



FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Announcements for the week of March 19, 2023



Sunday March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: *1 Samuel 16:1-13*
Preaching: Reverend Doug Norris

Message: *Mystery and Wonder of Insight*

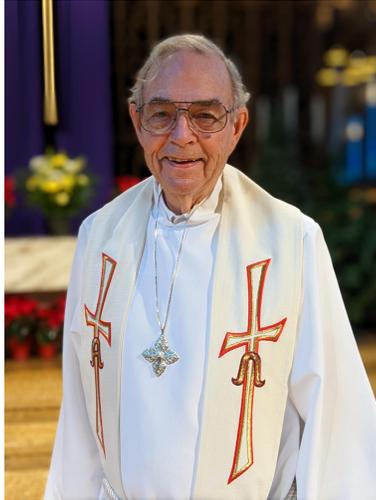
Worship is Sundays at 10:45 AM

Sunday School for ages 3-11 is Sundays at 10 AM.

Parking is available in our back lot, on the street,
and in the city garage off Webster Street.



Parking



Rev. Douglas Norris
Interim Pastor

[Main Website](#)



Rev. Gerardo García Palacios
Director of Children, Youth &
Family Ministries

[Church Calendar](#)



Easter News:

EASTER

at First United Methodist Church Palo Alto

4.2 Palm Sunday - 10:45 AM service

4.7 Good Friday - 7 PM

combined service of local Methodist Churches

4.8 Egg Hunt - 10 AM (ages 0-11)

4.9 Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast - 8:30-10:30 AM

Worship Service - 10:45 AM



625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto
firstpaloalto.com | @firstpaloalto



**Sign-Up to Donate Easter Flowers
Deadline: April 2**

Beautiful azaleas and hydrangeas will adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning. You can add to this display by honoring a special person with one of these flowers. Names of donors and honorees will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

If you would like to order an Easter flower to honor, celebrate, or remember someone, complete a form at church and return it to the church office or put it in the offering plate with a donation of **\$12 per flower**. You can also email charlotte@firstpaloalto.com. Checks should be made payable to: First United Methodist Church and specify "Easter Flowers."

Plants may be taken home after the Easter morning service.



Calling All Kids for Easter Egg Fun

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and activities begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 8, and run till about 11:30. Spread the word to your kids, grandkids, neighbors' kids – all kids ages 0-11 are welcome!

Kids should check in at the Patio Room overhang to get instructions. Kids can participate in the egg scavenger hunt, the sticker hunt, and the hunt for special shaker eggs, all on the church grounds. There are prize bags for all, and Easter crafts to do too!

Can you help? Pastor Gerardo is still in need of a half-dozen volunteers to help with check-in and to ensure safe hunting around our buildings. Email him at cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com



Sign Up to Help Out With Easter Breakfast

Once again we are hosting a breakfast Easter Sunday morning from 8:30 to 10:30 out on the patio. We'll have out our festive Connection Cafe tables and umbrellas, plus extra tables for the crowd. (In case of rain, we will move to Kohlstedt Hall.)

This is a wonderful fellowship time and so welcoming for our Easter visitors. We need YOU to contribute food items and to volunteer to work a 45-minute shift monitoring the food and tables.

Our breakfast is a "structured potluck" affair – on the Lucky Potluck signup page we've listed what we need and you "claim" one or two of the food items listed by writing your name beside them. We need main egg dishes, fruit trays and fruit bowls, bagels, donuts, drinks and more. And we especially need folks to be food and table monitors.

The Lucky Potluck website link is: [Easter Breakfast 2023 Potluck](#)

Questions? Contact Pamela Cutkosky at pamelareasner@yahoo.com or 650-328-5208. Trouble with the Lucky Potluck signup? Call the church office at 650-323-6167 and tell Char what you wish to bring.



Library Guessing Game Sundays after worship through April 2

It's time for the FUMCPA Library's annual Spring Guessing Game! Come find the jar of jelly beans on the patio after worship and guess the amount by filling out a slip. Each person may have one guess per week. Bookish prizes will be awarded in two categories: children (0-11) and adult (12+).

