



Your Presence Matters!

Attend Our Church Conference June 4

After a special worship service on Sunday, June 4, all church members are encouraged to attend an in-person Church Conference at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Doug Norris will preside.

The main agenda items are:

- Voting on the slate of new officers and committee positions presented by the Committee on Lay Leadership.
- Voting on Pastor Compensation for our incoming new pastor, Rev. Burke Owens.
- Presentation of the annual Centennial Endowment Funds financial report.

After our special communion worship service with First Tongan Church, be sure to greet our special guests—College of San Mateo students who received “Kurian Family Trust – First United Methodist Church” scholarships. Enjoy snacks and cake, then head to Fellowship Hall for the Church Conference.



Compost? Recycle? Or Landfill?

Doing Things Differently from Now On

by Pamela Cutkosky and Susan Stephens, Facilities Manager

The City of Palo Alto put new rules in effect this year about what residents and businesses should compost, recycle, and trash—and how they should do it.

The church falls under the “business” category. Here are five of the changes you will notice:

Composting is mandatory, not just suggested or recommended.

Compost all soiled paper products, food scraps, compostable tableware. For our congregation, this means all paper plates, napkins, compostable forks and spoons, and coffee cups should be put in a compost bin, not a trash can.

Single-use plastic cutlery is not permitted. Cutlery packages—fork, knife, spoon wrapped in a napkin—are not permitted either. For our congregation, this means that we will stop buying plastic cutlery and instead purchase compostable forks, knives, and spoons or use washable metal utensils. Any plastic cutlery must be used more than once, so look for a tray to put your plastic fork for washing. Used plastic utensils go in landfill.

All bins must be color-coded or otherwise identified for compost, recycling, or garbage (landfill). Look for new color-coded bins around the building. You’ll also notice new color-coded utility containers in the parking lot. **Green for compost**, **blue for recycling**, black or **tan** for garbage/landfill.

All bins must be clearly labeled for compost, recycling, or garbage.

It is the church’s obligation to educate and train those who use our spaces—rental groups, concert groups, wedding parties, etc.—on Palo Alto’s requirements for compost, recycling, and landfill.

We are all responsible for helping the City of Palo Alto meet its green goals. When you “pitch in,” be sure you are pitching into the right bin! ❖

I Like It Here!

by Douglas Norris

This is my last column. In last month's *Insights*, I thanked God for you, for the privilege I am having ministering with you, and for the positive signs of growth. Now, the future with a new pastor is open.

How does a church go into the future with confidence, direction, and success? Undergirded with prayer! Believing in the power of prayer, I am issuing a Call to Prayer. A common ingredient in churches that are growing and in churches that have turned around is prayer. They prayed and found power in prayer.

Many of you have been and are praying for our church. This is a Call to Prayer in a weekly group every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room, following the 12:30 Meditation when it resumes. The first Call to Prayer session will be June 8. Jerry Johnson will be the convener, assisted by Phyllis Sherlock.

The group, which hopefully includes you, will pray for the sick, including those listed on the weekly Prayer List in e-news, the requests on the submitted pew cards, the worship service, church leaders and committees, mission and ministries of the church, the unhoused, those who have left the church and have not yet returned—the list goes on and on. There is much to pray for. You may participate in the group by praying out loud or in silence. Come with expectation, come in faith, come open to the Holy Spirit.

Of course, if your schedule prevents you from coming on Thursdays at 1 p.m., please pray whenever and however you can. Perhaps eventually, more groups to accommodate the variety of schedules will surface. ❖

Saying Farewell and Thank You to Rev. Doug and Ellie Norris

by Pamela Cutkosky, SPRC Chair

It's just "farewell," not "goodbye."

June 25 is Rev. Doug Norris's last Sunday leading worship as our Interim Senior Pastor.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is planning three ways for you to celebrate Doug and Ellie's wonderful eight months with us.

Write a Thank-You Card

During the month of June, there will be a basket in the narthex and the church office to collect your cards of appreciation for all that Doug and Ellie Norris have meant to us these past eight months.

Stay for Lunch on June 25

SPRC will host a light lunch on the patio after worship on their last Sunday, a time of fellowship as a church community to personally thank them and wish them the best when they return to Arizona.

