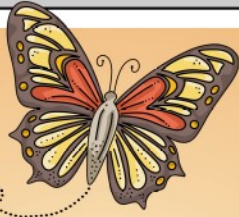




An Easter Prayer



God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing.

And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the
universe
with gentleness and power.

And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
Lying dormant in our hearts.

And give us ears to hear,
dear God
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more
meaningful
than man's often empty words.

Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in his care.'

by Helen Steiner Rice

Mary and Jesus outside the empty
tomb. Beato Angelico, 1440

Easter Isn't Over

compiled from various sources

It was early morning when the tomb was discovered empty, and it was early Easter Sunday, March 31, when members of the First Tongan, Wesley, and First Palo Alto congregations gathered for worship on the patio at 6:30 a.m. Beautiful hymns rang out Easter dawn, as scripture was read, prayers said, and communion shared together in joy for Christ Has Risen! The celebration at First Church continued with fellowship at Easter breakfast and worship in the sanctuary at 10:45.

But the celebration of Christ's resurrection is never over. For Christians, Easter is not just one day—it's a season of 50 days, derived in its length from the 50 days between Passover and Pentecost (which means fiftieth) in Judaism.

Easter is the reminder and the celebration that Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow, and forever. Daily, Christ offers us and the whole world power to begin a new life.

Some Bible versions translate Ephesians 5:8 "*Live* as children of light," while others use *walk*: "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." (NKJV)

Our daily living is something we often do passively and without much thought, while walking is often an intentional, more active pursuit; we choose when, where, and how we do it.



Now that we are children of light—newly alive Easter people! — Jesus urges us to not just live the faith but to walk it, actively and with intention. ❖

Pastor's Corner



Dear friends,

April is a lovely month, a month of greenery, of flowers, filled with a deep welling of joy for Spring. It is certainly among the brightest, most renewing seasons of the year. This Spring has come sooner than usual, with drier patches and warmer temperatures in March. Rain is always such a blessing for the peninsula, especially as El Niño has been gentler to us this year than last. On Palm Sunday we felt the gentle touch of rain at church. Such a beautiful, joyous element; the sign of life coming to us, bringing a divine blessing. God willing, there will still be a few more showers in the weeks to come!

Heaven! Pay attention and I will speak; Earth! Listen to the words of my mouth. My teaching will fall like raindrops; my speech will settle like dew—like gentle rains on grass, like spring showers on all that is green—because I proclaim the Lord's name: Give praise to our God! —Deuteronomy 32: 1-3 (CEB)

In April you truly feel life bubbling up all around, bringing its richness to earth and sky, all rain-washed and refreshed after a long dry spell. For now, there is an abundance of wet, moisture perfectly placed at the roots, bringing all of creation back to life. So we celebrate and rejoice that God's love and abundance surrounds us, giving joy and sustenance to body and soul.

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze
that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house
and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,
a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies
seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking
a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,
releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage
so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting
into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

by Billy Collins

April is winter over, spring sprung with the long growing season just begun. Crops of greens are already coming into market with asparagus and artichokes and young peas, soon to be followed by strawberries, and the first of the stone fruit in another month or so. God is glorious; so powerful and so caring with each of us.

continued on page 4



Great Decisions: Two More Topics

Great Decisions 2024 concludes this month, with sessions April 7 and April 14. You are welcome to attend in person in Kohlstedt Hall or online via Zoom.

If you decide to attend in person, masks are strongly recommended for all indoor events at the church. To attend via Zoom, you will need to register once for the entire series. You will find instructions for registering on the church website at: <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. You are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

The Great Decisions workbook is available from the Foreign Policy Association. It is not necessary to purchase or read the workbook, but if you want to order it, you can use the information at:

https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials, to do so.

Copies of the workbook are available for reading in the church library.

April 7: **High Seas Treaty** Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

Speaker: Prof. Rob Dunbar, who teaches ocean science in Stanford’s Doerr School of Sustainability and is a Senior Fellow in the Woods Institute for the Environment.

April 14: **Pandemic Preparedness** Looking back at the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many lessons to take away in terms of domestic and international policies. Although this pandemic seems to have waned, how can we apply these lessons to future pandemics? Will countries cooperate, and will a consensus emerge on how to manage global health challenges?

Speaker: Dr. Philip Zelikow, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, who held multiple positions in Washington and directed the Covid Crisis Group study entitled “Lessons from the Covid War.”

