



FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INSIGHTS

JUNE-JULY 2019



3 Thursdays, 3 Picnics **Unlimited Fun and Fellowship**

You, your family, your friends and neighbors, your visiting relatives—all are welcome to join us at Pine Grove Picnic Area in Mitchell Park (next to the tennis courts) in Palo Alto from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on three Thursday evenings: July 11, 18 and 25.

Swap summer vacation stories, take the kids to the Rainbow Bridge playground, lounge in the grass, and connect with your church family! We say grace at 6:15, and then we eat. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. All are welcome!

Be chef for a day

For each picnic, a team of church members pitches in to provide a delicious picnic meal. You provide the fellowship. But you can don your apron and be part of a cooking team.

In June, Pam Cutkosky will be signing up grill chefs, salad chefs

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Centennial Endowment Awards **\$150,000 in Grants for 2019**

by Marcia Sterling, Interim Chair, Centennial Endowment Committee
Centennial Endowment (CE) grants in the amount of \$150,000 to fund eleven different projects have been recommended by the CE Committee and approved by Church Council for 2019.

This endowment fund was set up at First Palo Alto United Methodist Church more than 30 years ago and has increased over the years, thanks to donations from members of the congregation through wills, trusts and lifetime gifts. The fund is intended to provide a lasting foundation for the church's long-term goals, while each year supporting special projects that will enable our church to fulfill its vision for our congregation, our community and the world.

This year the CE Committee received a number of excellent grant proposals covering an amazing array of ideas proposed by administrative committees within the church. While funds were not available to meet every request, the grants awarded include: a retrofit of the sanctuary heating system and handicap doors, mission support

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First Palo Alto at the May Fête Parade, May 4. See story, page 4.

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Remembering June

Her Commitment to Hospitality Made a Difference

by Janet Nicholls

The recent passing of June Nielson-Cademartori brought to mind the time, back in 1979, when my family and I came to our church. My then husband and I and our two small children were seeking a church home.

We had been long time Methodists. We had visited other United Methodist churches in Palo Alto, so this was our last church to visit. We came with two other families (the Buttrills and another family), each of whom had two young children. When we felt the warmth and love from the Hospitality Team, that was it! We joined and have been here ever since.

At that time, the Hospitality Team consisted of five saints of our church: Pat and Neal Yowell, Ardith Bierlein, and June and Hank Nielson. Their strategy was to meet as many newcomers as they could on the patio after morning worship. They must have met to consider how best to continue the contact and make newcomers feel truly welcomed. The following weeks, they would approach us by name and chat with us, finding out our backgrounds in the faith and discovering our interests. I was so taken by these five stewards of the faith.

As years went by, all but June passed away. June was still, at age 94, ever present—wouldn't miss a Sunday. She was a bit stooped, but her love and faith was straight as an arrow. Her last church activity was tearing the pages off the attendance registers. She was a Holy Tearer!!

Thank you, Dear June, for your faithful commitment to Hospitality.

Heinz Erzberger took over the Holy Tearer job after June became ill. This is a vital task in our current Hospitality Team. It is how we keep track of newcomers and return visitors, as well as members. (So everyone, not just first time visitors, please sign the blue registration pad every week! Encourage those sitting around you to sign, too.)

Currently I chair the Hospitality activities. Patty Bellardo, Lucy Tompkin, Scott Thomas, Nancy Olson, Stephanie Zeller, Linda Grossman, Heinz Erzberger, and Paula McKinney are the rest of the Team. Patty and Nancy record the attendance information in our database and send results to the pastor and to me. I try to get an email or letter to newcomers within a couple of days. The rest of the Team greet on Worship mornings. They look out for newcomers and make sure they sign in and receive a Welcome Bag gift. Some newcomers are reluctant to sign in, but by the time they get to the patio after worship, many are ready to sign in! I carry a sign-in pad with me to the patio!