Contribute to the Norris Seminary Scholarship

Pastor Doug was adamant—no love offering. But he has endorsed the idea of honoring his time here by

making a contribution to the Douglas and Eleanor Norris Scholarship Fund at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Doug graduated from Garrett more than 50 years ago, and this endowed scholarship supports students entering pastoral ministry. (See page 9 for background on how the scholarship came to be and what has happened in the dozen years since it began in 2011.)

Here's how to make a tax-deductible gift to the Norris Scholarship Fund:

Make your check out to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Write "Douglas and Eleanor Norris Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.

Put the check or cash in a sealed, unstamped envelope with your return address, and write "Garrett" on the envelope.

Send or bring your envelope to the church. The church will do a bulk mailing to ensure that your gift goes to the Norris Scholarship Fund. ❖

Hotel de Zink Is Here in June! More Volunteers Needed

by Nancy Glaser

Hotel de Zink is coming again to First UMC Palo Alto during the month of June. **We still need more volunteers to provide meals and take-away breakfast items. Sign up** on the church website (firstpaloalto.com) or on the patio.

Evening meals are to be delivered each night for 15-20 people. (The weekly coordinator will confirm the final count). Meal providers are to arrive with ready-to-eat food between 7:00–7:30 p.m. Come to the church parking lot/door of our building, and the LifeMoves staff will meet you there if you call the manager on duty. Your weekly coordinator will provide the mobile phone number. You can also deliver the food directly downstairs to Kohlstedt Hall. Take-away breakfast items are needed for Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Hotel de Zink provides emergency shelter, food, and case management for homeless adults in Palo Alto who want to become self-sufficient. Our church has participated in the Hotel de Zink program for several decades. The plan this year is to use Kohlstedt Hall and the corridor space on the lower floor for sleeping, and Kohlstedt Hall itself for eating. If you want to socialize with the guests, please do! However, no one is expected to socialize due to health issues.

The program is run by **LifeMoves** and is unique in being housed in local churches, a different church each month. Typically, 15 to 20 clients are in the program at any time as clients take jobs and new

clients take their place. Thus, the program provides them with stability, safety, and a team of experienced LifeMoves staff working to help them become self-sufficient.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last few years were a big success for Hotel de Zink thanks to the help of the many volunteers in our congregation. This year, I am taking over the Hotel de Zink FUMCPA liaison role and working along with many wonderful church volunteers. ❖



Mark Your Calendars Annual 'Picnics in the Park' Are Set for July

First UMC Palo Alto has three picnics planned for Thursdays in July at our new East Meadow group picnic site in Mitchell Park, Palo Alto. It's located along East Meadow Drive, with on-street and off-street parking, near Fairmeadow Elementary School.

The dates are July 13, 20, and 27.

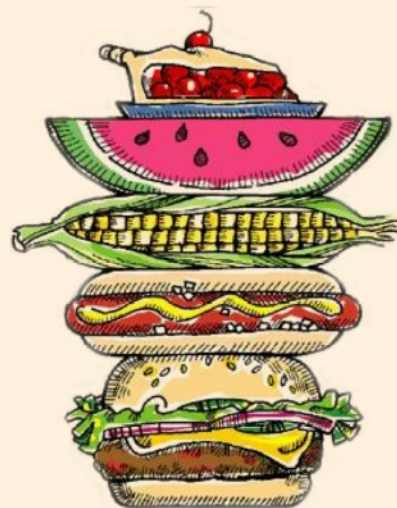
We ask for a donation of \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

Picnics start at 6 p.m. and we say grace at 6:15 p.m. We usually wrap up about 7:30 p.m. (It gets cool in the evening!)

Bring your friends, neighbors, and visiting relatives. All are welcome. And this July, picnic with our new pastor, Rev. Burke Owens!

In June, Seasonal Events Coordinator Pam Cutkosky will be recruiting grilling chefs, salad chefs, and dessert chefs to contribute food for the picnics. (You can get reimbursed.)

See Pam with questions: 650-328-5208 or pamelareasner@yahoo.com





What: Great opportunity for fun and learning = **Vacation Bible School**

Who: Children ages 4-11

When: Saturday, July 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto, Hamilton Avenue patio area

Information: Contact Pastor Gerardo at cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com

Register by June 18: tinyurl.com/fumcpavbs23

Tell all the kids you know!

Behind the VBS Superheroes Theme

by Rev. Gerardo García Palacios

Superheroes have always been a fascination for me since I was little—especially DC heroes like Batman, Superman, Flash, and Wonder Woman, among others.

