



First Church Picks!

by Char Cutkosky

You've undoubtedly seen cards on bookstore shelves labeled "Staff Picks"—where bookstore staff recommend a book to the public in a sentence or two.

The FUMCPA Library Committee will bring the Bookmobile cart to the patio Sunday, Aug. 13, stocked with books from our church library that members of the congregation and committee recommend. We're calling this effort "First Church Picks."

We hope to see everyone at the Bookmobile on Aug. 13 to check out a book!

If you have a book from our library that you'd like to recommend, email Char at charlotte@firstpaloalto.com.

Happy reading! ❖



UMC Sees Signs of Renewal, Even as Exits Rise from Annual Conferences

For many United Methodists in the U.S., the familiar annual conference opening hymn "And Are We Yet Alive" carried special resonance this year. The denomination's regional bodies had just come through another grueling season of approving church departures in the U.S. As other mainline Protestant denominations in the U.S. have done previously, The United Methodist Church is experiencing its own separation after decades of internal strife over the role of LGBTQ people in church life.

But amid the sadness of goodbyes, many U.S. annual conferences meeting in May and June welcomed new United Methodist faith communities and celebrated a renewed commitment to sharing the good news of Christ's grace outside church walls.

"The people who are in the room are the people who want to be United Methodist," said Council of Bishops President Thomas J. Bickerton, who also leads the New York Conference. "They want to reclaim a sense of purpose. And so right alongside of lament and grief is hopefulness and joy." *continued on page 4*

From Pastor Burke and Caroline:

Many, many thanks for all the wonderful hospitality we have received since our arrival here in Palo Alto, especially so for the many meets & greets at people's homes over the last few weeks. Through the course of seven gatherings, so far, we've met and gotten to know you better, heard your stories and shared ours too. In addition, a few in person and Zoom meetings have taken place with committee or church business areas such as events, school, and more. From everyone, there is a sense of excitement and joy around and about the church.

Together, we are embarking on a new journey and season of hope and love at First Palo Alto United Methodist Church, continuing a long tradition that stretches back nearly 130 years. Both Caroline and I are thrilled to be here and look forward to many years together of fellowship and service, living and worshiping as a community of faith, grace, and justice. Thank you and blessings always! ❖



Dear friends,

As I write this, it has been three weeks since Caroline and I arrived in Palo Alto. By the time you read this issue of Insights, however, it will be a month-plus that we've lived in this community. Palo Alto is a fascinating place and quite varied, as compared to any other town we have been part of since moving out of San Francisco four decades ago. Palo Alto has a great sense of style, a unique feel that reminds me of a magical place such as the Emerald City in the Land of Oz, or—surrounded by all the Eichler homes—a vision of post-war California, where the architecture reflects the setting and climate.

For lunch today, I drove to a farmers market on the Stanford campus. Unfortunately, with only one vendor, it was not a farmers market. But there were food carts present so I enjoyed a Oaxacan burrito and an agua fresca. Yet what I really appreciated was how beautiful the campus is, the variety of buildings, wonderfully designed, with a wide range from Richardsonian

Romanesque in the Quad to modern masterpieces such as Cantor and Bing. I noted a conscious sense of harmony and culture on the campus, promoting the pursuit of knowledge by creating a sacred grove, where with patience and focus, wisdom may be found. This sensibility is also central to the Silicon Valley ethos, though the aesthetics are different. An underlying desire to discern the essence within any system or structure so that our human understanding becomes more complete, as we realize ourselves as part of the mystery at the heart of creation.

Palo Alto and the peninsula have a magnetism, a force that is unique to this setting. Why this is, I cannot say. But the confluence of Stanford, SF Bay, the medical, technological, entrepreneurial expertise and creativity, the mixture of different cultures and ethnicities, as well as the great wealth and knowledge that resides here, makes for an amazing town. There is an energy here that seems to ask big questions and often provides the resources to seek out answers. Caroline and I are very happy to be here and have really enjoyed meeting each of you. We look forward to discovering more about this church and its people as we discover new ways, and old ones too, to engage the kingdom of God, here in Palo Alto.

