



December Activities

Worship every Sunday morning at 10:45. (See sermon topics, p. 4.)

Saturday, Dec. 2

Deck the Halls, 9 a.m. to noon

Sunday, Dec. 3

After morning worship, UWF card sales and Boy Scout wreath sales
7:00 p.m Lessons and Carols (p. 3)
Cookies for UWF, drop off now through Dec. 6 (p. 6)

Tuesday, Dec. 5

5:00 p.m. Church Conference
(Agenda on p. 3)

Thursday, Dec. 7

10:00 a.m. UWF Cookie Plate Assembly (p. 6)

Saturday, Dec. 9

3:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling All Around the Town (p. 3)

Sunday, Dec. 10

Last day to donate to LifeMoves (p. 5) and to order poinsettias

Last day for UWF card sales

Sunday, Dec. 17

4:30 p.m. Community Carol Sing (p. 5)

Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service, cookies and cocoa by the fire afterward
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Families Invited to Welcome Baby Jesus

Get ready for a delightful retelling of the Christmas story at the Family Service beginning at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.



All families and children are welcome. Kids ages 3 to 11 can be part of the story dressed up as angels or shepherds. No rehearsal necessary—just bring the kids 15 minutes before the start so they can be helped into a costume.

Last year’s dramatization was such fun! As the tale was narrated from the pulpit, Julia and John Kispert corralled the little angels and shepherds, and baby Ruth Kalas played baby Jesus. Pastor Gerardo promises to reprise his star turn as King Herod and the innkeeper!

Tell your friends and neighbors who are looking for a warm and wonderful way to celebrate Christmas.

Can you help out? We are in need of three costumers, three wise men, one “big” shepherd and one “big” angel. No speaking parts. It’s all pantomime. Please contact Pastor Gerardo at cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com or Pamela Cutkosky at pamelareasner@yahoo.com if you can help out. 🙏

Welcome Jesus by Candlelight

Each Christmas Eve, our church community offers two services welcoming the birth of baby Jesus. The Family Service at 5 p.m. (described above) is boisterous, filled with festive fun and worship on a lighter note.

In contrast, the Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. is a sacred gathering as we countdown to Advent’s end and the coming of the Christ child. Advent candles are lit for the last time, hymns of Christmas joy are sung, and we pray for the coming of peace in a world so desperately in need of it. As always, we will close with candles lit, singing Silent Night, and proclaiming the birth of God among us. 🙏





Scrooge watches the wandering ghosts from his window on Christmas Eve. Arthur Rackham, 1915

Dear friends,

Late autumn of 1843 witnessed a young writer creating a short novel, optimistically intending it to be published in time for the Christmas holiday season. The author, Charles Dickens, was then 31 years old, married with four children and, since beginning to write fiction full time, had published four best-selling novels in the space of seven years. Yet he found himself in a highly pressurized state professionally, creatively, and spiritually as summer turned to fall that year. Practically and financially, he was struggling as the monthly sales for his most recent serialized novel were quite poor.

A Christmas Carol in prose being *A Ghost Story of Christmas* was Dickens' answer to all the issues that bedeviled him at that time. Creatively, its limited scale offers a streamlined set of characters and story lines for Dickens to weave the powerful threads of greed, redemption, social neglect, grace and the family hearth into a multifaceted ghost story delivered to the heart of the Christmas season. Dickens was determined that the story would be a strong medicine to address the injustices of the day,

such as child labor and the lack of social education. Yet the tale would need to be entertaining, captivating, memorable and full of life. Dickens' own excitement and creative drive is most evident in his unwillingness to ever use only one adjective or comparison at a time; not when so many more were available! This is especially true in the third stave when the Ghost of Christmas Present leads Ebenezer Scrooge all through Christmas Day 1843. Dinners, shops, parties, processions, and even carols themselves are described with breathless yet never wearying detail, to lighten the story load and tickle the reader's fancy.

From a spiritual point of view, what is most compelling in *A Christmas Carol* are the parables, allegories, and dream visions it uses. These elements have encouraged its ongoing success for 180 years.

A parable offers a lesson of spiritual truth, typically one of tradition or community belief. Dickens' parable illustrates the possibility that honest repentance and shouldering of responsibility offer rewards, even eternal ones, to those who undertake their renewal, no matter their financial resources or personal history.