I always wanted to be Batman. Batman didn't have superpowers like Superman or Wonder Woman did. Batman had the superpower to serve and help people when bad people tried to harm them. Batman was motivated to help people around him without asking for anything in exchange.

This group of superheroes was called the "Super Friends." Their goal was to bring peace to the world, starting with their communities. These days, we can see our superheroes from the DC and Marvel worlds on the big screen, too.

In keeping with the superhero goal to bring peace to the world, the theme of our Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer is "Hero Hotline, Called Together to Serve God!"

Romans 14:19 says: "So let us pursue what contributes to peace and mutual edification." This verse reminds us that God calls us to be part of a community, working to bring peace to the world in fellowship together.

Here's how our VBS "Hero Hotline" helps young heroes work together to bring peace and build one another up:

The Hero Hotline headquarters is a sacred place where heroes help to solve problems. Everyone's gifts are valued at the Hero Hotline, and each hero has a role to play. Heroes receive a call/assignment to help solve a problem that another hero in their community faces. Heroes will then explore the files and database of the Hero Hotline to discover how heroes can work together to bring peace.

Encourage children you know to register for "Hero Hotline" Vacation Bible School! ❖



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUMMER 2023

HERO HOTLINE!

Saturday July 8 | 10 - 3 PM

Ages 4 - 11 Registration deadline: June 18

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CYFMINISTRIES@FIRSTPALOALTO.COM



12 Ways to Welcome and Support Rev. Burke and Caroline Owens

by Pamela Cutkosky, SPRC Chair
Staff Parish and Trustees are busy getting ready for our new pastor, Rev. Burke Owens, on July 2. But to be truly welcoming and supportive will take all of us. Here are 12 ways you can welcome and support Rev. Burke and his wife Caroline.

Attend worship July 2. That's Rev. Burke's first Sunday preaching and leading worship. Support our new pastor from the start!

Contribute to the salad potluck July 2. SPRC is turning Snack 'n Chat into a salad potluck lunch on the patio after worship. Bring a salad if you can, but certainly bring yourself to enjoy food and fellowship on the Owens's first Sunday with us.

Attend a Meet 'n Greet. SPRC is organizing eight of these small gatherings to help the congregation and the Owens get to know each other better. Look for signup sheets or talk to those who have volunteered to host.

Write a note. Welcome Rev. Burke and Caroline with a personal note. Look for the box in the narthex or drop it off at the office.

Share your "Best Of..." Got a favorite restaurant? Great hike? Picnic spot? Annual activity? Favorite shop or business? Share it with Burke and Caroline, new residents to Palo Alto and the Peninsula/South Bay. Add a gift card if you are so inclined. Look for the box in the narthex to collect suggestions.

Extend grace. The first weeks are a busy and emotional time. Commit yourself to getting to know our new pastor, supporting his gifts and initiatives, and learning how you can be in ministry together with him.

Read the bios. Learn more about Pastor Burke and Caroline by reading their bios. They're posted on the bulletin board in the church

entryway and on page 8 in this issue of *Insights*.

Wear a name tag. Rev. Burke is learning 300+ new names.

Lend a hand. Especially from June 24 to July 2, the Norrises and Owens might need some help packing and unpacking, moving boxes and furniture. If you are able, please contact Rick Allen with your availability.

Go-To Guy. Pastor Burke is our Senior Pastor. He's in charge. He will preach, visit shut-ins, and provide pastoral counseling. He's the one to go to about baptisms, weddings, and memorials. He's the one to go to with your cares and concerns.

Give space. In the first couple weeks, the Owens will be unpacking and getting their bearings. Avoid "dropping in."

Pray. For Rev. Doug and Ellie, for Rev. Burke and Caroline, for our church.

Then, surrender your anxiety and trust God as we all work through this transition.

Finally, **expect the best!** (That's #13.) ❖



Peace with Justice Sunday, June 4

Through your generous gift on this United Methodist Special Sunday, you encourage living a gospel of peace.

Please make checks payable to First UMC Palo Alto with PWJS in the memo, or give online at UMCgiving.org/givePWJS.

Winding Down on a High Note!

by Kyle Sofman



We have two wonderful concerts in June!

Under the baton of Kent Jue, Ragazzi will present their spring recital June 3 at 4 p.m., with performances by Ragazzi's Primary Group, Ragazzi Premiere, and Avanti ensembles. This recital showcases the younger choristers at the beginning, intermediate, and beginning advanced program levels. Ragazzi's program of musical growth and progress is laid out, with each group performing a set of songs. The ensembles will combine to perform songs together in celebration of spring.

