FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INSIGHTS

JANUARY 2020

January issue

Pull-out this 4-page center section and Save for the New Year!

Honoring MLK

Annual Community and Interfaith Celebration

January 19

3:00 p.m. at

First Palo Alto United Methodist Church

Keynote speaker:

Amos C. Brown

Civil rights activist and Pastor of Third Baptist Church, San Francisco

First Church to Host "Peaceful Presence"

In the midst of difficult times, Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice (http://multifaithpeace.org/), will host "Peaceful Presence," a monthly prayer service on the 11th of each month, offering a time of quiet multifaith prayer.

Open to all: those of all faith traditions and of no defined faith, those who are suffering at the hands of their own government, those who need a pause in the midst of intensive work on behalf of others, and all who would like to pray with others for the well-being of all. The prayer time will include elements from several religious traditions.

The Peaceful Presence prayer service will be held at a different location each month. The prayer service on Jan. 11 will be held at our church from 7–7:30 p.m.

All are welcome. Please join us.

Plan to Attend Great Decisions Discussions

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for the upcoming 2020 foreign policy discussion series. These engaging sessions will take place on Sunday nights from Feb. 9 to March 29.

The schedule of dates and topics will be posted in the bulletins and weekly e-mails.

You do not need to be a foreign policy expert to attend. Just bring an open and eager mind; newcomers and guests are welcome! If you are willing to be a facilitator to lead one of the discussions listed below or if you have general questions, please contact Tom Fingar (tom.fingar@gmail.com).

The discussion is richer when attendees have read the background article in the Great Decisions book published by the Foreign Policy Association. You can get yours for $25 after church starting in mid-January.

See this year's discussion topics on page 2

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Great Decisions *from page 1*

2020 topics are described below. Additional materials and information are available on the Foreign Policy Association website: https://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=438

Please note: The topics may not be presented in the order listed below.

Climate Change and the Global Order Climate change has become one of the defining issues of our time. As much of the world bands together to come up with a plan, the U.S. remains the notable holdout. What is the rest of the world doing to combat climate change? What impact will the effects of climate change have on global geopolitics?

India and Pakistan India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a wave of Hindu nationalism to a historic re-election in 2019. His first order of business was to revoke the special status granted to the Kashmir region, inflaming the rivalry between India and Pakistan. How will the Kashmir situation affect the region, both economically and politically?

Red Sea Security The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation?

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Almost every nation has enacted laws criminalizing human trafficking, and international organizations, governments, and NGOs sponsor a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery. Billions of dollars have been allocated to these efforts. What is the international community doing to combat slavery and trafficking? What are the experiences like for those being trafficked?

U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle Combating illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which holds the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?

China's Road into Latin America As the Trump administration continues to withdraw from the world stage, China is looking to fill the void. How does Latin America fit into China's "One Belt, One Road" plan? How will the relationship with China affect the region? Should the U.S. be concerned about China's growing "sphere of influence?"

The Philippines and the U.S. The Philippines has had a special relationship with the United States since the islands were ceded by Spain to the United States after the Spanish-American War at the end of the 19th century. However, since the election of Rodrigo Duterte, the country has pivoted more toward China, and away from the U.S. Duterte has also launched a large-scale war on drugs that many criticize for its brutality. What does the future hold for U.S. relations with the Philippines?

Artificial Intelligence and Data Policymakers in many countries are developing plans and funding research in artificial intelligence (AI). Global growth is slowing, and not surprisingly, many policymakers hope that AI will provide a magic solution. The EU, Brazil, and other Western countries have adopted regulations that grant users greater control over their data and require that firms using AI be transparent about how they use it. Will the U.S. follow suit?

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

7 TUESDAY TREKKERS
also Jan 14, 21, 28
10 a.m.
Contact Patty Bellardo, pbellardo@gmail.com

14 LUNCH BUNCH
11:30 A.M. Green Elephant
RSVP to Nancy Olson, nso2431@icloud.com

20 UMW READING GROUP
11:30 a.m.
RSVP to Bernice Smoll, smolla@svpal.org

21 NEEDLEWORKERS
9:30 a.m. at Channing House
Contact Mary Ann Michael, mamichel@alumni.duke.edu

28 MARY/MARTHA CIRCLE
1:30 p.m. in the Patio Room
Contact Mary Lu Wood, admlwood@gmail.com

Human Relations Day, Jan. 19
UMC Special Offering
umcgiving.org/HRD

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.

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

Can it really be the start of a brand new year!?

As we enter this new year, let us remember the four UMW mission priority issues for the 2016–2020 quadrennium are:

Economic Inequality " . . . We support measures that would reduce the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few . . . ." Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 163

United Methodist Women is advocating for legislation that builds a living wage in at least 25 states and municipalities.

Climate Justice "All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings . . . ." Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 160

United Methodist Women is advocating for a 25 percent reduction of carbon emissions by the top two contributing industries.

Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color ". . . we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons . . . ." Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 162

United Methodist Women is interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline by working for a 25 percent reduction in school arrests and the redesigning of school zero-tolerance polices that place children on an adversarial path with law enforcement.

Maternal and Child Health " . . . John 10:10b says, 'I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.' . . . Health care is a basic human right . . . ." Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, page 162

United Methodist Women is working to decrease maternal mortality by calling for the establishment of Maternal Mortality Review Committees in every state and building a network of maternal and child health advocates to fight for comprehensive reproductive health care and education.

1 New Year's Day
SFCO Concert, 3:00 p.m.
Church office closed

5 Couples Group, 11:45 a.m.

7 Staff-Parish Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m.

10 **Insights deadline** for February issue

11 Peaceful Presence, 7:00 p.m.

14 Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.

17 Annual Women's Retreat (off-site), through Jan. 19

19 Couples Group, 11:45 a.m.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, 3:00 p.m.

20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

21 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.

28 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1/2 Pamela Cutkosky
1/2 Diane Keller
1/3 Jose Irizarry
1/4 Megan Sheridan
1/9 Peggy Foiles
1/9 Carl Herbert
1/10 Allyson Laughton
1/10 Cathie Lowmiller
1/11 Tom Fingar
1/11 Alo K. Sanft
1/18 Andrew Breen
1/19 Challenson Yee
1/19 Kyle Harland
1/19 Mark Bui-Ford
1/23 Thomas Garner
1/24 Andrew Michel
1/25 Ally Yang
1/27 Chrissie Blair
1/28 John Larson
1/29 Al Nilsen
1/30 Michael Salsbury
1/30 Scott Thomas

1/11/1981 Chuck & Susy Carman
1/22/1994 Keith & Heather Perry

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!

Donate

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/

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 January 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 or bring them to the church office. Thank you!