



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### DECEMBER 8

Advent Procession  
with Carols

6:40 p.m. Organ

7:00 p.m. Service

### DECEMBER 15

Morning Worship  
with Special Music by  
Fiumé di Musica  
and Handbells

10:45 a.m.

### DECEMBER 22

Morning Worship  
Carols and Anthems  
with Brass Quintet

10:45 a.m.

Community Christmas  
Carol Sing-along

3:00 p.m.

~Roast marshmallows after~

### DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Worship  
Family Service

5:00 p.m.

~Cookies and cocoa after~

Candlelight Service

11:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Worship

2:00 p.m.

## SEEDS Outreach: A Ride Toward Redemption

by Caryn Cranston

A \$70 bus pass. To most of us, this would not be considered a luxury, let alone, “the best gift” one had ever received. But to Trevor, it was going to be the difference maker, the golden ticket, the lifeline to get him off the streets.

I was confused at first. I thought I was helping, but as I stretched out my hand to give him the pass, tears welled up in his eyes. As we sat together on the curb in front of the station, through his sobbing he tried to explain. Something about the job had been all lined up. More that he was ready to turn his life around. And most of all that he wanted to get off the streets.

As Trevor settled into the calm, he was able to explain, “I was so close. I had gotten the job. I knew I just needed to keep it for the month and then I would get the room.”

To his surprise, it wasn’t getting ‘cleaned up’ every day that was the hard part. He had that part all figured out. “The hardest part was literally figuring out how to get to work every day.”

He explained how he had days where he didn’t have the money to pay for the train ticket. He knew he was “dancing with the devil,” but “compared to some of the other things (he) had done,” he didn’t think this one was too bad.

Until that day he got caught without a ticket.

“I really tried to pull it off. I thought because I was in my work clothes, they would believe me when I told them I had accidentally left my wallet at home,” Trevor recalled.

He asked the people around him if they could give him the money for his ticket. “But apparently they could see right through my lie. I knew someone riding on that train had the money. They just didn’t want to help me. Or they just didn’t care.”

“Either way,” he went on to tell me, “I knew they were going to tell me to get off the train. It was that or get another criminal citation and huge fine. And on top of that I knew when I didn’t make it to work that day, I wouldn’t have my job anymore.”

*continued on page 4*

## Concerts at First Palo Alto UMC During December



- 6 7:30 p.m. Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, celebrates the triumph of perseverance and peace over oppressive adversity. PBO favorite, tenor Nicholas Phan, rallies the troops in the title role of Handel's heroic oratorio, "Judas Maccabaeus." Tickets: philharmonia.org
- 7 2:00 p.m. Ragazzi Boys Chorus. Come to hear James Thomas (First Palo Alto youth) sing with the older boys. Tickets: ragazzi.org/performances
- 14 2:00 p.m. all of the Ragazzi groups, from the youngest to post high school perform. Tickets: ragazzi.org/performances
- 14 7:00 p.m. Peninsula Girl's Chorus Holiday Concert. Tickets: pgcholiday19.brownpapertickets.com
- 17 7:30 p.m. New Century Chamber Orchestra presents renowned mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter in a holiday celebration that combines traditional works, including selections from Bach's Christmas Oratorio, with popular holiday favorites. Tickets: ncco.org
- 20 7:30 p.m. Mountain View High School. Tickets: jilldenny.weebly.com
- 21 7:30 p.m. The Choral Project and San Jose Chamber Orchestra present "Winter's Gifts: Spirit" featuring Dominick Argento's "Gloria," Adrian Peacock's "Venite, Gaudete," as well as gems by favorite local composers Brent Heisinger, Michael Touchi, Anica Galindo," and a special work in memory of Jessye Norman. Tickets: choralproject.org

Jan. 1 at 3:00 p.m. is the annual New Year's Day Concert by San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. Ring in the New Year with a program dedicated to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and featuring stellar Debut Artist, 11-year old Amaryn Olmeda. The concert will close with the "Jupiter" Symphony. This free concert is always well attended. Plan to arrive early!



### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Church



Families and children of all ages are welcome to watch or participate in retelling the Christmas story at the **Christmas Eve Family Service**. Select a costume—be a shepherd, sheep, Mary or a wise man and join in a family-friendly event. Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m. The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is back by popular demand. The congregation and community are invited to join the Chancel Choir and usher in Christmas with a traditional "midnight" service by candlelight. Dec. 24, 11:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Maile and Pastor Debra for a **Christmas Day Service** with music by the First Tongan Church. Dec. 25, 2:00 p.m.

### Children's Holiday Books Recommended

by Charlotte Cutkosky

Hello First Palo Alto readers! We've acquired some new children's Christmas books for the holiday season, and something they all have in common is absolutely gorgeous illustrations!

*A World of Cookies for Santa* by M.E. Furman looks at Christmas traditions around the world by tracing Santa's present-giving journey from Christmas Island back to the North Pole. The book takes a peek at the sorts of treats children leave him in various countries, as well as the way Christmas celebrations vary across cultures. It features lush painterly illustrations by local Bay Area artist Susan Gal. Penguin Bedtime Classics has published a toddler-preschool-friendly adaption of E.T.A. Hoffman's *The Nutcracker*, full of zesty, colorful illustrations by printmaker Carly Gledhill that put a modern twist on the classic. Penguin Bedtime Classics are board books designed to introduce children to world classic novels.

Another adaption of a Christmas classic is Christopher Corr's take on Hans Christian Anderson's *The Little Fir Tree*, which Corr both adapted and illustrated. Corr's folk art style is perfectly suited to the woodland setting and fairy tale and fable theme.

As always, happy reading, and happy holidays too!

## Drop-In Holiday Shoppe

LifeMoves\* is setting up a Holiday Shoppe for homeless clients. Donate new unwrapped gifts to the collection barrel in the Narthex by Dec. 11.

### Most Requested Items

- \* Sleeping bags and blankets
- \* Underwear and socks for men and women
- \* Warm coats/Heavy hoodies (adult sizes)
- \* Wool socks, wool hats, mittens, and scarves
- \* Backpacks
- \* Umbrellas, durable rain ponchos
- \* Self-inflating mattresses or mats (for sleeping)
- \* Gift cards for gasoline, Walmart or Target, or for meals (Starbucks, McDonald's, etc.)

## Greeting Cards Sale

Last chance this year to purchase handmade greeting and Christmas cards from United Methodist Women (UMW): Sunday, Dec. 1 at noon on the patio. All proceeds support UMW missions.

\*LifeMoves, a First Palo Alto UMC partner organization, works to break the cycle of homelessness.

## Pet Supplies Holiday Collection

LifeMoves,\* in consort with the Palo Alto Humane Society (PAHS), recognizes how important pets are to people, whether housed, unhoused or in transition. LifeMoves and PAHS have a holiday pet supplies drive underway from now until Dec. 13. They are collecting

- \* Wet and dry dog and cat food
- \* Pet toys
- \* Leashes and collars, preferably visible at night

You can take your donations to PAHS at 4000 Middlefield Rd. in Palo Alto, or you can give them to Colleen Crangle, [crangle@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:crangle@stanfordalumni.org) or 650-218-5660.

## Making the Holidays Bright

What can I do for others?



## Cookie Plates

Please join United Methodist Women on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. in the Patio Room. Bring 2 to 3 dozen cookies to fill cookie plates for church shut-ins. This is a fun in-house mission to our own congregation and is always enthusiastically received.

## Joy of Giving

A Christmas tradition at First Palo Alto United Methodist Church, Joy of Giving is an opportunity to show Christ's love to people in our local community, our region, and the world. You choose the organization(s) to receive your gift. Consider giving a gift in honor of someone on your Christmas list. Pick up a brochure at church or find out more online at [firstpaloalto.com](http://firstpaloalto.com).

## Community Carol Sing-Along Set for Dec. 22



Join us on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3:00 p.m. for our Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along. This event features a Brass Choir, Timpani, Pipe Organ and you, your family, friends, and neighbors. Warm up by the fireplace on the patio, drink hot chocolate and roast marshmallows following this free event.

