

OCTOBER 2023

October Special Events to Enjoy

World Communion Sunday

Soup and bread lunch Sunday, Oct. 1, after worship UMC Special Sunday offering supports racial and ethnic scholarships for students pursuing ministry and leadership training in the U.S. and around the world.

Mystic Poetry Salon

Friday, Oct. 13, at 7:00 p.m. Featuring the poems of Jelauddin Rumi with classical music from Fiume di Musica. Rumi was a great Sufi poet, mystic, theologian, and community leader in 13th century Turkey.

Trunk and Treat

Sunday, Oct. 29, at 4:30 p.m. Fun and treats for all ages. Wear your favorite costume.

Twilight: A Haunted Concert of Halloween Classics!

Sunday, Oct. 29, at 6:30 p.m.
Join Diane Keller and Pastor
Burke for an eerie concert of All
Hallows organ pieces and spooky
tales. Family-friendly and open to
all! A suggested free will offering
will benefit the upkeep of the
church organ. �



A Season of Abundance with Stewardship

by Julianne Stafford and the Finance Committee

On Sunday, Sept. 24, we kicked off our annual stewardship campaign. This is a time to celebrate God's abundance in our lives and make plans for giving to our church for the coming year.

You will soon find a letter describing the campaign and a pledge card in your mailbox. Please be in prayer about your plans for giving, the giving that supports worship and our work supporting the community around us. As you complete the pledge card and return it to church in October, ask yourself; "What is God's vision for my stewardship of abundance in my life?"

We have much to thank God for at FUMCPA. We worship God with a joyful community in an inspiring sanctuary. We have welcomed Pastor Burke and Caroline to our community and we are getting to know them and their leadership. We are able to meet in person again, post-pandemic, and continue to broadcast our services online. We focus on the children in our midst and the mission at our doorstep. We participate in small fellowship groups and studies, discipleship workdays, outreach to our community and to communities around the world. We reach out with inspiring music programs, locally and worldwide on the web. We continue work to improve the church buildings in climate-friendly ways.

In a spirit of thankfulness, let's celebrate God's abundance and build strong connections with our community in the coming year! �

625 Hamilton Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94301-2016 650-323-6167 info@firstpaloalto.com www.FirstPaloAlto.com



Dear friends,

This month in worship, the sermon series will focus on stewardship, as we begin the fall campaign to build a budget for 2024. As a result, I am thinking more about the qualities that encourage and support how we give to what we most value in life.

Generosity, like thankfulness, is a key aspect to living a rich life and so it is on my mind these days. For me, generosity has an emerald radiance about it, appearing as a glowing, shining flash of brilliance in my mind's eye. It is a bright sparkle, overwhelming my senses in the moment before it quickly fades and disappears. I sometimes wonder if I really saw it or just imagined it but then it appears again, and I know for sure that the spirit of generosity is real and that it abides. But what is generosity? Is it a feeling or a state of mind or a vision provided by God?

Perhaps it is an idea, an ideal which we hold up as something to strive for, something to work toward. Or maybe it is one of the most powerful and invigorating experiences we can have. Like joy or grace or peace, generosity is overwhelming and transformative in its effect upon us, pulling us out of our everyday minds and point of view as it brings us closer to God in a powerfully immediate way.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu compared generosity to

"... humility, where we see that everything we have and everything we accomplish comes from God's grace and God's love for us. In the African understanding of ubuntu, our humility and generosity also come from realizing that we could not be alive, nor could we accomplish anything, without the support, love, and generosity of all the people who have helped us to become the people we are today. Certainly, it is from experiencing this generosity of God and the generosity of those in our life that we learn gratitude and to be generous to others."

Generosity, like these other qualities, helps us practice and build our faith, and so trust in God. God's grace and guidance allows us, as believers, to take the long view, working step by step to bring the Kingdom alive today. Even though we have hard days when our vision of hope and generosity seems very far away, yet we work and pray to not give up and to encourage our fellow travelers as we walk together on life's journey.

