



How Will You Serve?

At this time of year, your Committee on Lay Leadership is working hard to match your talents to the needs of our church. We would like to nominate you!

Do you feel called to stewardship of our wonderful church building and other assets? Consider serving on the *Board of Trustees*.

Are you a people person? Have an HR background? Consider volunteering for the *Staff-Parish Relations Committee*.

Good with numbers and committed to good stewardship? Consider serving on the *Finance Committee* or *Centennial Endowment Fund Committee*.

Is your interest in social justice? Reaching out to members of the congregation in need? Consider joining the *Social Action Team* or *Hospitality & Nurture* ministry.

Do you have tech skills? Would you like to help with worship

continued on page 6

LifeMoves

Hotel de Zink sign-ups begin this month. Details on page 6.

Come and Eat Breakfast

by Michele W. Conway

Jesus was on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He said, "Come and eat breakfast," to his disciples in a boat offshore. They had been fishing all night and caught nothing. But at his bidding, they cast their nets again with success. (John 21 NKJV)



This simple idea, "Come and eat breakfast," lies at the heart of ministry to hungry and unhoused people in Palo Alto. First UMC Palo Alto has a long history with organizations responding to those needs.

The Urban Ministry of Palo Alto (UMPA) was founded by a group of local church and community folks. Rev. Jim Burklo (United Church of Christ) was chairperson of that group. He worked at Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) in East Palo Alto and Community Service Agency (CSA) in Mountain View. In 1984, the group hired seminary student Lee Schmitt as director of UMPA. They opened a drop-in center at All Saints Episcopal Church, where the Downtown Food Closet is located, a few blocks from our church. Burklo said, "We opened the doors to the choir room and plugged in a coffee pot." What began as a social service agency became a community.

One service that UMPA provided was a way for unhoused people to receive mail. Burklo established a system at his office in Mountain View: mail could be sent to individuals at "Rolling Estates," with the agency's street address.

When Schmitt left the Urban Ministry to pursue church work, Burklo left CSA and EHP and became full-time director. Urban Ministry had outgrown the space All Saints had allocated and was unable to find a new location for the drop-in center. Landlords, and even the churches that supported the Urban Ministry, were not willing to offer space. The message was "We like what you are doing, we support it, here's some money to do it. Just don't do it here." It didn't matter where "here" was.

So the ministry that served the homeless was also homeless. Burklo imagined Urban Ministry operating out of a motor home. It seemed

continued on page 6



Payroll Protection Plan Loan Update

by Lou Bellardo

The church applied for and was awarded a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan in the amount of \$74,700 in April 2020. The funds were used to pay church and First School employees' salaries since both suffered a dramatic drop in revenues due to the pandemic. A major feature of the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan, established by the CARES Act, was that it would convert to a grant, meaning we would not need to pay it back if the funds were used in accordance with the SBA's guidelines.

Following our loan forgiveness application in March, the SBA recently confirmed that we need not pay back any of the loan or any interest. The funds were split between the church and First School based on salary expenses; the church received \$55,700 and First School received \$19,000. Judy Buttrill, Jill Kispert, and Bud Buttrill began the loan process and carried it forward until it was determined that the treasurer needed to take the lead. Jill Kispert continued to be involved throughout the process. Special thanks to her and Judy and Bud for their work on this. It truly was a team effort. ❖

Member Recognized for Work in Africa

First UMC Palo Alto church member Nancy Glaser spent two years in Africa volunteering with the Stanford "Seed" program, short for the Stanford Institute for Innovation in Developing Economies. According to the Stanford Graduate School of Business, "Stanford Seed enlists alumni, faculty, students, and staff to help companies in emerging economies expand their businesses with the goal of creating jobs and lifting people out of poverty." Nancy reported to Insights regularly on her work with Stanford Seed. She was recently featured in the Stanford Graduate School of Business magazine and website.



Nancy coached 24 companies in her two years with Stanford Seed. The article discusses her work with Frank Omondi, CEO of Ten Senses, whom she began coaching in 2016. Ten Senses buys cashews and macadamias directly from thousands of small farm growers (on average six acres) at a fair price. The company processes the nuts in Nairobi and exports products to the U.S.

and Europe. Ten Senses, Nancy said, had all the ingredients for success, but erratic cash flow created problems for the company and its suppliers. Nancy, known as the "cash-flow queen" at Seed, knew Omondi needed strong investors in order to solve these problems and grow the company. Nancy helped Omondi learn to tell his story to potential funders in a professional way that would convey confidence.