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). ❖

Discipleship: Three More Volunteer Opportunities

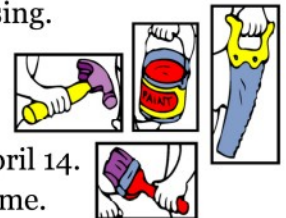
Want to learn about English Together, a program in which volunteers coach low income English learners? (No Spanish is needed in most cases.) “Interest Meetings” will be held via Zoom from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 1 and Tuesday, April 2. (Pick one; your choice.) Watch the e-news and Sunday bulletins for the Zoom link to join a meeting.

The next learning cycle begins Monday, April 15 or Tuesday, April 16 from 7 to 8 p.m. Sessions meet weekly, ending Monday, June 10 or Tuesday, June 11.

See Mike McCartney after church if you have questions.

If you are interested in “done-in-a-day” volunteer opportunities, consider hands-on help for low income housing.

Habitat for Humanity, Saturday, April 14. Details to come.



Rebuilding Day. Saturday, April 27. Rebuilding Together–Silicon Valley welcomes volunteers to paint and repair low-income houses and mobile homes.

Both hands-on programs require prior online signup. See Mike McCartney at church on Sunday, or contact him at 510-299-3161 or mfmccartney550@cs.com. ❖



to all of the Great Decisions speakers for the superlative season of thought-provoking presentations, from Iran to China, NATO to Indonesia with other stops along the way. Thanks also to Tom and Lou and Scott for their organization and skill in keeping our church and the surrounding community informed and aware of the many situations and contexts at play globally.

Pastor's Corner *from page 1*

Like a loving parent, God guides and nurtures us through our lives. Springtime shows us this same action in the natural world as the loving rains come down to awaken new growth and spirit in the land. The sun warms the earth, breaking open the shells that surround the seeds so that they sprout and take root deep in the ground.

As with the seeds, God's love and guidance helps our soul sprout, grow and blossom over the course of our lives. Even though our body grows old, our soul stays ever young and fresh, for we come from an eternal spring. We often think that we are born here, in this place and with these parents and as part of this community. This is true but only partly so, for the greater part of us is endlessly flowing from a source that is perfect and unstoppable. Do not forget that the majority of who we are is spirit and directly from God. This is why Jesus spoke of the kingdom as being among us, rather than in the future. For the kingdom is within us and around us, like a fountain of cool, delicious, healing water, directly from the source.

Ever flowing and ever ready to welcome us, to nurture us and renew us.

Blessings and enjoy this wondrous season,

Pastor Burke

Photos on pages 2 and 12 by Burke Owens

April Worship Schedule



Book of Acts and the Early Church

This month we initiate a new six-week worship series for the season of Easter, from April 7, the second Sunday of Easter, to Mother's Day, May 12. We will look at the beginnings of the early Jesus movement that in time became the church with the rise of Christianity as told in the Book of Acts.

Acts is the second half of a two-part work, most likely penned by the author of the Gospel of Luke. Both were written in the later part of the first century sometime between 70-90 A.D.

This is an exciting series for it gives us an opportunity to get to know Peter and Paul and other disciples who followed the spirit as it led them to spread the Good News all around the ancient world. I hope you will join us this season of Easter as we journey alongside the earliest followers of Jesus.

April 7	Second Sunday of Easter Holy Communion Sermon: Jesus' resurrection and the wonder of the disciples Scripture: Acts 1: 1-14
April 14	Third Sunday of Easter Sermon: Peter and the apostles preach and baptize Scripture: Acts 2: 29-41
April 21	Fourth Sunday of Easter Sermon: Peter and the apostles are arrested, while the church grows Scripture: Acts 5: 12-26
April 28	Fifth Sunday of Easter Sermon: Saul becomes Paul Scripture: Acts 9: 1-9

See page 5 for a book recommendation about the early church.

Native American Ministries Sunday Is April 14

This denomination-wide celebration is designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions Native Americans have made to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, and contemporary issues. The UMC affirms the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. Please give at church April 14 or [online](#) in support of Native American ministries.

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

Reader Recommendation: *Phoebe*

by Jerry Johnson

I would like to recommend the book *Phoebe* in our church library. (Two copies available.)

I took it home with me several months ago when the library had a cart showing off some new acquisitions. I wasn't sure who Phoebe was, but I knew she showed up in the scriptures somewhere. Actually, in the last chapter of the book of Romans, the sixteenth chapter, Phoebe is named as a deacon in the church of Cenchreae, who delivered Paul's letter to the Romans, and is named in Paul's words "as a benefactor of many, and of myself as well."