In Luke 6:36-38, Jesus tells us,

"I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.

"Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, and criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don't condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you'll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes."

The way Jesus tells it, we need to discover our own natural generosity, not keep it a secret but to share it with the world. The very process of 'generosity begetting generosity' will increase its presence and encourage others also to share and share alike. For stinginess makes us poor, lacking in spirit so that we hide from God, from each other and from ourselves. As a result, we have no generosity available and so become terribly, terribly poor in spirit, lacking the very element which makes us human at the core. The center of our being is our heart beating with kindness, compassion, love, friendliness, and generosity, all of which are God-given gifts and part of our soul. continued on page 4

Mystic Poetry Salon

Friday, Oct. 13, at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring the poems of Jelauddín Rumí

with classical music from Fíume dí Musíca



Rumi was a great Sufi poet, mystic, theologian, and community leader in 13th century Turkey.

Come and hear his words which explore the heights and depths of human existence, and the wonders of God's creation. Open to all and community friendly!

Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and frightened. Don't open the door to the study and begin reading. Instead, take down the banjo and play.

Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground. —Rumi

Discipleship Opportunities

Faith and Works by Mike McCartney, Discipleship Chair

Two "works" that First UMC of Palo Alto actively supports are Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together—Silicon Valley.

Peter Colby, Steve Wood, and I spent Saturday, Sept. 23, working with other Habitat for Humanities community volunteers at their major 40+ unit low-income construction project in Walnut Creek. This ongoing long-term opportunity will repeat on two future Saturdays, Nov. 11 and Dec. 16.

We are also seeking a group of volunteers for Saturday, Oct. 28, for Rebuilding Together, typically painting individual low-income houses or mobile homes in the greater Silicon Valley area.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these future dates, please contact me on the patio after Sunday worship services, or email me: mfmccartney550@cs.com. mfmccartney550@cs.com.

Help our pastor get to know you

Wearing your name tag will help Burke and Caroline learn our names. And those "meet and greet" gatherings have begun to put some experiences and ideas with names, too.

Soon we will be updating the church directory so that we have current information for everyone. Please be on the alert for that email and respond quickly with your updated information. ❖

Spooktacular "Twofer" Sunday, Oct. 29

Invite your friends and family to these family-friendly events for all ages. Come enjoy **one event** or **both events!**

Trunk-and-Treat, 4:30 p.m.

Come see the cars in the Byron St. parking lot decorated for Halloween. Wear your favorite costume! Go car to car for treats, make crafts, and enjoy the spirit of community.

A few more trunks and volunteers are needed for this event. Contact Pastor Gerardo: cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com



Twilight: A Haunted Organ Concert of Halloween Classics, 6:30 p.m.

Organist Diane Keller and Pastor Burke Owens have put together spooky music and stories. Family-friendly and open to all. Free will offering will support upkeep of the organ. ❖



INSIGHTS October 2023

Pastor's Corner from page 2

Each of us chooses how we respond to life, how we engage with others and how we relate to God. It is important that we choose wisely so that we can live full, deep lives reflective of God's eternal generosity of spirit. First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto is a place where a generous community, welcoming all, can share its love and grace all the time.

See you Sunday in church! Blessings,

Pastor Burke



Teach me how to order my days that with sure touch I may say the right word at the right time and in the right way —lest I betray the spirit of peace. Let me not be deceived by my own insecurity and weakness which would make me hurt another as I try desperately to help myself. Keep watch with me, O my God, over the days of my life, that with abiding enthusiasm I may be in such possession of myself that each day I may offer to Thee the full, unhampered use of me in all my parts as "an instrument of Thy Peace." Amen.

—Howard Thurman

October Worship Series

Fall Is the Season of Stewardship

All of us are integral to the success of this church. For it is only when we join together, combining our resources and talents that we can build a vital, God-filled community for everyone; a place where open hearts and open minds thrive because our church provides open doors, an entryway to spirit and grace. So, by your giving, this church is sustained and able to share Christ's love with all the world.

