing staff positions both present and suggested new ones.

This year our Annual Conference provided training on Cross Racial/Cross Cultural understanding for all members of SPRC in our conference. All District Superintendents and the Bishop were included in this training. We have discussed the value of this training in our recent meetings and trust this training will positively impact how we operate as your SPRC.

Ruth Landmann
SPRC Chair

March Special Offering

March 13 - UMCOR

UMCOR Coffee Project

Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee and chocolate are available for purchase at worship on the first Sunday of every month. For more information contact Bob Blaney at 477-7550.
Missions

“Gray hair is a glorious crown...” Proverbs 16:31

The longer we live, the more we learn, the wiser we get, and the more perspective we gain which helps us to see life in new and beautiful ways. The Aptos UMC community is full of those who share that glorious crown. As such, the Aptos UMC Missions team wants to serve our elders and reach out to other elders within our larger neighborhood and community.

While popular media may celebrate youth, the truth is that we are treasured by God at every age. Not only that, but He gives us specific gifts to share with the world in every season of our lives. Future generations depend on our willingness to share what God has given us. Meanwhile, God gives us the strength to be a blessing to one another in our own aging process.

I have found abundant blessing in being part of a group in Santa Cruz that provides friendship and support to seniors who are living independently in the community but seeking social networks with other like-minded folks. The group is called Village Santa Cruz County. On their website, they state: we are a network of Santa Cruz city and county residents with a vision of aging as an active, empowering time of growing and learning, as important and meaningful as any other time of our life.

There are several subgroups within Village Santa Cruz County, some organized by location, others by interest areas. There is an Aptos subgroup that has been meeting for several years. During the pandemic, these meetings were held on Zoom, like so many others. However, now, as it is becoming safer to mingle, the group is cautiously coming together again in person. Recently they have been looking for a meeting space for one of their monthly meetings. Aptos UMC, as part of its outreach ministry to seniors, has generously offered them a space here on campus whereby they can meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is an exciting step forward in our church ministry to seniors!

If you are interested in learning more about this organization, you may look at this link:
https://www.villagesantacruz.org/

We Methodist Christians rest in the promises of our loving God. Whether we're 9 or 90, He vows to be with us every step of the way. We walk with Him, and we walk with each other!

I will be the same until your old age, and I will bear you up when you turn gray.
I have made you, and I will carry you; I will bear and rescue you. Isaiah 46:4

Joyce D. Rodgers
Missions Chair
joyceburtleodgers@comcast.net

Small Group Meetings

Small Groups are open to anyone. If you have questions about any of the groups, please contact Pastor Gabe. PACT and the Upper Room meet on Zoom. The Blaney Group has resumed their Sunday meeting.

- **Blaney Group** - Sunday at 11:15 AM
- **PACT** - every other Monday at 10 AM  [https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM091ZXi4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQT09](https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM091ZXi4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQT09)
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM
- **Upper Room** - Tuesday at 7:30 PM  [https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFiczVVML2MzjDz09](https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFiczVVML2MzjDz09)
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM
Lucky Dog Fundraiser

"Lucky Dog" is not just a phrase. It’s also a fun, new Facebook event for our church! We’re asking our Facebook friends to submit photos of their lucky dogs as part of our St. Patrick’s Day celebration. We’re also asking participants to help us try out our new online giving platform on our church website. Participants will have a chance to win a $20 gift card to a pet supply store.

Prizes will be given in two different categories:

1) The dog with the most likes on Facebook
2) The dog owner who raises the most funds through our new online giving platform

The contest will be held through March 17. Let’s show those Paws for a Cause! For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Amy Cain Sousa at amycainsousa@gmail.com.

Online Giving

Aptos UMC is excited to announce our new online giving platform! Vanco Faith has 20+ years of experience working with over 25,000 churches as their eGiving partner. Online giving makes it easy to support our church and missions by providing the opportunity to make one time gifts or set up recurring donations. We also have the ability to share any of our giving opportunities with friends and family via social media, text, and email. Please take a moment to go to our website and check it out! Don’t hesitate to contact Sandi in the church office (office@aptosumc.org or 831-688-2210) if you have any questions or need help using the platform.

See the next page for step-by-step instructions for how to give online.
1. Select Your Funds and Amount
Select your fund and click the “Donate” button. From here, you can choose a donation amount and frequency, then proceed to payment.

2. Enter Payment Method
Enter your credit card, debit card or checking account information. If you sign up for a free account, you can save your payment information for future donations.

3. Complete Donation
Review and submit your gift by clicking “Submit”.
Birthdays
1  Sibille Treffkorn
2  Elizabeth Hoaglund-Joubert
6  Tammy Philbin
7  Trish Hucklebridge
10  Jake Hancock
15  Hiroko Goto
17  Ken Kaysen
20  Kyle Hucklebridge
22  Jacob Baker
26  Jim Theiring
29  Tommy Kaysen

Anniversaries
30  Bob & Jeanne Grimes

Forrest Willcox

Homebound: Rich and DeAnne Hart, LaVern Radeleff, Lollie Starbuck, Ruth Nichols

In response to our desire for community, and in particular to support those experiencing concerns, we invite you to join our prayer team. To join the prayer team, email or call the church office. You will receive a weekly email with prayer requests. To submit a prayer request for the prayer team, email or call the church office.

COVID-19 Resources

For Santa Cruz County testing information, click HERE.
For Santa Cruz County vaccine information, click HERE.
To order free at home tests, click HERE or call 1-800-232-0233.
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 on Zoom

Deadline for
April Tide
Friday, March 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

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