Allegorically, *A Christmas Carol* explores the journey of one man in life within a vastly sped up manner, all of it taking place in barely 24 hours with an additional 24 added in the last few pages of the tale. Dickens' ability to isolate, then amplify the key experiences and relationships in Scrooge's life keeps a tight focus on the issues at stake and highlights the actual value of his struggle from childhood to youth to maturity.

From the point of view of his dream vision, Scrooge is lifted out of his day-to-day existence and given the invaluable opportunity to see his past, present and even potential future, removing the blinders of his identity, while slowly clearing his spiritual eye.

continued on page 4



Call for Cookies!

Can you provide a couple of dozen cookies for our Family Service on Christmas Eve? If you're pressed for time to bake, store-bought will do fine.

We plan to set out cookies and hot chocolate by the patio fireplace for families to enjoy after the 5 p.m. service.

Cookies can be dropped off the week before Christmas Eve in the Patio Room kitchen, clearly labeled for "Christmas Eve Family Service." 🙏



Carolers in St. Helena

Christmas Caroling All Round the Town

Saturday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m.

We will gather at the church for a brief rehearsal, then walk to University Ave. where we will stroll and sing joyfully from 3:30-4:30. We'll share season's greetings with all we meet.

You bring your voice while Julianne Stafford, accordion, and Pastor Gerardo, guitar, accompany us with carols old and new. Join us, won't you?

Caroling is an old tradition from centuries ago, of going door to door to share the season's joy through song, dance, pantomime, and fellowship. We may not act or dance, but we can certainly sing at this most wonderful time of the year. 🙏

Reminder to Members

Attend the Church Conference Dec. 5

Our annual Church Conference is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Kohlstedt Hall. At this conference, church members will be asked to vote on the pastor compensation package for 2024, Centennial Endowment Fund grants for 2024, and the Membership Report.

The Church Conference is also a time to gather in fellowship and celebrate the good things that happened at First United Methodist Church in 2023 and look forward to more good things in 2024!

District Superintendent Samuel Hong will preside. He has asked us to reflect on the new mission statement of the California-Nevada Annual Conference: "Following Jesus, Thriving in Community, Healing the World." 🙏

Pastor's Corner from page 2

Rather than devotion to religion, Dickens' belief is one of active engagement, of doing to others as you would have them do unto you. Christmas can be, "a touchstone ... drawing forth the gold of generosity ordinarily crusted over with selfish habit, an earnest of the truth that our natures are not entirely devoted to competitive struggle."

Scrooge's dream causes him to change his perspective so that the coin of the realm is not gold but human kindness, not achievement in wealth or power but of the ability to do good by sharing what one has with those who have less. Ultimately it is the acknowledgement that all of us are on the same path, leading from birth to death, and sharing this journey, making it bearable rather than burdensome for one another.

A Christmas Carol's greatest popularity and spiritual success has been as a text for dramatic entertainment with more than 250 dramatizations, adaptations, musicals, operas, cartoons, and pastiches presented between 1940 and 1988 alone. The power of the storytelling, with its true-to-life compelling characters, maintains its currency so that new generations see and appreciate the simple, yet effective way one man is renewed by his own ghosts, from deadened, self-centered, greedy ego to awakened, compassionate, generous soul.

Thank you, Mr. Dickens for translating the essential lessons that Jesus taught 2,000 years ago into a modern tale, that like the Gospels, never grows old.

Merry Christmas to all, and may God bless us, everyone!

Pastor Burke

December Worship Series

Including Advent Sermons Informed by *A Christmas Carol* in prose being a Ghost Story of Christmas, by Charles Dickens, 1843

Various readings and lessons with commentary will form the base of our worship for the four Sundays in Advent. *A Christmas Carol* is a parable for our times, as the author transforms the characters, bringing the key lessons of Christ to fruition at this holiest of seasons.

Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent Sermon: Stave 1 Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley Scripture: Mark 1: 1-8
Dec. 10	Second Sunday of Advent Sermon: Staves 2 and 3 The Ghosts of Christmas Past and Christmas Present Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec. 17	Third Sunday of Advent Sermon: Staves 3 and 4 The Children's Ghosts and Christmas Yet to Come Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38
Dec. 24 morning	Fourth Sunday of Advent Sermon: Stave 5 Scrooge's Reclamation and The End of It Scripture: Luke 2: 8-20
Dec. 24 evening	Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Family Service Scripture: Luke 2: 1-20 11 p.m. Candlelight Service Scripture: Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec. 31	First Sunday after Christmas Sermon: Jesus Blesses Creation in the New Year Scripture: Psalm 8

What's a Stave?