The author of *Phoebe*, Paula Gooder, is a writer and lecturer in biblical studies. She is described as having "a passion to ignite people's enthusiasm for reading the Bible today, by presenting the best of biblical scholarship in an accessible and interesting way." *Phoebe* includes a lengthy bibliography that shows, even by the titles alone, how much has been learned about Roman life in the first century after Christ. The many characters, all of whom are named in Romans 16, have been developed with such skill, that not only do we see them grow and change, we see them as they evolve in the Christian life.

Phoebe was a slave, found by a Roman soldier, who took her home to his wife who had been unable to bear a child. Eventually freed, Phoebe and her husband, also a freed slave, moved to Corinth, where they could start over. It was there that she became a Christian. Phoebe has determined to hide her own most shameful secret from Paul and her new community in Rome.

In this peek at the very early church, we get a glimpse of early Christianity in the first century. People meet together in the largest house and bring food to share, sitting anywhere they can crowd in. They have disagreements, even arguments, about the same topics we talk about. They do not share the same opinions about their missionary, Paul. They spend the entire book waiting for him to arrive. Paul talks about a mission to Spain, and one of Phoebe's roles is to make arrangements for this trip to Spain, mentioned in Romans 15: 23-24.

Peter makes an appearance mid-book. He shares the story of his denial of Jesus, sees the look in the eyes of Jesus, and says, "My heart nearly broke in two." This leads to lessons in forgiveness, and Phoebe realizes she has some forgiving to do as well.

The little congregation is made of slaves, freed people, a scribe who reads and writes, artisans, and other workers. Now a nobleman wants

continued on page 9



And the Winners Are ...

Thank you to everyone who participated in our St. Patrick's Day Guessing game! The leprechaun's pot held a total of 323 chocolate coins. Pastor Burke and Geoff Ball tied as winners in our adult category, both guessing 320, and Tutu Fakalata won our children's category with a guess of 300.

Congratulations to our winners! Each received a gift certificate to Books, Inc. and a generous handful of chocolate coins. ❖

Did you know...?

That the First Palo Alto church library has not only books, but a variety of magazines?

For kids we have the nature-focused magazine *Ranger Rick*, *Highlights*, and *Humpty Dumpty*, which offer crafts, stories, and nonfiction articles about science and culture.

For adults, we have *Prevention*, a health-focused magazine, as well as United Women in Faith's *Response*.

Do you have a magazine recommendation or magazine category you'd like to see in the church library? Let us know at charlotte@firstpaloalto.com! ❖

Falling in Love with Creation



Falling in love with Creation
means falling in love with
ourselves

each other
our neighbor

And who is our neighbor?

Draw the circle wide.
What does it include?

Who sits with you at the table?

And whose table is it?

Just yours? Or a co-creation?

Do you join hands—and paws
—and wing—and rock—and
waves?

Or just hands?

Who is our neighbor?

The guy next door with the
loud stereo?

The hive of bees across the
street?

The family boarding the bus to
head north to new life, a new
language, a new home?

New cages?

Draw the circle wide.

Who do you love?

How do you love?

Is love a feeling?

A decision? An act of will?

We do not stand outside of
the Creation we love;
there is no “out there”
out there.

by Allyson Sawtell

United Methodist Creation
Justice movement

UWF CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

While we try to lock in a date for Brenda Birrell to address our members and the women of the other Methodist churches in Palo Alto, I will share the focus of UW Faith's April program.

The second quarter of the year is devoted to “Relationship to Self and One Another” with the month of April focused on hospitality. The Wesleyan practice of starting each meeting with check-in time to ask how each have been since the last meeting is recommended. It is also recommended that women's groups read scripture aloud together.

Something we are somewhat familiar with: “Begin each gathering with a potluck meal together or take turns bringing a meal in the same fashion to make a ritual of it. The practice of doing the same thing, eating at the same tables, in the same way, with the same timing signals our bodies and minds that something special is happening. Eating together can become a form of worship in the sense of gathering together to communion in the Spirit.”

Galatians 6:10 reminds us that “whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family faith.” I like to think that reaching out to women of other churches is extending hospitality.

Hospitality can vary from culture to culture and region to region.

Questions to ask ourselves:

- What does it mean to be a good host?
- What does it mean to be a good guest?
- What are some markers of good hospitality to you?
- Does food play a part in your hospitality?
- What does hospitality convey to our guests?
- What does hospitality mean to people we are already familiar with?
- Do hospitality rules change?
- How does hospitality create community?



And a more important question to ask ourselves:

- What kind of hospitality are we prepared to offer our guests at our coming meeting?

