



FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INSIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2021



Join us on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom for our annual Ash Wednesday service. The service will occur during our regular Upstream Zoom time. More information on how to join will come by email soon. Please make sure to have the oil from your Lent Bag ready for the service, or any oil you might have at home. Please mark your calendar for this service so we can begin the season of Lent together. ❖



Join us every Sunday at 12 p.m. on YouTube to worship God together! We'll sing, dance, play, hear stories, pray, and engage in loving our neighbors. Find the services on the church's YouTube page anytime at your convenience. Please share with all of the loved young people in your life. Kids, let's worship God together! ❖

Lent Bags Will Facilitate Sharing Intentional Lenten Experience

Find out how to get yours

by Rev. Ann Duncan

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats — every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exasperation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

You are invited to join us this Lent in worship, song, and study with our series "Again & Again." In order to make the season more intentional for us all, you have the opportunity to receive a bag with a

devotional, candle, anointing oil, and other prayerful tools. You can use the bag again to collect hygiene and canned food items for We Hope (details to come) and return these to the church in March ... when you are invited to pick up another bag, an Easter Bag.

Please be on the lookout for an invitation to RSVP to pick up a Lent bag or have one delivered. They will be available on Saturday, Feb. 13 before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. Pick up times will be announced soon.

We anticipate a meaningful Lent as we journey together to the cross and the resurrection. We hope you will join us. ❖



625 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2016

650-323-6167 Fax: 650-323-3923
www.FirstPaloAlto.com

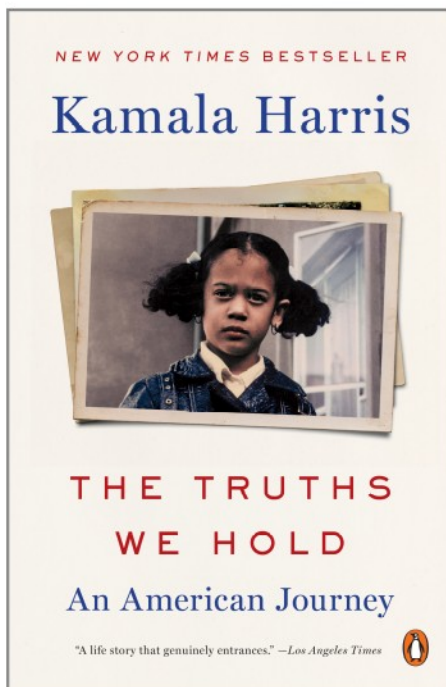


Hello First Palo Alto Readers!

by Charlotte Cutkosky

Did you know that our new Vice President Kamala Harris has an autobiography? We think it's a great choice for February reading, as February is Black History Month, and Feb. 15 is Presidents Day.

In *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*, Harris tells her story from childhood through her political career, focusing on how her parents' activism and the values they instilled in her have helped her grow and still guide her today. Now there's a Young Readers version for older kids and teens too!



For our youngest readers, the picture book *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea* is written by Harris's niece Meena, the

Budget Updates – 2020 and 2021

by Lou Bellardo, Interim Finance Chair

I am very, very pleased to let you know that we completed 2020 with a surplus of about \$55,000 versus a projected deficit of \$43,800. This result is a real blessing for our church and one that we could not have imagined as recently as 2½ months ago. The main reason for the surplus was an unexpected \$80,000 donation from a very generous member. That was coupled with strong donations from other members and a sharp decrease in expenses. We are quite thankful that we were blessed with such a great outcome.

It was very difficult to craft the 2021 budget since there are so many uncertainties, chief among them the timing of when the church sanctuary and facilities might reopen. The



Finance Committee opted to take a conservative approach and craft a budget that assumes a 10-1-2021 reopening. We were very heartened by the increase in Estimates of Giving (some \$15,000) from 2020 to 2021. With that and the much appreciated assistance of the Centennial Endowment Funds and other Specific Purpose Funds, we will be able to support engaging remote