Church News:

GREAT DECISIONS

A FOREIGN POLICY
DISCUSSION SERIES

led by leaders in the field



7:00 - 8:30 PM

Sundays 2/19 - 4/16

No meeting 4/9 for Easter.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Great Decisions
through April 16 (no meeting Easter, April 9)
Sunday evenings, 7:00-8:30 PM

This Week's Topic: Politics in Latin America

Presenter: Harold Trinkunas, Deputy Director of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford. Before returning to Stanford in 2017, Harold was a research scholar at the Brookings Institution and taught at the Naval Postgraduate School.

You are welcome to attend in-person in Kohlstedt Hall or online via Zoom. If you decide to attend in-person, masks are required for all indoor events at the church. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

Registration is required to attend any Great Decisions session via Zoom. One registration will cover all the sessions.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail with a meeting ID and password. Please make a note of those. You will need them for each session.

Please do not try to sign in before 6:50pm even though the confirmation notes 6:30pm.

[Register](#)

[List of topics](#)



ANNA LAPWOOD

Organ Concert

MARCH 28, 7:00 PM

Workshop & Presentation

MARCH 25, 6:30 PM FREE!



PRESENTED BY
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PALO ALTO

Anna Lapwood Organ Concert

presented by
First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

Tuesday, March 28 at 7 PM

Free Workshop on Saturday, March 25 at 6:30 PM

FUMCPA is sponsoring a concert by Anna Lapwood -- organist, conductor, and broadcaster. Anna is Director of Music and a Bye-Fellow at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Associate Artist of the Royal Albert Hall, Artist in Association with the BBC Singers, and Ambassador of the Cathedral Music Trust. While studying at Oxford University, she became the first female in Magdalen College's 560-year history to be awarded its Organ Scholarship.

<https://www.annalapwood.co.uk>

Anna made her 2021 debut for the BBC Proms as a soloist in Saint-Saëns 'Organ Symphony' with The Hallé. Recently she has performed with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for Classic FM Live broadcast on Classic FM and Sky Arts TV, and has performed with Alison Balsom, Bonobo, Emma Johnson, Benedict Cumberbatch and Alex Macqueen. As a radio broadcaster she regularly contributes to BBC Radio 3 and 4. Anna has released four albums with Signum Records, including her debut solo album 'Images'.

In this concert, Anna will present a sparkling and eclectic program of music for the organ, including favourites by Johann Sebastian Bach and Claude Debussy, new gems commissioned by Anna to shine a light on contemporary female composers, and Anna's new transcriptions of some of the best-loved film soundtracks of our time.

[Buy Tickets](#)

First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto

A little *break.*

A quiet half hour in our
sanctuary to meditate, pray,
or simply catch your breath.

All are welcome.

Thursdays.
12:30 PM

Organ music by
Diane Keller

625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto
corner of Hamilton and Webster

Thursday Meditations

On Thursdays between 12:30 and 1:00, First UMC Palo Alto opens our sanctuary for anyone to come and sit quietly for a half hour to meditate, quiet the mind, or pray within the spiritual confines of our sanctuary with reflective organ music. There is no religious service or ritual and all are welcome.

#StillInMission

Every so often, #StillInMission hosts special events to give a different experience with our missionaries, and one is coming up with our young adult missionaries.

We invite you to join us for a Global Mission Fellow Spring Showcase

on **March 23, 2023 at 9:00 AM ET.**

Our Fellows are so talented, and we are honored to share their gifts with you all during this very special #StillInMission event. Fellows will share stories, songs, art, and prayers from their placement sites, home contexts, and trainings!

Registration is required, register by [clicking here](#).

As you join us to witness how music and art can be tools of comfort, joy, spreading love, and coming together across cultural contexts, please consider donating to support the Global Mission Fellows program so we can continue to engage with local communities, connect the church in mission, and grow in personal and social holiness. We are hoping for 100% donation participation, whether you can give \$1 or \$1 million, please show your support by [donating here](#).