The concert will feature special guests from the Concert Group and Choral Scholars.

This is sure to be an exciting and heartwarming concert showing the growth of the boys as they progress as young singers.

Tickets are available here: ragazzi.org/performances/archive/spring-recital/ (Scroll down to the bottom.)

Also on June 3, will be a free recital with special needs students from Home of Christ Church, Menlo Park with church pianist and teacher, Nan Sun. The concert is free and will begin at 7:30 p.m. It will run about an hour long.

A piano recital is scheduled for Aug. 5. Watch for details. ❖

Debbie Krueger's grandson enjoys a book she selected from the church library's book give-away on the patio, May 7.

News from Your Church Library

by Char Cutkosky

Sometimes, during the heat of summer, it's nice to escape to somewhere cool and watery—through the safety of a good book!

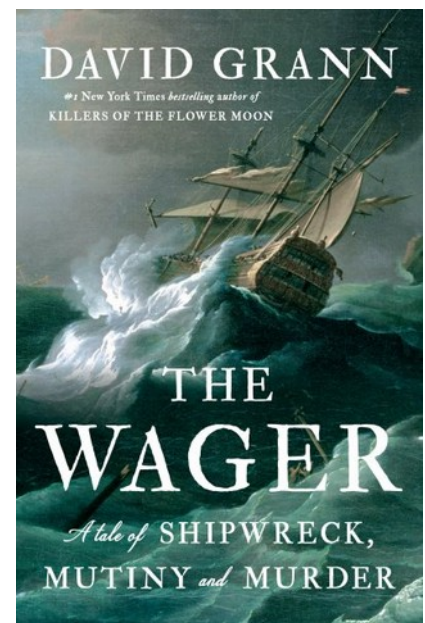
David Grann is well-known for his narrative nonfiction work, particularly his National Book Award finalist, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. His latest book, *The Wager*, details the twisting and turning story of the Wager, a British military ship that in 1742 became stranded on an island off Patagonia while pursuing a rival Spanish galleon—so the first story went, related by survivors whose raft made it to Brazil. But six months later, another raft of survivors appeared in Chile, telling a very different story of mutiny and the Lord of the Flies-esque chaos that ensued after the shipwreck.

The Wager is a real-life mystery full of complex motives and lies-within-lies as the British naval court attempts to determine whose side of the story is true.

Check out *The Wager* and other new acquisitions in the First UMC Palo Alto library, and as always, happy reading!

We Have a Winner!

Our incoming pastor, Rev. Burke Owens, was the winner of the Library Committee's jelly bean guessing contest. Pastor Burke and his wife, Caroline, made a visit to the church after Palm Sunday and submitted jelly bean guesses when they toured the library. His guess of 1,200 came closest to the actual total of 1,134. The Library Committee will present Pastor Burke with his prize of a Books Inc gift card when he arrives in July. ❖





L to R, Miles Keep (dad), Owen Keep (brother), Emma Keep, and Chrissie Blair (mom) at Emma’s University of Wisconsin graduation.



Julia Kispert, who graduated from Macalester College, with her brother John, who just graduated from St. Francis High School.

Congratulations to FUMC Graduates!

You’ve watched them grow up. Now we celebrate their accomplishments by congratulating these graduates: Emma Keep, graduating from the University of Wisconsin and working at the University of Chicago Hospital as a Clinical Research Coordinator in Pediatric Oncology.

Julia Kispert, graduating from Macalester College and moving to Minneapolis for her job as a software engineer with Target.

John Kispert, graduating from St. Francis High School. John will head to Marquette University in Milwaukee in the fall to study in the School of Communications.

In addition, our organist, Diane Keller, graduated from Pepperdine University with a master’s degree in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy. ❖

Joy of Giving Focus on Ada’s Cafe by Michele W. Conway

Joy of Giving lists an assortment of giving opportunities during the Christmas holidays each year. Some opportunities extend well beyond our doorstep, while others are close to home. New to our list in 2022, Ada’s Cafe was the grateful recipient of some of our Joy of Giving generosity.



The mission of Ada’s Cafe is to hire and train workers with disabilities, and empower them through a collaborative work environment. Ada’s hopes to foster understanding and a better sense of what community means. Longterm, Ada’s hopes to scale up throughout the Bay area.