We need a to set a date and time! Your input is vital! ❖



by Nancy Olson

Going for a daily walk the last week has reminded me of the many gifts God has given us. Every few steps, I'm thanking God for blue skies, bright sun, refreshing breezes, tulips blooming, bright colorful flowers in each yard, trees leafing out, birds and bees so very busy, groups of laughing kids on bikes after school! Thank you, God, thank you!

Gosh, my own yard needs help. My gardener and I have an appointment to discuss what needs to be done first . . .

My compost bin is full and rich compost is ready to be returned to the earth. Since my fall I haven't been adding to the bin, but have been feeling so lucky to live where yard waste and food scraps are collected and turned into first class compost that is then shared with members of our community. That is not true of many, or even most, other areas.

The City of Palo Alto offers free compost workshops to teach how to make your own compost. Also, City of Palo Alto residents are in luck because we have free access to the Compost Giveaway Station at 851 Center Drive, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., closed Mondays. There are guidelines to be followed:

- Palo Alto residents only.
- Bring your own shovels and containers.
- Only one car allowed at the compost pile at a time.
- Only 96 gallons per week.
- Drive carefully; lots of gardeners and pedestrians enjoy the garden and are in the area.

Remember that adding food scraps, yard trimmings, and soiled papers into your compost cart prevents their contribution to landfill greenhouse gas emissions, and helps keep the flow of free compost available to other gardeners, too.

Compost has many benefits for the environment and your soil. Beyond its role in capturing carbon, compost can improve your soil structure by promoting aeration and better drainage. Unlike conventional fertilizers, compost offers a natural and sustainable source of plant nutrients which enriches the soil. ❖



Approach this Earth Day—and every day is Earth day really—with gratitude. Our Creator God has gifted us with an amazing planet (not wrapped in plastic)! Our faithful response is to cherish and care for this treasure. Let us remember the many blessings we have every day and help protect our environment by our daily choices and actions! ❖

Sunday Book Cart: Focus on the Planet

Get ready for Earth Day 2024 with some good reading about the challenges our planet faces—and what you can do about them. The church library has a good collection of books about the environment, and they'll be on display after worship Sunday, April 14. ❖

Celebrate and Learn

An Earth Day Festival is April 21 with educational and fun activities for the whole family at Rinconada Library from 1–4 p.m. You will find wonderful opportunities to celebrate sustainability, take climate action, and connect with one another.

Be sure to check out the many other Earth Day activities in your daily news. ❖



Music and More Mark Worship in March

by Pastor Burke Owens and Michele Conway

St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, was an utterly amazing worship with music at the very heart of it. Fiume di Musica played the allegro from Brandenburg Concerto #5, our Chancel Choir sang a beautiful anthem, "Be Thou my Vision," and then for benediction, "A Gaelic Blessing." But it was Elise MacGregor Ferrel on the bagpipe that really took us all to a new level. Accompanying the hymns, in tandem with Diane on the organ, or soloing, the Celtic Sunday worship was a deep and soulful blessing.



A couple of leprechauns appeared at children's time, and Elise played the bagpipe on the patio before and after worship, to the delight of passers-by.

Photos above and right, by Karen Paulsen. Photo below, of Celtic salon and ceilidh, by Scott Thomas.

Celtic Salon Is a Hit

Friday, March 15, was a lovely evening of beautiful music with stories, poems, and history interwoven from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England, modeled after the Celtic *ceilidh*. Thanks to Fiume di Musica for joyful playing, Scott for recording, Pam for providing refreshments, and all those who came and joined us! ❖

Palm Sunday worship, March 24, began with singing, waving palms, and a parade of children leading the congregation to Jerusalem. The mood gradually became reflective and somber as the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists, led by director Mark Shaull, performed Douglas E. Wagner's "Shadows." Thank you to everyone who contributed to this moving presentation.

Many thanks to everyone who gathered **Maundy Thursday** for Jesus table worship, a celebration of seder, and a delicious meal inspired by Christian and Jewish traditions. Fellowship and faith met together in this special evening held in Kohlstedt Hall, which was decorated with candles, communion elements, and seder plates. Thanks to Diane Keller for her piano accompaniment, and to Pam Cutkosky, Linda Grossman, Carol Kumer, and Mike McCartney who helped set up, serve, and clean up for this event.



On **Easter morning**, early risers assembled on the patio for a sunrise service, and sang hymns accompanied by Julianne and Alan. Later, in the sanctuary, the Chancel Choir, a brass quintet and timpani musically proclaimed: "Christ Has Risen!" throughout morning worship, which ended with a come-all "Hallelujah" chorus. Thanks to everyone who helped create these sacred worship experiences. ❖

Egg Hunt Well-Attended Despite Rain

by Pamela Cutkosky and Michele Conway

Our annual Easter egg hunt was held Saturday morning, March 23, this year. We had more than 60 children—plus many parents and grandparents! Rain alternated with moments of sunshine throughout the morning but the weather did not prevent searching or merriment.