Oct. 1	Holy Communion. 18th Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Psalm 67 Sermon: God's Grace
Oct. 8	19th Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Deuteronomy 14: 22-26 Sermon: Stewardship: Mirroring God's gifts
Oct. 15	20th Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: 1 Timothy 3: 1-13 Sermon: The church is a model of the Kingdom
Oct. 22	21st Sunday after Pentecost Scripture: Galatians 1: 13-24 Sermon: Stewarding Silicon Valley, Palo Alto, and our church
Oct. 29	Reformation Sunday. 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Also Consecration Sunday Scripture: Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 Sermon: Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Methodists

We raise funds annually for our church budget and the day to day running of this faith community including repairs, maintenance, and monthly bills like utilities, water, payroll, annual conference tithing

and such for next year. Your support and gifts are vital to our church and deeply appreciated. Questions? Please ask Finance Chair, Julianne Stafford or Pastor Burke. ❖



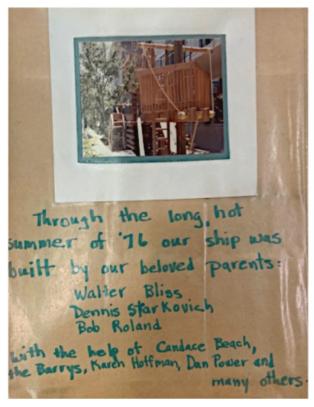
First School Closes After 48 Years of Community Childcare

by Judy Buttrill, Chair, First School

It was with great sadness that I sent out a notice to our loyal parents and school board announcing the closure of First School this summer. We had lost our school director, and our one remaining and loyal teacher's brother had died, requiring her to take an extended leave. So, without a director, teachers, or substitutes, we could not stay open and closed mid-August.

First School was founded in a very different economic environment over 48 years ago, when lower income families could more easily afford to live in our area. The school began through an agreement between Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) and First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto in 1975, to provide afternoon care for preschoolers. The new school began taking children in April 1975. It was then known as the Afternoon Children's Center (ACC) and accepted children from ages 2 1/2 to 5 years, 9 months. It was housed at our church in the same rooms First School still occupied when it closed in August this year.

We dropped off our son Lee at the ACC in September of his kindergarten year, 1979, and he was an enthusiastic participant. Later his two sons, Orion and Hendrix, now 13 and 10, would attend preschool there. Many other FUMCPA families have had their children at this facility over the years as well. Some of our children and grandchildren worked there when extra help was needed.



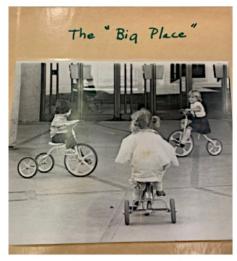
Afternoon Children's Center was a very community and familybased organization.

The original play structure in the shape of a ship, was designed and partially built by church member Walter Bliss. Dan Powers also contributed, as did several other church members.

Parents often drove groups of children to various locales on field trips, including the Exploratorium, Happy Hollow, Pickle Family Circus, Hidden Villa, Coyote Point, SF Zoo, Marine World, Add Jane's, Winter Lodge, etc.

Doctors and dentists came in to discuss their work with the students, and storytellers came to share stories.

Children rode tricycles and their training bikes in what they called the "Big Place," now known as "the patio" at the front of the church.



Photos (left and right) are from the ACC Scrapbook

The school has seen many changes over the years. Mary Peltzer, a church member, was an early and long-tenured director at the school (20-30 years). During her time there, Palo Alto Unified decided to provide oncampus childcare to parents, which resulted in PACCC's closing its off-campus afternoon care sites. Mary, then the school's director, submitted a request to the church trustees to open a newly-constituted school. Bylaws were written, the church

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October

by Robert Frost

O hushed October morning mild,

Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;

Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild, Should waste them all.

The crows above the forest call;

Tomorrow they may form and go.

