



Statement Takes Shape in Support of Black Lives Matter

by Pamela Cutkosky

Credit goes to Rev. Ann Duncan, Vicki Veenker, and Nancy Glaser for spearheading the writing of the initial draft of our church’s statement in support of Black Lives Matter.

Read the current statement on page 3.

A draft of this “living document” was first shared with the congregation at Church Conference on June 14 and then presented to Church Council on June 23.

A Town Hall was held (on Zoom of course), during which Fatima de Bastiani, at Pastor Debra’s invitation, facilitated an exercise to learn ways to better listen to each other, in preparation for small group discussions about the draft document. Suggestions were also solicited in an electronic feedback form, and more ideas were shared by email and phone with Pastor Ann, Vicki, and Nancy.

On July 12, the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Bussey facilitated a second Town

continued on page 3



Children and youth offer free ice cream treats to customers on July 18. The event was sponsored by Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Photo by Ann Duncan.

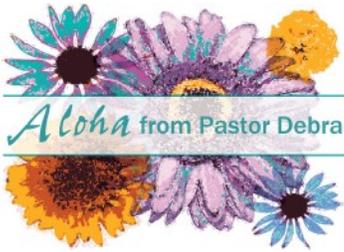
Ministry Gets Critical Boost from CEF

by Sandra Florstedt

Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry is getting a critical boost through a recently awarded Centennial Endowment Funds (CEF) grant. This grant will ensure that the program is staffed through 2021. The Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries is a new staff position that was filled in January 2020. With the drop in giving we have experienced, the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) wanted to make sure that this vital position would not be imperiled and we applied to the CEF committee for funding.

Now that the CEF bylaws have been altered to permit a greater share of its resources to be applied to personnel, the CEF committee decided to fund this position. The funding will enable our program focused on young people and their families to continue growing under the leadership of Rev. Ann Duncan. *continued on page 6*





Dear Members and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray that you are well. It has been more than 120 days since Governor Newsom issued the shelter-in-place order that sent millions home and closed businesses. We did not close but flung our virtual doors open wide to keep ourselves connected to one another and our community.

Weekly Zoom Events*

| <i>Day and time</i> | <i>Event</i> | <i>Facilitators</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Monday 7 p.m. | Social Action Team Movie Discussions | Nancy Glaser |
| Monday 7 p.m. | Bible Study | Janet Nicholls |
| Tuesday 12 noon | Community Chat & Check-in | Paula McKinney |
| Tuesday 2 p.m. | Channing House Bible Study | Chuck Hebel |
| Wednesday 7 p.m. | Upstream Worship | Mira Dabrowski, Rick Zeek, Rev. Dr. Debra Murray (and attendees share weekly) |
| Thursday 12 noon | Community Chat & Check-in | Paula McKinney |
| Saturday 7 p.m. (alternate weeks) | Family Trivia and Game Nights | Colleen Crangle, Hope Crockett, Kyle Trammell Harland |
| Sunday morning | Children’s Sunday School (paused for the summer) | Alicia Breen, Pam Cutkosky, Rev. Ann Duncan |
| Sunday morning | Covenant Group | Linda Grossman |
| Sunday 9:30 a.m. | Bible Study | Rev. Dr. Debra Murray |
| Sunday 10:45 a.m. | Multi-site Worship • Facebook Live • YouTube (view anytime) | Worship Team, Music Ministry, Tech Team |
| Sunday 12:30 p.m. | Current Affairs Discussion | Scott Thomas |

*Invite your friends to join you at one or all of our events. See our website for Zoom information: www.firstpaloalto.com

Administrative and ministry teams continue to meet monthly via Zoom. (See calendar, page 4.)