God is in the details it is said, and this is true, for when we look closely at life, we see mysteries and miracles, though we might miss them if we don't take the time to stop and pay attention. For all its energy and dynamism, we live in a very busy part of the world, where it's easy to be caught up in the rush, and so miss the grace that arises moment to moment in each of our lives.

Jesus understood this challenge for he lived in a busy time, one of competing needs, with cultures clashing, political and religious strife and societal questions about where God was in all of it. Jesus teaches us to be prepared, for one never knows when God will come or what will be asked of us. He also said to trust in God and be at peace with the world and our life within it. For he asks that we live fully, but consciously, paying attention and realizing how much we are given, how blessed we are. Jesus asks that we be present and listen closely, while at the same time enjoying and living our lives fully and with love. It is not easy to follow Jesus for it takes patience, practice, and attention to how we live this moment. And the next, and then tomorrow and the day after that, and so on until we complete our life here.

This is a big part of why we are in this community of faith, to support one another, and ourselves, to engage with God and Christ and the Spirit. To be present, and more fully alive as children of the divine, brought here to heal, to love, and to realize God's grace for us, and all the world.

In gratitude for this moment,

Pastor Burke

2024 CEF Grant Cycle Is Here

by Jeff King, CEF Chair

The Centennial Endowment Fund (CEF) was established in 1988, initially funded by over 100 individuals and families. It was created to encourage the Christian stewardship of accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources.

This year, we celebrate 35 years of faithful stewardship of the endowment funds. Thanks to the generosity of members of the church, both current and past, the CEF has grown to over \$4.5 million.

Annually, the CEF committee solicits proposals to be funded by grants from this fund. These grants are intended to be used either as seed money to initiate new programs or for special projects that are beyond those items normally funded by the annual budget. This is an opportunity for visionary ideas to facilitate creative investments in FUMC's future. Proposals for program/mission to be spent outside our church are accepted, and they are made better when we, as members, would be involved in "hands-on" service along with the grant. In 2023, grants and distributions totaling over \$126,000 were approved. To date, First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto has approved more than \$2 million in CEF grants.

In early August, a call for proposals will be distributed to the leaders of all FUMC church committees outlining our annual grant process. Applications will be due by 4:00 p.m., Sept. 15, 2023.

Applications are not accepted from individuals. Instead, all suggestions for use of CEF funds must go through an appropriate church committee which will decide whether to submit it to the CEF Committee for consideration. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please reach out to a committee or contact Jeff King (steepsandstone@gmail.com) for more information. ❖



Patty Bellardo and Char Cutkosky work on the Anna Lapwood organ concert, March 28, 2023. Photo by Scott Thomas



The congregation welcomed Rev. Burke Owens, newly appointed senior pastor, to the pulpit July 2. Photo by Ben Conway

We Are Looking for Audio/Video Help

by Scott Thomas

Our church has an awesome recording setup, used for the 10:45 a.m. Sunday worship services. Please drop in on the balcony team to see how it works.

We need to train a few more people on the video and audio recording systems. Would you like to help once a month? Contact Scott Thomas or Bill Nicholls to schedule a meeting.

We also need volunteers to run audio, lights, projection, and titles on Sunday mornings. Some of these tasks can be combined, but our most urgent need now is for video operators.

Archived recordings are available on the [FUMCPA YouTube channel](#) as well as on Blu-ray discs.

We need help for weddings and concerts, too, and these are compensated positions.

Come on up and join the team! ❖



Get Ready, Get Set for Rally Day

by Pamela Cutkosky and Pastor Gerardo

Our traditional fall kickoff of programs for the year is Sept. 10. Rally Day also marks an exciting kickoff for Sunday School at our church, where we all come together to embark on a journey of faith and knowledge. We are planning to gather together, ready to inspire and be inspired on this special Rally Day!