Invite everyone you know to sing-along! Come one, come all!



As the busy Christmas season gets underway, set aside time to attend a Special Advent Service, Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m. This is a traditional, reflective service of Advent carols and readings in the English Tradition.

## Holiday Wreath Sale

Boy Scouts from Troop 50, sponsored by First Palo Alto UMC, will sell holiday wreaths from 11:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.





# Green Notes

by Nancy Olson

I hope each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving—sharing with family and friends and being truly thankful for all God’s blessings! And for the Joy of Christmas activities and programs at church where we share the true meaning of the gift of peace and love.

And I hope our own gift giving includes handmade or baked items and gifts of experiences (like plays, sporting events, subscriptions, etc.) or services (baby or pet sitting, errands). Planting a tree in someone’s name is a lasting gift that also helps the earth and air quality. Gift exchanges are not limited to the Christmas season—let’s remember birthdays, graduations, other special occasions.

But . . . , over the last 20 years, Mars, Nestlé, Hershey and other chocolate companies have set and missed deadlines to remove child labor from their cocoa supply chains. These companies promised to meet deadlines to fully end their use of child labor by 2005, then 2008, then 2010. Each deadline has been missed and extended and now, they have indicated they will once again

*continued on page 6*



## Cookies for Kiddos. Will You Help?

Our Christmas Eve family service at 5 p.m. draws many visitors and families. We want to be a “place of hospitality” by serving Christmas cookies and hot chocolate, starting at 5:45, after the family service.

You can help spread First Palo Alto UMC joy to our visitors! Will you ...

- ...Contribute cookies?
- ...Help set up the cookie table on the patio?
- ...Serve hot chocolate?

Please contact Pam Cutkosky, 650-328-5208 or [pamelareasner@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelareasner@yahoo.com)



## SEEDS from page 1

“And the worst part,” tears again welling up in his eyes, “wasn’t that I knew I was going to lose my job, or even my chance at renting that room.” Now struggling, he choked out the words, “The worst part was that to those people on the train that day I was just a problem, some punk kid. I was making them late to wherever it was they were trying to get to.”

“To them that was more important than me getting to that job that day. But to me, it was beyond the fact that I didn’t matter, it was the looks when they glared at me. They despised me, like I didn’t even deserve to be there.”

Trevor kept on explaining, “It’s hard, you know, to keep believing in yourself when everyone around you wishes you weren’t there.” As he continued to talk, my heart broke alongside his that afternoon as he shared his curbside reflection about that day several months ago.

Weeping once again as I handed him that unassuming bus pass, through the stream of tears, this punk, tough-guy Trevor thanked me again and again for his “new lease on life.” Grateful for the unlimited access to places he may need to go, opportunities to start “fighting for myself again.” Things you and I certainly take for granted, an assurance for safer travel, “less chances for the bad guys to get in the way.” This is just part of Trevor’s story. There are many more like his, stories to be shared as part of SEEDS Outreach Ministry with the documentary project, “Voices Unheard.” To get involved with SEEDS outreach efforts for homeless youth or with the production of the Voices project, contact Caryn Cranston at [info@myseeds.org](mailto:info@myseeds.org). For additional information about SEEDS Outreach Services, visit [www.myseeds.org](http://www.myseeds.org). ✱

**Kindness Zone** Our church staff works extra hard during the holiday season—extra projects to coordinate, extra meetings to attend, extra bulletins to print and flyers to design, extra programs and events to arrange, extra rooms to set up. At a time of anticipation and joy—but also frazzled nerves, your kindness and patience are appreciated.

## Getting to Know You



The United Methodist Women (UMW) invites each woman of the congregation to join us in an activity to make new friends and to support mission projects. Contact Nancy Olson, [nso2431@icloud.com](mailto:nso2431@icloud.com).

In the new year we will be searching out and participating in local mission projects. We invite your suggestions and participation.

Is there someone you don't know sitting in the same pew, or just in front or behind you? We are one congregation. Let us make a decided effort to get to know each and every one we come together to worship with. Introduce yourself and make a new friend. Wearing our name badges really helps.