If you are musically inclined, you may know that *stave* is another word for *staff*, the lines on which notes are written.

In his book, *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens' presents the chapters as staves, suggesting that the book is like a song, a carol.



Joy of Giving Tradition Continues

First UMC Palo Alto’s “Joy of Giving” continues this year with a selection of charities you may wish to support with holiday donations. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Nominations for organizations were solicited from the congregation. The six nonprofits listed in the Joy of Giving brochure were researched and recommended by the Social Action team.

You will hear more about the work of each organization during Sunday worship in December:

Ada’s Cafe

Bears Without Borders

EPACANDO

South Palo Alto Food Closet

Global Uplift Project’s “Shoes that Grow”

UMCOR’s Solar Oven Partners



Please take a look at the Joy of Giving brochure and consider the giving options.

Perhaps someone on your Christmas list would appreciate you making a gift in their honor! 🙏

Be a Holiday Helper

First Palo Alto UMC is collecting gifts for LifeMoves. Gifts are needed for adults, and must be new and unwrapped.

Gifts will be collected at church through Dec. 10. Look

for the large decorated boxes in the reception area and in the narthex.

Gifts should not be wrapped, but gift wrapping supplies can be donated.

Print a receipt for your in-kind donations to LifeMoves at:

<https://lifemoves.tfaforms.net/f/holiday-kinddonations>. 🙏



LIFEMOVES HOLIDAY HELPERS 2023

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE SINGLE ADULTS - SUGGESTED GIFTS *NEW DONATIONS ONLY

- Jackets (sizes: M-XXL)
- Shoes and/or Slippers (sizes: 6-12)
- Socks
- Beanies/Scarves
- Rain Ponchos/Umbrellas
- Sweatshirts/ Sweatpants (sizes: M-XXXL)
- Pajamas and/or Robes (sizes: M-XXL)
- Reusable Water Bottles (stainless steel preferable)
- Bluetooth Speakers and/or Headphones
- T-Shirts & Sweaters (sizes: M-XXXL)
- Long Johns
- Full-Size Hygiene Kits/Gift sets
- Electric Razors
- Book Lights
- Portable Fans
- Battery Pack for Phone and Chargers
- Mani-pedi/Nail Care Sets
- Hair-Dryers/Combs & Brush Sets
- Throw Blankets
- Backpacks
- Journals & Pens
- Towel Sets with Bath Towel
- Cleaning Kits (mop/broom, cleaners, air fresheners, etc.)
- Kitchen Essentials (cooking utensils, pots & pans, etc.)
- Sleeping Bags (Outreach & OSC site only)
- Thermal or Emergency Blanket (Outreach & OSC site only)
- Bike-Tire Repair Kit

UWF CALENDAR DECEMBER



Holiday Donation Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 3

UWF Women are invited to the Patio Room after church Dec. 3 to decide where we want to send our annual local charity donation.

Cookie Plates for Housebound and Alone

Drop-Off Deadline:

Wednesday, Dec. 6

Deliver cookies to the Patio Room kitchen. Clearly label "For Cookie Plates."

Assembly:

Thursday Dec. 7, 10 a.m.

Help assemble cookie plates with an assortment of donated cookies. (Patio Room)

Greeting and Holiday Cards Sale

Sundays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10

Cards available for purchase on the patio after worship. All proceeds support missions.

UWF CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

Remember to read a copy of *RESPONSE*, the magazine of women in mission in our church library, or better yet, subscribe. Excellent articles about church groups in local mission projects across our country, as well as global projects carried out by our UWF's mission board. Very inspirational. Maybe reading it will give you some ideas for our own group.

Incidentally, you can read articles about our new name and programs, and read about our new organization president, the first Tongan to serve in this capacity.

And talking of reading, the current *RESPONSE* has the complete book list for the 2024 UWF Reading Program. We were able to add seven books from the 2023 list to our church library. If you would like to study the 2024 list and help decide which five or six books we would like in our library, please let me know and I will have copies of the full list made for you.