Ten Senses now has secured more than three million dollars in funds and working capital. Another Stanford Seed coach helped Omondi develop systems that helped him expand the business and he reports that Ten Senses annual revenues have doubled since 2016 and his workforce is growing.

Read more about the ongoing impact of Stanford Seed at www.gsb.stanford.edu/experience/news-history/agents-growth.

Editor's Note: Nancy says, "It was because I took Jim Van Horne's finance class during my study for my MBA at Stanford that I became the "Queen of Cash Flow" in my future business career." ❖



Donate online www.umc.org/en/how-we-serve/umcgiving or by mail.

Great Decisions 2021 Zoomed to Success; Recordings Posted on Church Website

by Tom Fingar

The 2021 Great Decisions series ended on April 11 but thanks to the recording capabilities of Zoom, all of the lectures and discussion sessions have been recorded and are available on the church website at firstpaloalto.com/great-decisions-2021. If you were unable to attend any of the sessions or wish to review particular lectures, you can easily do so by clicking on the talk(s) that interest you. We hope that you will also mention the talks to friends, neighbors, and visitors to the church.

Although it would have been more enjoyable to meet in person, the first (and hopefully last) all Zoom edition of Great Decisions was a success in terms of participation, the technical performance of the system, and our ability to include speakers located far from Palo Alto. Despite the absence of coffee and snacks, the number of people attending each session was approximately the same as when we met in Kohlstedt Hall in previous years.

We certainly hope that we can resume in-person meetings next year, but lessons learned during the 2021 sessions open the possibility of

Many Thanks

A very special “Thank You” to Tom Fingar for recruiting a top-notch group of speakers for Great Decisions, and presenting two of the sessions himself. We are very fortunate to have access to such talented subject matter experts.

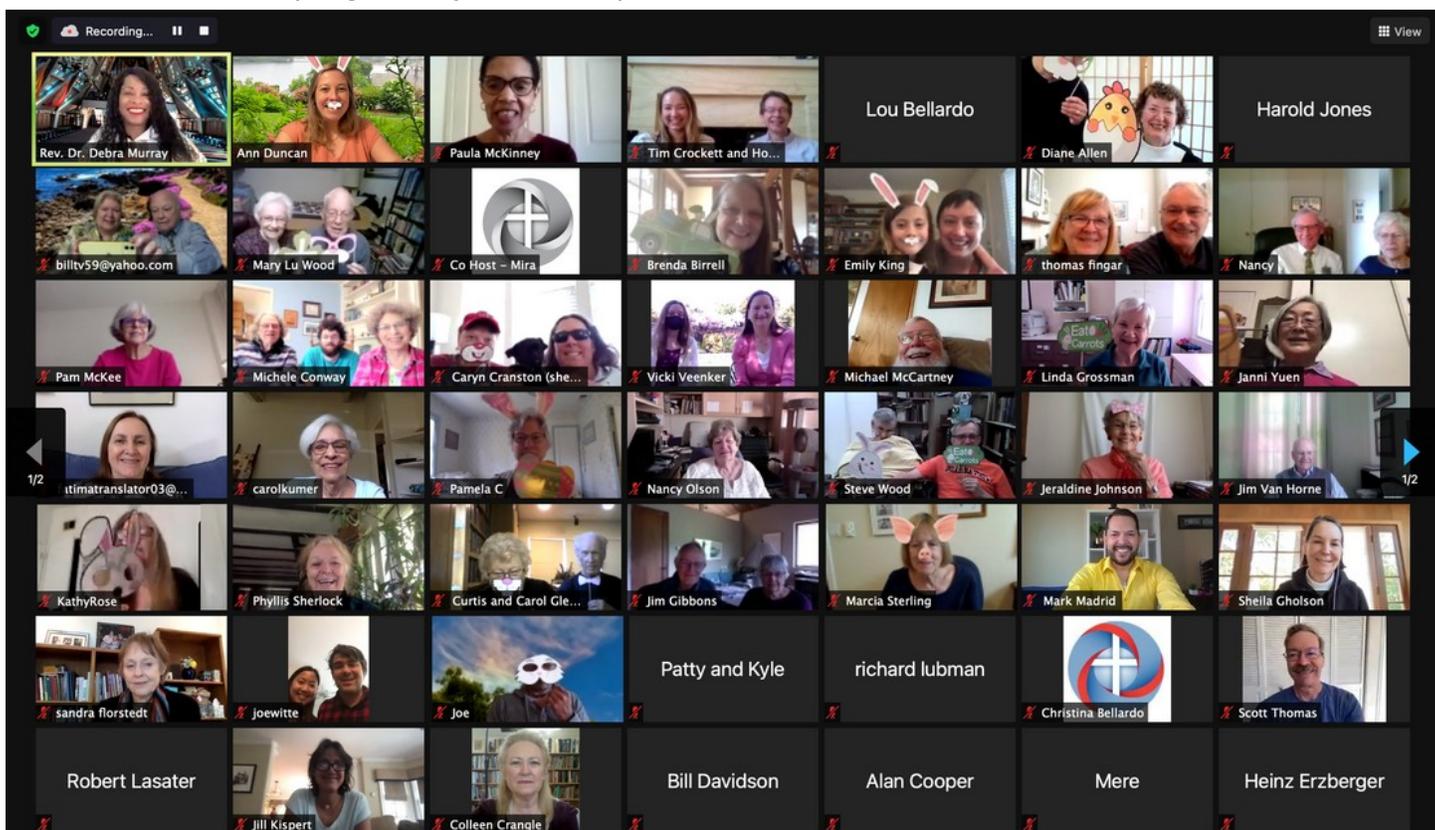
simulcasting future discussions so they can be “attended” by people unable to attend the in-person sessions. The simulcast will make it relatively easy to record and preserve the sessions. Recordings of talks presented during the First Church-sponsored 2021 series have been used by at least one other Great Decisions group and the fact that they are now posted on the website will help spread the word about the great things that happen at our church.

