



## Welcome Easter with Breakfast on the Patio

by Pamela Cutkosky,  
Seasonal Events

Plan to attend this year's Easter breakfast for wonderful food and joyous in-person fellowship with your church family and our Easter visitors.

The breakfast will be held on the patio from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. (In case of rain, we will move the breakfast to Kohlstedt Hall.)

Our Easter breakfast is a success year after year because of your attendance, your food contributions, and your willingness to help out. This is a "planned potluck" affair—go to [www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/EasterBreakfast2024](http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/EasterBreakfast2024) online and "claim" one or two of the foods listed or a supervision shift.



We especially need folks to monitor the tables and the food throughout the breakfast and after worship during snack 'n chat. Please sign up for a 45-minute shift if you are able!

Contact Pamela Cutkosky at [pamelareasner@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelareasner@yahoo.com) or 650-328-5208, or Char in the church office with questions.❖

## "Shoes That Grow" Help Children Grow

by Brenda Birrell

With funds from FUMCPA's 2023 Joy of Giving, our congregation generously provided the money to purchase 168 pairs of "Shoes that Grow." The shoes were recently distributed by The Global Uplift Project (TGUP) to children at schools in Meru and Nyeri, both in Central Kenya. In the areas of Central Kenya where TGUP works, many children have to walk long distances to school. Without shoes, the children are at great risk of foot injuries and of contracting soil-transmitted diseases and parasites, often with fatal results.

The children were very excited to receive their shoes. You are truly making the world a better place for these 168 children!

Children usually outgrow their shoes quickly, and families living on \$1 to \$2 a day cannot afford the luxury of having shoes. However, TGUP recently started working with a nonprofit partner in Mombasa that makes "Shoes that Grow." The shoes were designed by an American scientist and are made from high quality materials—a compressed rubber sole, an antibacterial synthetic insole, and high-grade Velcro straps. The inventor has worn the same pair of shoes for four years, and they are still going strong. These \$25 shoes will last a child for several years, as they adjust in seven places to expand by five sizes.

600,000 children in Kenya don't have shoes, which makes them vulnerable to injury and disease. Thank you, church members, for your care and concern for these very vulnerable children.❖





## Pastor's Corner

**Dear friends,**

This season of Lent is two weeks gone as we now enter March. Ashes have been crossed, two Sundays have sped by and in just a month, it will be Easter Sunday. At the heart of this season is Jesus, his immense call from God to serve fully and completely, and, as we are all aware, the price that he will pay for this. Jesus is a somewhat mysterious figure in our overall American culture. There are many opinions, responses, reactions to his life, words, actions, and meaning across a wide spectrum in this post-modern world. Is he a

teacher? A reviver of traditions? A man who gave his all for others? A prophet speaking to humanity in a new time and place? Perhaps he is a spokesperson for the marginalized, the discarded, the poor and broken? Or perhaps his task is to enable old traditions and ways of living; protecting institutions, those in power who worry that their time is changing, their control escaping? Is he a fluid personality bringing more possibilities to a society limited in its orientation? At times a king, at others a God, a ruler and yet also a simple tradesman, a peasant living in the outback of Judea. Certainly, a faithful one, clear in his call to serve and act as God inspires him, a channel for love, forgiveness, and a new understanding of creation.

I remember many years ago first looking at my relationship with Jesus as part of my spiritual practice. Caroline and I were living in upstate New York, in a rural faith community. After a cold, cold winter, spring came that year, and with it Lent. I knew little about Lent, other than growing up near an Irish Catholic family. But a person at the Abode, I've forgotten who, told me a little about this Christian practice of reflection on mortality and the spirit. I found it very interesting but what really brought it home to me was the small illustration I was given. The image was of Christ in the Praetorium, leaving for Calvary after facing Pilate and the trial.

Such a powerful image, the good and holy Jesus, alone amid the rulers, Roman soldiers, assorted people from the temple, and his mother Mary. It touched me deeply as it still does.

The image was created by a wonderful artist and draftsman, Gustave Dore. Dore illustrated dozens of books and was particularly well known for his illustrated Bible. There was a time, in the second half of the 19th century, when it was said that all in America who could afford it had a Dore Bible in the home. His style is grandly heroic, romantic, and perhaps a bit sentimental, but I love it!