A long list of **Special Events** have also taken place over the past few months, including Ice Cream Social, Walk and Wave in the Baylands, Minute to Win It challenges on Facebook, Zoom Blessing of the Pets, inspirational messages and children’s stories from our pastors on YouTube, plus

- 30 days of housing and hundreds of meals for Hotel de Zink clients
- Stelli Munnis Zine Art Therapy and Melissa Mahoney Chalk Art projects for Hotel de Zink and community
- 220 face masks distributed to Lytton Gardens staff and first responders, and WeHope
- Celebration and blessing of the high school and college graduates in our congregation
- 300 SEEDS Life Kits packaged & delivered directly to homeless youth on the streets and to organizations
- Vacation Bible School with 40 children registered
- Special Charge Conference – C.A.R.E.S. SBA PPP grant and CEF grants
- Palo Alto City Hall Juneteenth Commemoration and March – Rev. Dr. Debra Murray, speaker
- Black Lives Matter protest, tent and sign-making
- Book Study of *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi *continued on page 10*

BLACK LIVES MATTER

We the Congregation of First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto join our voices in supporting Black Lives Matter.

We commit to being agents of anti-racism in our congregation and in our community:

By listening, learning, and growing in our understanding of systemic racism.

By creating space for dialogue about race and the role of the church and individuals in structures that perpetuate racism.

By using our voices, resources, and power to challenge White privilege, acknowledging the role of White privilege and silence in the systemic and structural nature of racism.

By dismantling racist systems in our lives, church, community, denomination, and country.

We stand against the systemic racism that has brought us to this moment in history where our communities, our nation, and our hearts are being torn apart.

We grieve the police-involved killings of Black adults, youth, and children across our country and commit ourselves anew to fighting for justice and equity.

We pledge to love one another as Jesus did—to love, seek relationships with, respect, and serve all people. We pray that the Holy Spirit will help us look into our own hearts and reflect honestly and deeply on implicit biases and racist attitudes we find.

We will open our hearts, ears, and minds to listen to our Black siblings and pray that our eyes will be opened to their experience of America.

We seek to understand, embrace, and dignify the Black community that we may more fully live into our Mission Statement to be a Place of Hospitality and Grace, care for all Children in Our Midst, and serve the Mission on Our Doorstep.

Statement, from page 1

Hall meeting, leading the congregation through in-depth discussion and review of the document, including thoughtful revision and editing. Participants voted their approval of the resulting draft. Further evolution of this living document is expected as the congregation continues to explore racial justice issues through study and discussion. ♦

Hello First Palo Alto Readers!

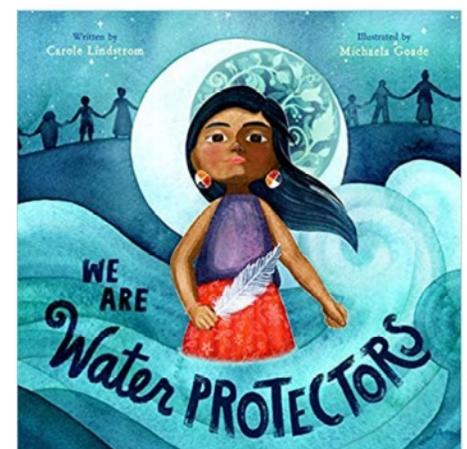


by Charlotte Cutkosky

Though we can't check books out from the church library during shelter-in-place, the Library Committee will continue to review and recommend books in Insights.

This month, our focus is on social justice books for young readers.

Upstream read and discussed Ibram X. Kendi's *How to Be An Antiracist* during the month of July. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* is his book for tween and teen readers, written with Jason Reynolds. *Stamped* is a primer on racial justice and positive social action, highlighting ways in which systematic racism can be identified and called out.



We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom is a picture book that introduces children to the Standing Rock protests, highlighting the work of Indigenous women leaders at the forefront of eco-justice and decolonization movements. This book

continued on page 9

At the Church Conference in June, lay officers and team leadership and membership were recommended to the congregation. Voting confirmed appointments from July 2020 through June 2021.

Lay Officers

- Lay Leader: Pamela Cutkosky
- Lay Leader, Fijian Fellowship: Mele Bula (interim)
- Board of Trustees President: Bud Buttrill
- Board of Trustees VP: Brian Steen
- Corporate Secretary: Rick Allen
- Treasurer: Lou Bellardo
- Assistant Treasurer: Art Hammar
- Assistant Treasurer: Jill Kispert
- Financial Secretary: Curtis Gleason
- Assistant Financial Secretary: Valorie Hamachek
- Membership Secretary: Kyle Trammell Harland

Lay Members to Annual Conference: Kathy Rose, Caryn Cranston

Church Council, chair: Janet Nicholls

Members of the Church Council include the following officers, ministry team chairs, and representatives.

- Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Debra Murray
- Hospitality and Nurture, chair: Paula McKinney
- Worship, co-chairs: Mira Dabrowski, Colleen Crangle
- Discipleship, chair: Caryn Cranston
- Social Action, chair: Nancy Glaser
- Communications and Technology, chair: Bill Nichols
- Centennial Endowment Funds, chair: Vicki Veenker
- UMW President: Nancy Olson
- Children’s representative: Emily King
- Youth representative: Rev. Ann Duncan
- Young Adult representative: Christina Bellardo
- Finance and Stewardship, chair: Lou Bellardo (interim)
- Board of Trustees, President: Bud Buttrill
- Lay Leader: Pamela Cutkosky
- Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), chair: Pamela Cutkosky (interim)
- Fijian Lay Leader: Mele Bula (interim)

Each ministry team (listed above and below) includes members who work generally, and members who work specifically in areas of interest or need. Learn about team members and roles from the team chairs.

Additional teams, under the direction of the Board of Trustees

- First School Board of Directors, co-chairs: Judy Buttrill and Harold Jones
- Memorial Garden, chair: Nancy Olson
- Archives, chair: Dan Conway
- Library Committee: shared leadership

Other functional teams

- Committee on Lay Leadership, chair: Sr. Pastor Rev. Dr. Debra Murray
- Investment Committee, chair: Alan Cooper



CALENDAR

- 4 SPRC, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Worship Team, 5:00 p.m.
- 18 Finance, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Insights deadline for September issue
- 25 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.

Please see page 2 for a list of Weekly Events.

Our electronic giving page is always open. Find it at 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!



Church Is Prepared, But No Re-Opening Date in Sight

by Susan Stephens, Administrative and Facilities Manager

First UMC Palo Alto (FUMCPA) initiated a Re-Opening Task Force in late May when it looked like we'd flattened the curve and in-person worship was a fuzzy blip on the radar. However, the response to COVID-19 is a fluid and changing environment and the Task Force had to shift gears at its last meeting on July 10.

Earlier that week, new orders were issued by the State of California and Santa Clara County implemented a new Risk Reduction Protocol. None of those orders allow for indoor in-person gatherings, and in some cases dialed back plans to re-open across the county.

To comply with the new orders, FUMCPA has completed the required Risk Reduction Protocol, posted required signage, implemented a health screening questionnaire for all employees, employee-like volunteers, and service providers (plumbers, locksmiths, and the like) who are on the church campus for essential work, and has trained employees and employee-like volunteers per the Protocol requirements.

While at the church campus, individuals are required to follow what has become the 3 W's:

WEAR a mask covering your nose and mouth.

WASH your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.

WAIT/WATCH your distance: stay 6 feet away in all directions from others not in your household.

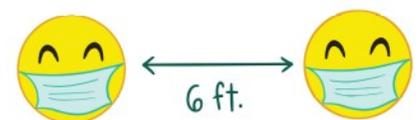


Most of the time employees are there in ones or twos, but are reminded that shared items ranging from pens and note pads to communal coffee pots and sharing snacks is discouraged. Employees are encouraged to continue working from home as much as possible, and the main office remains closed with the majority of the campus.

Access to the church is limited to those doing work deemed essential by the State and County; everyone else is asked to refrain from entering the Church building. If you are unsure whether you are permitted to enter, please contact Susan at 650-323-6167 or susan@firstpaloalto.com.

Unlike other in-person gatherings, First School, as an essential service, reopened on June 15 under COVID-19 orders for Schools and Preschools as set forth by the State, County, California Licensing Board and the Cal-Nev UMC Conference.

Our church's Re-Opening Task Force continues to monitor guidance of the State, County and UMC Cal-Nev Conference, and will comply with all requirements moving forward. Our primary concern is to keep church members, employees, volunteers, and guests safe and well during this crisis. ♦



As we begin anew ...

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and for the administrators, staff, teachers and students who are connected to them.

We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, crisp blank pages waiting to be filled, and digital devices.

We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers.

Today we give you thanks for the children in our community, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen.