Success does not just happen. I used my contacts to line up speakers, but the program would not have been possible without the contributions of Lou Bellardo, who handled registration for each session and oversaw the recordings; Charlotte Cutkosky, who took care of publicity and posting the recordings to the website, and Susan Stephens, who did all the other behind-the-scenes things necessary to make everything else possible. All have earned our gratitude. Thanks also to all who participated and enriched the discussion with your comments and questions. ❖



First UMC Palo Alto Celebrates Easter ...

We celebrated worship together by Zoom on April 4.



The church created an Easter mosaic.



Easter lasts for 50 days, until Pentecost. Forty days after Jesus's resurrection—and 10 days before Pentecost—Jesus ascended into heaven. Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving). The apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus's followers in a rush of wind and tongues of fire. All sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power." The whole affair was life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst; the Christian church was born. (See Acts 2:1-12)



The Sunday School had a special Easter celebration by Zoom on April 11.

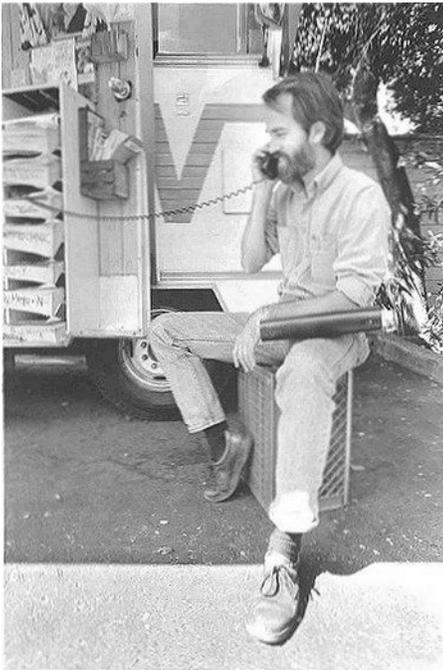


Pastor Ann's niece joins Sunday School every week from North Carolina.



Beautifully crafted Easter cards made by Ruthie Waters and friends. UMW sent the cards to members.





Rev. Jim Burklo outside UMPA Rolling Estates, ca. 1987. Photo courtesy Palo Alto Historical Association

Serve from page 1

services? Consider joining the *Communications & Technology* group or Worship team.

Want to develop leaders for the future? Passionate about children? Consider serving on the Committee on Lay Leadership or the board of First School, our onsite preschool.

There is a place for you and your unique spiritual gifts. Please think and pray about how you can serve. Contact a member of the Committee on Lay Leadership to let us know what you feel called to do!