This particular image of Christ being led to the cross always touches me and reminds me of the amazing gift he gave us. A gift of love and sacrifice, of truth and service, of humanity serving God and God serving humanity. It reminds me to take seriously how I live with God in my life. All of which is good and helpful. But the model and example of Jesus can be a bit overwhelming for us, as we attempt to do the best we can. He sets the bar pretty high in many ways. So, it's important that we consider where we are and the actual context in which we live, as we explore Jesus' meaning, message and ministry in our lives. It is very important to understand that we are part of this process. It's not happening outside of us, or without us.

*continued on page 4*



Christ leaving the Praetorium, Gustave Dore, 1867-72





Sunday, March 17, is Celtic Sunday this year. Along with the fifth Sunday in Lent, it is also St Patrick's Day! Join us and welcome guest musician, bagpiper Elise MacGregor Ferrel, as she pipes highland music to touch the soul and make the feet to dance.

## Happy St. Patrick's Day, First Palo Alto Readers!

by Char Cutkosky

The Irish Celtic tradition is known for promoting a deep connection with the natural world. In the stories of their lives (hagiographies), Irish saints demonstrate how we can draw lessons for our faith by studying and contemplating the nature that surrounds us. Medieval Irish hagiographies are also known for an abundance of animal sidekicks, explored in Edward Sellner's book *Celtic Saints and Their Animal Friends: A Spiritual Kinship*. Sellner retells the stories of Irish saints and their animal companions, teasing out lessons for the modern reader and encouraging us to recognize, as the saints did, that we are one part of the vastly beautiful natural world.

Speaking of St. Patrick's Day, check out the library's St. Patrick's Day guessing game! Guess how many gold coins are in the leprechaun's pot. There will be two winners, one from a children's category and one from an adults (12+) category, who have the closest guesses. Each person is allowed one guess per Sunday; the game runs March 3–17.❖



"On long, dark winter nights it is still the custom in small villages for friends to collect in a house and hold a 'cèilidh.' ... Young and old are entertained by poems, stories, music, and song."  
—Donald McKenzie, *Wonder Tales from Scottish Myth and Legend*

We will celebrate the Celts—whether from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Iberia, Brittany, or elsewhere—and their remarkable way of relating with the divine through nature, language, music, and sacred fellowship. This will be a cèilidh to remember!❖

## Koinonia Fellowship Hosts Potluck and Discussion of Christianity in India

Koinonia fellowship invites you to a potluck and discussion of Christianity in India on Saturday, March 9, beginning at 6 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall.

Sumith and Gladys Kalas and retired pastor Karen Paulsen will lead the discussion. We will hear how Christianity fits into the multi-faith continent. There will be time for questions.

For the potluck, please bring a dish that serves 8-10 according to your last name. If it begins with R-Z: please bring a vegetable or meat dish; I- Q: a salad, fruit, chips, dips; A-H: a dessert.

Koinonia is a church fellowship group that hosts one event each month. The events are free. Everyone is invited. No need to be a regular at Koinonia events or a member of First UMC Palo Alto.❖

## Celebrate Pi Day (3.14)

Bring your favorite



to share

Thursday, March 14 at 6 p.m.  
in the Stuart Youth Center  
All are invited to this church-wide event sponsored by Koinonia

**Pastors Corner** from page 2

Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.  
—1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Jesus came to earth as a messenger, a teacher, an inspiration for us all. He also was born to remind us of the greatest truth, that love is central to all of life. That we are in him and that he is in us. As the poet says, ‘the miracle of Jesus is himself, not what he said or did.’ Humanity has been touched and inspired by Jesus’ compassion, his wisdom, his joy, his regard for others and his constant love of God. Though his example is always apt, this is never more so than at Lent, the most sacred time of the Christian church year.