(Based on a prayer from buildfaith.org)

CEF from page 1

Ann has already begun some popular ongoing programs and has others planned. Her Children's Moment in the Sunday Service is a highlight for our families with children, as well as for quite a few older folks. Vacation Bible School, online this year, took place in July with a



Greetings!

As I write this update on Children and Youth Ministries, I am aware that the upcoming school year will begin this month. I heard this week that my children will begin with distance learning. While it is the safest option, I still mourn the closure of school buildings.

Our kids are resilient and yet I know we are asking them to be brave as they prepare to begin again a new way of learning. At left is a prayer for our schools, teachers, administrators, and students. Please pray these words this month as schools begin.

Each child in our congregation will be receiving an encouraging sticker for their computer as well as other goodies to encourage them. I also would like to flood their physical mailboxes with postcards of encouragement from you. I will send you self-addressed, stamped postcards that you can send to our students so they feel loved and supported. You may reach out to me directly or please be on the lookout for an email in the days to come to which you can reply.

Let us celebrate the students in our midst and remind them that our community and God have not forgotten them in these new times!

Next month, I'll be sharing how we are beginning Sunday School and Confirmation, most likely online. Also, Vacation Bible School has just ended so look for highlights in next month's edition of Insights.

Blessings,
Pastor Ann

Compassion Camp theme. In June, to prepare Kohlstedt Hall for Hotel de Zink, Ann organized the children in our congregation to decorate it with art. They participated in the chalk art event and held the entertaining ice cream social in July.



Children's chalk art.
Photo by Robert Lasater.

With a youth program securely in place, our young people have someone "watching their backs" during this time of social distancing. Ann has sent out care packages and regularly posted messages and hosted events online for them. She is now organizing the congregation to send postcards to all our students. Who doesn't love to get a personal postcard? (See above for more about the postcards.)

Ann is ordained clergy and is active as a pastor in more than just Sunday School and children's programs. This is an additional blessing to our church. We appreciate that CEF has contributed to ensuring this position is securely funded through 2021. Thank you, CEF. ◇

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Finding Ways to Connect and Share with Our Community

by Nancy Olson

Greetings from one stay-at-home member to all of you, whether at home or at an essential job.

I see many of you on the various Zoom programs our church offers every week to reach out and to keep us in touch during this difficult time. But there are many I do not see and my thoughts and prayers go out to you also. I am wondering how many do not have computers or smart phones and are feeling isolated at present. If that is the situation for you, please do let me know: call 650-327-8009 or mail a note to me c/o the church: Nancy Olson, c/o FUMC Palo Alto, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301. United Methodist Women (UMW) is open to all women of the church.

Attending church service on Sunday mornings, checking in at twice weekly noon chats, attending Upstream Wednesday evenings, movie discussion evenings, and Bible Study are all ways that have helped my 'sheltering' days and weeks go by, and helped me feel I am sharing with my First Church friends. I hope you can join us soon.

Our National and District UMW Board members are at work. There are online workshops and lectures and action items. Monthly Faith Talks offer webinar meetings — in July there were three major online meetings: Dismantling Racism, Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline, and How to Address Environmental Racism in Your Community: The Role of Young People in Shaping our Future. At each webinar there is time for our questions. Very worthwhile and educational time. I am anxious to see the August schedule.

A Letter from the UMW General Secretary, Harriet Olson

United Methodist Women members have talked about, learned about and worked to address racist attitudes and institutional racism for a long time. We know that racist personal beliefs, cultural incompetence and prejudice hurt people of color and do not reflect God's love. Far too often, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world" is something we teach children but not something we try to bring to life through our actions and policies as adults.

Our efforts to improve our understanding by reading, listening and participating in workshops are important. Our commitment to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to address the sin of racism is fundamental, and our work with others to make changes in the church and in our own organization must continue. However, during this time of pandemic, we have seen and heard in excruciating ways that racism

and the systems that support it are killing people of color all across our country. We must do more, and we must do it urgently.

Half of all COVID-19 cases in the United States and almost 60 percent of deaths have occurred in disproportionately black counties, according to a recent amfAR study. This is closely correlated with the high rates of pre-existing conditions that create vulnerability to the virus and active bias in the health care system in terms of testing and treatment. These pre-existing conditions, in turn, correlate with limited access and inadequate health care, poor educational opportunities and the perpetual stress of living in a racist society. We have witnessed this racist reality in the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd and in the official responses before news of what occurred went viral. This is systemic. Everyday life in the United States is unsafe for African Americans.