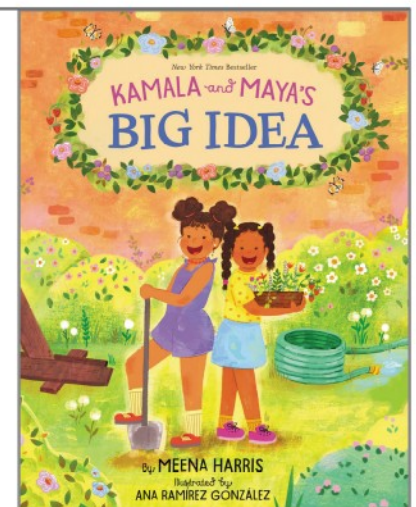
worship, provide children and youth ministry and programs, offer "living" wages and health insurance for our dedicated staff, and maintain our marvelous facility in 2021. Based on the preceding, we expect total income to be \$606,800 and total expenses to be \$666,347. In the context of our 2020 budget surplus, the 2021 deficit seems like a reasonable approach to keep our church moving forward. At the end of December, the Church Council approved the 2021 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

Thanks very much to each of you for your generous support in 2020 and your commitment to increase that support in 2021. ♦

daughter of her sister, Maya. It tells of Kamala and Maya's journey as young activists who set out to create a community garden and play center. It's available as a read-aloud on your YouTube page at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLdu5faDPUU&t=17s>.

Stay safe, and as always, happy reading! ♦



"How Are You Doing?" Congregation Care Project Checks In

by Pamela Cutkosky

For the past year, the question "How are you doing?" has been more than a social nicety in conversation.

Some of us have survived COVID-19. Some of us know people who didn't survive. Some of us have dealt with other illnesses. Some of us have been laid off. Some of us have struggled to help our children "do school" – not just their homework – at the kitchen table. Some of us are isolated, unable to connect with technology. Some of us feel lonely, trapped at home.

It is harder under Shelter at Home orders for us to comfort, care for, and support one another.

Paula McKinney, chair of Hospitality and Nurture, and Lay Leader Pamela Cutkosky have launched the Congregation Care Project, which aims to telephone many of those in our congregation to whom those "some of us" statements apply.

A team of 20 volunteers has pledged to call 5 or 6 people each month while the pandemic surges to check in on their well-being.

This calling project stemmed from Pastor Debra's pastoral calls and Janet Nicholls' Stewardship Campaign calls last fall. They were struck by how many people they talked to had been affected by the pandemic and were worried about loved ones. Last spring, a team contacted everyone in our church directory to let them know the church community was thinking of them. The Congregation Care Project is an extension of that effort.

If you want to get involved, contact Pamela Cutkosky at pamelareasner@yahoo.com. ❖



Many in our congregation supported a worthy cause and now proudly own, or gave as gifts, a pewter cast ornament replica of our beautiful, historic church. The ornament came with an information card about our history. Another ornament option was an enamel red and green poinsettia, with a card detailing the significance of this plant. Each ornament came in an attractive gift bag. More than \$900 was raised to support both our church and the Walk to End Alzheimers. Photo by Mira Dabrowski.



Looking Back, Looking Ahead

2020 was a year of new challenges and new achievements for us as a congregation. We were able to continue ministry among ourselves and in our community in ways that stretched our imaginations, our resources, and our commitments when we began last March to envision what Church looks like during a pandemic. God showed us a way forward and we followed prayerfully, faithfully, hopefully.

Many thanks to those who have planned and participated in all that we as a church have accomplished together by God's grace. Thanks also to all of you who have been inspired individually by God's grace to countless quiet acts of kindness and Christian love.

The new year beckons. Onward!

—Editor

We enjoyed a special weekend of Luminarias in early December. Those driving by enjoyed the lights shining in the dark and were able to tune in on their car radios to hear music and a reflection and prayer by Pastor Debra. Thank you to all who attended. We pray those in the larger community enjoyed the lights and know our congregation is a beacon of hope and light. We plan to continue the new tradition for years to come! Photo by Ann Duncan.



Watching worship at home on YouTube certainly is different from the in-person experience we have known for years, but who hasn't enjoyed "going to church" wearing fuzzy slippers, or sitting in a comfy chair, or drinking a mug of tea or coffee, all on your own timetable? (Mel Smith pictured, enjoying Sunday worship at home in December.)





by Nancy Olson

Random thoughts about blessings and responsibilities. While we have been traveling through some unsettling times, we need to realize that we live in a beautiful country with many resources. So we are truly blessed, but that knowledge should also make clear that we have responsibilities of stewardship to protect these resources. The first step is being aware of our personal actions and what impact they have.