Sincerely,

Erica Oliveira (she, her, hers) on behalf of the Itineration Team

PS. Don't miss our regularly scheduled #StillInMission on April 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM ET. [You can learn more here](#)

In-Person Fellowship:

Tuesday Walking Group - 9:50 AM

February walks meet at Byxbee Park, 2375 Embarcadero Rd

[View Map](#)

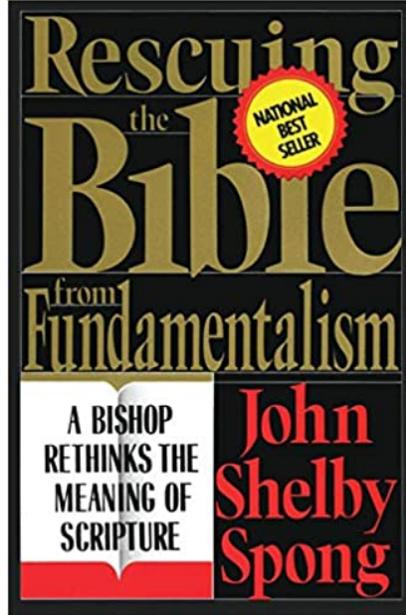
We cover about 3 miles in 90 minutes. A very reasonable pace.

Gathering time to chat is 9:50am and we start walking at 10:00am. All are welcome.

We are a social group with a walking problem.

Feel free to call Patty Bellardo at (650) 378-5256 with questions.

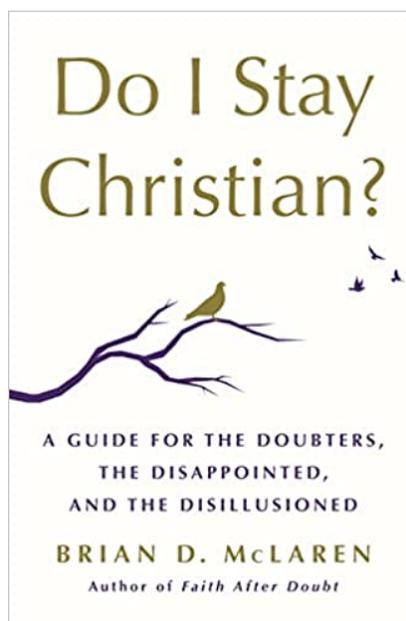
Book Study:



STRETCHING OUR FAITH **Tuesdays, 1 PM in the Wesley Room**

Stretching Our Faith Book Study moves on to Bishop John Spong's Book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*. Read the first two chapters from that book for Tuesday **March 21st**, gathering at 1:00pm in Wesley Room. Amazon carries the book. Join the conversations.

-Pastor Karen Paulsen, Retired



Covenant Class **Sundays, 6 PM on Zoom**

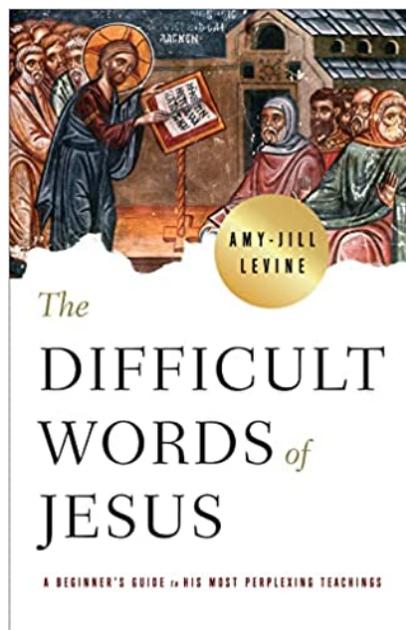
The Covenant Class is reading a book Bob Olmstead recommended to us: *Do I Stay Christian?* by Brian McLaren. It is a guide for the doubters, the disappointed, and the disillusioned. The class meets Sunday evenings at 6:00 on Zoom.

