



Thursday Meditations

During the summer months of June, July, and August, we will be suspending our Thursday Meditations program.

Thursday, May 25, will be the final day when the sanctuary will be open from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. to friends and neighbors who wish to meditate, pray, or simply enjoy a few moments of quiet contemplation in a holy place with quiet, evocative organ music by Diane Keller.

Diane will be away on Thursday, May 18, and in her place we welcome Alan Cooper and Julianne Stafford who will provide our contemplative background with the sounds of violin and oboe.

Draw the Circle Wide

Our Church's Connection to Ukraine

by Janet Nicholls

Lyubomyr Rudko and his wife, Yulia, and son, Adam, came to worship with us for a few months while they were in the U.S. several years ago. Bill and I became friends with this young family, as many of you did also. That time was pre-COVID and before Russia invaded Ukraine.

Lyubomyr is an ordained United Methodist Church (UMC) pastor. He founded St. John's UMC in his town of Lviv, Ukraine. Shortly after the war started, I became quite concerned about the Rudkos, who had returned to Ukraine. I put them on our church prayer list and prayed for their safety and that of their country daily. I wondered if the email address that Lyubomyr had while he was here was still operative. So I emailed him, asking how they were doing and how safe they were in their town of Lviv. I told him that if they decided to leave, they could come to Palo Alto and we would take them in. I said our entire church was praying for their safety and for their country's success in holding off the Russians.

Lyubomyr responded, verifying the email address was still active. He explained that there were several attacks in their area, so he sent his

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Worship time in St. John's United Methodist Church of Lviv, Ukraine. Note at the left, the bags and boxes of provisions for those in need. First UMC Palo Alto supported the church with Joy of Giving donations.



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I Like It Here!

by Douglas Norris

As I was considering what to write to you this month, I decided to look at the letters Paul wrote to his churches. Every letter began with the same salutation, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Most of the letters followed the salutation with some form of “I give thanks to God for you,” except to the churches that were giving him headaches!

I’ve noticed that when a District Superintendent writes a letter to a church and asks the chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee to read the letter to the congregation in a worship service, the letter begins with Paul’s salutation, “Grace and peace to you.” Then the bad news or the good news.

The letter to the St. Helena congregation was bad news, announcing that their beloved pastor, Burke Owens, was going to leave them.

The letter to our church was good news, announcing that Burke Owens will be our pastor beginning July 1.

My letter to you begins with “Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ” and, quoting from Paul’s letter to his favorite church—Philippians 1:3—“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy.”

What joy it is to be with you these months! You have welcomed Ellie and me with open arms and hearts. We thank God for you.

We thank God and it is with joy that we see signs of hope and growth. A new group of couples who have elementary and middle school children has been organized. Five enthusiastic couples have responded.

I will experience inexpressible joy on May 21 when I baptize our first great-grandchild, Ada Jeanne, at the same fount where I baptized her mother, Alison, and her great-great-grandmother, Beatrice Mary (my mother)! What a celebration that will be!

I end this letter with the closing Paul wrote to the Ephesians, 6:23-24, “Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have any undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.” ❖

Church Archives Link Past and Present

by Michele W. Conway

The United Methodist Church celebrates its heritage annually in May. This year the theme is “Local Church Histories: The Cornerstone of our Faith.”



Beth Bunnenberg volunteered with the First UMC Palo Alto Archives Committee for about 15 years. Beth said, “I worked with many people and together we collected bits and pieces that made up quite a nice little history of the church.”

Our church archives consist of architectural drawings, photographs, reference books, hymnals, worship and event programs, newsletters, DVDs, and more. Before Beth, there were many others who contributed and catalogued items in the more than 100-year collection. Some unusual items in the collection include a Chinese tapestry of unclear provenance and a tile that was removed from the church roof during repairs.

Although Beth still collects worship programs every Sunday, times have changed and modern “bits and pieces” look different from their historic counterparts. For example, worship services and other events now are archived on YouTube; newsletters are archived digitally on Google Drive. *continued on page 8*

Sign Up to Feed Hotel de Zink Guests

by Nancy Glaser, Social Action Committee

Hotel de Zink returns to FUMCPA this June. For the whole month, we house a small group of individuals overnight, providing home-cooked meals, a place to sleep in Kohlstedt Hall, and showers. Families, small groups, individuals, and couples are needed every day in June to bring and serve a hot meal, dessert, and drinks to 12–15 people.