Calling all committee chairs and small groups:

You'll want to have a presence at a table on the patio after worship, to tell folks about upcoming plans and interest new folks in your group's regular activities.

There will be lunch munchies and tables arranged out on the patio.

You might want to have sign-up sheets, brochures, or a poster board.

See Pam Cutkosky if you need help with materials for Rally Day and want to reserve space at a table with a sign for your committee or group.

Calling people passionate about teaching and sharing their faith:

As we gear up for the new season, we eagerly invite you to join us as Sunday School teachers.

Classes are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday, just before our uplifting worship service at 10:45 a.m. It's the perfect opportunity to be part of a nurturing and supportive community while positively impacting our students' lives.

We are thrilled to continue using the enriching Cokesbury curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for all children ages 3–11. ❖

Signs of Renewal *from page 1*

As of the end of June, a United Methodist News review found that U.S. annual conferences had approved the exit of 6,181 churches with property. That translates to about 20% of U.S. congregations—or one in five—withdrawing since a church law allowing disaffiliations took effect four years ago.

More than 20 annual conferences have special sessions planned or tentatively scheduled later this year to take up disaffiliation resolutions. The next round of disaffiliations starts in August.

But for now, about 80% of U.S. United Methodist congregations—or eight in ten—remain in the denomination, and many longtime church observers see reason to hope that the tide of disaffiliation is starting to ebb.

Jesus likened his disciples to vine branches that need trimming to flourish, and many United Methodists also see the potential that the current pruning of anger and infighting will enable the church to bear more fruit.

Lifelong United Methodist Pat Luna said she left the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference feeling encouraged. "The people who are staying in The United Methodist Church are excited and fired up and ready to move towards the future where we believe God is leading us," said Luna, one of the lay people leading grassroots efforts to promote The United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Kim Goddard told the Holston Annual Conference [Tennessee] that she and other district superintendents—who have been on the frontlines of administering disaffiliation votes—have shifted their conversation "to a new 'D' word."

"Not disaffiliation," she said. "That word is discipleship." ❖

From United Methodist News, July 19, 2023



Because of the current deep conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church shall have a limited right, under the provisions of this paragraph, to disaffiliate ..."

The United Methodist Book of Discipline ¶12553



SPRC Invites Communication

by Tom Fingar, Chair

Having been taught by parents, teachers, and experience that it is seldom a good idea to take anything for granted, I begin this note with a reminder that I have succeeded Pam Cutkosky as Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). The other current

members of SPRC are Lucy Tompkin, Sumith Kalas, Mike McCartney, Diane Allen, Phyllis Sherlock, and Emily King. Together we provide guidance and liaison to members of our staff and serve as a formal link between the staff and other members of our Church community.

Everyone is free and welcome to communicate directly with our pastors and other members of the staff, but you can also bring questions, concerns, and suggestions to any member of SPRC. We want—and need—to know what you think.

I begin my first term as SPRC Chair knowing that I have much to learn and deeply conscious that filling Pam's shoes will not be easy. Please bear with me and, if you think I need to know or do something, do not hesitate to tell me.

I also begin this new position with excitement and optimism about our church and its future. Every day is a time of new beginnings, but the appointment of a new pastor is a unique opportunity to rebuild enthusiasm, revitalize ourselves and our church, and build on our past by incorporating the ideas and experience of Pastor Burke and Caroline.

I am aware of popular caricatures depicting church members as stodgy, even closed-minded opponents of change, but I know that First Church does not fit that stereotype. I know, because many of you have told me that you share my excitement about the future and determination to make what is good even better.

All church leaders are looking for ideas and volunteers, and most ideas need not go through SPRC. Now is a great time to speak up, reach out, and share your ideas.