Committee on Lay Leadership:
Pamela Cutkosky, Mira Dabrowski, Linda Grossman, Emily King, Carol Kumer, Nancy Olson, Lucy Tompkin, Rev. Dr. Debra Murray ❖

Breakfast from page 1

appropriate! The Urban Ministry got an old Winnebago, called it Rolling Estates, and First UMC Palo Alto offered them space to park it in our parking lot. Zoning ordinances did not apply and the motor home was legally parked.

Rolling Estates operated as the drop-in center for Urban Ministry for three years in our church parking lot, providing a variety of services, coffee and breakfast, and a place of community for people who were unhoused.

Later, Rolling Estates moved to the backyard of the American Red Cross, which was located near the Palo Alto Transit Center at that time. (The Winnebago motor had stopped working, but a homeless shelter resident was a tow truck driver, and he arranged for it to be towed to its new home.) Although still outdoors, the new location had a redwood deck with a permanent awning, kitchen access, telephone lines, and even a place to plant flowers.

Over the years, Urban Ministry expanded its services to include daily evening meals (the Breaking Bread program) and Hotel de Zink helping people transition to jobs and housing). Both programs rotated among different local churches—an answer to NIMBY (not in my backyard) concerns. Ultimately, the Opportunity Center developed from these early roots of which First UMC Palo Alto was a part.

LifeMoves now operates the Hotel de Zink program, which our church will host in June. An evening meal for 15 people is needed each day of the month. Homemade meals can be dropped off at the church with no contact. Alternatively, you can purchase meals from a local restaurant and arrange for delivery. Dave and Pat Shelly are Hotel de Zink coordinators again this year and will provide details about what is needed. Contribute a meal on your own or divide up the task with a friend! Sign up at signupgenius.com/go/9040f44aeaf2ea3f49-hotel1

Thank you to Allen Wood for suggesting this article. Allen found the self-published book, *Bread and Asphalt*, by Jim Burklo in a neighborhood Little Free Library. The book describes Burklo's experiences in Palo Alto for nine years (1984-1993). This article is based on the role of First UMC Palo Alto described in the book. *Bread and Asphalt* has been placed in the church archives.

Rev. Jim Burklo is now Senior Associate Dean of Religious Life at the University of Southern California. ❖



Green Notes

by Nancy Olson

Biodiversity is the key to sustainability. The interdependence of one species on another (including us) is how we have survived to date. However, we are moving full steam ahead to destroy our “home.”

Rainforests (the world’s best air filters—our air) are being burned and destroyed to grow palm oil trees for Mondelez, Nestlé, and Unilever to produce snacks, detergents, make-up, and candy. These companies promised to clean up their acts by 2020, and they did not.

Orangutans need rainforest trees to live. When they try to explore the new forests, they are shot. The numbers of remaining orangutans are now being considered for the endangered species list.

While companies and countries are throwing nasty stuff into the air, we are simultaneously allowing our air conditioner to be destroyed. But we don’t stop there.

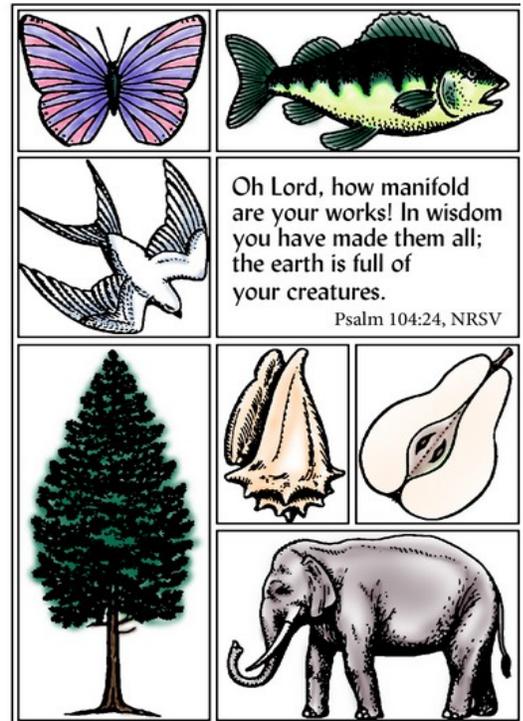
Millions of animals are snatched from their habitats every year to be sold in the wildlife trade as trinkets, hunting trophies, designer boots, and “cure-alls.” This trade threatens thousands of animals and plants with extinction.