Hotel de Zink is administered by LifeMoves and hosted at a different church each month. It is designed to provide stability and safety to homeless adults who would otherwise have to sleep in their cars or on the streets. Experienced staff from LifeMoves help the selected men and women move towards self-sufficiency in employment, housing, and mental health.

Our church volunteers will deliver a hot meal each night, and breakfasts for the mornings, clean towels for showers, and kindness and respect to people who are turning their lives around. Ideally, meal providers will bring their food, at its preferred serving temperature, to the church at 6:00 p.m. A staff member from LifeMoves will be in the church parking lot to collect the dinner. People bringing food that evening may leave OR may help set up and serve, chat with the guests, and mingle. Since not all clients have been vaccinated, it is understood that not staying to mingle is acceptable. The clients and the supervisor from Hotel de Zink are responsible for cleanup.

Volunteer sign-ups begin Sunday, April 30, and continue through May until all slots are filled. Please sign up early—and often if you are so moved!

Thank you all very much. You will enjoy this experience. This has been the overwhelming response from the many people who have served in years past.

During the month of May, you will hear announcements, see sign up sheets, and may be asked to volunteer in one of the roles that makes this program successful. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact me at GlaserNancy@gmail.com ❖

Nursery Ready for Little Ones Sunday Mornings

Our church nursery is now open after being closed for three years because of COVID. We have hired a new child care attendant,



Juana Reynoso, and are in the process of hiring a second person. The nursery, located next to the library in the Education Building, is open from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Children through age 6 are welcome. Come check out our clean, newly refurbished church nursery, and say hello to Juana! ❖



Save the Date: June 4 for Church Conference

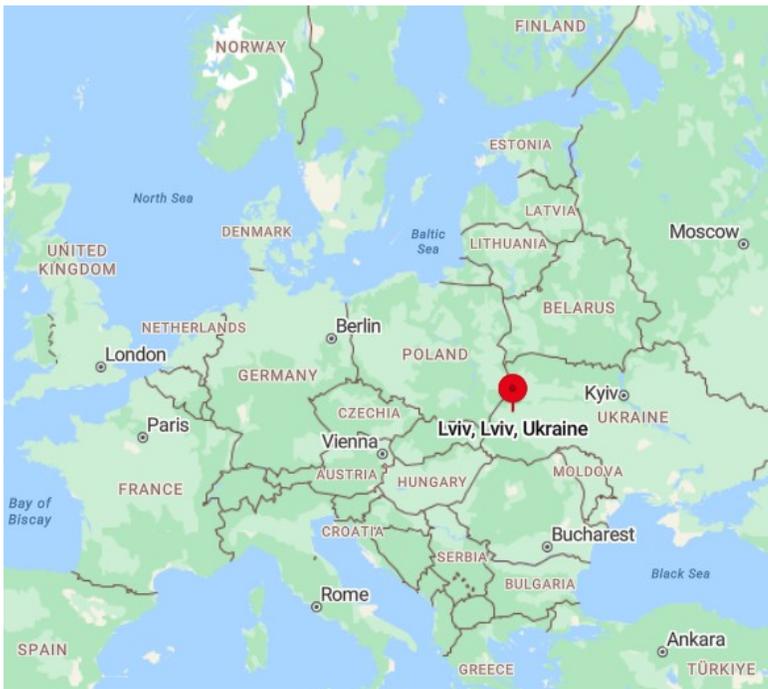
FUMCPA will hold an all-church conference Sunday, June 4, to vote on laity nominations from the Committee on Lay Leadership and to approve pastor compensation for our incoming pastor, Rev. Burke Owens. Rev. Doug Norris will preside.

We hope to hold this conference in person after worship. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. Details to follow later in May. ❖

Library Book and DVD Giveaway Sunday, May 7, after morning worship

The church library will host a giveaway (FREE!) of gently used books and DVDs on the patio after the worship service Sunday, May 7. We hope you'll drop by and take some home.