It is also the time to turn the page on past problems and unpleasantness, to revel in the Christian commitment of all in the First Church family, and work together to achieve God's purpose for our Church. ❖

Doing Things Differently: Compost

by Susan Stephens, Administrative and Facilities Manager

In the City of Palo Alto, composting is now mandatory. As they become available, additional compost containers will be deployed in offices, kitchens, and meeting rooms.

Items that belong in compost include all soiled paper (tissues, napkins, and paper towels), food scraps and compostable tableware, used coffee grounds and coffee filters, including the SF Coffee Company coffee pods.

In the restrooms you should find a bin for compost and a bin for landfill/garbage. Paper towels and facial tissues belong in the compost bin. Non-compostable, non-recyclable items—like diapers and sanitary products—belong in the landfill bin. If you have something that can be recycled, please look for an appropriate blue bin outside the restroom.

We will exhaust our supply of black/tan bags then switch to clear plastic bags for landfill/garbage in order to comply with the City's guidelines.

If you are hosting an FUMCPA event and need tableware, please contact the office at 650-323-6167 or email Susan at adminfac@firstpaloalto.com to order compostable plates, forks, knives, spoons, and cups.

A new Compost, Landfill, and Recycling policy for groups renting our facility is also in the works.



Updates on Suspension and Complaints Against Bishop Carcaño

July 12, 2023

Trial dates have been set for Aug. 21 through Aug. 25 for the trial of Bishop Minerva Carcaño, who after complaints were made against her has been suspended from her office since March of 2022. First United Methodist Church of Pasadena has been chosen as the venue for the trial. Bishop Alfred W. Gwinn, a retired bishop from the South-eastern Jurisdiction, will preside over the trial. Rev. R. Preston Price, a retired elder in the California-Pacific Annual Conference, will serve as secretary.

In sharing this information, the Book of Discipline (BoD) continues to direct our steps as we seek a fair process for all. Those interested in understanding the process moving toward and into a trial can review ¶ 2712 in the BoD and the surrounding paragraphs for more details.

Paragraph 2707 declares that church trials “are to be regarded as an expedient of last resort.” A separate process to determine a just resolution is encouraged and can occur at any point, “including through the judicial proceedings. (¶ 2707.5)”

Bishop Sally Dyck, acting Bishop of the California Nevada Annual Conference, and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops, ask for prayers, seeking God’s wisdom, restoration, and healing for all involved. ❖

Letter from Bishop Sally Dyck Re: Setting a Trial Date

July 6, 2023

Dear Members and friends of the California-Nevada Annual Conference:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13, NRSV) Grace and peace to you in these summer days and may you find a time for rest and renewal in the days and weeks ahead.

I am writing to you because you may have seen that the Western Jurisdiction has announced that the process relating to Bishop Minerva Carcaño’s complaints and charges has moved to the point of setting a trial date—August 21-25, 2023. A trial is always a last resort in the adjudication of complaints and charges. As I have repeatedly indicated, there is always the possibility of a just resolution but presently preparations are moving toward a trial.

It is a unique and grave situation to have a trial for an active bishop (she’s active even though she is suspended from her duties). No matter how or where you stand on Bishop Carcaño’s suspension and charges, it’s a sad time for all of us. We know that if it comes to a trial, it will be public and further commented on in religious and most likely the secular press. In addition to those individuals directly involved with the case, it also puts the annual conference and The United Methodist Church itself under a spotlight of scrutiny and public opinion.

So once again, that leads me to say that we must be very gentle and gracious with each other in our speech and action. I commend these words to you: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God. (Romans 15:5-6, NRSV)

I will continue as the interim bishop as long as my services are needed. You are all in my prayers as well as Bishop Carcaño, the complainants and others involved in this process. May God’s wisdom and grace guide and lead us to a deeper sense of God’s continued hand upon us, no matter the situation. Again, grace and peace to you!