For Lent 2024, I approach worship with curiosity, with the wish to look at Jesus’s life, teachings, meaning, and influence on all creation. Who was Jesus? What did he teach exactly? How was he understood in his own times? In what ways has he influenced the future in the larger world? Join me as we continue this walk with Jesus throughout the month, getting a closer look at the person, the divinity, and his legacy to us all.  
See you in church!  
God be with you,  
Pastor Burke

**March Worship Schedule**

**Come Continue Our Journey with Jesus**

Our Lenten series, Journey with Jesus, continues in March. (Lent continues through Maundy Thursday.) This month you’ll walk with Jesus up the mountain where he teaches his most important lessons and visit the outcasts, the poor, the good, and the bad. Watch him walk on the water, feed the crowds, and be renewed as he listens to God’s healing word. You’ll enter Jerusalem, sit with him at dinner, weep as he is arrested and crucified, and wait for the risen one on Easter. If you’ve ever wanted to know more about Jesus, his life and call, I invite you to walk alongside him this season.

March 3	Third Sunday in Lent Holy Communion and worship with First Tongan UMC Sermon: Jesus’s Journey—Sermon on the Mount Scripture: Matthew 5:1-16
March 10	Fourth Sunday in Lent Sermon: Outcasts & Sinners Scripture: John 4:27-42
March 17	Fifth Sunday in Lent & St. Patrick’s Day Sermon: Storms and Faith Scripture: Luke 8:22-36
March 24	Palm Sunday Sermon: Jerusalem Scripture: Mark 11:1-11
March 28	Maundy Thursday Celebration and Table Service, 6 p.m. Scripture: Mark 14:10-50
March 29	Good Friday Worship, 6 p.m. Scripture: John 19:4-37
March 31	Easter Sunday Sunrise worship, 6:30 a.m. & Traditional worship, 10:45 a.m. Sermon: Resurrection Scripture: John 20:1-30

See descriptions of worship services on page 5.

Are you following the daily UMC Lenten messages online? Our own Pastor Burke is one of the contributors. Bookmark this link: [www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/following-jesus-a-daily-journey-through-lent-2024-18216817](http://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/following-jesus-a-daily-journey-through-lent-2024-18216817)❖



# Holy Week



**Palm Sunday** Morning Worship, March 24, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

We will celebrate the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem with palms and a joyous first half of worship. Later in the service, we change the focus to Jesus's passion and suffering with the Chancel Choir performing "Shadows" by Douglas Wagner, accompanied by Fiume di Musica. Please join us for the final Sunday of Lent and its powerful mysteries.

**Maundy Thursday** Celebration and Table Worship, March 28, 6 p.m., Kohlstedt Hall

Holy week continues with a ritual sabbath supper in honor of the last night that Jesus met with his disciples for table worship and Passover. Like those early followers, our faith community will join together in remembrance of that holy night for prayer and worship, food and fellowship. A simple but full meal will be served, as we celebrate with communion, prayer, ritual, and song. The cost for the meal is \$25. Register at [tinyurl.com/fumcpamaundy](https://tinyurl.com/fumcpamaundy), or call the church office. We will eat together in fellowship, sharing with our church, then read scripture and serve Holy Communion on this special night.

**Good Friday** Worship, March 29, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

Good Friday worship this year will take place in the evening, honoring Jesus' sacrifice as we arrive at the end of our Lenten journey. This most strange and miraculous day asks us to engage with Jesus' suffering and death so that we ourselves let go of our own emptiness, so that the spirit can transform us. A quiet, simple service filled with prayers, scripture, and music.

## Easter Sunday

Sunrise Worship, 6:30 a.m., Patio

Easter arrives at the crack of dawn for the early birds this year. Come join us for a very special time as we greet the arisen Christ here. Come for the holy spirit and renewal; stay for breakfast afterwards.

Breakfast, 8:30–10:30 a.m., Patio

Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Christ the lord is risen today, hallelujah! This is a festive day and one when we all can sing my favorite Charles Wesley hymn! Join us for a very special Easter as we worship together, celebrating the coming of God into our lives. But there are even more blessings this day—a splendid Easter breakfast, continuing fellowship at snack 'n chat, and I hope we see lots of Easter bonnets and fedoras on display!❖



## 'Good Egg Hunting' at Community Event

Pastor Gerardo is getting ready for this year's egg-stravaganza, to take place on Saturday, March 23. Last year we had over 50 children participate in our annual community Egg Hunt.