O hushed October morning mild,

Begin the hours of this day slow.

Make the day seem to us less brief.

Hearts not averse to being beguiled,

Beguile us in the way you know.

Release one leaf at break of day;

At noon release another leaf; One from our trees, one far away.

Retard the sun with gentle mist;

Enchant the land with amethyst.

Slow, slow!

For the grapes' sake, if they were all,

Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,

Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—

For the grapes' sake along the wall.

First School from page 5

conference approved the move, and the school re-opened as First School, whose purpose was to provide regular full and part-day preschool/daycare services to preschoolers and kindergartners.

Later, Michelle Noke, a church member, became Director of First School. She spent many successful years as director, and First School thrived. Having a church member as director has always been a great advantage to the program. Originally, the director had been supervised by a pastor, but with fewer pastors, the chair of First School supervised the director and, along with the board, oversaw the school.

At a time when many childcare workers were leaving our area, we were fortunately able to hire an outstanding teacher, Christian, who stuck with us for several years and provided a greatly enriched program to our students.

Managing a small business during COVID along with its economic fallout of large numbers of young, lower-income workers leaving the area, has been a challenge. This is a problem nationwide, but particularly acute in a high cost-of-living area such as Palo Alto. Another was our inability to expand to infant care, and the competition of large childcare facilities with the ability to take infants and operate with an economy of scale. All this resulted in a lack of stability in recent years that also contributed to lower enrollment.

A great deal of gratitude is owed to those who stayed on our board to the end, making difficult and weighty decisions. It is one of the missions of our church to serve the children among us, and our board members have taken this seriously, coming in to substitute, reading to children, bringing treats in, putting in work time, contributing out of their own pockets to teacher bonuses, gifts, etc.

Ruth Waters, a former teacher with First School, is first among us as she came in to substitute many days, making it possible to delay our closing for the benefit of families. Debbie Krueger and Harold Jones, who came in to read to students and entertain them with their wit made a significant contribution as well. Many thanks to our treasurer, Janet Nicholls, who calculated final tuition payments and returns of deposits and took the time to get it all done right! Our two pastors, Doug Norris and Burke Owens, provided very helpful guidance and support. Many others, including volunteers in the church library, also enriched our program with their read-aloud to the children: Carol Kumar, Lois Hammar, Pamela Reasner, and Linda Suzuki are to be thanked for their service these last few months.

Many others from the church and community have shared their time and talents with the ACC and First School over the past 48 years. If you have memories of those enriching our program, please share your recollections so that we all may enjoy them! ❖

Message from the Rudko's in Ukraine

Janet Nicholls, who encourages us faithfully every Sunday to pray for the people of Ukraine and St. John's United Methodist Church in Lviv, has recently received an email from the Rudko family who attended church here several years ago while living in the U.S.

Lyubomyr wrote Sept. 25:

Thank you for remembering us and for your prayers; we are safe. There were several strikes in Lviv during the last weeks, but we are used to having air missile alerts, so life goes as usual – Yula goes to work; I'm also working, which is good, because I'm a bit concerned about finding work, as some companies are leaving Ukraine and do not hire software engineers, but I'm working currently.

Adam is studying in his last year of school, so will be entering university next year (we call college university in Ukraine). He looks more adult now, and he still wants to be a software engineer, as before. We are thinking [of] maybe sending him to study abroad, but maybe he will just stay with us. Looks like the war will last for years, not sure if it is safe for him to stay....

We pray constantly for our victory and for the people that do sacrifice themselves for the future of Ukraine.

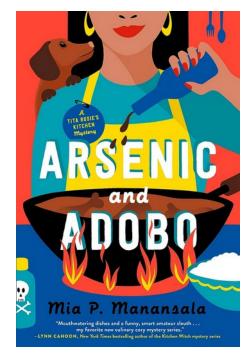
I watch from time to time YouTube videos of worship at your church and remember how welcoming you were to us. Thank you for remembering us.