Remember when you turn up the heat in wintertime, your furnace is probably burning fossil fuel. A sweater or robe will keep you even warmer and will help conserve resources and reduce climate change.

Items you may be throwing away can contaminate the soil and water for thousands of years. Our community has special programs for disposal of things like used oil, and super efficient light bulbs which can contain mercury, where proper disposal is crucial. We can dispose of household batteries and printer ink cartridges in our church office

(as soon as we can again use our church office).

Get in touch with your roots: plant a tree! It is good for the soil, good for the birds, good for reducing climate change — and good for the air we are breathing.

We have a responsibility to take action against systemic racism. Our society is structured to benefit some people at the expense of others. These systems, which rely on race, class, and gender injustices also rely on the destruction of the environment.

Consider the climate crisis. Black and Brown communities have been living with the toxic effects of the oil and gas industry for generations. Indigenous communities have seen continued oppression through mining and extraction, and now many of them are being hit by

continued on page 10



The annual Women's Retreat was held Jan. 23 via Zoom. A special thank you to Emily Allen for leading us so well. It was good to be together! Screenshot by Colleen Crangle.



Many Paths to Succeed

My 2020 Vision to “Create New Spaces for New Faces via Small Group Meetings on Zoom” resulted in these accomplishments in our Community Outreach and Virtual Ministry:

Sunday Worship Services streamed on Facebook and YouTube – Worship Committee, Bill Nicholls, Diane Keller, Mark Shaull, Hope Crockett, Rev. Ann Duncan, Mira Dabrowski, and congregation weekly contributors

Wednesday Upstream Zoom live services

Virtual Small Groups, including

- Monday Social Action Movie Night Discussion – Nancy Glaser
- Tuesday & Thursday Community Chat, Sunday Coffee & Chat after service – Paula McKinney
- Chancel Choir – Mark Shaull
- Saturday Family Game Night – Colleen Crangle, Christina Bellardo, Kyle Trammell-Harlan, Rev. Ann Duncan
- Sunday Current Affairs – Scott Thomas

Black Lives Matter

- Formation of Position Statement – Listen, Learn and Live out our findings
- Black Lives Matter Protest, Snack and Sign Station
- “Rigged” documentary viewing with producers via Zoom – Vicki Veenker
- Book Study: *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- Book Study: *The Purpose of Power, How We All Come Together When Things Fall Apart* by Alicia Garza

New Stewardship Campaign Children ambassadors/songs, dances, and videos

New VirtuAll Musical Choir – Mira Dabrowski, Christina Bellardo, and 3 nonmember participants

Gay Pride Communion

Initial LGBTQ Ministry planning began – Caryn Cranston

Overcoming Uncomfortable Conversations by Having Them Worship Series

- Monuments – Marcia Sterling and Christina Bellardo
- Black Lives Matter – Lynn Gibbons and Felice Swapp

continued on page 7

Many Paths *from page 6*

- Gender – Caryn Cranston and Annanda Barclay
- Future of Ministry – Hope Crockett and Rev. Ann Duncan

Reopening the Church Task Force – Susan Stephens and Rev. Dr. Debra Murray co-chairs

Hotel De Zink

- Meals and lodging during the pandemic for 30 days
- Social Distance Chalk Art and Zines Story Telling for trauma survivors
- Clothing Drive

Children's Ministry

Virtual VBS, Confirmation Classes, Bible Study, Sunday School, outdoor painting, tennis, and more – Alicia Breen, Pam Cutkosky, Rev. Ann Duncan, Caryn Cranston, Kyle Trammell-Harlan

Faith and Politics Discussion Series

- What is the Role of Christians in Politics? – Tom Fingar
- Can Christians Tolerate Income Inequality? – Felice Swapp
- Christian Principles & Social Justice – Nancy Glaser
- Carceral Settings, A Constant Knee on the Neck – Beverly German
- Sex and Gender Discrimination: A Spiritual Perspective – Colleen Crangle
- White Christianity & White Supremacy – Rev. Dr. Debra Murray and Rev. Ann Duncan

All Saints Day with community participation

FirstWorkSpace leasing office space to nonprofits – Nancy Glaser

Santa Cruz Wildfires – clothing drop off and delivery

Community Sing Rebroadcast

One Call Now daily words of encouragement delivered via phone

Luminarias recognizing COVID deaths and those from whom we are socially distant – Mira Dabrowski, Rev. Ann Duncan, Roan, Lena, and Nathan Duncan, Rev. Dr. Debra Murray

Three Virtual Christmas Services

- Traditional Service
- Christmas Alternative Service
- Christmas Pageant

15+ congregational speakers during Sunday morning worship

East Palo Alto Toys and Clothing Drive 1,188 people assisted

To God be the glory, for the things God has allowed us to accomplish during this unprecedented pandemic.