Would you be willing to join our welcoming team? It can make a difference in the life of a newcomer and you, too! Just ask any of the Team mentioned above. Let us know if you are willing to serve in this vital ministry area. 🌱

Anniversaries in June and July

6/20/1954 Curt & Carol Gleason
 6/16/1957 Allen & Mary Lu Wood
 6/5/1971 Brian & Jean Cole
 6/19/1982 Kathy & Wesley Rose
 6/27/1982 Keith & Meg Ferguson
 6/6/1987 Bill & Terri Michel
 6/9/1990 Tim Crockett & Vicki Veenker
 6/23/1990 Mark & Michele Hollar

6/17/1995 Chrissie Blair & Miles Keep
 6/24/1995 Joe & Tanya Buxton
 6/12/2004 Brian Steen & Sandra Wilson
 6/17/2006 Denise & Brian Blase
 7/15/1961 Donald & Sheralee Iglehart
 7/29/1961 Art & Lois Hammar
 7/27/1983 Steve Hickman & Karen Garrison
 7/6/1996 Peter & Robin Michel
 7/13/1996 David & Gayle Perry
 7/18/1998 Karen & Stephen Black



Katherine Parker Will Talk about Her Work in Nepal

Katherine Parker, missionary with the ecumenical United Mission to Nepal, will speak at First Palo Alto UMC on Sunday, Aug. 4. Parker will speak at 6:00 p.m. following a 5:30 p.m. Soup & Bread Potluck. Several other area Methodist churches have been invited to join us and the event is open to the public as well.

The United Mission to Nepal, founded in 1954, works for community transformation in five areas: education, health, hospitals, peace building and sustainable livelihoods. Parker, a missionary commissioned through the United Methodist Church, serves on the health team of the Mission working with adolescent empowerment, including menstrual hygiene and sexual reproductive health and rights; maternal and child health; and with a program called WASH, which stands for water, sanitation and hygiene. She has worked in three remote villages in western Nepal since 2013.

Parker is passionate about engaging community groups in participatory research about their environment and in a process of identifying and linking values to action. She believes that through telling the stories of their lives and exploring stories of faith, people are better able to articulate their shared values so they can engage in collective action across cultural and other divisive barriers.

Parker has been a missionary since 2007. Before serving in Nepal, she was in Cambodia with the Community Health and Agricultural Development Program of the Methodist mission there. She was a mission intern with the United Methodist Church from 2000–2003

serving 18 months each with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

A native of California, Parker is the fifth generation in her family to serve through the Methodist/United Methodist Church. She holds bachelors and masters degrees in biology.

For more information about this event, contact Nancy Glaser at glasernancy@gmail.com or 650-400-2417. 🐦



Music Contest at Church in August

On Saturday, Aug. 17, and Sunday, Aug. 18 a music contest for children and youth will be held in various rooms of the church. On Saturday, the contest will take place in the Sanctuary, Kohlstedt Hall, Chapel, Mood, Fellowship Hall, and the Patio Room. The warm-up rooms will be Wesley, Rainbow, Millennial, Pat's Place, Stuart Youth Center, the Seeds Room and Grooms Room. The rooms are booked from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., so this will not be a good day to work or meet at the church, unless you have a private office or can use the Library.

On Sunday, Master Classes will be held in Kohlstedt Hall, Mood, Fellowship Hall, and Rainbow Room from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Only the staff will be on site at 12:00; classes will begin at 1:00 or later.

It should be fun to have children about the church and to hear strains of music in the hallways. Because we currently do not have an events or wedding coordinator, Jerry Johnson is looking for an interested person to help out, mostly to help people find their way around the church during the event.

The contest and master classes are sponsored by the Chinese Music Teachers Association. 🐦

Meet and Greet the Neighborhood

After the May Fête Parade May 4, Adam Buttrill and Pastor Debra greeted and invited El Camino walkers and RV campers to our church services and Wednesday evening community meal and services. The two distributed 120 inspirational charms and more than 50 flyers. Our neighbors were happy to receive our gift to brighten their day.

This could not have happened if we did not have such a nimble administrative and volunteer team. Our new Administrative and Facilities Manager Theresa coordinated the swift purchase, flyer design and charm bracelet assembly. Please thank her when you see her.

Contact Pastor Debra if you would like to join our Meet and Greet the Neighborhood team. 🐾



Music Appreciation Sunday, June 9, will feature Fiumé di Musica, Chancel Choir and soloists, and Handbells. Photo by Ben Conway

First Palo Alto UMC Takes It to the Streets

by Rev. Dr. Debra Murray

Some of us walked, others rode, but we all lined up behind the First Palo Alto United Methodist Church banner to join in the May Fête Parade in Palo Alto on May 4 and to celebrate our 125th anniversary. Pastor Debra and Joe Murray, the King family, the Fifita family, Mary Ann Michel, Adam Buttrill, Pamela and Mark Cutkosky represented First Palo Alto.