Ukraine from page 1

parents and his son, Adam, to the countryside, where they would be safer. Yulia refused to go with them and stayed behind with Lyubomyr. He thanked me for our church’s prayers.

I continued to communicate with him periodically. He told me of their work with young adults in Lviv, who want to know more about the Bible and what it is to be a Christian.

There are so many needs among these young adults and St. John’s United Methodist Church is trying to fulfill them. I asked how we could provide monetary help to them and he indicated an Advance Special UMCOR fund. He also sent me pictures of their church in worship and fellowship.

At far left, Lyubomyr Rudko, the pastor who attended First UMC Palo Alto a number of years ago. At far right, Volodymyr Prokip, the current pastor of the St. John’s United Methodist Church in Lviv, Ukraine.



God Is Among Us

The nonprofit World Central Kitchen (WCK) provides fresh meals for communities in need following natural disasters or during humanitarian crises. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, WCK fed millions of people in the country and refugees at border crossings. When I feel discouraged by tragic news and ask where God is, I’m reminded that God shows up ... in people, such as the WCK. They are God’s heart and arms welcoming those in need. In our broken world, God is among the rubble, among the helpers, among us. —Heidi Hyland Mann

Although Lyubomyr is still an active member of the UMC church in Lviv, the church now has a new pastor, Volodymyr Prokip, with whom I have also communicated. They have a team of positive, hopeful, inspiring adults leading the young people into the Christian faith.

This Ukraine faith community was included in our 2022 Joy of Giving. The amount collected was \$6,271. Thank you for supporting this important ministry. (You still can give, with a check to FUMCPA indicating your donation is for “Ukraine Ministry.”)

God bless you and God bless our Ukrainian brothers and sisters through this most difficult time for them, their country, and their faith. Keep praying without ceasing. ❖



Plans to Welcome Our New Pastor

by Pamela Cutkosky, SPRC Chair

One of the joyful tasks of the Staff Parish Relations Committee is welcoming a new pastor. Your SPRC is very excited to welcome Rev. Burke Owens and his wife, Caroline, who will join us on July 1.

SPRC's #1 duty is "to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their families."

When a new pastor first arrives, "nurture and support" means helping with the move into the parsonage; introducing the pastor to staff, committee chairs, and the programs at FUMCPA; and facilitating introductions to members of the congregation.

To help Pastor Burke and Caroline get to know us as individuals and help us get to know them, SPRC is organizing small group get-togethers at members' homes in July and August. We need your help.

Would you like to host a group get-together?

Here's the idea:

Each gathering would include 8-10 people, including Pastor Burke and Caroline.

Light food and beverages make for conviviality, but the focus is on getting to know each other, not on preparing and eating a major meal.

Choose your time: mid-morning, teatime, evening.

SPRC will keep track of who is attending where, but you are encouraged to invite your church friends and/or church members who are neighbors. We can help identify church members who live near you.

Hosts should encourage everyone in the group to "share their stories" – why they love and stay active in our church.

If you are willing to host a get-together – or have questions, please contact SPRC members Pamela Cutkosky at 650-328-5208 or Carol Kumer at 650-494-0365. ❖

Spring Sensations

by Ellie Norris

Special treasures and gifts of sounds, sights, and pleasurable sensations have rapidly been appearing to our congregation and visitors. Did you hear magic sounds at the organ concert? Have you seen new First School director Linda's restored and awesome two-room preschool? Are you delighted to see the revamped child care center now staffed by Juana on Sunday mornings?

At the parsonage on Greer Road, you can enjoy the pleasure of blooming colorful flowers and bushes in a newly groomed setting of trimmed trees, hedges that rise above ground newly leveled from hazardous tree roots. Colorful camellias, azaleas, and rhododendron, together with birds swarming back and forth to budding tree berries provide delights for relaxed gratitude of these bountiful gifts.