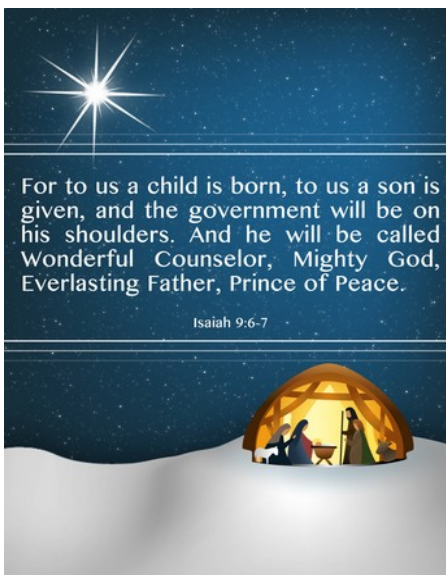
I have joined an online reading group sponsored by a San Jose UWF group. The group has already chosen five books from the five designated reading categories. Members who participate in each of the monthly meetings will have completed the requirement to earn a Plan I certificate. A nice sense of accomplishment. The San Jose reading group will begin with the first book in February. Interested in joining us? Or starting a program here?

Many thanks to members who helped assemble greeting cards for our annual sale held Nov. 19 and 26. The sale is scheduled to continue Dec. 3 and 10. Your help at one of the sales or with moving display racks to and from storage to the patio will also be appreciated.

We historically have made a contribution (or two) to a charity in December. We will meet briefly in the Patio Room on Sunday, Dec. 3 to decide where you would like our contribution to go. Please come with a suggestion and be prepared to present it to the group. I am on the Social Action committee working on the Joy of Giving program and will probably come with a suggestion from that list.

We will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, in the Patio Room to assemble cookie plates for housebound and alone. Anyone interested in participating in this very personal church mission is invited to contribute three dozen cookies. It is fun to meet with others to prepare the plates for delivery. The more helpers, the quicker we finish.

Many blessings of this holy season to each of you. Let us be truly thankful for our many blessings, and continue to pray for the healing of our earth. 🙏





Blessed with Great Joy

by Tom Fingar

In this, the most festive time of the year, we celebrate religious and secular holidays (and those combining elements of both) with anticipation, joy, and thanksgiving. The secular buildup to Halloween began shortly after Labor Day, and Thanksgiving

decorations began to appear the day after trick-or-treating ended. The secular Christmas season begins the day after Thanksgiving and, according to one radio station, ends on December 26.

It is easy and appropriate to enjoy the secular component of the holidays, but Christians can achieve even greater joy by remembering and participating in the sacred origins of the season. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our staff and volunteers, First Church once again has a full slate of wonderful events to honor our sacred traditions and rekindle memories, friendships, and recognition of why we celebrate

the lives of departed loved ones, the abundance of God's gifts, and the birth of the Christ child.

Beginning with Trunk-and-Treat and Diane Keller's marvelous presentation of scary music for Halloween, through the Chancel Choir's and Fiume di Musica's presentation of Daniel Gawthrop's "Behold This Mystery" for All Saint's Day, to Pastor Burke's messages and poems of Thanksgiving and the music and special services throughout Advent and Christmas, we are blessed in our ability to enjoy and participate in wonderful and meaningful events that transcend the secular celebrations.

We should not take these special opportunities for granted. They happen because First Church makes them possible and because of the dedication and hard work of our wonderful staff and committed volunteers. For all these things, and especially for the efforts of those who make them possible, we give thanks. 🙏

♥ Our Staff—with Patience

"Love is patient and kind." The busy holiday period is a time to remind ourselves to be more patient and more kind—even as we feel more frazzled and more anxious.

Our church staff has more events, more bulletins, and more requests to deal with at this time of year. Please give them plenty of time to work on your project and be patient. A kind word goes a long way. 🙏

CONCERT NOTES

December is a month of beautiful music. The variety of concerts offers something for everyone—a mix of early music to 21st century music can be heard.

Ragazzi Boys Chorus presents Light and Love on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. The younger singers of Ragazzi will perform their winter recital on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m. For information and tickets, see <https://ragazzi.org/>

Peninsula Women's Chorus presents A Candlelit Homecoming on Dec. 7 at 8:00 p.m. Information and tickets at <https://pwchorus.ticketspice.com/a-candlelit-homecoming>

A-Sharp Chorus will perform Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/z_brm1jU-9fsZVPOHqqgng.