In Love and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Debra Murray



Joy of Giving Had a Successful Year

by Nancy Glaser, Chair, Social Action Team

Our annual Joy of Giving campaign was held during our Advent/Christmas period to support both community and international organizations.

This year the organizations were:

- CROP Walk
- LifeMoves
- Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP)
- The Global Uplift Project
- Wayo Wayo Kibra
- Pastor's Discretionary Fund

A total of \$15,610 was donated to these organizations. This was an increase of 21% over last year. Thank you to all who made this year's Joy of Giving especially wonderful! ♦



First WorkSpace is ready to show and rent to prospective tenants. We hope to be operational and generating revenue for the church soon.

Dear First United Methodist Church Family and Friends,

It is with humble gratitude that I extend this heartfelt note of thanksgiving to you for the outpouring of your extravagant acts of love and sacrificial giving to this ministry in 2020. In the midst of a year of pandemic and economic struggles which you yourselves were experiencing, our congregation did not turn away, but turned inwardly through prayer and compassion and considered the state of others and gave liberally to this ministry. Your selfless giving throughout the year, allowed our ministry to provide rent assistance, toiletries, food, coats, mittens, blankets, medicine, and hope to those in need.

By now all the Christmas remnants, ribbons, wrappings, trees, and tissue paper have gone to the recycling bin. And yes, so did a few misplaced Legos, transformer legs, play dough slime, and S.T.E.M kit experiments. However, these are not the only items that are being recycled from the Christmas holiday. More than 200 families – 1,188 individuals – are remembering the happiness they felt when they received a food box, jackets, socks, shoes, and a gift at the East Palo Alto Christmas Drive. Your financial generosity allowed us to respond to the call for help when the event organizers had received 100 more names for assistance than they had money. Your generosity filled the gap to provide these items for 100 families. God bless you. Undoubtedly that hope-filled moment is being recycled again and again and is being used for today and stored as renewable energy for tomorrow.

—Rev. Dr. Debra Murray



The children and youth collected donations for LifeMoves Dec. 5. Karen, Tim, and Alicia Breen staffed the drop-off location in the church parking lot. Photo by Ann Duncan.



12/29/2020

Greetings First United Methodist Church,

We would like to thank you for your gracious \$1000 donation to support the "Christmas in Wonderland" program.

The event began on December 20th with a city-wide toy and gift give-away and culminated after a host of virtual activities on December 24th. All together, we provided gifts and brought festive celebration to more than 200 families. Praise God!

We are honored that you would bless us with your generosity in bringing this Christmas program to life.

Wishing you a blessed and Happy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Lewis-Virges', written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Deborah Lewis-Virges, Pastor
and the Saint Mark Family

Saint Mark AME Zion Church
1794 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 • (650) 327-3753



Science Lab at Sunaula School Completed During Pandemic

by Brenda Birrell, Program Director at The Global Uplift Project

Not everything about the COVID lockdown is bad. When students at Sunaula School in Nepal returned to school in January, they were amazed to see that their rundown science classroom had been converted into a state-of-the-art science lab. In the last issue of “Insights” we gave a progress update. Now, the lab is complete.

The teacher is thrilled that she can now teach the practical work — not just the book work — required for the students to go on to higher education. For their part, the students are ecstatic that they now have opportunities they had never dared dream of.

Over its lifetime, the lab will enable thousands of students to have a slightly better chance in life. Over their lives, the students will have a slightly better chance to contribute to the world. Thank



Science classroom before the remodel

you, Centennial Endowment Funds Committee and Social Action Team for your vision and support. ❖

Vaccinations Begin

Vaccinations for COVID-19 have begun in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, and some members of the congregation have already received their first doses. If you would like to know when you will be eligible to receive the vaccine and how to make an appointment, please see the county public health websites listed below or the website of your primary health provider.

Frustration has been reported when trying to schedule an appointment. Check back often because more appointments will become available as supply and distribution improve.