This lovely home was purchased 20 years ago in 2003. However, at this time "deferred maintenance" has required devoted attentive time and repair by just two of our trustee representatives, and by others to restore and update what has worn. Replacement by trustees of shades covering a window wall of one room and the anonymous gift of an automatic garage door are huge interior improvements for our arriving clergy couple. My hope of restoring the home to pristine condition by their July 1

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It's okay to just be sometimes." Many of us get anxious if we think we're not doing enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it's not a waste of time to just be: "To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most."

Photo by Brian Steen



Wonderful Fellowship on a Glorious Easter *Thank you, Everyone!*

by Pamela Cutkosky,
Seasonal Events Coordinator

On a sunny Easter morning, church members and visitors alike enjoyed a delicious breakfast on the patio before worship, thanks to the food donations and committed work of many of you.

Thank you to those who monitored the tables and helped clean up as well as brought food: Amanda Fifita, Michele Conway, Carol Kumer, Linda Grossman, Patty Bellardo, John Larson, Mira Dabrowski, Sandra Florstedt, Nancy Glaser, and Char Cutkosky.

Thank you to all the chefs and food contributors: Janet Nicholls, Brenda Birrell, Marilyn Bauriedel, Julianne Stafford, Lucy Tompkin, Scott Thomas, Orlene Fingar, Nancy Olson, Emily King, Pastor Doug and Ellie Norris, Mike McCartney, Annette Rahn, and Gladys Kalas.

The Easter breakfast is a success because so many people pitch in and help out! ❖



Gathering on the patio for breakfast Easter morning. Photos by Ben Conway

Singing the Hallelujah Chorus after the Easter worship service, April 9. Photo by Lou Bellardo



Egg-stravagant Hunt Draws 62 Children

Text by Pamela Cutkosky,
Photos by Debbie Krueger

The day before Easter, the grounds of FUMCPA were full of kids hunting for eggs. We had three hunts going: a scavenger hunt for egg pictures, a hunt for well-hidden egg shakers, and a hunt for Easter yard signs with stickers to complete a picture (a hit with our youngest kids).

Pastor Gerardo counted 62 kids! They were waiting in line to get their instructions and scorecards. One boy said, as we handed him a scorecard, "I know how to do it. I came last year!" That's what we like to hear. What a great community event.

Every egg hunter got a prize bag of treats and toys, and we included information about First School and Sunday School.

Many thanks to the volunteers who stationed themselves around the church to keep the egg hunters safe: Debbie Krueger, Mira Dabrowski, Ana Espinoza, Linda Grossman, Emily King, Michele Conway, Pamela Cutkosky, Gladys Kalas. ❖



Members Build Community with Discipleship Opportunities

Steve Wood and Mike McCartney spent Saturday, April 1, working on a major 40+ unit Habitat for Humanity construction project in Walnut Creek. Steve worked with the roofing crew, and Mike helped cut and install siding. Long day, but very satisfying!

Peter Colby, Amanda Fifita, and Mike McCartney signed up to help Rebuilding Together-Silicon Valley (RTSV) refurbish a mobile home in Milpitas on April 27. (Peter and Mike worked with RTSV last year in San Jose.)

Sensations from page 5

arrival does not seem likely, but work continues.

It is my view that a parsonage is not a landlord/tenant undertaking but a family-type relationship of interaction where both sides do their fullest to thrive and survive in a give and take relationship of owning, living, sharing, giving satisfaction and pride in maintaining what has been purchased.

I am grateful for the opportunity, with God's undergirding, to have participated in the restoration and appreciation of the Greer Road parsonage. May it be the source of great future enjoyment for those who will live, work, and take part in years of activities indoor and outdoor. ❖

Habitat for Humanity site in Walnut Creek Photos by Mike McCartney



Archives from page 2

Maintaining a historic record of the church is an ongoing task and an important one. Dan Conway, former Archives Committee chair said, "It is important to retain archival information because it helps church members and local historical societies understand how the church came to be." As chair, he provided archived information to help church committees in preparing events related to important anniversaries in the church. In addition, he provided photos and blueprints from the archives to aid in building maintenance and remodeling.