Centuries of racism directed at Native Americans has also resulted in COVID-19 rate spikes above the national average on multiple reservations. How can multigenerational families in small homes without running water socially distance or wash hands frequently? The need of the Navajo Nation is so great that Doctors Without Borders has mobilized response teams in the United States because the current

continued on page 8



UMW from page 7

health system is absolutely inadequate.

Asian Americans face vandalism, aggression, bullying and hate crimes as those in power scapegoat Asian countries in lieu of taking responsibility for our own role in the spread of the virus.

The United States is an unsafe place for people of color. This is something we must see, believe and change. Our majority white institutions and leaders have created these systems to benefit people considered white. White people must act with persons of color to make change: Put aside disbelief in the testimonies of discrimination. Support Black-led organizations in your community working for criminal justice reform and police accountability. Engage with the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race and the church's racial ethnic caucuses on shared objectives. Sign up at unitedmethodistwomen.org/action for action alerts.

Yearn and pray and work for radical change in our country, and do so urgently. Do not become numb to the steady drumbeat of these terrible stories that reveal hard truths. We are not helpless. We can work together to make justice and flourishing available for all. May we see and believe that this is the work that would glorify God. Let us do justice, love mercy and walk humbly in this time. ◇



by Nancy Olson

First of all, I hope that each of you are safe and well within your own home environmental space.

I find I am very happy tending my backyard garden – reviving my neglected plants and flowers, looking forward to planting vegetables. As I am still sheltering at home, I am aware of water usage and careful to conserve. I am very conscious of how much “waste” I am contributing to the environment, and pleased when there is less each week. Any food waste (very little) goes into the compost. Any packaging goes into recycling, separating film plastic into a separate bag, of course. And carefully flattening all cardboard for inclusion in my recycle bin, or tied in a bundle beside it.

Since I don't go out, I have purchased more items by mail than I ever anticipated. And oh, the cardboard! I am pleased that many if not all of the cartons are printed ‘made in U.S.A.’

That reminds me about several articles that came out recently downplaying recycling. They indicated that most of the materials being scheduled for recycling were ending up in landfill. I am sure that is true in some areas of the country and in our own state. However, we are blessed to live in an area where our items to be recycled are recycled and there is a need for even more items. Our recycling items provide the raw material for the manufacture of new items. This also provides jobs. There is responsibility involved – we are asked to rinse or wipe out items we put in our recycling bins. The brokers who buy the items as raw material don't want our catsup, jam, or other food messing up their processing equipment.

Being ‘at home’ I depend on the postal mail to deliver items I've ordered, and for my prescriptions. I also believe in absentee ballots, and voting by mail in general. With growing restrictions on polling places in many states, and with COVID-19 restrictions, I am extremely concerned over our coming election. Especially with planned obstructions aimed at our postal system.

So I alternate gardening with signing petitions and writing letters in support of the United States Postal Service and of our embattled environmental laws. It keeps me busy

Cal-NeV Annual Conference Session 2020 Will Meet Virtually

July 22, 2020

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, the One whose path we seek to walk. I continue to pray for you as we learn how to be the Church anew. The pandemic has changed us but has not weakened our faith in God or our commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

For generations Methodists have gathered for an annual conference session. It is our time to bring before God the fruit of our ministry since we last met and call upon the Holy Spirit to help us see and know God's vision for us in our present time. It has also always been a time to reunite with one another and rejoice in each other's presence, friendship, and love. This year will be no different for us of the California-Nevada Conference of The United Methodist Church. We will gather in our annual conference session and give God thanks for God's faithfulness.

We had planned to meet in-person, but the surge of COVID-19 prohibits us from doing so. But, meet we will! We will meet virtually.

Many of you have become experts in virtual meetings and have taught us so much about how to effectively meet in this way. Other annual conference sessions across our Connection have also already met and done so virtually and are sharing their learnings with us. We are fortunate to also count on the help of Good News TV (GNTV), a faithful partner with us for many years, as well as on the leadership of our very capable Conference Center Communications Office led by Selby Ewing, Director, and Toua Yang, Associate Director. Above all, we know that God is with us.