Bishop Sally Dyck is currently serving the California-Nevada Conference as Interim Bishop and as the Ecumenical Officer for the Council of Bishops. She is a retired bishop of The United Methodist Church, having served from 2004–2020. ❖



Communications Committee—We're New!

by Pamela Cutkosky

(Sort of)

In the spring, Church Council approved splitting the Technology and Communications Committee into two separate committees—one for Technology and one for Communications.

The new Communications Committee is responsible for communicating to church members and for getting the message out to the community about our church.

Our main ways to communicate with you, the congregation, are:

- Insights, our monthly newsletter/magazine, which comes to you as a pdf file in an email or can be snail-mailed to your home
- E-news, which comes to you in a weekly email on Fridays
- Email blasts, a single-subject email sent to you—like Pastor Burke's letter or Diane Allen's weekly scripture meditations
- Church website, firstpaloalto.com, which has clickable links to the master calendar, altar flower signups, Social Action projects, the giving page, etc.
- Bulletin inserts—each Sunday's worship bulletin contains a calendar for the week and highlighted activities
- Announcements by the lay liturgist in Life of the Community during worship
- Snail mail—we use it less than we used to, but we still do mass mailings of important communications to everyone's home address

Our main ways to get the message out to the community are:

- Our website—this is where we want people to land when they search online for a church
- Social media—we have a Facebook page and Twitter account for the church, and many newcomers find our church or find out about our activities this way
- Advertising—we have a small budget for purchasing ads in local print and online media to promote special services for Advent, Christmas and Easter, plus children's activities and special events

Would you like to be added to our church Constant Contact email list? Just call the church office at 650-323-6167 and talk to Char, or email her at charlotte@firstpaloalto.com.

Need to get the word out about an event/activity your committee is planning? Need a flyer? Wish someone would write an article about your event for Insights or the e-news? Contact one of the following people on the new Communications Committee:

Chair: Pamela Cutkosky

Website and Social Media: Char Cutkosky

Insights: Michele Conway

Graphic Design: Char Cutkosky and

Photography: Ben Conway

Karla Ebrahimi ❖

At Large: Robert Lasater



Meet & Greet Pastor Burke and Caroline

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee has been organizing small-group gatherings—meet & greets—at church members' homes so the congregation can get to know Pastor Burke and his wife, Caroline.

What's the agenda? Food, fellowship, and the chance to tell the Owensens your story and what FUMC means to you.

Five meet & greets were held in July. Five more are scheduled in late August and September. If you haven't attended one, contact Pam Cutkosky at pamelareasner@yahoo.com or 650-328-5208 or Carol Kumer at carolkumer@sbcglobal.net or 650-494-0365. They'll give you upcoming dates and connect you with a meet & greet host.

Many thanks to: Jerry Johnson and Mary Ann Michel, Marcia Sterling, Marilyn Bauriedel, Pamela Cutkosky, Janet and Bill Nicholls, Linda Grossman, Carol and Curt Gleason, Nancy Glaser, Phyllis Sherlock, and Sandra Wilson and Brian Steen for offering to host gatherings at their homes. ❖

Superheroes Attend Vacation Bible School at First Church, July 8

Top right: Our very own superhero kids model their complete ensemble—mask, medal, and cape!

Bottom right: How many pencils can “Dr. G” poke into the plastic bag of water before it springs a leak? (8!)

Below: Kids get help constructing their picture frames at the crafts table.



Thanks to our grown-up superheroes: Gladys, Pam, Mira, Pastor G, and Anna—plus Pastor Burke and Sarah Joy (not pictured)—for leading VBS!

New Committee Chairs Approved

At the Church Conference on June 4, the following people were nominated and approved as new committee chairs for July 2023-June 2024:

- Tom Fingar Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee
- Debbie Krueger Chair of Hospitality and Nurture
- Julianne Stafford Chair of Finance
- Bill Nicholls Chair and Director of Technology
- Pamela Cutkosky Chair of Communications

In addition, the Board of Trustees re-elected Bud Buttrill as president, Brian Steen as vice president, and Bill Nicholls as corporate secretary. Brian Steen also was approved as our delegate to Annual Conference.