## Soccer and Life Skills Go Together

by Nancy Glaser

Wayo Wayo Kibra Sports and Life Skills Program began in 2016 founded by local leaders and youth as a volunteer organization in Nairobi, Kenya. Based in the Kibera Slum, it serves local boys and girls in sports, life skills and engaging in environmental activities.



An estimated one million people are squeezed in the sprawling urban space without government provided electricity, running water or sanitation that is Kibera Slum.

Wayo Wayo Kibra was founded in 2016 by a resident of the slum who was an aspiring soccer player in his school when he injured his knee which ended his athletic career. Abdul Hussein then dedicated his life to reaching out to the kids in their slum to provide the youth, both boys and girls, the opportunity for a sports platform and program to learn critical life skills and contribute to the improvement of their community with ongoing clean-up activities.

Several things impressed me with the founder and his team of volunteers over the 18 months I got to know them while living in Kenya: 1) the passion with which the program is driven to allow as many children as possible to participate on the soccer teams; 2) the difference this program has made in the children's lives; 3) the leadership skills the local residents have developed under Abdul's guidance and 4) that if this program were not in place, these children would have no other options for sports.

Most of the equipment, balls, soccer clothing and accessories are donations from schools in California which are then packed and carried over as luggage by travelers to Kenya. Most of the donations are of used items.

Funding is being sought to expand the soccer program from 80 children to the hundreds of children who are in line to join. We are seeking grants so this worthwhile and cost effective opportunity can expand for more children of the slum.



## WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

- 1 UMW GREETING CARD SALE  
On Patio before and after 10:45 a.m. worship service. Proceeds support UMW mission projects.
- 3 TUESDAY TREKKERS  
also Dec 10 and 17, 10 a.m.  
Contact Patty Bellardo, [pbellardo@gmail.com](mailto:pbellardo@gmail.com)
- 10 LUNCH BUNCH  
11:30 A.M. Cibo's  
RSVP to Nancy Olson, [nso2431@icloud.com](mailto:nso2431@icloud.com)
- 14 HOLIDAY COOKIE PLATES  
Bring 2-3 dozen cookies and help assemble cookie plates for church shut-ins.  
10:00 a.m. Patio Room.
- 17 NEEDLEWORKERS  
9:30 a.m. at Channing House  
Contact Mary Ann Michael, [mamichel@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:mamichel@alumni.duke.edu)



**WOMEN'S  
RETREAT**  
*Peace and  
Simplicity  
of Heart*

Led by Liz Lawhead Stewart  
Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz  
January 17-19  
Registration deadline January 2  
Get a registration form at church  
or at [firstpaloalto.com/womens-retreat-2020/](http://firstpaloalto.com/womens-retreat-2020/)

**Green Notes** from page 4 miss their 2020 deadline. The chocolate industry brings in over \$103 billion in sales annually, yet has spent only \$150 million over 18 years to address child labor. Ending child labor is clearly not a priority for these companies. But it does present us with a choice in how we spend our dollars. To end this article with a smile, read this quote from the book *31 WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD* by 4,386 children: “Give lots of compliments: Compliments get easier when you do them regularly, so make a five-a-day habit of giving them away. They cost nothing. They make you feel good. Everyone accepts them. And a good one can last for weeks.” \*



12/1 Brian Steen  
 12/1 Angela Chen  
 12/1 Owen Iglehart  
 12/1 Janie Serkes  
 12/3 Tuli Fakalata  
 12/3 Kevin Nichols  
 12/3 Mel Smith  
 12/4 Salome Bikai  
 12/6 Florence Jensen  
 12/7 Joanne Perry  
 12/8 Jamie McCartney  
 12/9 Lucy Tompkin  
 12/9 Bill Bauriedel  
 12/10 Judy Buttrill  
 12/10 Mark Shaull  
 12/11 Wayne Wiebe  
 12/12 Aavya Kalas  
 12/12 Carol Carpenter  
 12/13 Karen Black