Voices of Music performs a beautiful concert entitled Entertainment for Elizabeth on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets and more information: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=vom>

Peninsula Cantare presents Deck the Halls, a concert filled with holiday spirit and featuring Bach's "Magnificat" with orchestra. Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Bring your singing voice, as they have some singing for the audience to do! Tickets at <https://peninsulacantare.org/concerts/>

Start the new year off with San Francisco Chamber Orchestra when they return to our sanctuary for their annual New Year's Day free concert. Monday, Jan. 1 at 3:00 p.m. More at <https://www.thesfco.org/main-stage-202324>

Hello, First Palo Alto Readers!

by Char Cutkosky

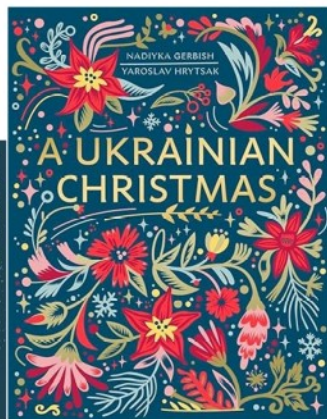


The church library has two new holiday books just in time for Christmas. The library committee hopes you'll take a look.

A Ukrainian Christmas uses a framework of Ukrainian Christmas stories, recipes, and traditions as an introduction to the history of Ukraine. Author Yaroslav Hyrtsak says of his book: "Christmas brings the indestructibility of hope in times of the greatest hopelessness. As long as we celebrate this holiday, we can neither be defeated nor destroyed. This is the message that Ukraine is trying to convey to the world." Hyrtsak is a professor of history at the Ukrainian Catholic University, and has published many books on Ukrainian folk traditions and cultural heritage. Proceeds from the book will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Winter's Gifts is an illustrated children's book featuring Dani, a young Potawatomi girl. During the winter, Dani's family celebrate and give thanks to the Creator and the Earth for their many blessings, but Dani's classmates don't understand her celebrations—how can the Earth give gifts? Through her family and the love of the Creator, Dani finds the words to express her love of her traditions, and to show her classmates all the true gifts that nature gives us every day.

As always, happy reading, and happy holidays! 🌸



Fellowship Hall Gets a Facelift

Story and photos by Susan Stephens

On Nov. 16, Rossetti and Dubrae Draperies of San Carlos installed sleek, radio frequency controlled roller shades in Fellowship Hall replacing the worn out and dilapidated curtains. A big thank you to CEF for a 2023 grant that provided the funding, and to Harold Jones for initiating the project.

Earlier in the month Rick Allen, with the assistance of Diane Allen and Steve Wood, replaced the old fluorescent/incandescent lighting with bright, clean LED lighting, as part of a project funded by the City of Palo Alto.

The space now has a lighter, brighter, and fresher feel. 🌟



Missionary Katherine Parker Visited FUMCPA in November

by Nancy Glaser

We were honored to have Katherine Parker, a UMC Global Ministries missionary in Nepal, with us Sunday, Nov. 12, for both the morning worship service and a special evening event at 5:00.

In the morning, Katherine gave the children's message with Pastor Gerardo. We were able to experience her warmth and enthusiasm in her faith. At the evening event, Katherine gave a presentation on her humanitarian work in Nepal. She has been a missionary since 2007 and has served in Nepal since 2013.

Katherine is passionate about the process of linking values to action. She believes in telling the stories of our lives and exploring the stories of our faith. She says, "These enable us to articulate our shared values and engage in collective action across cultural and other divisive barriers. Together we can progress towards a world where every person can live to his or her fullest potential."

Native to California, Katherine comes from a family with deep roots in United Methodism on the U.S. West Coast. From a young age, Katherine saw the church as a community of faith where we are spiritually fed so that we can serve the world. She is the fifth generation in her family to serve through the United Methodist connection.



Our church has actively supported a UMC missionary for many years. We have supported Katherine Parker since 2019.

Katherine can be reached by email: ktparker@gmail.com.

Read her stories on her blog: <http://bokashi.blogspot.com>. 

In the Bleak Mid-Winter by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.




Sunday Reflection Time Relocates to Sanctuary

Last month a Sunday post-worship reflection time began in Kohlstedt Hall. It will now be held in the sanctuary, after the postlude, for those interested in 30 minutes additional worship.


It is a time for prayer or meditation, for questions or for special blessings, or simply to stay a little longer and feel God's grace.

Pastor Burke will be present to facilitate this time of inquiry and listening.

Please come one time or any time as the spirit moves you. 