The chart below shows the Church Council membership, with **new** and returning committee chairs. Thank you to everyone who agreed to serve!

Church Council Chair: Stephanie Zeller		
Chair Hospitality & Nurture: Debbie Krueger	Chair Board of Trustees: Bud Buttrill	Treasurer: Lou Bellardo
Chair Worship Ministry: Mira Dabrowski	Fijian Lay Leader: Mele Bula as interim	Chair Finance: Julianne Stafford
Chair Discipleship: Mike McCartney	Chair SPRC: Tom Fingar	Lay Member to AC: Brian Steen
Chair Social Action: Nancy Glaser	Lay Leader: Emily King	Children’s Ministry Rep: Emily King
Chair Technology: Bill Nicholls	UWF Rep: Nancy Olson	Youth Ministry Rep:
Chair Communications: Pamela Cutkosky	Chair CEF: Jeff King	Young Adult Rep:



UWF CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

Greetings from my recliner!

Many thank yous for the wonderful greeting cards I have received during a prolonged rehab! My daughter arranged them on a bulletin board in my room. The cards cheered my days and warmed my heart. And I would love to give each of you who have visited a big hug of gratitude.

Visits are still encouraged! Please schedule with my daughter. She is keeping track of the many medical personnel visits each day and when there is a break, usually in late afternoon.

Please join me in a United Women in Faith salad potluck luncheon meeting, Thursday, Sept. 21, in the Patio Room at 11:30 a.m. We will have lunch, a brief business meeting, including our pledges to mission, and an opportunity to get better acquainted with Caroline Owens, our special guest.

We will be finished by 1:00 p.m. so those who wish may attend the weekly Call to Prayer in the Wesley Room.

Nancy Glaser, Social Action Chair, (second from right) introduces adviser, Dr. Fi Tovo (right), and seven (of ten) Kurian Grant scholarship recipients from the College of San Mateo. The students and their adviser joined us for worship and celebration on the patio June 4.

Picnic Thank You's

We ate great food, we talked, we launched water rockets, and we enjoyed Palo Alto's Mitchell Park at twilight at three Picnics in the Park last month. On average, 40 people attended each picnic.

This tradition couldn't continue without all our volunteer chefs.

Many thanks to:

Grill Chefs Rick and Diane Allen, Lucy Tompkin and Scott Thomas, Pam Cutkosky and Peter Colby.

Salad and Dessert Chefs Janet Nicholls, Debbie Krueger, Carol Kumer, Mary Lu Wood, Mike McCartney, Linda Grossman, Carol and Curt Gleason, Peter Colby, Anna Leong, Orlene Fingar, Michele Conway, Kathy Rose, and Phyllis Sherlock.

The Kalas family for Beef Fritter appetizers on July 20.

Seasonal Events Coordinator Pam Cutkosky.

These were truly feasts! Let's do it again next year. ❖

Allen Wood, aka "Rocket Man," brought water rockets to the first church picnic, July 14, in Mitchell Park. Caroline Owens prepares to launch a rocket into flight. Mike McCartney offers advice. Rocket photo by Debbie Krueger; Picnic photos by Ben Conway



Discipleship: Putting Your Faith to Work

by Mike McCartney, Discipleship Chair

Jesus called on his disciples to share the faith to all peoples. But as noted in the Gospel of James (3:17), “Faith without works is dead.”

As we prepare for another church year, we hope to offer a wider range of discipleship opportunities to the congregation. At this point, we’re focusing on resuming three volunteer hands-on opportunities to make a difference.

First, **English Together** is a program that matches volunteers and adult English learners as conversation partners for one-on-one coaching. We’ve participated in this program in the past, and look forward to the next cycle beginning this fall.