Hunting starts at 10 a.m. outside on our church campus and will continue to about 11:30 a.m. There are actually several hunts, geared to different ages, so spread the word to your kids, grandkids, neighbors' kids—all kids ages 1-11 are welcome!

Kids should come to the Patio Room overhang to check in and get instructions. Kids can participate in the egg scavenger hunt, the Easter sticker hunt, the hunt for special shaker eggs (they're really well-hidden), and the rainbow egg hunt. There are prize bags for all and Easter crafts to do too!

### Will you volunteer to help?

Pastor G needs eight volunteers to monitor specific areas of the campus, pass out materials, and give instructions. Email him at [cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com](mailto:cyfministries@firstpaloalto.com) or contact Pamela Cutkosky if you can help and want to be part of our community outreach.❖



## Green Notes

by Nancy Olson

While our annual street sweeping program has ended for this year, the rain and winds we have been experiencing still add debris to our streets and gutters. Keeping the gutters in front of our homes clear helps prevent flooding and keeps litter out of creeks and the bay.

While searching through “environmental” news I find very interesting articles—and often disturbing news. And I sometimes find new news that conflicts with my original stance. New technology mixed with “green-washing” by huge corporations leaves me in a muddle at times until I can search out facts to support more concrete ideas. Some petrochemical companies are seeking ways to appear more environmentally friendly by developing ways to continue using their products in new ways—which can sound very progressive. Now they can cut air pollution by causing water pollution, or make plastic bags more reusable or more compostable but still produce plastic bags. (Better to stop using plastic bags, or actually reuse them. Throwing them “away” is like hand-feeding them to birds and animals and sea creatures.)

In recent years, we have learned that trees capture harmful particles and clean our air and actually cool the earth. Look up “why industrial wood pellet factories are bad for California” to

*continued on page 8*

## Great Decisions 2024: Four Discussions in March



It is never too late to join the Great Decisions discussion program. All are welcome to attend individual discussions or the entire program.

Upcoming discussions will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings. You are welcome to attend in person in Kohlstedt Hall or online via Zoom. If you decide to attend in person, please note that masks are highly recommended for all indoor events at the church. To attend via Zoom, you will need to register once for the entire series. Find instructions for registering on the Church website at [firstpaloalto.com/great-decisions-2024/](https://firstpaloalto.com/great-decisions-2024/). Reminders and the Zoom link will be pushed to all who have registered on the Thursday before each Sunday session.

Discussion topics are based on the Great Decisions workbook available from the Foreign Policy Association, but it is not necessary to purchase or read the workbook. For those interested, two copies of the workbook are available for reading in the church library. If you want your own copy, find purchase information at [www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_materials](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials).

You need not be a foreign policy expert to attend; just bring an open and eager mind. Newcomers and guests are welcome! If you have general questions, please contact Tom Fingar ([tom@fingar.net](mailto:tom@fingar.net)).

Here is the schedule for March:

**March 3: Science across borders.** Dr. Norbert Holtkamp, former Deputy Director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and former Deputy Director General of ITER, the multinational organization responsible for management of the largest science projects in the world, will lead the discussion.

**March 10: U.S.–China trade rivalry.** Our speaker will be Dr. Thomas Fingar, Shorenstein APARC Fellow in Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and former Assistant Secretary of State.

**March 17: NATO’s future.** Rose Gottemoeller, former Deputy Secretary General of NATO, former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security and current Lecturer in the Freeman Spogli Institute will lead the discussion.

**March 24: Understanding Indonesia.** Our speaker will be Ambassador Scot Marciel, former US ambassador to Indonesia, Myanmar, and ASEAN and currently the Oksenberg-Rohlen Fellow in Stanford’s Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center.

**March 31:** NO meeting; Easter Sunday❖





## You Are Amazing

by Tom Fingar, SPRC Chair

Pastor Burke regularly acknowledges the contributions of staff and volunteers whose efforts make First Church a very special church community. I am glad that he does so and want to use this note to underscore how blessed we are to benefit from the talents and dedication of those who set up and take down tables and chairs used for special events, provide extraordinary instrumental and vocal music, collect food and other items for people in need, and provide goodies for snack 'n chat, flowers for the altar, and coordination of concerts, dance groups, and others who use our facilities. First Church regularly "punches above its weight" and performs feats almost as miraculous as feeding the multitude with five loaves and two fish. We—you—are amazing. Thank you.