Adam Buttrill and Pastor Debra awakened the crowd with cheers of “What do we want? Peace. When do we want it? Now. What do we want? Love. When do we want it? Now. What do we want? Justice. When do we want it? Now!” The crowd cheered as we proclaimed our desire to transform the world through peace, love and justice.

We are indebted to Pam Cutkosky for coordinating our parade spot with the city, herding member participation and overseeing the design and timely receipt of our beautiful 125th Anniversary T-shirts. Please thank Pam for a job well done when you see her. 🐾

Message from Pastor Debra: I invite you to go with me to the

Oberammergau Passion Play and the Holy Lands, Sept. 17–28, 2020

I will be the clergy host for this tour. It promises to be an exciting trip as we walk in the footsteps of Christ in the Holy Land and witness the live Passion Play in Germany. Some may want to be baptized in the River Jordan. You all know I will be honored to officiate the baptism. It will be a life-altering experience as we travel in community with fellow Christians and share in the mysteries and life of Christ by walking in his footsteps. The tour is offered to the members and friends of First Palo Alto UMC and Los Altos UMC, and will be offered to other churches as space allows.

An informational meeting was held May 26. If you missed it, contact travel agent Vern Dale (408-568-1241), trip coordinator Melanie Ercoli (650-996-8691), or your pastor Rev. Dr. Debra Murray for information.



by Nancy Olson

It's Not Too Late to Get Prepared

April was Earthquake Preparedness Month. Did you do anything to prepare? Don't take your safety for granted. Be prepared to support yourself, your family and your neighbors when it matters most.

- Identify potential hazards in your home and begin to fix them: move or secure heavy items that may fall where people sit and sleep; inspect gas and water pipes and connections.
- Make a plan; identify safe spots in every room to help you survive the shaking; identify family members and neighbors with special needs.
- Prepare personal disaster kits for everyone in the family, including pets.
- Prepare household disaster kits with survival supplies that will support everyone in your family for 7 to 10 days.
- Be personally prepared with knowledge and be ready to react calmly, confidently and competently when your family/community needs you.

Report Storm Drain Hazards

If you see potentially hazardous material near a storm drain, report it to 650-329-2413 for cleanup. Unlike sewer systems, which send wastewater from homes and businesses for treatment at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant before releasing into the San Francisco Bay, storm drain systems send rainwater and storm runoff directly into our creeks.

UN Study Challenges Us to Action

After an exhaustive 3-year study, the UN's foremost body on biodiversity released some incredibly grim news. We are facing an unprecedented rate of species loss, with one million plants and animals facing extinction.

This report from the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is a wake-up call to action for all of us. Governments must start putting people and the planet ahead of corporate interests and greed and act with the urgency this report illustrates. Leaders must adopt strong targets and implementation

125TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR INFORMATION

A tour of the church and brief organ concert will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 15. Tell your friends and neighbors! Tours also are planned for Sept. 14 and Nov. 2 at 1:00 p.m.

plans to protect biodiversity with the active participation of the informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities. Instead of plundering the forests and seas for short-term profit we need to shift our system into one that respects planetary boundaries.

But what can I do?? Well, we can support environmental groups that are working to protect our forests and our ocean. We can make sure our purchases are not supporting companies that are devastating forests and polluting local water supplies—such as palm oil production. Check the labels of the items you buy! We can refuse to buy products with single use, throwaway packaging. We can buy fair trade items that make sure growers/laborers are fairly compensated.

We can let our elected officials know that we 'care' about our environment. We might feel better to privately complain about what is going on, but if we don't let the people who are actually voting on strategic legislative decisions know how we feel, we can be sure, nothing is going to change. 🌱

Relax and Read this Summer



by Charlotte Cutkosky

For summer beach reading, there's nothing better than a book than can transport you somewhere new and unusual. Fittingly, we have several new acquisitions that examine different ways the fantastic can interact with the world we know.


Spinning Silver by Naomi Novik is a fantasy retelling of Rumpelstiltskin for adults. The daughter of a moneylender attempts to help her struggling father by spinning straw to silver (so she claims), but rumors of her fantastical ability attract the covetous attention of the king of Staryk, a grim, ice-cold fae creature, and open up a host of new problems.

Washington Black by Esi Edugyan is more rooted in reality, as historical fiction with a touch of the fantastical. Eleven-year-old Washington "Wash" Black was born a slave, but is given a chance at freedom when his master's abolitionist brother takes him under his wing and introduces him to his marvelous flying machine and other inventions. But when Wash is framed for a crime, the two must flee in their machine.