Here’s how it works: The program is designed to help low-wage immigrant workers develop practical English-speaking skills and become more confident in using English. The program begins with an orientation by the sponsoring Stanford professor. Volunteers meet with their immigrant counterpart, either in person or by Zoom, weekly for several weeks, breaking down barriers and developing trust. Volunteers don’t need to speak Spanish. The goal is to help non-native speakers improve their command of everyday English.

See Mike McCartney or Pastor G on the patio after Sunday services, if you might be interested in becoming a volunteer.

Second, two hands-on community programs build or upgrade low-income housing in the Bay Area. Our congregation has served both.

Habitat for Humanity improves existing housing and builds new houses in the Bay Area.

Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley is a long-time program focused on improvements to existing run-down housing.

Construction skills are helpful for these programs, but not necessary — anyone can wield a paint brush!

Again, see Mike McCartney on the patio after Sunday services if you might be interested! ❖

June 28, Pam Cutkosky presented thank you gifts to Rev. Doug and Ellie Norris, who served as interim for eight months. Worship was followed by a farewell feast! Photos by Ben Conway





In August, the Tuesday walking group will meet at Gamble Gardens' side street, Churchill Ave., at 8:50 a.m. to walk the Palo Alto neighborhoods for an hour and a half while it is cool. Bring water. There are restrooms located behind Gamble Gardens. Address is 1431 Waverley St. For more information, please email: Karen Paulsen at retirekp12@gmail.com. ❖



We Did It Together: Hotel de Zink Hosting Was a Success!

by Nancy Glaser

Hotel de Zink returned to FUMCPA this June. For the entire month, we housed a group of 20 men and women overnight, providing a place to sleep in Kohlstedt Hall, showers and towels, and daily home-cooked dinners. Families, small groups, couples, and individuals from our church provided these meals every day in June.

Hotel de Zink is administered by LifeMoves and hosted at a different church in the Palo Alto



area 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, while experienced staff from LifeMoves help the selected men and women move towards self-sufficiency in employment, housing, and mental health. Our church has been an active part of this program for over 30 years!

Thank you all very much for your participation. It has made a major difference in the lives of the people who depend on us for this service. Matthew 25:40 reminds us to serve the least of these. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." ❖

June 2023 Income and Expense Summary (DRAFT)	June 2023 Actual	Actual YTD 2023	Budget YTD 2023	Budget Annual 2023
Income				
Total Member Giving	26,462	190,182	198,578	386,556
Total Income All Other Sources	13,530	105,057	100,087	220,500
	39,992	295,239	298,665	607,056
Expense				
Conference Tithe	3,625	28,802	26,413	52,000
Council on Ministries	2,742	8,618	18,440	41,650
Staff Parish Relations	33,363	171,971	209,281	418,563
Office and Finance	1,516	7,946	10,225	20,100
Board of Trustees	23,001	112,339	118,996	200,700
Total Expenses	64,247	329,676	383,355	733,013
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	-24,255	-34,437	-84,690	-125,957

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.

* Important Update

Pastor Burke is taking a break and visiting family part of this month.

He will be away on vacation from Thursday, Aug. 10, through Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Rev. Karen Paulsen will fill the pulpit in his absence on Sunday, Aug. 13 and 20.

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Burke via email while he is away or contact Susan in the office with any urgent needs.

- * Find August birthdays and anniversaries in the Summer issue of Insights.
- * Check your calendar for a date to provide snacks for Snack 'n Chat. Sign up Sundays on the patio.



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

- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir, one-time rehearsal for the morning's anthem
- 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
- 6:00 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

Tuesdays

- 9:50 a.m. Walking Group
- Noon Current Affairs Fellowship (Zoom)

Wednesdays

- 7:00 p.m. Upstream Contemporary Worship is on summer break until Aug. 9

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: insightsfirstpa@gmail.com or bring them to the church office. Thank you!



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Things are looking up ...

Photo by Burke Owens

Next INSIGHTS deadline: August 20