We owe a special word of thanks to Nancy Glaser, Lucy Tompkin, Peter Colby, and all who have stepped in to help in the absence of a designated events coordinator. The ability to host groups and events is important for financial reasons but also to introduce people from the community to our marvelous facilities and, hopefully, entice them to join us in Sunday worship. I believe strongly that if they come once, they will return. Susan and Char in the church office can handle many of the tasks associated with hosting events but we need a new point person to spearhead and coordinate inquiries and arrangements. If you are interested, or know someone who might be interested in helping in this way, please contact Lucy Tompkin.❖

## CONCERT NOTES

**Voices of Music** performs uplifting virtuoso concertos by Bach and Vivaldi in the sanctuary Friday, March 8, at 7 p.m. Purchase tickets at [app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=vom](http://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=vom).❖



This UMC special Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs so that 100% of funds given for humanitarian response and recovery efforts can be used directly for communities in need. Support UMCOR Sunday with your donation in church March 10 or [online](#).❖



## Revelry and Romance Review

Many thanks to Diane Keller and Pastor Burke for a fabulous organ concert and stories last month.

Forty people attended a celebration of Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day on Feb. 17 in the sanctuary. Music, stories and poems, and art on the big screen entertained us and a sing-along reminded us that "All You Need Is Love." King Cake (brought in from New Orleans!) was served afterwards. Two of the three hidden babies were found ....

Thanks also to Pam, Janet, Brenda, Lucy, Scott, Carol, and Linda for their help with this event. \$500 was raised in our free will offering to support the church organ fund, after expenses. Photo by Susan Stephens

## Green Notes from page 6

inform yourself about this process that involves cutting down carbon-capturing forests and turning them into wood pellets to be shipped abroad and burned for fuel—ultimately emitting more planet-warming emissions and air pollution.

Using less is doing more!  
Choose wisely.

I like that. I like how it sounds and I like the possibilities. I am always pushing the importance of individual habits. This says it in a nicer way!

Here's a new idea to me that I have yet to try (mainly because I still have that large plastic bottle of shampoo/conditioner to use up): switching to shampoo and conditioner bars. It is said the bars last longer, have less waste, and are available for all kinds of hair types, and best of all, no more plastic bottles. This same concept applies to using bar soap instead of shower gel and liquid hand soap. It is also possible to purchase dishwashing soap in bar form. By switching to bar form, we can get more value and reduced carbon emissions from not shipping around heavier liquid soaps.

As I said, I read a lot of interesting items. I have happily switched to laundry sheets that come in a compact paper box, and will try some bar things when my economy size containers are gone. Some new ideas work and some don't, but I am trying to choose wisely.❖

## UWF CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

I have mentioned before how rich with resources the UWF website is. I am constantly discovering new things. For example, many members of the board and of the general membership are having trouble with the new name United Women in Faith and UWF, and wanting to know how to “say” it. Right now they are leaning to “UWFaith.” I will be interested to see how that eventually turns out.

I am also learning about JE4A = JUST ENERGY FOR ALL. Just Energy for All is United Women in Faith's campaign to work for climate justice and mobilize members and communities to advocate for cleaner, 100% renewable, and more just energy—for people and creation. There are regular monthly webinars with interesting speakers and ideas to share in our own areas. In addition, there are weekly updates or action alerts to keep us involved. I try to make as many meetings as possible.

There are other interest areas as well, such as Racial Justice, Stop the School to Prison Pipeline, and strictly social groups.

Locally I have joined a San Jose UWF Reading Group reading five books from the national UWF list (one from each of the five educational subject areas). Zoom meetings are held on the fourth Friday of each month from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and started in February. Everyone welcome. A small, friendly group that thoroughly discusses the current selection. Meet new people; read important books!