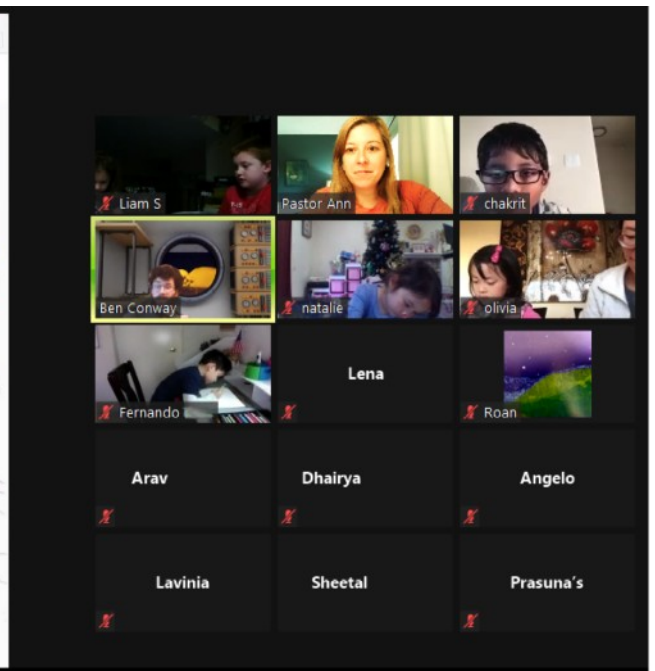
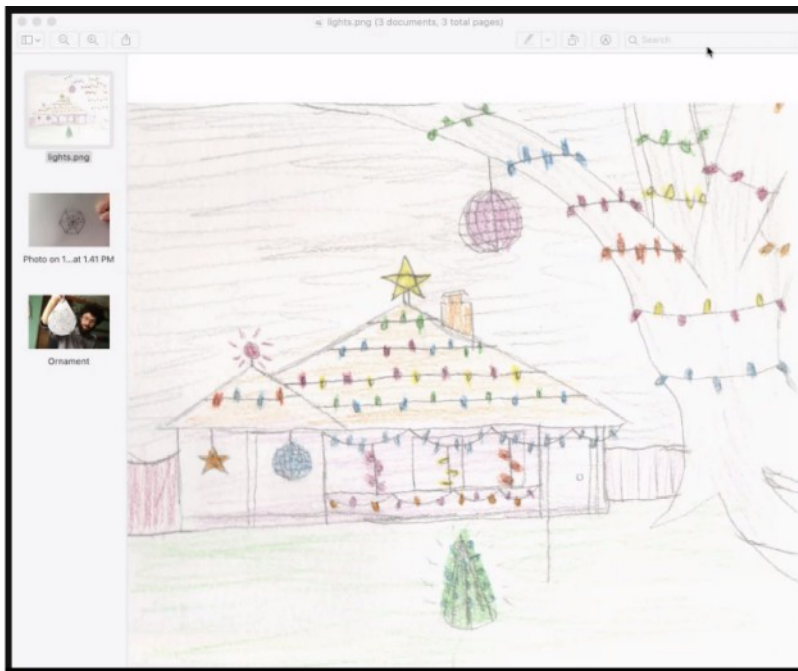
COVID-19 vaccinations are free once you become eligible. Two doses of the vaccine are needed for complete effectiveness. If you receive the first dose, you should be scheduled for a second dose.

Please continue to shelter at home, wear a face covering when you are not at home, maintain social distance from those not in your household, and avoid non-essential travel. Continue these practices even after you receive the vaccine.

Santa Clara County residents:
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/Pages/COVID19-vaccine-information-for-public.aspx>

San Mateo County residents:
<https://www.smchealth.org/covid-19-vaccination>

This information is not medical advice. Contact your doctor for medical advice regarding the vaccine. ❖



Children drew their homes and decorated them for Christmas in December's art and story event led by Ben Conway and Pastor Ann. Screenshots by Ann Duncan.

Green Notes from page 5

climate effects, from disappearing coastlines and wildlife, to wildfires and drought.

As climate impacts continue to escalate, it will be these communities who take the brunt of the injury and pain. Climate change spotlights the intersectionality of environmental crises and racism that has been clear to communities facing discrimination for decades.

One of the most powerful forces blocking progress is silence. By speaking about issues, encouraging people to explore interconnections between issues important to them and being ready to respond constructively is how we help create change. ❖



Santa visited Sunday School in December.

