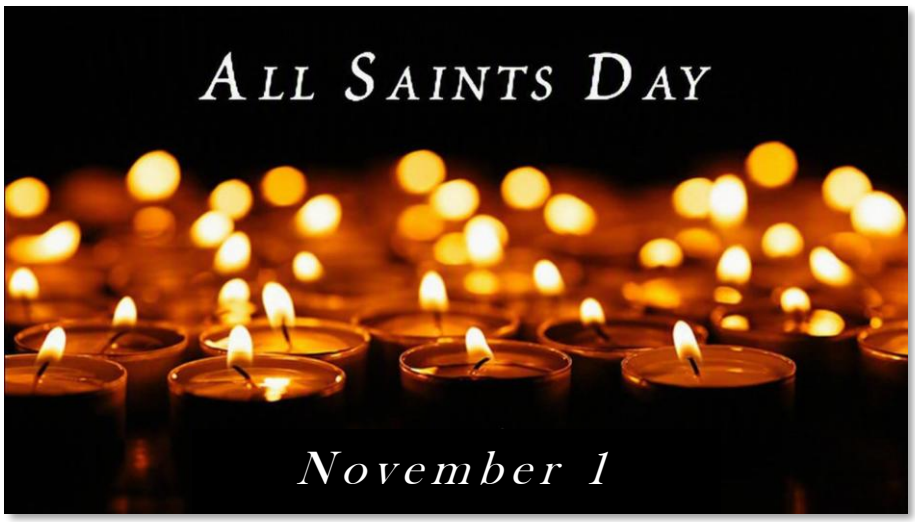
the TIDE
November 2026
www.aptosumc.org
Aptos UMC, 221 Thunderbird Drive, Aptos

Daylight saving time ends November 1...
...don't forget to fall back!

Stewardship
Campaign
2027
Hearts
Strangely
Warmed
Pledge Dedication
November 1


All Saints Day
November 1

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13 NRSVUE

Greetings Church Family,

Imagine the pressure of trying to assemble a brand-new bicycle for your child the night before a birthday. You have the box, the shiny metal pieces, a bag full of mysterious screws, and an instruction manual that looks like it was written in a secret code. You tighten one bolt, and another part falls off. You check the clock, and it's past midnight. You're tired, you're frustrated, and you're seriously wondering if your kid wouldn't just prefer a really nice cardboard box.

As we journey through this Season after Pentecost in our United Methodist family, we've been spending our Sundays "Pressing On" together through the words of Paul in Philippians. Paul knew all about tight spots. He wrote some of his most encouraging letters while facing immense hardship. He didn't sugarcoat it, and neither should we.

Life often feels a lot like that complicated bicycle build. We look for security, hope, and purpose, but things get messy. We get tired. We drop the metaphorical screws. We find ourselves standing at the crossroads of fatigue and confusion, wondering how we're ever going to finish what we started.

But God doesn't leave us stranded on the floor with a wrench in our hand. Instead, Christ meets us in our weakness, offering a deep, sustaining grace that whispers we aren't alone. As our Book of Discipline reminds us, we're part of a connectional church designed to bear one another's burdens and share in God's transforming love.

Just like that chaotic midnight bicycle assembly, the moment of frustration finally gives way. You take a deep breath, read the step again, and maybe ask a handy neighbor for help. Suddenly, the handlebars are straight, the wheels spin smoothly, and you realize you actually built something wonderful. When we lean on God's strength rather than our own shaky hands, the path becomes clearer.

As we proceed through our current series and look ahead to our next sermon series, "Always Give Thanks," based on First Thessalonians, let's remember to pause and appreciate the journey. God is with us when we press on, and God gives us every reason to offer a joyful noise, or at least a grateful hum, like turning to a favorite hymn such as "Now Thank We All Our God." Let's keep walking this path hand in hand, ready to serve our neighbors and share God's boundless love in our community every single day.

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith
and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 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 2, 16, & 30)*
  https://zoom.us/j/97895982359?pwd=dURlM091ZXI4V2pLN3ByZkxwT1pHQT09
  Meeting ID 978 9598 2359 Passcode 813515
- **Alive Now** - Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- **Upper Room** - Tuesday at 7 PM (Study book is *The Upper Room Disciplines)*
  https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhiczVML2M2ME5Ddz09
  Meeting ID 974 1046 9403 Passcode 935450
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Third Quarter Special Offering Totals

Thanks to generous giving by members of our congregation, the following organizations and projects received these financial gifts during the third quarter of 2026:

Peace with Justice - $373 **Missionary Katherine Parker- $420**

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.

