



Dear Friends at First Palo Alto!

Back on Oct. 20, a group of us met to begin planning for our church's 125th anniversary celebration in 2019. Below is the list of possible events we came up with. We can't do everything and are looking to cull our list. So, could you...

1. **Give us some feedback!** What events excite you? What events are you enthused enough to help with? We have set up a special email address to capture your feedback and comments. It is 125anniversary@firstpaloalto.com You can also contact anyone from the initial planning team – [Pastor Debra](#), [Pamela Cutkosky](#), [Janet Nicholls](#), [Bill Nicholls](#), [Janni Yuen](#), [Miss Noa](#), [Jean Cole](#) and [Ane Dauster](#).
2. **Add an idea.** Is there something you want to do?
3. **Join us at our next planning meeting!** It's this Saturday, Nov. 10, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Patio Room.

As you read our list, note that we want to involve target populations in our community and we want to partner with other organizations. So, in no particular order....

1. Light up the sanctuary at night so that the windows shine like jewels. (Probably for one month.)
2. Sponsor a community cleanup day. We'd create a team, encourage other teams from the community to join us in a friendly competition, and FUMC would be a trash collection and weighing station and agree to dispose of the trash.
3. An expanded church picnic. Like the July Picnics in the Park, but expanded to include a targeted group TBD.
4. Host a cultural fair. Booths/tables that have ethnic finger food and interactive games or crafts, representing a cultural group in the city. Invite other cultural groups to come and set up a table; ask our members to take responsibility for a particular culture. Would promote cultural exchange and highlight cultures represented at FUMC.
5. Gala. A formal black tie – and jewel-tone gowns – event with live music and dancing. Target audience would be us and all our dance groups.

6. Photo scavenger hunt. Target audience is newcomers who want to get to know their city. We provide instructions and a list of locations/landmarks (including our building) to find ala Pokemon Go; participants take selfies and submit their photos for a prize.
7. Gallery display of historic photos. Partner with the city, library or local historical association to provide space and funds for an exhibit of photos from the early days of Palo Alto and our church. Audience would be anyone interested in local history.
8. Give a limited number of tours of our sanctuary, followed by a short concert on our wonderful organ. Audience would be folks who admire the building and want to see inside.
9. Contribute a commemorative landscaping/garden feature to the city in our name.
10. Celebration service. A church service dedicated to celebrating our 125 years, with liturgical dance, special music and invited guests.

(In addition, Miss Noa says the Tongans and Pastor Maile have discussed a night of singing and Thanksgiving, where First Tongan would invite singing groups from all the Tongan congregations that have split off from our church.)

Let us know what you think!



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