



Pledge Campaign Kick Off Sunday, October 12



Sheila's jams available for order!

As many of you know, I love to make jam. Even though I live in Napa now, I'm still making lots of jam, and I want to offer you the opportunity to order the jams you love. All jars are \$10 each. Once everyone has had a chance to order what they want, I'll plan a trip to the Aptos church to deliver them, probably in mid-November.

To order, you can either call me at (831) 332-1695 or email me at sgvaughn@comcast.net.

Here's what I have available:

Ginger Pear Preserves

Strawberry Chipotle Jam

Strawberry Balsamic Jam

Apricot Preserves

Candied Jalapenos

Spiced Pear Preserves

Strawberry Rhubarb Jam

Cherry Preserves

Peach Bourbon Jam

Olallieberry Jam

Brandy Old Fashioned Jam

Orange Marmalade

Lemon Marmalade



Some of the jams are in short supply, so get your order in as soon as possible to insure you'll get what you want.

Once you have placed your order, I'll let you know when I'll deliver it to the church.

Sheila Vaughn

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

***“My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.”***

Robert Lowry

Greetings Church Family,

I’m reminded lately of the hymn, “How Can I Keep from Singing?”. Life keeps moving along, often in ways we would not choose. Yet we are constantly choosing how we respond, even as we ourselves are caught up in that movement.

Sometimes there’s nothing left to do but sing. The Methodist movement was born in song. We sing our faith, and our songs are about calling out to God. Last month we turned to the songbook that has sustained and defined the people of God from the very beginning. The Psalms give words to a variety of emotions and circumstances out of which we call upon the Lord. We shape our worship around these words to give voice to people in our communities who may feel unheard even by God. The witness of the Psalms is that God is prepared to meet us where we are.

So where are we? Are we singing the divine song God has placed in our hearts? Or a song that rises from the depths of our humanity? To reframe the question: Is faith a gift or a choice? Is it something God does in us or something we do for God?

The answer is a resounding “Yes!”. Faith is a mixture of all that and more. It’s a partnership with God as we enter into relationship, for our good, and for the good of the world around us. We are choosing every day to live by our faith, to be shaped by our faith, and to submit all our actions and relationships to the measure of faith. In the next month we will be returning to the great Gospel of Luke to explore Jesus’ teachings on what it means to be a people of faith.

I pray that you will experience the peace of God, the love of Christ, and the song of the Spirit.

***“No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?”***

Robert Lowry

Grace and Peace be with you all,
Pastor Gabe



Church and Society

“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

Amos 5:24

There are many of us in our church community who are wrestling with how to respond to the daily news of policies now being implemented that are tearing down protections for vulnerable peoples, for the environment, for the health and education of our society's children, and for the freedom to express our objections to these cancellations of programs that we thought were well established and irrevocable.

Though, as people of faith, we try to listen to the reasoning offered by those who celebrate these societal changes, the rhetoric is often inflammatory and difficult to counter in a reasonable way. Yet, prayerfully, we persist, asking the Lord to give us hope, to help us to keep our faith strong, and to give us the strength and courage to act in ways that will ultimately be effective.

In June 2025, the 175th California-Nevada Annual Conference Session of the United Methodist Church met in Sacramento. The theme of the conference was *"Witnesses of a New Thing"* and centered on keeping hope in the struggle and learning to listen to and communicate with those opposed to us. Conference Lay Leader Michael Pope called out, *"Social justice action is God's work. We need to pivot to another way of being with each other! We have to change and create pathways and bridges. . . be willing to embrace something we don't know what it is. Get out there, the world is waiting for you!"*

When facing government repression, maintaining hope requires a combination of personal psychological resilience, community building, and strategic, nonviolent action. Activists and citizens in such circumstances often focus on protecting their communities, publicizing the truth, and envisioning a positive future to fuel their resolve. Here are some ideas for us when we are feeling overwhelmed:

Focus on what you can control. The Serenity Prayer, adapted during the rise of Nazism, highlights the wisdom of accepting what you cannot change, having the courage to change what you can, and knowing the difference. This helps prevent emotional exhaustion.

Build a strong community. Authoritarian tactics aim to isolate individuals. Actively seek out and build trusted relationships with others who share your values. This collective effort provides safety, emotional support, and a broader base for resistance.

Engage in "grounding" and healing work. Finding stability in daily life can provide a strong foundation for continued resistance. This can include activities like gardening, cultural work, and different ways of caring for one another.

Celebrate small victories. Acknowledge and celebrate small wins to sustain morale. For example, celebrating those who take a courageous stand, even if they face punishment, can inspire others.

One such person taking a stand in Florida is the Rev. Andy Oliver, pastor of Allendale UMC in St. Petersburg, FL (pictured at right in the center in the black t-shirt). On August 29, Oliver was arrested and charged with misdemeanor obstruction for kneeling on a Black History Matters mural to protest efforts by the Florida Department of Transportation to remove it. The mural was near the Woodson African American Museum of Florida. *"I showed up there because I felt called to put my body in the way of something really horrific happening,"* Oliver said. *"It wasn't just erasing a mural. It was a whole people feeling like their culture, their very essence, was being erased."*



(continued)

Oliver spent the night in jail. He could get a year in jail on the obstruction charges, which he is fighting with the help of a state Representative. Nevertheless, he says, *"I will always do what it takes to show up. Because that's what Jesus did, right? Keep pushing."*

So, let us stay the course, remembering: *"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed."* Isaiah 1:17
And the Lord will be with you.