"Each congregation has a story, one rich with history and details of ministry to its community and one another," said Dr. Ashley Boggan, general secretary of the UMC General Commission on Archives and History. "Every congregation contributes to the overarching narrative of United Methodism." ❖

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

by Nancy Olson

Our church will again be hosting Hotel de Zink in June. So May is the month we prepare for welcoming our guests. Our church has shower facilities, and we provide towels, soap, and shampoo.

We have bath towels, but could use a few more hand towels and face cloths. If you have some gently used towels, please donate them when you come to church during May.

The women's group prepares welcome bags for each guest, but everyone is welcome to sign up to provide an item on our list for the bags. We need 20 of each travel size item. There will be a large sign-up sheet at the welcome desk in the narthex so you can see what has been spoken for and what is needed, plus a basket in which to place the donated items. Bring items to church on Sundays or to the church office during the week. All items need to be received by May 27, so bags can be assembled the following week.

Our new church year begins on July 1 each year. This year we will be welcoming new committee chairs and trying new ways to involve each member of the congregation in the life of the church. And we will be welcoming a new senior pastor. Happy New (Church) Year!

Right now is the time to make serious decisions about the women's group for the coming year. Our group at First UMC Palo Alto has been rather dormant due to COVID and uncertainties. Now is the time to make decisions about direction and goals.

If we wish to remain an active group within the United Women in Faith (UWF), we need to be prepared to participate in the UWF programs with other churches in the El Camino Real District, the California/Nevada Conference, and the national organization. There are studies, meetings to share – local, national, international.

As we start increasing our individual activity within our own church, we need to seriously decide whether we want to attempt more involvement at this time.

If we decide to continue being part of UWF, we must commit time and energy in developing a schedule of meetings, studying program areas, contributing to annual budgets supporting missions, helping make phone calls regarding possible mission projects, taking on some administrative roles when necessary. We would have to share responsibility.

If we decide to concentrate on building up our church at this time, we can separate from the official UWF organization. If this is our choice, I foresee continuing to sell Ruthie's creative greeting cards at Christmas with proceeds to our ongoing support of Gum Moon home and of Mary

Elizabeth Inn and new mission opportunities. Holiday cards can still be sent to our homebound as long as Ruthie's wonderful cards keep showing up, and as long as there are volunteers to help address them. Cookie plates can still be prepared as long as there are also drivers able to help make deliveries.

Please prayerfully consider our options and make a decision. I have asked for input and suggestions and help in the past and have received no answers from you, and only two or three regular wonderful volunteers.

This time NO answer means we do not wish to continue being a part of the UWF organization in the new church year. Please let me and/or Pastor Doug know your decision so we are prepared for the new year.

Your Action Items

- Bring items for Hotel de Zink guests. Check the list in the narthex for needed items. All items due by Saturday, May 27.
- Contribute gently used hand towels or face cloths, if you have them, for Hotel de Zink.
- Tell Nancy Olson your thoughts about continuing the women's program in the coming church year. Should it remain part of the official United Women in Faith organization? Or perhaps you have another vision for the women's program at First UMC Palo Alto.

Hello First Palo Alto Readers!

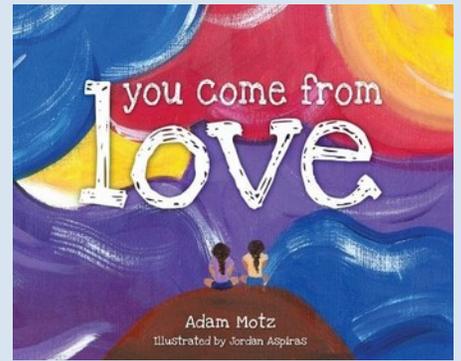
by Char Cutkosky

This month, we want to highlight *You Come From Love*, a picture book written by Adam Motz and illustrated by Jordan Aspiras, who you may know as our very own Mary Ann Michel's grand-daughter.

You Come From Love was written for children who were born through surrogacy, to answer their questions in an accessible way and reassure them of all the many forms that love can take. We also recommend it for children who weren't born through surrogacy, but who want to learn more about the different kinds of families and birth stories they might find among their classmates.

We have ordered a copy of *You Come From Love* for the church library, but you can also order the book from your local bookstore and Barnes & Noble.

Don't miss our Library Giveaway on Sunday, May 7, after the worship service! (See page 3.)