As a nonprofit supporting people with disabilities, Ada’s Cafe supports research that helps them create an effective work environment, develop their training and skill development programs, and improve the work experience for their employees and other organizations that employ people with disabilities.

Located in the Mitchell Park Community Center in Palo Alto, just across from the library entrance, Ada’s Cafe menu includes pastries, soups, sandwiches, snacks, and desserts, plus a variety of beverages. Catering is offered. (We have enjoyed some of their treats at church events!)

See the website: AdasCafe.org for more information.

Bio: Pastor Burke Owens

Pastor Burke has been serving as pastor in the California Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church for nearly ten years. He began through a two-year internship at Napa United Methodist Church in 2013, was then appointed as a licensed local pastor in 2015 to Petaluma United Methodist Church, before appointment to St. Helena United Methodist Church in 2017. As of July 2023, he will begin a new appointment as Senior Pastor at Palo Alto First United Methodist Church. Burke was welcomed as an Elder and installed as Ordained Minister by Bishop Minerva Carcaño in 2018. He was awarded a Master of Divinity degree in 2017 from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

Prior to his call to ministry, Burke worked within and passionately enjoyed the wine, food, and hospitality industries. His extensive experience in the producer, importer, wholesale, retail, restaurant, on-line, and education arenas allowed Burke a unique and multi-disciplined understanding of the complexities inherent in the industry. Sales, marketing, public relations, media, compliance, and logistics are among his talents, but it is communication about wine and food that was his true gift. A background in theater arts and an ability to clearly verbalize his passion for food and wine allowed him to share the wonders of the vine. Burke is particularly grateful for his time at Masa's in SF, where as sommelier he was nominated for a James Beard Award, at COPIA in Napa, Continuum Estate in St. Helena, WINE.COM, the original on-line wine platform, and at Manka's Inverness Lodge in West Marin.

Burke and Caroline have been married for 41 years and have two adult children, Rose (35) and Bryn (34). No grandchildren yet, but one never knows.

Burke grew up in New England and went to college in New York City. There he met Caroline while both were studying experimental theater. Soon afterwards, they moved to a spiritual community in upstate New York, located in a former Shaker village. In addition, Burke has studied and engaged in the Sikh, Zen, Tibetan Buddhist, Hebrew, and Sufi orders faith traditions. He also is a lover of all

types of music, art, film, literature, poetry, and the natural world.

Burke's call to spirit has been a core part of his life for decades and continues to inspire, motivate, and remind him of God's grace, Christ's love, and the spirit's continuing renewal of creation.

Bio: Caroline Pietrangelo Owens

Caroline is an ordained minister of the Ridhwan Foundation, a teacher of the Diamond Approach. The Diamond Approach is a modern-day spiritual path bringing forth a unique understanding of ancient spiritual wisdom and modern psychology to help people uncover their true potential. She works with individuals and small groups in this practice of meditation and inquiry. The Diamond Approach invites the discovery of our inner love of the truth solely for its own sake—one simply needs a sincere desire to know what is true about oneself. The teachings, practices, and community are a path for self-exploration that supports greater self-awareness and a more fulfilling life. Individuals develop a deeper understanding of themselves and their true nature.

Caroline has been engaged in this work since 1994 and was ordained in 2016 after a 10-year seminary. Currently, she is a full-time teacher in the Diamond Approach and deeply loves this work. She sees it as her ministerial calling to serve God in this wondrous way.

Prior to this work, Caroline was involved in the field of education and has a master's degree in Human Development and Education. She worked at WestEd's Center for Child and Family Studies as the Project Director of the Faculty Initiative Project for 15 years. This project was funded by the California Department of Education and created instructional guides and seminars for higher education faculty to support the preparation of teachers of young children. Also, she has taught child/human development courses at the community college level as well as for UC Davis extension and other locations.

Over 30 years ago Caroline gave birth to two beautiful beings, *continued on page 9*



*Make every effort
to keep the unity of
the Spirit through
the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:3, NIV

Caroline from page 8

Rose and Bryn. They have been her greatest teachers!

Shortly after her children were born, she engaged in Montessori and Waldorf training and opened an in-home “school” with an integration of these two approaches. This was a wonderfully magical and powerful experience. She also began to offer parenting classes at that time.

The integration of the Diamond Approach with her work with children and families has been very meaningful for her and follows a deeply felt sense of guidance. Her work is informed by this guidance and that has evolved into facilitating several online international parenting groups over the last years.