We Serve Others by Supporting Missionaries

Every year, our church budgets support for a missionary who serves with the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. "Our" current missionary, Katherine Parker, serves in Nepal. She sends us updates about her work and most recently visited our congregation in August 2019.

In 2020 we donated \$3000 to support Katherine in her Global Missions work. Global Missions General Secretary Roland Fernandes responded:

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries missionaries to fulfill the mission of the Church. Through your financial support you are serving with a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries around the world.

On behalf of the people who are recipients of the love of God through the direct ministry of a Global Missions missionary — *Thank You!* ❖

UMW CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

I am still searching for ways we can come together with our members who do not have access to Zoom or other online connections! I need your help – please! Send me your suggestions.

At our first meeting of the new year we collect our annual pledges. This becomes awkward because we, as yet, cannot meet in person. But UMW continues to be active. Our pledges fuel actions, local, district, national, and global.

Join me in writing a check to UMW with “pledge” in the memo line. Send the checks to our very efficient Treasurer, Lucy Tompkins. Call 650-326-3788, if you need her address. As always, we need your pledge, but it is not necessary to pay at this time. If you wish to pay later, please send me an email (nso2431@icloud.com) with the amount you intend to pledge and how you want to pay: monthly, quarterly, annually. I will remind you of your plan during the year.

We mailed a Christmas candy bar to our shut-ins since we could not do our usual cookie plates. We are sending handmade Valentines to shut-ins for Valentine’s Day. We want to let the congregation know that although out of sight we are still present! Are there other projects we can be planning and doing this year?

We have long supported Mary Elizabeth Inn (MEI) of San Francisco. They have to replace a \$30,000 wheelchair lift. Our support helps to cover this cost. Due to new city funding, new city guidelines, and new city management staffing, and new staffing at the Inn, the property title has been transferred from National UMW to MEI itself. UMW has been paying general liability insurance and property insurance, which will be the responsibility of MEI now. UMW will continue to support MEI as a national mission. The title transfer is a legal change, but all other services and affiliations will remain the same. UMW continues the vision of Elizabeth Glide, MEI founder, by providing a place to live free from violence.

Every year MEI has a “Gift of Warmth” drive, to collect gloves, beanies, and scarves. This is coordinated by our El Camino Real District UMW. Is this something we will want to help with in November – December?

Another of our long time mission projects, Gum Moon home in San Francisco, is the topic of the book *Gum Moon* by Jeffrey L. Staley. This historical novel is a coming-of-age story about a girl who was sold into a brothel at the age of three and was later rescued by Methodist women. The well-written book also counts in the Education for Mission category of the Reading Program.

The UMW organization drafted and adopted the ‘Charter for Racial Justice’ in 1978. It was submitted to General Conference in 1980 and

adopted by the entire church. It has been readopted every eight years since. The Charter lists faith-based reasons we must work for racial justice, then proceeds to identify ways in which we, a faith-based organization, will respond in order to understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community.

The Charter was adopted in 1978. Yet in 2021 it is still evident that work remains to be done. There is a cry across this land for racial justice, for that long-awaited day when people will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by their character. Our church has programs to address this problem. Our Social Action Team has programs to address this problem. We need to participate in these programs to be educated individually and to initiate actions.

Some dates for your calendar (all UMW events online):

Feb. 6 District UMW Connect and Learn

Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day — tell someone you love them

Mar. 12-14 District UMW Virtual Spiritual Retreat

Mar. 20 CA/NV Conference UMW Social Action Event

For more information, contact Nancy Olson, nso2431

@icloud.com, 650-327-8009. ❖

Fasting from Criticalness

Most fasting involves temporarily giving up something you enjoy. When you long for a cookie or a favorite show, you instead turn your attention to God, reorienting yourself to God's best.

Catherine Marshall, in *A Closer Walk*, presents a different approach she calls fasting from "criticalness." God dealt with her judgmental spirit by prompting her to spend 24 hours without criticizing "anyone about anything." At first, Marshall felt rather empty when she didn't engage in a heated political debate. But friends and family didn't seem to miss her comments. Plus, God replaced the energy she'd spent attempting to correct others with energy and creativity to positively influence them.

A critical spirit can make us lose perspective, joy, and even relationships. It also can prevent the good work God wants to achieve through us. Consider what could happen as a result of your own "criticalness fast." Pray for God to do the correcting while you focus on building up others.