Great Decisions

Our 2023 Great Decisions series concluded April 16 but recordings of the talks and discussions remain available on the church website. If you missed or want to revisit any of the talks, click on the appropriate links.

Using a hybrid formula combining in-person attendance in Kohlstedt Hall and virtual participation via Zoom enabled 40-50 people to attend each session. The posted videos were viewed by several dozen more. If you have any comments on the hybrid format or suggestions for next year, please send them to Lou Bellardo or Tom Fingar.

Great Decisions could not have happened without the efforts of Lou Bellardo, Scott Thomas, Bill Nichols, and Char Cutkosky. We are grateful for their assistance and technical abilities. Thanks also to Tom Fingar for his recruitment of speakers and moderation of the sessions. ❖

CONCERT NOTES

It's a Musical May

May brings five performing groups in six concerts at our church. You are welcome and encouraged to attend them all!

May 6, 3:00 p.m. Spring Music Academy. "The Sound of Blooming," conducted by Wenbo Deng with pianist Amy Huang. Special guests: Spring Children's Choir and California Philharmonic Art Chorus. Tickets: \$20 at SMA.ticketbox@gmail.com

May 13, 1:00 p.m. Cantabile. All Choir Concert. An eclectic program celebrating diverse musical cultures of the world.

May 20, 1:00 p.m. Cantabile. Advanced Youth Choirs. Program honors graduating seniors and celebrates music of Southeast Asia.

Purchase tickets at www.cantabile.org/performances-events

May 20, 7:30 p.m. Schola Cantorum. "The Sun, the Moon, and the Stars," an exploration of traditional and modern compositions. Tickets: \$30 at scholacantorum.org/concerts/moon_and_stars/

May 23, 7:00 p.m. Mountain View High School Choirs. Annual spring concert. Tickets available at the door.

May 26, 6:30 p.m. Bullis Charter School. Spring Concert with all school choirs sharing music learned throughout the year.

May 27, 7:30 p.m. San Francisco Chamber Orchestra. Mainstage concert conducted by new director Cosette Justo Valdes. Music by Frank Martin, Evelin Ramon, and Felix Mendelssohn, and a world premiere by Sumi Tonooka. The concert is free; the line to enter usually forms about 7:00 p.m.



by Nancy Olson

- The American Chemistry Council (ACC) recently announced it would try to introduce legislation that would promote “chemical recycling” or “advanced recycling.”

The process primarily involves converting plastic into fuel that is then incinerated. Far from actual recycling, it is really just an expensive and roundabout way of burning fossil fuels. The chemical industry is lobbying hard to get two types of these plastic-to-fuel incinerators – pyrolysis and gasification – exempt from regulations under the Clean Air Act.

Without strong regulation, pyrolysis and gasification facilities would face less stringent environmental standards while producing hazardous waste, emitting greenhouse gases, and releasing toxic chemicals into the air. Letting these incinerators escape the Clean Air Act would particularly harm the low-income communities and communities of color where most pyrolysis and gasification facilities exist, and where they are likely to be sited in the future. It would also set a terrible precedent, encouraging other polluting industries to pursue their own special exemptions.

These false solutions to our plastic waste crisis presented by the petrochemical industry only serve to ensure that fossil fuels are still a part of our future. Please consider joining me in contacting our elected state and national representatives and demand they prioritize the health of our communities and our planet over profits. Every brief letter or phone call is an important vote for clean air.

- Some good news! The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has designated prostrate milkweed an endangered species. With this ruling, the imperiled plant now receives federal protections, including for hundreds of acres of critical habitat.

This is a victory not only for prostrate milkweed itself, but also monarch butterflies, bees, and other wildlife. Prostrate milkweed is an important food source for monarch caterpillars. Its brightly colored flowers also attract and support native pollinators.

Despite its importance, prostrate milkweed has been threatened by development and competition from invasive species. Currently, only 24 populations remain. The endangered species designation will be critical to ensuring these populations survive and grow.

During the FWS public comment period, over 17,000 grassroots supporters urged the agency to protect prostrate milkweed. See how individual messages to elected officials and to governmental agencies can pack a wallop?