Caroline’s learning and development is ongoing and open-ended. She is deeply moved and grateful for this unfolding work and deep guidance. ❖

INSIGHTS Summer 2023

The Norris Scholarship Fund at Garrett

A Dozen Years Supporting Students in Seminary

by Douglas Norris

At the May 2011 final weekend event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Rev. Doug Norris’s graduation from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, David Heetland, Director of Development, approached Doug and Ellie with the proposal that Garrett establish a scholarship in his honor. Established with \$1,000 from Garrett, the scholarship would become endowed at the time contributions reached \$25,000. At that time, annual stipends—5% of the scholarship market balance—would be awarded annually to a seminary student.

Overwhelmed by the offer but dismayed by the inability to reach the endowment threshold, Doug and Ellie declined. But David said, “Think about it.” Their sons and families and FUMC Family Camp friends all said, “Go for it!” David suggested announcing the scholarship in Palo Alto at FUMC, where Craig and family were actively involved. All three sons had been raised at FUMC, then active through university and in marriage for Jack and Craig.

On August 7, 2011, David Heetland announced during morning worship the creation of the Douglas and Eleanor Norris Scholarship Fund at Garrett. Sons Jack, Tim, and Craig barbecued tri-tip in the parking lot, and everyone celebrated with lunch for 300 in Fellowship Hall. The scholarship was endowed in six weeks.

Norris scholarship stipends are awarded to Garrett students “planning to enter pastoral ministry.” Stipends have increased steadily, with awards from 2012-2022 totaling \$44,464.50. Current tuition for a year at Garrett is \$22,680.

A special joy was the announcement of the 2019 stipend award to entering freshman Jordan Aspiras, granddaughter of Mary Ann Michel and daughter of Holly and Dan Aspiras. Mike and Mary Ann Michel became beloved family friends upon the Norrises’ arrival at FUMC in 1969. Mary Ann heard of Jordan’s birth via telephone at Family Camp.

Doug had requested at a Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting that there be no Love Gift in June. Then, David Heetland (now Senior Vice President for Planned Giving) wrote this: “Hi, Doug! I hope this finds you well and still enjoying your interim appointment at Palo Alto. It dawned on me that people will want to thank you for serving them once again. Would you be open to suggesting that if they wish to do so, they might consider a gift to your scholarship? We’d love to see your scholarship continue to grow.”

This suggestion for a tax-deductible gift to students through the Douglas and Eleanor Norris Scholarship Fund at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, has Doug’s approval. See page 2 for how to give. ❖

Amid Exits and Misinformation, Change Is Chance for Hope and Renewal

Adapted from an article by Tara Barnes, Director of Denominational Relations for United Women in Faith

This past year, hundreds of churches disaffiliated from The United Methodist Church, leaving the denomination to become independent congregations or join another denomination. Since 2019, around 2,000 churches have left the denomination, according to United Methodist News and the United Methodist General Council on Finance and Administration.

So what's going on? In 2019, after a special session of the United Methodist General Conference, a new paragraph was added to The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church allowing local churches to leave The United Methodist Church, or disaffiliate, and keep their church building. Before 2019, leaving the denomination meant closing the church, with church property given to the annual conference board of trustees.

The provisions of the new disaffiliation paragraph expire Dec. 31, 2023, which explains some of the current urgency.

What isn't going on is a church split. There are more than, 40,000 United Methodist churches worldwide, with nearly 13 million members. Nor have disaffiliations led to a mass exodus—but they have taken a toll.

How did we get here? The 2019 General Conference that introduced disaffiliation into the United Methodist law book was an attempt by the global decision-making body to address the church's longtime and ongoing disagreement over homosexuality.

The special session was born of a recommendation by the Council of Bishops in 2016 “that the General Conference defer all votes on human sexuality and refer this entire subject to a special Commission, named by the Council of Bishops. The goal was to keep our global denomination united and better able, by moving beyond our impasse, to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

The special commission, called the Commission on a Way Forward, offered a report on which the General Conference would act and included three possible plans for the future of the church. By a difference of only 54 votes, General Conference supported the Traditional Plan, which reinforced the instruction that the “practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching” and strengthened enforcement of church restrictions related to homosexuality. The new paragraph, “Disaffiliation of Local Churches Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality,” also passed.

What resulted was a denomination with a broken heart—and United Methodists with heels dug in. Instead of exiting, many United Methodists who want the marriage and ordination exclusions removed have stayed to continue to work for a more inclusive church.