For middle-grade and upper elementary school readers, *The Size of Truth* by Andrew Smith also toys with the line between the mundane and fantastical.

UNITED METHODIST
**SPECIAL
SUNDAY**
PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY
June 16

PEACE WITH
JUSTICE SUNDAY
Your generous gift today encourages
living a gospel of peace.




"I am encouraged by United Methodists who, along with ecumenical and interfaith partners, are engaging in the genuine pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and around the world."

- THE REV. DR. SUSAN HENRY-CROWE, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY.

"NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE."

- MICAH 4:3B, NRSV



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

Please make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcsgiving.org/givePWJS.

When he was four years old, Sam Abernathy fell down a well and was trapped for three days with only an armadillo for company. Now eleven, Sam dreams of becoming a famous chef and works at overcoming his claustrophobia, while wrangling his parents (who want him to pursue science and skip two grades) and the eighth grade bully who pushed him down the well in the first place. It's a lot, but fortunately, Sam is nothing if not determined.

We hope you'll give some of these books a try and take a summer vacation to a fantastic new world. Happy reading! 🐾

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The United Methodist Women (UMW) is open to all women of the church. For information, contact Nancy Olson, nso2431@icloud.com

Leader States UMW Position in Response to Traditional Plan

The United Methodist Church concluded its 3-day special session of the General Conference Feb. 23-26, 2019. United Methodist Women vowed to work across differences in the future of mission on behalf of women, children and youth.

United Methodist Women chief executive Harriet Jane Olson issued the following statement: "The Traditional Plan adopted by General Conference invites clergy, bishops and congregations who do not support the church's stand regarding LGBTQIA persons to leave the denomination and form another expression of Methodism. However, while our membership has many opinions about the matters considered at General Conference, United Methodist Women stands together, committed to serving women, children and youth. Part of the United Methodist Women Purpose is to be a creative supportive fellowship, and that's what we intend to do. Commitment to the Purpose, and prayer are the only litmus tests for determining who can belong, who can serve and who can devote themselves to mission. Our differences make us stronger. We continue to be open to any woman who chooses to commit to our Purpose and mission."

UMW Opposes Proposed Reductions in Clean Car Standards

The UMW is speaking out to protest the proposed "Safe Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks." That is a mouthful and sounds like a positive move, but in reality it is meant to reduce the standards set in 2011 in the Clean Car Standards. A UMW representative spoke at the public hearing hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Dearborn, Michigan.

Ford Motor Company is now supporting the new 'flexible' standards, although they originally supported the 2011 Clean Car Standards which would raise fuel efficiency standards to an average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025.

UMW members across the nation are signing petitions to Ford Motor Company and Ford dealerships to stand strongly against the new proposed regulations. Our members will be given the opportunity to sign the petitions. 🍷

Picnics *from page 1*

and dessert chefs for the three picnics. You provide the expertise, recipe and labor; you will be reimbursed for the cost of the food. If you can help, contact Pam at pamelareasner@yahoo.com or 650-328-5208. 🍷



WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

SUMMER

Regular Circle and Interest Group activities take a vacation in June through August each year in recognition of church summer activities—time to spend more time with family activities: Family Camp, picnics in the park, vacations, etc.

For your questions about:

Tuesday Trekkers,
contact Patty Bellardo,
pbellardo@gmail.com

UMW Reading Program,
contact Bernice Smoll,
smolla@svpal.org

Needleworkers,
contact Mary Ann Michel,
mamichel@alumni.duke.edu

CEF *from page 1*

for Rise Against Hunger and birthing centers in Nepal, a new laser projector for the sanctuary, funding for our 125th Anniversary Celebration, and the launch of new programs for growth of our congregation. The generosity of those who have gone before us continues to inspire us at First Palo Alto United Methodist Church to seek new paths to meet the needs of a changing world. 🍷

June Birthdays

6/1 Griffin Larson
 6/2 Aidan Keller
 6/3 Art Hammar
 6/3 Janet Nicholls
 6/4 Steve Smith
 6/6 Eileen Johnson
 6/6 Penelope Spangler
 6/6 Juliane Renaker
 6/8 Joshuel Hibdon-Malkinson
 6/9 Gayle Perry
 6/9 Claire Duhring
 6/10 Nervin Hall
 6/10 Mark Bateman
 6/10 Aaron Wells
 6/11 Addison Julian
 6/11 Yannick Hall
 6/11 Kasey Phillips
 6/13 Lou Bellardo
 6/14 Mele Teu-Fifita
 6/17 Julian Bliss
 6/17 William Bliss
 6/20 Peter Colby