God bless you all, Lyubomyr and Yulia and Adam

Please continue to support the family, the Lviv church, and the people of Ukraine with your prayers. Read about The United Methodist Church's response to the crisis in Ukraine at https://umcmission.org/story/umcors-response-to-the-crisis-in-ukraine/.



United Women in Faith hosted Caroline Owens at a luncheon Sept. 21. UWF made plans for their program year. Photo by Pamela Cutkosky



New in the Church Library

by Char Cutkosky

Cozy up this October with the first book in the new NYT bestselling mystery series "Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mysteries." *Arsenic and Adobo* by Mia P. Manansala is a quintessential cozy mystery with baking, family businesses, a cute pet dachshund, and a mystery to solve.

Lila Macapagal returns home to work at—and hopefully help resurrect—her Tita (Aunt) Rosie's Filipino restaurant. The situation only becomes more complicated when Lila's nasty ex—who just so happens to be a harsh food critic—shows up, and then keels over from poisoning in Tita Rosie's restaurant. The police look to Lila as a suspect, but Lila's network of nosy-but-loving relatives know there's more to the story, and set out to solve the mystery and help clear Lila's name.

Have a warm and cozy autumn, and as always, happy reading! ❖

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Music can change the world because it can change people.



Football Fun

A group of 25 grabbed tickets for the Family Ministries football game outing as Stanford took on (and lost to) Sacramento State on Sept. 16 at Stanford Stadium.

Ana, Gerardo, Nancy, John—and Annie—were decked out in red. (below)

Jeff, Emily and Louisa and Chad, Azi and Jasmine took in the action from our block of seats. (at right) Annie made the Jumbotron twice. Photos by Pamela Cutkosky





CONCERT October starts the fall season with two beautiful concerts featuring extraordin performers. beautiful concerts featuring extraordinary

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra

Saturday, Oct. 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Under the baton of Jory Fankuchen, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra presents a concert dedicated to the memory of Constance Bernstein. Please come enjoy beautiful music influenced by late Romantic composers and African American spirituals.

The performance will include the following pieces: Florence Price: Andante Moderato for String Orchestra (1929) Dmitri Shostakovich: Chamber Symphony in C minor, Op. 110A Felix Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3, Op. 56 "Scottish"

The concert is free. Donations appreciated.

Voices of Music

Friday, Oct. 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a concert named Mainly Mozart, which includes music by Mozart, CPE Bach, and Sirmen.

Voices of Music showcases early works from the Classical period, including Mozart's vibrant violin concerto No. 1 in B Flat Major K.207 and Maddalena Sirmen's violin concerto in B Flat Major. Soprano Liv Redpath makes her Voices of Music debut with Mozart's stunning solo motet Exsultate Jubilate K.165.

Tickets are available here: https://app.arts-people.com/index.php? ticketing=vom *





Friday September 22, 2023, a Western Jurisdictional trial concluded that involved our colleague, Bishop Minerva Carcaño, as respondent. The trial resulted in a dismissal of all four charges against Bishop Carcaño as the jury found her actions to be within the bounds of her episcopal authority. These charges had originally been filed in March of 2022 by complainants from the California Nevada Annual Conference.

Although the judicial process is complete, we recognize that pain and anguish are present in this moment. We especially extend our care to those who gave voice to their convictions with courage through the complaint process and the trial. We don't minimize the hurt we all carry, and at the same time, we begin the work of healing. No verdict – innocent or guilty – will do the hard work of restoring and building the necessary trust for healthy relationships. This will require diligence, mercy, reconciliation, and restoration by all parties.

With the trial now over, the Western Jurisdiction's College of Bishops will welcome Bishop Carcaño back into her assignment as resident Bishop of the San Francisco Bay Area. As we build new and restore old relationships, we will walk alongside her as fellow servant leaders, even as we continue to hold each other accountable in love.

We are thankful for all who contributed their time and gifts to this trial, ensuring a fair hearing of the facts and the faithful deliberations of the jury. We also give thanks for the leaders within the Western Jurisdiction who navigated this complaint process with diligence and care, balancing the requirements of *The Discipline* with a desire to do no harm.