Great Decisions Returns in February

First UMC Palo Alto will again host the Great Decisions discussion series on contemporary international issues beginning in February. The series will be held from 7:00–8:30 p.m. on successive Sundays from Feb. 18 though April 14. Additional details on the topics and speakers will be provided in upcoming issues of Insights. 



Finance Update

The Finance Committee thanks you for your generous and gracious support and requests that you continue to keep your pledges current. Please direct inquiries to Lou Bellardo: lou@bellardo.com

October 2023 Income and Expense Summary	October 2023 Actual	Actual YTD 2023	Budget YTD 2023	Budget Annual 2023
Income	32,236	319,564	270,612	386,556
Total Member Giving	21,914	185,628	161,269	220,500
Total Income All Other Sources	54,151	505,192	431,881	607,056
Expense				
Conference Tithe	5,949	48,929	40,413	52,000
Council on Ministries	784	12,308	33,300	41,650
Staff Parish Relations	27,889	319,037	350,969	418,563
Office and Finance	1,042	12,992	16,742	20,100
Board of Trustees	4,298	167,669	176,535	200,700
Total Expenses	39,962	560,935	617,958	733,013
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	14,189	-55,743	-186,078	-125,957

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 12/1 Brian Steen
- 12/1 Angela Chen
- 12/1 Owen Iglehart
- 12/1 Janie Serkes
- 12/3 Tuli Fakalata
- 12/3 Kevin Nichols
- 12/3 Mel Smith
- 12/6 Florence Jensen
- 12/7 Joanne Perry
- 12/8 James McCartney
- 12/9 Lucy Tompkin
- 12/9 Bill Bauriedel
- 12/10 Judy Buttrill
- 12/10 Mark Shaull
- 12/11 Wayne Wiebe
- 12/12 Aavya Kalas
- 12/12 Carol Carpenter
- 12/12 Drew Camens
- 12/13 Karen Black

- 12/13 Lakshmi Arunachalam
- 12/17 Marcia Sterling
- 12/19 Jesse Fifita
- 12/20 Mira Dabrowski
- 12/22 Phyllis Sherlock
- 12/23 Emily King
- 12/25 Tutu Fakalata
- 12/25 Carol Kumer
- 12/27 Char Cutkosky
- 12/29 Maeva Herbert-Paz

DECEMBER Anniversaries

- 12/04/2010 Jose Irizarry, Sally Irizarry
- 12/26/1987 Gary Ahlberg, Linéa Stewart
- 12/04/1982 Darrell Leong, Anna Leong
- 12/28/1968 Tom Fingar, Orlene Fingar



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

→ **Masks are recommended for in-person activities.** Some activities meet online via Zoom, as noted.

→ 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 firstpaloalto.com or Friday e-news for the link.
- 11:45 a.m. Reflection After Worship
Snack 'n Chat
- 12:15 p.m. Couples Group (alternate weeks)
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Friends (alternate weeks)
- 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

- 8:50 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 January 2024 issue of the Insights newsletter is due Dec. 10. Photos for the January issue will be accepted through Dec. 17. Include event date and description plus photographer's name. Everything is subject to editing. Please send your submissions via email to Insights Editor Michele W. Conway: insightsfirstpa@gmail.com or bring them to the church office. Thank you.

- 2 Deck the Halls, 9 a.m.
- 3 First Sunday of Advent
UWF card sales, Boy Scout wreath sales, after morning worship
Lessons and Carols, 7 p.m.
- 5 Church Conference, 5 p.m.
SPRC, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 7 UWF Cookie Plate Assembly, 10 a.m.
- 9 Caroling All Around the Town, 3 p.m.
- 10 Second Sunday of Advent
UWF card sales, after morning worship
Last day for LifeMoves gift collection
Last day to order poinsettias
Deadline for Insights January issue
- 12 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 17 Third Sunday of Advent
Community Carol Sing, 4:30 p.m.
Photo deadline for Insights January issue
- 19 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve
Family Service, 5 p.m.
Candlelight Service, 11 p.m.
- 25 Christmas
Church office closed
- 26 Church office closed

Our electronic giving page is always open! Give with a few clicks at firstpaloalto.com/giving or text Give to 1-650-376-6784 for a link with instructions. Your generosity makes our mission possible. Thank you.







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

FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**

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Next INSIGHTS deadline: Dec. 10

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
with the first Christmas tree in England