Here is some important information that you should know as we prepare together for the Virtual 172nd California-Nevada Annual Conference Session:

Dates: Our Annual Conference Session will be held on Sept. 17-20, 2020, Thursday – Sunday (a slight change from the in-person meeting date announced earlier).

Virtual Satellite Locations: Church sites to assist those who do not have adequate means to connect virtually are being identified and will be ready to welcome persons needing technical assistance and support under pandemic safety protocols.

Special Services: The Conference Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 7:00 p.m. and the Service of Commissioning and Ordination will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

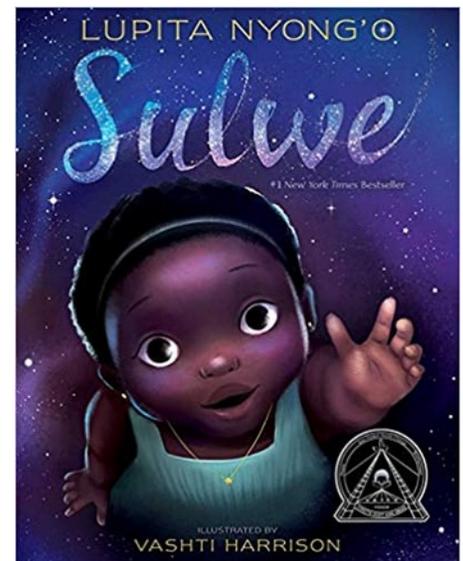
Learn more, including annual conference giving information, on the California Nevada Conference website, cnumc.org.

I give God thanks for your faithfulness and rejoice at every sighting of your discipleship and ministry I am blessed to come across! Keep up your good work.

Let's pray for one another and for our upcoming, soon to be here, 172nd Annual Conference Session! ◇

Library from page 3

encourages children to think of themselves as stewards of the Earth, starting at a young age.



Sulwe is a picture book written by Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o to combat the effects of racism and colorism on young people's self-image. The main character, Sulwe, is self-conscious that her skin is darker than the rest of her family, until a magical star darts through her window and takes her on a journey to redefine her perception of beauty.

Happy reading FUMCPA—stay cool, and stay safe! ◇

Hotel de Zink Serves Amidst Pandemic

by Chuck Hebel

Continuing a decades-long tradition, our congregation provided meals and a safe place to sleep overnight this June for homeless residents of Palo Alto. A group of 12 to 15 clients who are part of the LifeMoves Hotel de Zink program resided in our Kohlstedt Hall area as they received counseling to help them secure jobs and become independent of LifeMoves support. Let us thank the following members of our congregation for their participation.

Those who provided evening or breakfast meals:

Ann Duncan, Samina Sundas, Nancy Glaser, Stephanie Zeller, Linda Grossman & the Sunday Group, Curtis & Carol Gleason, Lou & Patty Bellardo, Lois Hammar, Kathy Rose, Jerry Johnson, Janet & Bill Nicholls, Carol Kumer, Diane Allen, Pamela Cutkosky, Tim Crockett, Sandra Florstedt, Maurine Tong, Ruthie Waters, Marilyn & Bill Bauriedel, Nancy Olson, Dick Tingey & Phyllis Sherlock, Ruth Letts, Emily & Jeff King, Ellen Haffner, Debra Murray, Chuck Hebel, and the First Tongan Church Youth.

Those who were coordinators and/or administrative support:

Michele Conway, Ann Duncan, Pam Cutkosky, David Shelly, and Charlotte Cutkosky.



The church rallied around Hotel de Zink with more than meals. A snack drop-off was organized, as well as community chalk art and zine-making activities. Children decorated Kohlstedt Hall. Photos by Nancy Glaser and Ann Duncan.

Pastor Debra's letter *from page 2*

- Church Re-Opening Task Force formed, and establishment of Health Screening Protocol for entering the building
- Town Hall Meetings to develop Black Lives Matter support statement/website
- Celebration of Baptism and New Member: Joe Marshall (Baptism Aug. 2). Please welcome him into our family!