The New Mexico Conference United Women in Faith, has published a 2024 Creation Care Lenten Calendar. It was designed as a Lenten practice to help us all become more aware how the daily choices we make about how we live our lives impact people both locally and around the world. You are invited to consider ways you and your family might be more faithful in becoming better stewards of God's creation, and as you read and act on the suggestions in the calendar, to do so with a prayer. This delightful calendar has a suggestion for each day of Lent—such as:

- Put out some bird food. Birds will almost certainly find it wherever the location. Enjoy the gift of these and other creatures on God's earth.
- If you have a dog, use a plant-based compostable poop bag.
- Remember to take containers from home for leftovers when eating out to discourage use of single-use plastic.

The suggestions are doable and simple and remind us that the little things we do really are important. Find the calendar here: [uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024CreationCareLentenCalendar.pdf](http://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024CreationCareLentenCalendar.pdf)❖





## CEF Grant Funds Study of Church Ventilation

by Sandra Florstedt



Are you thinking the summers are getting warmer? If, yes, you're not alone. Those of us sitting in the sanctuary fanning ourselves or working in the office without air conditioning wonder if relief at FUMCPA is possible. Trustees are paying attention. Last year they received a CEF grant to study what it would take to improve the ventilation in our buildings.

Our church buildings were constructed at a time when excessive heat in Palo Alto was not a concern. Insulation and air conditioning/fans were not part of the plan. The recent pandemic alerted us to the fact that improper ventilation could contribute to the spread of disease. Kohlstedt Hall and Fellowship Hall are areas where large crowds often gather. We want to be assured that all areas are properly ventilated.

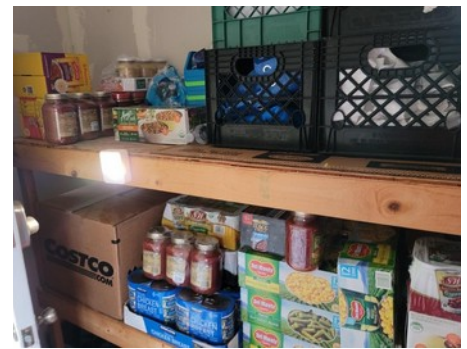
The cost of overhauling our systems is beyond current FUMCPA resources so Trustees decided to investigate where they might start. They applied for and received a \$16,220 CEF grant to engage a professional engineering firm to make recommendations. Proposals were submitted to three commercial engineering firms that had expressed interest. The one firm that responded was given the job.

The four month study gave us more precise air flow readings and recommendations for selection of appropriate HVAC systems. The study also reinforced that many of our previous measures are effective. We have replaced our huge boiler, for example, reducing nitrous oxide emissions, and have installed sensors with web-connected programmable thermostats. Giant fans and draft doors also make a discernible difference in the indoor temperature.

Selecting the best HVAC system for the education building, especially the offices used during the week by our staff, is our current concern. The recommended long range solution is installing a heat pump. How to pay for it is the dilemma facing Trustees before this can be done.

Air conditioning the sanctuary probably awaits a future technical solution that is not air conditioning as we know it. The cost of installing and running HVAC systems that are currently available is beyond our means. But there is a lot of ingenuity here in Palo Alto! We hope an innovative and affordable solution is awaiting our discovery.

The UMC California-Nevada Conference hosts a **Family Camp** June 9-15 this year near Watsonville. Whatever your age, whether you are single or married—come be a part of the family! Reserve your space by April 1. Find details at [familycamp.org](https://familycamp.org).



## "Food Fight" Takes on New Meaning

Remember the excitement (and for many, disappointment) of the Super Bowl in February? Before the game, the UMC Great Plains Conference supporting the Kansas City Chiefs offered a challenge to our own California-Nevada Conference supporting the San Francisco 49ers. Which team's fans could collect the most food for pantries in their mission fields?

Our congregation collected more than a quarter ton of food—534 pounds of shelf-stable foodstuffs. Overall, our conference collected 33,000 pounds of food! However, the Great Plains Conference collected 168,000 pounds, so they beat us soundly.

Nevertheless, all the nutritious food we gathered here (some pictured above) has been taken to St. Andrews UMC for distribution.

Thanks to everyone who gave and to Nancy Olson for organizing the weighing and delivering of the food to St. Andrews, and to Pastor Saulisi for his church's work in making sure it goes to those in need.