Next year many nations will meet under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), to choose which species get protection from deadly trade. Our administration is planning to participate in this meeting. We need to tell our President and the Fish and Wildlife Service to assertively propose protections for all imperiled wildlife affected by trade. That means protecting giant bees from collectors, sea cucumbers from the luxury food market, polar bears from the rug trade, and turtles taken from their ponds to become food or pets. It means cracking down on trade in colorful aquarium fish, huge hippos, seahorses—and so many, many others.

According to common sense and the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church:

“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. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect.”

“We recognize unmanaged and managed commercial, multinational, and corporate exploitation of wildlife and the destruction of the ecosystems on which they depend threatens the balance of natural systems, compromises biodiversity, reduces resilience, and threatens ecosystem services. We encourage commitment to effective implementation of national and international governmental and business regulations and guidelines for the conservation of all animal species with particular support to safeguard those threatened with extinction.”

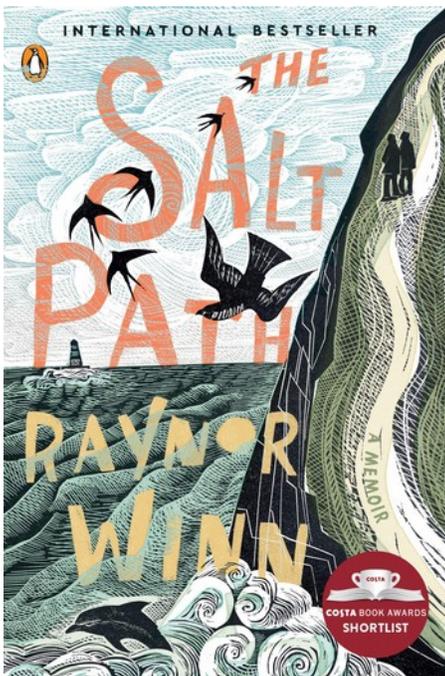


If you have never written a letter or made a phone call to an elected official to tell them how you feel about pending actions, perhaps now is the time. If you need an address or phone number, let me know. ❖

Hello First Palo Alto Readers!

by Charlotte Cutkosky

Kay, one of our fearless library committee members, recommends *The Salt Path* by Welsh-English author Raynor Winn. *The Salt Path* is a nonfiction memoir chronicling Winn and her husband's 630 mile trek along the South West Coast of England after discovering her husband's terminal cancer diagnosis. The trail takes them through Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall, simply living as backpackers in a manner reminiscent of Britain's earliest Christian pilgrims. We think it's the perfect book for 2021, a time when hiking and nature have offered a great deal of solace, and as we look forward to a future of traveling once again.



As always, happy reading, and blessings be with you. ❖

UMW CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

I wish I could capture on paper the pleasure, the inspiration, the blessing I feel as I just left the UMW Conference sponsored “Transformative Hope Spiritual Retreat” focusing on climate issues. Forty UMW members from all over California met online Friday evening, April 16, and Saturday morning, April 17, to share and to learn what activities and projects are happening around us, and where we can plug in our own energy and interests.

We watched videos, sang and danced, shared greetings and ideas.

I highly recommend a film “A Life On Our Planet” by David Attenborough where he leads us on a video journey of the environmental changes he has witnessed in his 93 years of life on our earth. It is available on Netflix and I encourage you to watch and especially to share with the young people in your family. He ends on a message of hope for the future, with positive suggestions. We are part of that hope.

Amanda Gorman reading her poem “Earthrise” was so powerful! I’m still tingling!

Rev. Charlotte Bear introduced us to women across our nation that are making a difference. We celebrate our new Secretary of the Interior—a Native American woman! We celebrate the women who have sparked needed action in their communities.

We celebrate our national UMW that has resources available for addressing our elected officials, and training material for letter writing and telephoning campaigns; for weekly and monthly programs via Zoom and webinars to hear inspiring speakers, such as Faith Talks and Just Energy, and to be able to ask questions and share ideas.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed and halted life as we knew it, the national and global UMW has been working on environmental and racial justice. We are part of that work. It will be so good when we can again meet in person to identify mission projects waiting for our help. ❖

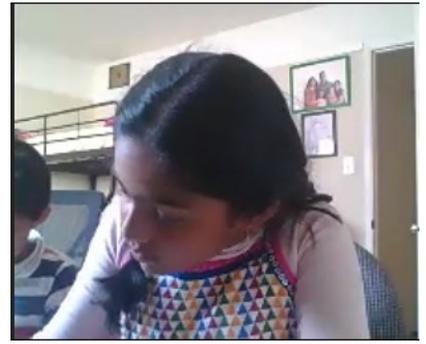
“All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!” When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join “all creatures of our God and King” in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Artists at Work!