- Palo Alto residents not only have weekly curbside collection of garbage (landfill), recycling, and compostables, single family residents have two free pre-scheduled clean-up days annually. Days are different for each neighborhood – the city mails a postcard to each residence with the specific dates for your neighborhood. Put the dates on your calendar.

On your specific date you are allowed to put labeled items at the curb near your regular carts. Preparing for Clean Up Day is a good time to get rid of bulky furniture and larger items taking up too much space. Your postcard will tell you how to label items. Some items are not accepted: hazardous materials (these items that can be dropped off at the Household Hazardous Waste Station, open weekly); fragile items, such as like mirrors; food or liquid. ❖

MAY ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS



5.5.1984 John Duhring & Sheila Gholson
 5.5.1986 Carol & Bob Chatfield
 5.13.2009 Lino & Jewels Bailon
 5.19.1997 Mark Bui-ford & David Bui
 5.21.2005 Joe & Debra Murray
 5.23.1981 Kathleen Branyon & David Goodman
 5.27.1973 Frank & Annette Rahn
 5.27.1989 Joan & Marty Crayton



5.1 Ewan Keller
 5.2 Mark Iglehart
 5.2 Alan Cooper
 5.3 Maddy Buxton
 5.4 Janni Yuen
 5.5 Gary Ahlberg
 5.8 Nancy Stowe
 5.8 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 Kieran Martin
 5.23 Matt Newberry
 5.24 Courtney Duhring
 5.26 Ray Crump
 5.26 Jenny Webb
 5.26 Simone Bikai
 5.27 Benjamin Conway
 5.27 Steve Anderes
 5.27 Sinai Latu
 5.28 Carol Olmstead
 5.28 Careen 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 2023 Income and Expense Summary (FINAL)	March 2023 Actual	Actual YTD 2023	Budget YTD 2023	Budget Annual 2023
Income				
Total Member Giving	18,956	124,517	92,139	386,556
Total Income All Other Sources	16,701	47,490	47,970	220,500
	35,657	172,007	140,109	607,056
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	3,293	17,013	16,913	52,000
Council on Ministries	573	2,899	9,419	41,650
Staff Parish Relations	22,032	79,112	104,640	418,563
Office and Finance	1,154	3,729	4,737	20,100
Board of Trustees	22,689	66,522	70,651	200,700
Total Expenses	49,741	169,275	206,360	733,013
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	-14,084	2,732	-66,251	-125,957



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

→ **Masks are recommended for in-person activities.** Some activities meet online via Zoom, as noted. Hybrid activities can be attended in person or via Zoom.

→ Church office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Doors are kept locked. Please phone the office or ring the electronic door bell to be admitted. **Masks are recommended.**

Sundays

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, ages 3–11
- 10:45 a.m. Worship, in person and live-streamed. Check firstpaloalto.com or Friday e-news for the link.
- 11:45 a.m. Snack 'n Chat (after worship)
- 5:30 p.m. Covenant Class (Zoom)

Mondays

- 7:00 p.m. Social Justice movie discussions (Zoom) See e-news for details.
- 7:00 p.m. Fiume di Musica Rehearsal
- 7:15 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)

Tuesdays

- 9:50 a.m. Walking Group
- Noon Current Affairs Fellowship (Zoom)
- 1:00 p.m. Stretching Our Faith

Wednesdays

- Noon Sermon Scripture Study (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m. Upstream Contemporary Worship

Thursdays

- 12:30 p.m. Meditation and Music

Information for the next 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 bring them to the church office. Thank you!

- 2 SPRC, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 7 Couples group, noon
- 9 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 13 Mothers Day
- 16 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 21 Couples group, noon
- 20 Insights deadline
- 23 Church Council, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 27 San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, free concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 28 Fellowship Friends, 5:00 p.m.
- 29 Memorial Day
Church office closed



This year's Vacation Bible School theme is "Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God."

We're looking for volunteers to help plan our 10 a.m.-3 p.m. one-day VBS experience. If you are interested in helping out, contact Pastor Gerardo at cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com.

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!





FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Palo Alto United Methodist Church
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