Annual Charge Conference

Saturday, December 5 ~ 11:30 AM

DS Rev. Dr. Oliver Mangubat presiding

November 18 *Kin* by Tayari Jones

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 713-3533 or bcoybulicz@gmail.com.

Coming soon…

Years ago, when our memorial garden was developed, church members and friends were given the opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones in memory or celebration through the engraving and installation of paver stones. We are now reopening this opportunity to our church community. Over the next few weeks, you can learn more about this project through church announcements and a display in the fellowship hall that will include cost, order form, and an example of the finished product, which happens to be a stone that was made to honor our beloved Marcia Burns.

Alternative Christmas returns in December!

Aptos UMC again will welcome Alternative Christmas on December 6, 13, and 20. 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.

Church and Society

It is time to vote!

How does our Christian faith impact our voting decisions? You may wonder, what does the United Methodist Church have to say about measures currently on the ballot in California?

The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society -- and the local "Church and Society" committees within the regional California-Pacific and California-Nevada Conferences -- operates under a framework of broad Social Principles and Book of Resolutions guidelines to inform our decision-making.

The UMC's core values align with several categories on the November 3 California ballot, which features 14 statewide propositions ranging from housing and healthcare to voter identification and wealth taxes.

Mainstream Protestant and participating United Methodist-backed coalitions within the California Council of Churches (IMPACT) have made recommendations on the statewide propositions for the general election, based on these core values. The information below is provided to help you understand these positions and inform your decision making. To read IMPACT'S *Ballot Guide* in its entirety, click here.

- Proposition 1 (Housing Bonds): YES — Supports affordable housing funding for low-income families, veterans, and students.
- Proposition 2 (Rainy Day Fund Increase): YES — Supports strengthening the state reserve fund to protect public education and healthcare.
- Proposition 3 (School/Health Funding Tax): YES — Supports dedicated revenue streams for education and health services.
- Proposition 4 (Public Campaign Funding): YES — Supports public financing options to reduce the influence of big money in elections.
- Proposition 5 (Recall Process Changes): YES — Supports separating the removal vote from the selection of a replacement official.
- Proposition 37 (Middle-Income Home Loan Program): YES — Supports programs broadening homeownership accessibility.
- Proposition 38 (Immunology Research Bonds): YES — Supports state investment in medical and scientific research.
- Proposition 39 (Voter Identification Requirement): NO — Opposes voter ID and restrictions that critics argue create barriers for low-income and vulnerable voters.
- Proposition 40 (One-Time Billionaire Tax): YES — Supports targeted wealth taxation to offset cuts to safety-net and healthcare funding.
- Proposition 41, 42, 43, 44, & 45 (Tax Limits, FQHC Mandates, & Environmental Review Changes): NO — Opposes measures perceived as restricting local revenue capacity, underfunding community clinics, or weakening environmental and public review standards.

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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 on November 4. You are welcome to attend if interested.

September Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under Budget
INCOME			
Pledge, Plate, Other Giving	124,133.50		
Secret Garden, Building Use	49,388.29		
Investment Income	3,833.12		
TOTAL INCOME	**$177,354.91**	**$190,920.06**	**-$13,565.15**
EXPENSES			
Church Program & Office			
Conference Apportionments	19,171.00		
Church Program Funding	1,166.37		
Maintenance, Supplies	444.56		
Office Expenses	2,290.56		
Employee Compensation	37,150.15		
Subtotal, Church Program & Office Expenses	**$60,222.64**	**$64,429.47**	**$4,206.83**
Church Campus			
Custodial	2,330.00		
Utilities	20,655.44		
Insurance	10,268.38		
Taxes	1,713.90		
Maintenance, Improvements	8,996.99		
Subtotal, Church Campus Expenses	**$43,964.71**	**$41,825.97**	**-$2,138.74**
Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage			
Salary	45,246.06		
Housing & Utilities	3,375.00		
Travel, Annual Conference, Education, Supplies	3,925.06		
Health Insurance	10,154.88		
Pastor's Pension	8,570.14		
Parsonage Mortgage, Insurance, Taxes, Maintenance	20,583.42		
Subtotal, Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage Expenses	**$91,854.56**	**$92,231.28**	**$376.72**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$196,041.91**	**$198,486.72**	**$2,444.81**
NET INCOME-EXPENSES	**-$18,687.00**	**-$7,566.66**	**-$11,120.34**

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 20

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.

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 2:30 PM.

Church Staff

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