Spirit guide McLaren addresses in public the powerful question that surprising numbers of people—including pastors, priests, and other religious leaders—are asking in private: Do I Stay Christian? Combining his own experience with that of thousands who have confided in him, McLaren helps readers make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity.

McLaren maintains there is a way to say both yes and no to the question whether we stay Christian by shifting the focus instead on how we stay human. Just because we can see all the hurt that's been caused in Jesus' name, we don't have to say no to Jesus. This book provides a map for finding what lies beyond. McLaren articulates the urgent and critical questions for the church in these hot-mess times.

If you'd like to join the class for this 12-week journey, please contact Linda Grossman at 650-814-8779 or planaap@aol.com.

The book can be purchased from [Amazon](#) or [Book Depository](#) and is available on Amazon Kindle.



Monday Evening Bible Study **Mondays, 7:15 PM on Zoom**

We welcome newcomers to our Monday Night Bible Study, we are now starting at 7:15 PM with sharing our week and the class begins at 7:30 PM and is over at 9 PM. We are just beginning the book *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. Let Janet Nicholls know if you would like to join us and she will arrange to get you a book and the Zoom site for the class, as we are continuing to meet online. Contact Janet Nicholls at 650 814 0278 or sweetjanet@aol.com.



Social Action Movie Night - Monday at 7:00 PM

This week's movie is Temple Grandin, available on Amazon Prime. Watch the movie at your leisure, then join the discussion on Monday. Email glasernancy@gmail.com for Zoom details.

An autistic woman becomes an unlikely hero to America's cattle industry--and to autistic people everywhere--in this fact-based story.

Current Affairs Fellowship Group - Tue at 12 PM

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83859750584?pwd=SHVJU3pPM2tPS0x4TXdGOFlwYmhrUT09>

Password: 672549

All are welcome to join this online group! Each person is encouraged to bring one topic to the meeting and speak for two or three minutes. Find articles in the paper or journals, or summarize a significant event by bringing together several sources.

COVID Safety Updates:

Masks Strongly Recommended No Longer Required

The ReOpening Task Force met on Thursday, March 16, and voted to:

1. Change the indoor mask requirement to a recommendation: "Masks are strongly recommended for indoor in-person FUMCPA activities, including worship."
2. Allow small groups meeting at church to establish their own policies for mask use within the group.
3. Strongly recommend, but no longer require, masks during office

hours Monday - Friday 9AM - 4PM, for visitors, vendors, and others who enter the facility.

The task force will meet again in the fall to evaluate circumstances at that time (with some experts predicting a "Covid season"); or should there be significant changes in Covid hospitalizations, new variants, or new interventions by the City, County or State in the interim.

Thank you for keeping our congregation, employees, volunteers, vendors, First School students, and community safe and healthy over the course of the pandemic.

Prayer List

We lift the names of those asking for prayer, with thanksgiving for the healing already being received:

Artemas, Don & Jennifer (Janet Nicholls' friends), Julie Ashton, Mona Blackburn, Tim Breen, Cheryl & Kevin Brunk, Daisy and Mary, John Duhring, Kirstin Glaser-Noll, Don Grant, Jacqueline Harding, Jerry Johnson, Phebe L. and her family, Ruth Letts, Maiko Masuda-Stephens (Susan's sister-in-law), Diane Mazuera's father, Mehri Namdarian, Nancy Olson, Joanne Perry, Rodko family, Susil Sadanandam, Richard Singleton, Blake Stafford, Emilie Sweet, Janni Yuen, Jo Zimmerman, the Zocatelli family, the people of Ukraine

Click here: <http://www.firstpaloalto.com/prayers.shtml> to add your name to this list and view our "ongoing prayer list" (for persons who are homebound, battling long-term illness, or serving overseas), or contact the church office.

Our electronic giving page is open!

Whether you are a long time member, or just joined us, you can give with just a few clicks. As always, your generosity makes our mission possible! Thank you!

First United Methodist Church Palo Alto | 625 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

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