In response, in the leadup to General Conference 2020, an exit plan was brokered that would, if passed, allow local churches to keep their property and give \$25 million to a traditionalist splinter group hoping to establish its own denomination. This legislation, called “Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation,” or the Protocol, was more palatable to many traditionalists than the disaffiliation paragraph passed in 2019, so, though the disaffiliation paragraph was in effect, many churches decided to wait to leave until the next General Conference in hopes the Protocol would pass.

COVID-19 safety restrictions ultimately postponed the 2020 General Conference to 2024—past the disaffiliation time limit—and traditionalists decided to move forward with their new denomination in May 2022. With the disaffiliation deadline looming, the new denomination is rushing to encourage United Methodist congregations to leave The United Methodist Church. The proselytizing is at full steam, and misinformation continues to spread.

continued on page 11

UMC Changes *from page 10*

Getting it right The United Methodist Church makes decisions together through elected delegates from around the world coming together to conference and vote. These delegates bring a great variety of reason, tradition, experience, and understanding of Scripture to these decision-making spaces, and United Methodists strive for diversity and unity, not conformity.

The future of The United Methodist Church is ours to make. The next United Methodist General Conference will take place April 23 to May 4, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Hope for the future Methodism dates back to 1730, when John and Charles Wesley started small student groups at Oxford University in England. The United Methodist Church was founded only in 1968 as the coming together of many Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations that had their own splits and mergers. Our organization has had more than 20 names and iterations. In other words, we've been here before, and the church is still here today.

It is our ability to change, grow, and continue to let God perfect us in love that keeps us going. God is still at work in The United Methodist Church. ❖

uwfaith.org/latest-news/2023/whats-happening-in-the-united-methodist-church/

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



April 2023 Income and Expense Summary (DRAFT)	April 2023 Actual	Actual YTD 2023	Budget YTD 2023	Budget Annual 2023
Income				
Total Member Giving	19,649	144,166	106,134	386,556
Total Income All Other Sources	24,400	71,890	62,738	220,500
Total Income	44,049	216,056	168,872	607,056
Expense				
Conference Tithe	4,354	21,366	20,913	52,000
Council on Ministries	2,053	4,952	12,560	41,650
Staff Parish Relations	28,703	107,815	141,687	418,563
Office and Finance	1,281	5,010	6,316	20,100
Board of Trustees	12,585	79,107	83,735	200,700
Total Expenses	48,976	218,250	265,211	733,013
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	-4,927	-2,194	-96,339	-125,957



Celebrating Pastor Doug's 89th birthday (April 22) on the patio, April 23. Photo by Lou Bellardo



SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

June

6.1 Griffin Larson
 6.2 Aidan Keller
 6.3 Art Hammar
 6.3 Janet Nicholls
 6.4 Steve Smith
 6.6 Eileen Johnson
 6.6 Penelope Spangler
 6.8 Joshua Hibdon-
 Malkenson
 6.9 Gayle Perry
 6.9 Claire Duhring
 6.10 Mark Bateman
 6.10 Nervin Hall
 6.10 Aaron Wells
 6.11 Yannick Hall
 6.11 Kasey Phillips
 6.13 Lou Bellardo
 6.14 Mele Teu-Fifita
 6.16 Caety Chong
 6.17 Julian Bliss
 6.17 William Bliss
 6.17 Sumith Kalas
 6.17 Debra Murray
 6.20 Peter Colby
 6.20 Ainsley Newberry
 6.21 Mona Blackburn
 6.21 Julia Kispert
 6.22 Dave Gee

6.23 Theo Newberry
 6.24 Karen Breen
 6.25 Christina Bellardo
 6.25 David Carman
 6.26 Lisa Newman
 6.28 Heather Perry
 6.28 Arden Wells

July

7.8 Owen Keep
 7.9 Michael Reddick
 7.9 Ruthie Waters
 7.9 Ellen Haffner
 7.10 Laisana Delai
 7.11 Lucy Newton
 7.13 Vaiola Herrera
 7.13 Randy Senn
 7.13 Ross Trammell
 7.14 Betsy Van Nuys
 7.15 Mykala Curtis
 7.15 Jeff King
 7.15 John Nimmo
 7.16 Bill Nichols
 7.17 Marilyn Bauriedel
 7.18 Andy Clifford
 7.18 Molly Riley
 7.21 Bud Buttrill
 7.22 Makeleta Stepp
 7.22 Angela Mosqueda
 7.25 Atu Vosailagi