April 15 Kids Art Class led by
Pastor Ann and Artist Ben Conway



Zoom Meeting





- 5/05 John Duhring & Sheila Gholson
- 5/10 Carol Chatfield & Bob Chatfield
- 5/13 Lino Bailon & Jewels Bailon
- 5/19 Mark Bui-Ford & David Bui
- 5/21 Joe Murray & Debra Murray
- 5/23 Kathleen Branyon & David Goodman
- 5/27 Frank Rahn & Annette Rahn
- 5/27 Joan Crayton & Marty (Curlee) Crayton

- 5/01 Ewan Keller
- 5/02 Mark Iglehart
- 5/02 Alan Cooper
- 5/03 Maddy Buxton
- 5/04 Janni Yuen
- 5/05 Gary Ahlberg
- 5/08 Nancy Stowe
- 5/08 Jordan Fung
- 5/11 Donald Iglehart
- 5/11 Irene McReynolds
- 5/11 Sandra Florstedt
- 5/13 Ruth Letts
- 5/13 Doris Lippitt
- 5/14 Mo Olson
- 5/15 Karl Laughton
- 5/16 Brenda Birrell

- 5/16 Jeremiah Fung
- 5/16 Dave Shelly
- 5/18 Robert Medearis
- 5/19 Charles Bliss
- 5/20 Shannon Newberry
- 5/21 Rudy Spangenberg
- 5/21 Annabelle Fisk
- 5/22 Kathy Haffner-Zoccatelli
- 5/22 Laura Cutkosky
- 5/23 Kiera Martin
- 5/23 Matt Newberry
- 5/24 Courtney Duhring
- 5/26 Ray Crump
- 5/26 Jenny Webb-Jensen
- 5/26 Simone Bikai
- 5/27 Benjamin Conway
- 5/27 Steve Andres
- 5/27 Sinai Latu
- 5/28 Carol Olmstead
- 5/28 Coreen Riley
- 5/29 Megan Wiebe
- 5/31 Luke DeGalan



Finance Update

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

March 2021 Income and Expense Summary FINAL	March 2021 Actual	Actual YTD 2021	Budget YTD 2021	Budget Annual 2021
Income				
Total Member Giving	18,705	141,553	149,000	409,000
Total Income All Other Sources	64,006	79,626	24,275	197,800
Total Income	82,711	221,179	173,275	606,800
Expenses				
Conference Tithes	2,500	16,140	16,000	54,000
Council on Ministries	996	1,829	8,819	38,930
Staff Parish Relations	30,534	86,059	97,441	394,860
Office and Finance	1,177	3,402	4,293	19,975
Board of Trustees	17,635	45,115	53,583	158,582
Total Expenses	52,843	152,545	180,136	666,347
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	29,868	68,634	-6,861	-59,547
March Actual and YTD Actual results are skewed as a result of PPP loan forgiveness in the amount of \$55,700.				



- 4 SPRC, Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Mother's Day
- 11 Trustees, Zoom meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Parking Lot closed for sealing and striping
- 15 Parking Lot closed
- 16 Parking Lot closed
- 18 Finance, Zoom meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Insights deadline for Summer issue
- 23 Pentecost
- 25 Kids Art, Zoom, 4:00 p.m. RSVP to
Ann@firstpaloalto.com
- Church Council, Zoom meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Worship Planning Team, Zoom meeting,
5:00 p.m.
- 30 UMC Peace with Justice Sunday, special offering
- 31 Memorial Day
Church office closed

Our electronic giving page is always open! Give with a few clicks at firstpaloalto.com/giving 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 our website 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

Mondays

- 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 Summer issue of the Insights newsletter is due May 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 send them to the church office. Thank you!



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Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**

MAY 2021

- How Will You Serve? p. 1
- PPP Update, p. 2
- Kids Art, pp. 3 & 9
- Easter Celebrations, pp. 4–5
- Hotel de Zink Sign-Ups Begin, p. 6

Next INSIGHTS deadline: May 20



TOGETHER APART

Connected in Spirit