12/13 Lakshmi Arunachalam  
 12/17 Marcia Sterling  
 12/18 Merribeth Munyon  
 12/19 Jesse Fifita  
 12/20 Mira Dabrowski  
 12/22 Phyllis Sherlock  
 12/23 Emily King  
 12/23 Susy Carman  
 12/25 Tutu Fakalata  
 12/25 Carol Kumer  
 12/27 Charlotte Cutkosky  
 12/29 Maeva Herbert-Paz  
 12/31 Jo Zimmerman  
 12/31 Catherine Boyle



12/31/1943 Jo & Orin Zimmerman  
 12/09/1981 Ruthie Waters & Craig Laughton  
 12/04/2010 Jose Irizarry & Sally Valdez

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](mailto:lou@bellardo.com)

Oct 2019 Income and Expense Summary-- DRAFT	Oct 2019 Actual	Actual YTD 2019	Budget YTD 2019	Budget Annual 2019
Income				
Total Member Giving	18,522	347,770	372,108	450,170
Total Income All Other Sources	15,397	183,487	189,255	223,657
Total Income	33,919	531,257	561,363	673,827
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	3,242	47,215	50,000	60,000
Council on Ministries	19	15,732	34,158	39,790
Staff Parish Relations	38,278	269,053	312,705	368,862
Office and Finance	2,080	16,419	16,533	19,200
Board of Trustees	13,689	191,950	157,287	185,975
Total Expenses	57,308	540,369	570,683	673,827
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	-23,389	-9,112	-9,320	0

# DECEMBER

- 1 First Sunday of Advent  
Couples Group, 11:45 a.m.  
UMW Card Sale, noon
- 3 Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Second Sunday of Advent  
Boy Scout Wreath Sale, 11:45 a.m.  
Church Charge Conference, 12:30 p.m.  
Advent Procession with Carols, 6:40 p.m. organ,  
7:00 p.m. service
- 10 Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Last day to donate to Holiday Shoppe (see p.3)
- 13 Last day to donate pet supplies (see p. 3)
- 14 UMW Cookie Plate Assembling (see p. 3)  
Parents Night Out, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 Third Sunday of Advent  
Special music in worship, 10:45 a.m.  
Couples Group, 11:45 a.m.
- 17 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Holiday Make-a-Gift, 2:00 p.m.
- 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Seasonal Carols and Anthems in worship, with  
brass quintet, 10:45 a.m.  
Community Carol Sing-Along, 3:00 p.m., roast  
marshmallows on the patio afterward
- 24 **Christmas Eve**  
5:00 p.m. Family Service, enjoy cookies and  
cocoa on the patio afterward  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
- 25 **Christmas**  
Worship service with music by First Tongan  
Church, 11:00 a.m.  
Church office closed
- 26 Church office closed

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sundays

- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School  
(Age 3 through 5th grade)
- 10:45 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary  
Broadcast live online at:  
[firstpaloalto.com/live-webcast/](http://firstpaloalto.com/live-webcast/)
- 12:00 noon Snack 'n' Chat

Childcare is available from 9:15 a.m. –  
12:15 p.m. in Noah's Ark room

### Mondays

- 12:00 noon Prayer
- 7:00 p.m. Fiumé di Musica

### 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
- 6:00 p.m. Upstream Community Meal
- 7:00 p.m. Upstream Worship

### Thursdays

- 12:00 noon Prayer
- 6:30 p.m. Handbells
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 8:00 p.m. Upstream Community Band

### Fridays

- 12:00 noon Prayer

#### Information for the next edition of the Insights newsletter is due Jan. 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 W. Conway: [insightsfirstpa@gmail.com](mailto:insightsfirstpa@gmail.com) or bring them to the church office. Thank you!

Our electronic giving page is always open! Give with a few clicks at <http://www.firstpaloalto.com/give> or text Give to 1-650-376-6784 for a link with instructions. Your generosity makes our mission possible. Thank you!





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FIRST PALO ALTO  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Peace &  
Goodwill  
to All



**Next INSIGHTS deadline: Jan. 10**