Praise the Lord for all the ministry that has gone forth from this church body during our sheltering in place order. Please take a bow. You deserve an applause for the way that you have been creating new opportunities for us to care and share the gospel with one another and those around us.

It is amazing how God can bring such a harvest during a time of famine. Your faithful giving in proportion to what God has given you will continue to allow these vital ministries to bless our congregants, our community, and our nation. Let us keep standing on the promises of Christ our Savior.

I send these words of comfort to you from Romans 8:35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution of famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

38-39: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God will bring us out of this pandemic stronger than when we began.

I commit you into God's care. ◇

—Pastor Debra

August

Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 8/16/1958 | Douglas & Ellie Norris |
| 8/8/1970 | John & Coral Baglin |
| 8/13/1977 | John & Elsa Nimmo |
| 8/5/1978 | John & Louise Pencavel |
| 8/14/1982 | Pamela & Mark Cutkosky |
| 8/5/2000 | Mo Olson & Chris Friesen |
| 8/23/2003 | Christopher & Deb Martin |
| 8/15/2004 | Stacy Paz & Carl Herbert |
| 8/7/2010 | Kyle & Christina Harland |
| 8/16/2014 | Jesse Fifita & Mele Teu-Fifita |
| 8/25/2018 | Marshall & Barbie Serkes |

Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------|
| 8/1 | Jennifer Blackburn | 8/12 | Tim Breen |
| 8/1 | David Blackburn | 8/13 | Griffin Camens |
| 8/1 | Alice Peterson | 8/14 | Sarah Perry |
| 8/1 | Axel Larson | 8/16 | Allen Wood |
| 8/1 | Mere Bikai | 8/17 | Mike McCartney |
| 8/2 | Sherry Bender | 8/18 | Shirley Stewart |
| 8/2 | Carol Arterberry | 8/20 | Deb Martin |
| 8/4 | Chuck Carman | 8/21 | Challen Yee |
| 8/5 | Gabriella Herbert-Paz | 8/22 | Carol Gleason |
| 8/6 | Jim Van Horne | 8/22 | Denise Blase |
| 8/8 | David Marshall | 8/23 | Kathleen Martin |
| 8/9 | Kitty Baggott | 8/27 | Jean Ohls |
| 8/10 | Linéa Stewart | 8/28 | John Duhring |
| 8/10 | Benjamin Salisbury | 8/28 | Louisa King |
| 8/11 | Frank Rahn | 8/29 | Jeff Perry |
| 8/11 | Elizabeth Center | 8/29 | Sue Clifford |
| 8/12 | Robert Lee Day | 8/30 | Vickey Conley |
| | | 8/31 | Alice Jensen |

Please see August calendar on page 4.
Weekly activities are listed on page 2.



News for the next edition of Insights is due

Aug. 20. Photos of church events are accepted any time. Include photographer's name, date of photo, and a caption. Everything is subject to editing. Please email submissions to Insights editor Michele W. Conway: InsightsFirstPA@gmail.com.

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



| June 2020 Income and Expense Summary-- FINAL | June 2020 Actual | Actual YTD 2020 | Budget YTD 2020 | Budget Annual 2020 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Total Member Giving | 19,943 | 205,151 | 210,435 | 415,728 |
| Total Income All Other Sources | 8,625 | 89,966 | 125,535 | 230,870 |
| Total Income | 28,568 | 295,117 | 335,970 | 646,598 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Conference Tithe | 2,904 | 26,598 | 28,750 | 57,500 |
| Council on Ministries | 1,347 | 5,462 | 18,162 | 42,325 |
| Staff Parish Relations | 24,314 | 193,664 | 194,691 | 389,382 |
| Office and Finance | 1,296 | 8,382 | 9,475 | 19,200 |
| Board of Trustees | 14,613 | 68,767 | 104,309 | 182,000 |
| Total Expenses | 44,474 | 302,873 | 355,387 | 690,407 |
| Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense | -15,906 | -7,755 | -19,417 | -43,809 |



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Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**

AUGUST 2020

- Black Lives Matter, pp. 1, 3
- Church Is Prepared, p. 5
- Back to School Message, p. 6
- Annual Conference, p. 9
- Hotel de Zink Recap, p. 10

Next INSIGHTS deadline: Aug. 20