The Aptos chapter of the Village Santa Cruz will meet at our church on Wednesday, October 1, at 1 PM. You are welcome to attend if interested.

Joyce D. Rodgers

Chair of Church and Society/Missions/Green Team



Your support funds several significant educational initiatives

- 50%** of your donation funds scholarships for undergraduate or graduate students of color pursuing ministry
- 35%** of your donation funds training grants for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity and access
- 15%** of your donation funds leadership development grants in partner churches

October 5

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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 (*October 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
<https://zoom.us/j/94925380499?pwd=OGNpaHc4VmZ2OFhicZVML2M2ME5Ddz09>
Meeting ID **974 1046 9403** Passcode **935450**
- **Scott Group** - Friday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Pat Doolittle's 90th Birthday

Dear friends and family,

This November marks a very special occasion for the wonderful, kind, and creative Pat Doolittle, known to me as Gramma Pat. Pat is turning 90 in November and if you're receiving this email it's because I'm certain you've been a special person in her life. I need your help to commemorate this major milestone!

As you probably know, my grandma is happiest when she is enjoying art, and she has no shortage of creative talent. Many of you are familiar with her art: jewelry, clay, watercolor, piano.... What you may not know is that she is also an accomplished writer. To name a few, she's written a memoir spanning from her earliest memories through marriage, and several short stories (complete with the most wonderful illustrations!) inspired by her pets and grandchildren.

This is where you come in! **We are collecting written stories and memories of Pat that will be turned into a book, to be presented to her for her 90th birthday.** Please submit a typed story (or several!) to me, Pat's granddaughter Michelle at medoolittle@gmail.com, **by October 31 (but the sooner, the better!)**. These can take whatever form you want, be it narrative story, poem, essay, you name it. One page, several pages, there is no limit. Take inspiration from Pat and let your creativity flow! Scanned/digital photos are also welcome.

I will compile the stories and create a book for her to enjoy with laughter and love as she reminisces over her full and beautiful life through the eyes of family and friends.

I could also use your help passing this request along to anyone you think might want to contribute. She had a rich community of friends in California and I know she's made wonderful friends in her recent years as an Idaho resident. **Please feel free to pass along as you see fit; just make sure not to spoil the surprise with Pat!**

I can't wait to read your memories, and I'm even more excited for my grandma to have them!

With love and thanks,
Michelle (Shelly) Doolittle

July Financial Report

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Over/Under Budget
<u>INCOME</u>			
Pledge, Plate, Other Giving	\$101,889.00		
Secret Garden, Building Use	\$36,087.72		
Investment Income	<u>\$2,859.55</u>		
TOTAL INCOME	\$140,836.27	\$147,109.69	-\$6,273.42
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Church Program & Office			
Conference Apportionments	\$16,066.00		
Church Program Funding	\$1,519.40		
Maintenance, Supplies	\$369.59		
Office Expenses	\$1,634.33		
Employee Compensation	<u>\$28,728.06</u>		
Subtotal, Church Program & Office Expenses	\$48,317.98	\$49,103.11	\$785.73
Church Campus			
Custodial	\$1,610.00		
Utilities	\$14,200.94		
Insurance	\$7,785.84		
Taxes	\$1,152.79		
Maintenance, Improvements	<u>\$7,379.95</u>		
Subtotal, Church Campus Expenses	\$32,129.52	\$31,518.06	-\$611.46
Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage			
Salary	\$33,199.32		
Housing & Utilities	\$2,625.00		
Travel, Annual Conference, Education, Supplies	\$3,269.27		
Health Insurance	\$5,919.62		
Pastor's Pension	\$7,195.23		
Parsonage Mortgage, Insurance, Taxes, Maintenance	<u>\$15,257.72</u>		
Subtotal, Pastoral Ministry & Parsonage Expenses	\$67,466.16	\$67,426.94	-\$38.59
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$147,913.06	\$148,048.74	
NET INCOME - EXPENSES	-\$7,076.79	-\$939.05	-\$6,137.74



Birthdays

- 2 Lydia Moody
- 4 Ziggi McGuire-Abbas
- 5 Ali Turhal
- 6 Josh Wright
- 9 Michele Rossi
- 10 Pharis Harvey
Katherine Parker
- 13 Bill Daley
- 17 Susie Lewis
- 19 Skip Fehr
- 26 Lily Joy Holmberg
- 28 Cathy Wright

Anniversaries

- 28 Jillian & Rob Holmberg

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our calendar or incorrect, please contact the [office](#).

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.

Carol and Andy Williamson, and the family and friends of Jim Williamson on his death on September 19.



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](#).



October 15 *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman

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 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
November Tide**
Friday, October 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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