

Monterey United Methodist Church

Phone: 931.839.2597

Office Hours: 9-2 Mon. & Fri.

January 2026 Newsletter



Blessings my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

As we begin a new year, we are invited to persevere in faith and look with hope toward what God desires to do in our lives and in our church. January reminds us that we do not walk by our own strength, but are sustained by God's faithfulness. Even when the journey is challenging or the path is not completely clear, we can trust in His promises. Scripture encourages us:

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

As a church, we enter this year with expectation, believing that God is still at work—shaping hearts and leading us into His purpose. My prayer is that we renew our commitment to God, to His mission, and to one another, trusting that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion (Philippians 1:6).

Sincerely

Pastor Fabian Valtierra



A Note from Frances

While having lunch with some friends, the conversation turned to 2025.

All of us had experienced difficulties during this year, so we were all hoping that 2026 would be better. I think the error in our thinking was equating our past year with only the bad times. We failed to see the good days that we experienced as well.

So, as we walk into 2026, let us remember that life is always a series of peaks and valleys. In doing so, remember that Jesus waded those same peaks and valleys and still walks them with us. We are not alone.

Challenges for 2026.

1. Study, not just read, the word.
2. Pray in silence so that God's voice can be heard.
3. Witness by loving.
4. Sing with joy.



Choir members: we will resume rehearsals on Jan. 11. We invite new voices, you are needed. Frances.

A BIG thank you to all that volunteered to greet in 2025. It's so nice to be greeted when you enter the church, so I'm sure visitors feel the same way. It's such a little thing we can do that makes a big impact to everyone. If you want to try being a greeter for 2026 or want to sign up again, just call or text me at 717 587 2881. Thanks again, Beth Carter.



Agape Thrift opened on November 15 and has already raised over \$500 in support of community outreach. We have also been blessed with opportunities to share donated items directly with local families to help

brighten their Christmas season.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items—your generosity continues to make this ministry possible and strengthens our outreach to the community.

Regular operating hours are Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please note: Agape Thrift will be closed on Mondays, January 12, 19, and 26 unless volunteers are available to staff those days. If you'd like to help, please sign up in the hallway. A separate Agape Thrift Facebook page is now active so that the wider community can follow updates, hours, and featured merchandise. Be sure to check it out and share it with friends! The Agape Team.



Lunch Bunch starts a new year with new ideas, new partners and new enthusiasm! We look forward to serving good food, providing fellowship and support! Kathy.





We're Here to Help! Over the past month, our Congregational Care Ministry has continued sharing Christ's love through cards, calls, visits, and practical support. Christmas, birthday, and anniversary cards were mailed to encourage members of our church family, and several personal visits were made to offer comfort,


conversation, and prayer. A homemade meal and flowers were delivered to brighten someone’s day, and small household tasks were completed for those recovering or in need of a helping hand. Even brief check-in phone calls have brought joy and reminded others that they are remembered and loved. If you know someone who could use a card, encouragement, or a helping hand, please let us know!

- 📞 Congregational Care Contacts:
- **Gay Teeple** – 931-584-0134
 - **Louise Vail** – 931-839-3514

Together, we continue to care for one another—sharing compassion, lifting spirits, and living out Christ’s love in our community.

 To ensure that all events, ministry updates, and important announcements are included in our upcoming publications, **please submit all articles and event details to the church office by Monday January 26th.** Submissions can be emailed to:  church@montereyumc.com or mumc.admnassistant124@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us keep our church family informed and connected. Debbie.

 I want to thank everyone who helped and donated items for the Burks First Grade Christmas Shopping that happened December 11. Your support made it a great success. I appreciate all of your efforts. Suzy Jackson.



Jan.	4	Frank Swafford
Jan.	4	Haley Swafford
Jan.	10	Richard Jensen
Jan.	13	Judy Webster
Jan.	27	Bob Maki



Introducing a New Ministry: Meals of Hope — Launching February 1, 2026
Monterey United

Methodist Church is excited to announce the

launch of a new outreach ministry called **Meals of Hope**, beginning **February 1, 2026**. This ministry will provide ready-to-heat meals for members of our community who may be experiencing illness, recovery, financial hardship, or simply need a helping hand. Meals will also be offered to individuals who attend our Lunch Bunch ministry, allowing us to extend hospitality beyond our shared table.

The vision behind Meals of Hope is simple: **to share Christ's love through food, compassion, and community.**

By preparing meals in advance, volunteers can help make sure that nutritious food is available when someone needs it most—whether they pick up a meal from the church or receive it during Lunch Bunch gatherings.

- We are currently forming teams and gathering volunteers to assist with:
- **meal preparation & planning**
 - **cooking and packaging**
 - **labeling and freezer organization**
 - **delivery when needed**
 - **prayer and care for recipients**

Thanks to a generous **grant from ENCORE Ministries**, we will be able to launch this ministry with the resources needed to purchase supplies, packaging, and ingredients. We are deeply grateful for their support as we begin this journey.

If you feel called to serve, would like more information, or know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please sign up on the **sign-up sheet located on the table in the hallway**, or contact the church office and speak with **Debbie**. Together, we can provide both nourishment and hope—one meal at a time.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food...” — Matthew 25:35

Almighty God and Father,
We thank you for the peace that surpasses all understanding. Help us to trust you more deeply, especially when we cannot see what lies ahead. In a world full of distractions, keep our eyes fixed on you.
When worry creeps in, remind us that you are in control. As we step into this new year, help us to trust that you are already before us, guiding our paths and holding our future.
Thank you for the true peace that comes from you alone.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.