7.25 Linda Jordan
 7.26 Bob Olmstead
 7.27 Dana Gleason
 7.28 Faith Veenker
 7.30 Felice Swapp
 7.31 Vicki Veenker

August

8.1 Mere Bikai
 8.1 Axel Larson
 8.1 Alice Peterson
 8.1 David Blackburn III
 8.1 Jennifer Blackburn
 8.2 Carol Atterberry
 8.5 Gabriella Herbert-Paz
 8.6 Jim Van Horne
 8.8 David Marshall
 8.10 Linéa Stewart
 8.11 Frank Rahn
 8.12 Tim Breen
 8.12 Robert Lee Day
 8.13 Griffin Camens
 8.14 Sarah Perry
 8.16 Allen Wood
 8.17 Mike McCartney
 8.18 Shirley Stewart
 8.20 Deb Martin
 8.22 Denise Blase
 8.22 Carol Gleason



SUMMER ANNIVERSARIES

June

6.5.1971 Jean Cole, Brian Cole
 6.6.1987 Bill Michel Jr., Terri Michel
 6.9.1990 Tim Crockett, Vicki Veenker
 6.12.2004 Sandra Wilson, Brian Steen
 6.16.1957 Allen Wood, Mary Lu Wood
 6.17.2006 Denise Blase, Brian Blase
 6.17.1995 Chrissie Blair, Miles Keep
 6.2.1957 Curt Gleason, Carol Gleason
 6.23.1990 Mark Hollar, Michelle Hollar
 6.24.1995 Joe Buxton, Tanya Buxton
 6.27.1982 Keith Ferguson, Meg Ferguson

July

7.1.2007 Nathan Duncan, Ann Duncan
 7.6.1996 Peter Michel, Robin Michel
 7.13.1996 David Perry, Gayle Perry

7.15.1961 Donald Iglehart, Sheralee Iglehart
 7.18.1998 Stephen Black, Karen Black
 7.18.2009 Matt Newberry, Shannon Newberry
 7.27.1983 Steve Hickman, Karen Garrison
 7.27.2017 Sumith Kalas, Gladys Kalas
 7.29.1961 Art Hammar, Lois Hammar

August

8.5.1978 John Pencavel, Louise Pencavel
 8.7.2010 Kyle Trammell, Christina Bellardo
 8.8.1970 John Baglin, Coral Baglin
 8.13.1977 John Nimmo, Elisa Nimmo
 8.14.1982 Mark Cutkosky, Pamela Cutkosky
 8.15.2004 Stacy Paz, Carl Herbert
 8.16.2014 Jesse Fifita, Mele Teu-Fifita
 8.16.1958 Doug Norris, Ellie Norris
 8.23.2004 Deb Martin, Christopher Martin



SUMMER CALENDAR

JUNE

- Hotel de Zink in Kohlstedt Hall all month
- 4 Peace with Justice Sunday, special offering Church Conference, 12:15 p.m.
- 6 SPRC, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 13 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 18 Father's Day
- 20 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 27 Church Council, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 25 Farewell to Pastor Doug and Ellie, after worship Fellowship Friends, 5:00 p.m.

JULY

- 2 Welcome Pastor Burke and Caroline, salad potluck after worship
- 4 Independence Day, church office closed
- 6 SPRC, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 8 Vacation Bible School, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- 11 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 13 Picnic in the Park, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 20 Picnic in the Park, 6:00 p.m.
- 25 Church Council, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 27 Picnic in the Park, 6:00 p.m.
- 30 Fellowship Friends, 5:00 p.m.

AUGUST

- 1 SPRC, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 8 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 15 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 20 Insights deadline for September issue
- 22 Church Council, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 27 Fellowship Friends, 5:00 p.m.

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

→ **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

- 10:45 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)
- 12:15 p.m. Couples Group, alternate Sundays
- 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

- 1:00 p.m. Call to Prayer

Information for the next issue of the Insights newsletter is due August 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: insightsfirsttpa@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](https://twitter.com/firstpaloalto)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**
SUMMER 2023

- Picnics in the Park, p. 3
- Vacation Bible School, p. 4
- Farewell, p. 2 and Welcome, pp. 5, 8
- Congratulations Graduates, p. 7
- What's Going on with the UMC? p. 10

Next INSIGHTS deadline: August 20