As your College of Bishops, we remain committed to guiding our jurisdiction through this season with integrity, compassion, and a listening spirit. We invite you to join us in prayer, seeking God's wisdom and grace as we navigate the path ahead.

Grace y Paz,

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

President, Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Area

Bishop Dottre Escobedo -Trank

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OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Caety Chong

10/19/2019 Maurine and Kai Tong

10/21/1995 Dave Gee and Angela Chen



"It doesn't matter how much you give. It matters how much love you put in the giving."

-Mother Teresa



10/17 Trish Riley 10/20 George Merritt-Calvin, III 10/22 John Baglin 10/22 Monti Sauermann 10/23 Nancy Larson 10/24 Dail Koehler 10/24 Dan Conway 10/24 Margaret Branyon-Goodman 10/24 Alyssa Gee 10/25 Tim Crockett 10/25 Kay Jacob 10/26 Lynn Gibbons 10/28 Julianne Stafford 10/28 Ilona Sparks

10/29 Patrick Riley



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

August 2023	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Budget
Actual	2023	2023	Annual 2023
54,118	267,906	226,520	386,556
21,732	145,688	128,961	220,500
75,850	413,595	355,481	607,056
6,361	39,268	32,913	52,000
940	10,481	27,020	41,650
52,518	259,077	280,125	418,563
1,572	10,606	13,383	20,100
19,848	140,149	139,600	200,700
81238.81	459581.01	493,042	733,013
-5,389	-45,986	-137,560	-125,957
	Actual 54,118 21,732 75,850 6,361 940 52,518 1,572 19,848 81238.81	Actual 2023 54,118 267,906 21,732 145,688 75,850 413,595 6,361 39,268 940 10,481 52,518 259,077 1,572 10,606 19,848 140,149 81238.81 459581.01	Actual 2023 2023 54,118 267,906 226,520 21,732 145,688 128,961 75,850 413,595 355,481 6,361 39,268 32,913 940 10,481 27,020 52,518 259,077 280,125 1,572 10,606 13,383 19,848 140,149 139,600 81238.81 459581.01 493,042



- 1 World Communion Sunday: UMC Special Sunday offering; soup and bread lunch Fellowship Friends, 5:00 p.m.
- 3 SPRC, 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- 10 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 13 Mystic Poetry Salon, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 20 Insights deadline for November issue
- 21 San Francisco Chamber Orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m. (free, donations appreciated)
- Consecration SundayTrunk-and-Treat, 4:30 p.m.Twilight: A Haunted Concert of HalloweenClassics, 6:30 p.m.

November dates to note:

- 4 Dr. Bobbie Corson
- 12 All Saints Day
- 12 Missionary Katherine Parker

Our electronic giving page is always open! Give with a few clicks at <u>firstpaloalto.com/giving</u> or text Give to 1-650-376-6784 for a link with instructions.

Your generosity makes our mission possible. Thank you!

Donate

DISCOVER

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 for ages 3-11 10:45 a.m. Worship, in person and live-

streamed. Check <u>firstpaloalto.com</u>

or Friday e-news for the link.

11:45 a.m. Snack 'n Chat (after worship)

12:15 p.m. Couples Group, alternate Sundays6:00 p.m. Covenant Class (Zoom) resumes 11/5

Mondays

7:00 p.m. Social Justice movie discussions

(Zoom) See e-news for details.

7:00 p.m. Fiume di Musica Rehearsal

Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. Walking Group

Noon Current Affairs Fellowship (Zoom)

Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. Upstream Contemporary Worship

(Zoom)

7:15 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursdays

1:00 p.m. Call to Prayer

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Information for the next issue of the Insights newsletter is due Oct. 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!

INSIGHTS October 2023



First Palo Alto United Methodist Church 625 Hamilton Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94301-2016 www.FirstPaloAlto.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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