—Social Action Committee❖



Ash Wednesday was moving, wet, and fun this year. We welcomed 30 people to the season of Lent, before and after work, as well as at Channing House and Home Depot. Thanks to Pastor Gerardo and Pam for their help!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

3/4	David Perry	3/19	Simone Bikai
3/8	Wesley Rose	3/21	Martha Branner
3/8	Ane Dauster	3/21	Kai Larson
3/8	Zuriel Bailon	3/22	Jasmine Mokhlessi
3/9	Steve Wood	3/22	Beth Bunnenberg
3/9	Christina Fifita-Fakalata	3/23	Joe Buxton
3/9	Miles Keep	3/24	Amanda Fifita
3/10	George Carpenter	3/26	Chris Friesen
3/10	Julie Lopez	3/27	Pam McKee
3/12	Diane Allen	3/29	Jean Cole
3/13	Nelson Stafford	3/29	Colleen Crangle
3/13	John Fifita	3/30	Kathleen Branyon
3/15	Nancy Olson	3/31	Shannon Perry
3/17	Mila Yoshikawa	3/19/1954	Jim & Lynn Gibbons
3/17	Pat Shelly	3/4/1985	Daniel & Asotolu Fifita
3/18	Emma Newton		
3/18	Peni Savou	3/31/2001	Jeff & Emily King

Share the joy of Ramadan at a complimentary interfaith **Iftar** dinner here at our church, Sunday, March 17, 6:30 p.m. Register by March 10: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/840970494387>. Sponsored by American Muslim Voice Foundation.

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](mailto:lou@bellardo.com).

January 2024 Income and Expense Summary	January 2024 Actual	Actual YTD 2024	Budget YTD 2024	Budget Annual 2024
Income				
Total Member Giving	61,117	61,117	47,805	407,617
Total Income All Other Sources	25,028	25,028	19,531	270,778
Total Income	86,145	86,145	67,337	678,395
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	8,348	8,348	5,417	65,000
Council on Ministries	398	398	4,228	40,050
Staff Parish Relations	28,443	28,443	30,705	423,321
Office and Finance	1,382	1,382	1,465	20,100
Board of Trustees	24,096	24,096	24,156	176,150
Total Expenses	62,666	62,666	65,970	724,621
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	23,479	23,479	1,367	-46,226



# MARCH

- 3 Third Sunday in Lent  
Communion & worship with First Tongan UMC  
Great Decisions, 7 p.m. (Hybrid)
- 5 Staff Parish Relations, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 9 Koinonia potluck and discussion: Christianity in  
India, 6 p.m.
- 10 Daylight Savings Time begins  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
UMCOR Sunday (special offering)  
Great Decisions, 7 p.m. (Hybrid)
- 12 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 14 Pi Day, 6 p.m. Bring your favorite pie to share.
- 15 Celtic Music and Poetry Salon, 7 p.m.
- 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent and St. Patrick's Day  
Special music in worship: Bagpipes! 10:45 a.m.  
Interfaith Iftar Dinner (RSVP. See p. 10)  
Great Decisions, 7 p.m. (Hybrid)
- 19 Finance, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 20 Deadline for April issue of INSIGHTS
- 23 Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m.
- 24 Palm Sunday  
Special music in worship: Chancel Choir, Fiume  
di Musica, and organ, 10:45 a.m.  
Great Decisions, 7 p.m. (Hybrid)
- 28 Maundy Thursday  
Celebration and Table Service, 6 p.m.  
(Pre-registration required. See page 5.)
- 29 Good Friday  
Worship, 6 p.m.
- 31 Easter Sunday  
Sunrise worship, 6:30 a.m.  
Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Traditional worship, 10:45 a.m.



Wear your Easter  
bonnet or hat!



Our electronic giving page is always open! Give with a few clicks at [firstpaloalto.com/giving](https://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. See e-news for more details.

→ 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](https://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)
- 3:00 p.m. Covenant Class (Zoom)

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

- 7:00 p.m. Upstream Contemporary Worship  
(Zoom)

### Thursdays

- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Information for the next issue of the Insights newsletter is due March 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](mailto:insightsfirstpa@gmail.com) or bring them to the church office. Thank you!



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**FIRST PALO ALTO**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**Next INSIGHTS deadline: March 20**