6/21 Julia Kispert
 6/21 Barbara Finley
 6/21 Mona Blackburn
 6/22 Dave Gee
 6/23 Carol Mosher
 6/24 Karen Breen
 6/25 David Carman
 6/25 Christina Harland
 6/28 Richard Pike
 6/28 Heather Perry
 6/28 Arden Wells

July Birthdays

7/2 Ellie Norris
 7/2 Mark Hollar
 7/2 Rick Allen
 7/2 Chloe Iglehart
 7/4 Nathalie Camens
 7/6 Tom McHugh
 7/6 Barbara Bayha
 7/7 Lois Hammar
 7/7 Susan Vecsey
 7/8 Owen Keep
 7/9 Michael Reddick
 7/9 Ruthie Water
 7/9 Ellen Haffner
 7/10 Laisiana Delai
 7/13 Vaiola Herrera

7/13 Ross Trammell
 7/14 Betsy Van Nuys
 7/15 Jeff King
 7/15 Mykala Curtis
 7/15 John Nimmo
 7/15 Dustin Thomas
 7/16 Bill Nicholls
 7/17 Marilyn Bauriedel
 7/18 Andy Clifford
 7/21 Bud Buttrill
 7/22 Angela Mosqueda
 7/22 Makeleta Stepp
 7/25 Atu Vosailagi
 7/25 Linda Jordan
 7/26 Bob Olmstead
 7/27 Dana Gleason
 7/28 Faith Veenker
 7/30 Felice Swapp
 7/31 Vicki Veenker



Finance Update

The Finance Committee thanks you for your generous and gracious support and requests that you continue to keep your pledges current. Please direct inquiries to Lou Bellardo: lou@bellardo.com

APR 2019 Income and Expense Summary-- DRAFT	MAR 2019 Actual	Actual YTD 2019	Budget YTD 2019	Budget Annual 2019
Income				
Total Member Giving	42,737	177,959	182,696	450,170
Total Income All Other Sources	24,255	80,238	86,027	214,857
Total Income	66,992	258,197	268,723	665,027
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	6,333	20,682	20,000	60,000
Council on Ministries	754	4,072	11,263	39,790
Staff Parish Relations	22,265	97,650	128,274	368,862
Office and Finance	817	7,594	7,033	19,200
Board of Trustees	11,938	75,193	78,513	177,175
Total Expenses	42,107	205,191	245,083	665,027
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	24,885	53,007	23,640	0



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

10:45 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
Broadcast live online at
firstpaloalto.com/live-webcast/

11:45 a.m. Snack and Chat

Childcare is available during worship in Noah's Ark room.

Sunday School has wrapped up for the year. See you at Rally Day on Sept. 8.

Mondays

12:00 noon Prayer

5:00 p.m. Breaking Bread

Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Trekkers, call 650-327-1428 for information

12:00 noon Prayer

Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Channing House, 5th floor lounge

12:00 noon Prayer

6:30 p.m. Upstream Community Meal

7:00 p.m. Upstream Worship

Thursdays

12:00 noon Prayer

8:00 p.m. Upstream Community Band

Fridays

12:00 noon Prayer

Information for the August edition of the Insights newsletter is due July 10.

Photos of church events are accepted at any time. Include photographer's name, date of the photo and a brief description of the event. Everything is subject to editing. Please send your submissions via email to Insights editor Michele Conway: insightsfirstpa@gmail.com or bring them to the church office. Thank you!

- Hotel de Zink overnight, all month
- 4 Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Pentecost
- Music Appreciation Sunday
- 11 Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 125th Anniversary Tour, 1:00 p.m.
- 16 Father's Day
- Peace with Justice Sunday, special offering
- 18 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.
- 19 California-Nevada Annual Conference, through June 22, off-site
- 25 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.



- 2 Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 4th of July
- Church office closed
- 9 Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 **Insights deadline** for August issue
- 11 Picnic in the Park, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Mitchell Park in Palo Alto
- 15 Centennial Endowment Committee, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Picnic in the Park, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Mitchell Park in Palo Alto
- 23 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Picnic in the Park, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Mitchell Park in Palo Alto

Our electronic giving page is always open! Give with a few clicks at <http://www.firstpaloalto.com/give> As always, your generosity makes our mission possible. Thank you!





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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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