—Janna Firestone in "The Newsletter Newsletter"

BIRTHDAYS

2/2	Christy Fung	2/5	Claudette Kayne	2/16	Kent Iglehart
2/2	Heinz Erzberger	2/6	Nathaniel Sterling	2/16	Kayli DeBacker
2/3	Jean Aitchison	2/10	Thalia Renaker	2/16	Lordess Tellis
2/3	Asotolu Fifita	2/10	Katie Bartholomew	2/18	David Tsai
2/3	Leslie Furney-Howe	2/11	Sheila Gholson	2/18	Jonathan Tsai
		2/11	Vilame Fifita	2/18	Christopher Rahn
		2/11	Nathan Bailon	2/21	Carol Foster
		2/12	Jim Carpenter	2/22	Sheralee Iglehart
		2/12	Keith Perry	2/24	Rick Riley
		2/12	Sophia Sasaki	2/25	Marianna Kombou
		2/13	Amy Flaskerud	2/26	Victoria Crayton



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

December 2020 Income and Expense Summary-- DRAFT	December 2020 Actual	Actual YTD 2020	Budget YTD 2020	Budget Annual 2020
Income				
Total Member Giving	44,679	478,844	415,728	415,728
Total Income All Other Sources	9,173	137,730	230,870	230,870
Total Income	53,852	616,574	646,598	646,598
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	5,724	58,287	57,500	57,500
Council on Ministries	11,221	21,647	42,325	42,325
Staff Parish Relations	27,500	343,817	389,382	389,382
Office and Finance	3,036	18,231	19,200	19,200
Board of Trustees	8,254	119,572	182,000	182,000
Total Expenses	55,735	561,554	690,407	690,407
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	-1,883	55,020	-43,809	-43,809



- 2 SPRC, Zoom meeting, 7 p.m.
- 9 Trustees, Zoom meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Children & Youth Valentines Art & Story Event, online, 4 p.m.
- 13 Pick up Lent Bags
- 14 Great Decisions, via Zoom, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- 15 Presidents Day
Church office closed
- 16 Finance, Zoom meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Ash Wednesday service, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Insights deadline for March issue
- 21 Great Decisions, via Zoom, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- 23 Church Council, Zoom meeting, 7 p.m.
- 28 Great Decisions, via Zoom, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

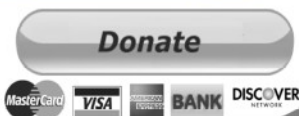
GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions 2021 foreign policy discussion series will take place via Zoom on Sunday nights from Feb. 14 to Apr. 11 (with a break for Easter on April 4th). Watch your email for details about the topics, schedule, discussion leaders, and the Zoom link.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/14/1981 Dave + Pat Shelly
- 2/8/1992 Julianne Lundberg + Blake Stafford
- 2/14/2009 Sandra Florstedt + Bill Davidson

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!



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- All activities are online via Zoom or as noted.
- The church office is operating remotely and can be contacted by phone or email.

Sundays

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study
- 10:45 a.m. Worship, on Facebook and YouTube
Find links at firstpaloalto.com.
Virtual Coffee & Chat, after worship
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (see also, Wednesdays)
- 12:00 p.m. Children's Church (YouTube)
- 12:30 p.m. Community Affairs discussion

Monday

- 7:00 p.m. Social Justice team hosts movie discussions. See the church e-news for movie details.
- 7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Tuesdays

- Noon Community Chats & Check In
- 2 p.m. Bible Study, Channing House

Wednesdays

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Sunday School (see also, Sundays)
- 7:00 p.m. Upstream Bible Study and Contemporary Worship Service

Thursdays

- Noon Community Chats & Check In
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Information for the next edition of the Insights newsletter is due Feb. 20.

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!



FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Palo Alto United Methodist Church
625 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2016
www.FirstPaloAlto.com
Follow us on Twitter: @firstpaloalto.com

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PALO ALTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 104

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**

FEBRUARY 2021

- Lent & Ash Wednesday, p. 1
- Budget Update, p. 2
- Congregation Care, p. 3
- Joy of Giving report, p. 7
- Children & Youth, pp. 1, 3, 10

Next INSIGHTS deadline: Feb. 20

Believe.
HOPE.
Encourage.
P E R S E V E R E.