This year we added a hunt for toddlers—find one egg of each color. Yellow, orange, pink, purple, blue, green. Can you count to 6?

Older kids liked the scavenger hunt, searching for 18 large colorful egg pictures hidden around the outside of the church. The scene was lively, with families lingering and chatting as children guided them around the church first in one direction and then the other so as not to miss a single egg.

It took quite a while before all eight of the magic shaker eggs—well-hidden by Pastor Gerardo—were discovered. Intrepid egg hunters kept searching until the last one was found. The eight eagle-eyed kids who found them each won a special prize.



Every kid could spot the colorful yard decorations and build an animal stickers scene, plus take home a bag of goodies.

Many thanks to those who helped make our Easter egg hunt a success despite the drippy weather: Pastor Gerardo, Pastor Burke, Pam Cutkosky, Char Cutkosky, Emily King, Louisa King, Juana Reynoso, Michele Conway, Mike McCartney, and Kristie Larson. ❖

Phoebe from page 5

to be baptized! He is very concerned about the baptism taking place in the Arno River, a very public place, which means that all of Rome will learn of it and ostracize him. One man understands this, and strongly believes that Christians should avoid trouble at all costs. The nobleman's usual adversary says, "The call to follow Jesus is not the call of a quiet life." His favorite slave says, "The stories I know and love, all tell me that Jesus did not keep his head down to avoid trouble You should be who God has called you to be." The nobleman was baptized in the river, and was joined by his slaves and his little granddaughter, still a toddler.

This is not just a book about a person whose name appears in the scriptures. It is not just a book about the letter of Paul to the Romans. It is not just a book about the first missionary, Paul. It is an inspirational book about a house church in Rome, how these ordinary folks came to follow Jesus, and how they relate, change, and grow in the Christian life. ❖

The Gorsedd Prayer

An ancient Welsh prayer

Grant, O God, Thy protection;

And in protection, strength;

And in strength, understanding;

And in understanding,
knowledge;

And in knowledge,
the knowledge of justice;

And in the knowledge of justice,
the love of it;

And in that love,
the love of all existences;

And in the love of all existences,
the love of God,

God and all goodness. ❖

Interfaith Iftar

Dinner for Ramadan

by Pastor Burke Owens

Each year, Ramadan is one of the holiest and most faithful months in the Muslim world. Our church was blessed to host a celebration of this time of prayer, charity, and fasting Sunday evening, March 17, in Fellowship Hall. It was a wonderful success with many thanks to Peter, Scott, and Steve for all their help and support that evening.

More than 200 attendees came to pray, hear testimony to the power of Ramadan in the lives of Muslim youth, and enjoy a free feast after sunset, all presented by American Muslim Voice Foundation and organized by Samina Sundas. Many non-Muslims came to learn more about Islam and to join in fellowship, showing support for one of the world's great religions. ❖

CONCERT NOTES

In our sanctuary April 20 at 7:30 p.m., San Francisco Chamber Orchestra will present the world premiere of Trevor Weston's "Aqua," which addresses how too much or too little water has affected and continues to affect our planet. Respighi's delightful "Ancient Airs" and "Dances," and Mozart's outstanding Great G Minor Symphony No. 40 are also on the program. Concerts are free; donations appreciated. Arrive early for best seating.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

4.3	Warren Yowell	4.16	Christian Fernandez
4.3	Vickie Wolfenbarger	4.18	Orlene Fingar
4.5	Meg Ferguson	4.18	Rohan Sharma
4.6	Hope Crockett	4.20	Samie Lee
4.6	Valorie Hamachek	4.22	Douglas Norris
4.7	Susan Harris	4.22	Grace Stafford
4.8	Melvin Arterberry	4.22	Rob Stuart
4.8	Daniel Fifita	4.22	Everett Gee
4.8	James Thomas	4.24	Nancy Glaser
4.9	Philip Salisbury	4.25	Alec Martin
4.9	Blair Crangle-Hall	4.28	Michelle Hollar
4.9	Sean Huston	4.28	Mary Ann Michel
4.11	Alex Johnson	4.28	Aidash Kombou
4.12	Julie Blackburn	4.29	Kathy Rose
4.12	Al Lee	4.11.1992	Caroline Bowker, Charles Bliss
4.13	Ann Reddick	4.15.1995	Mark & Brynn Iglehart
4.13	Catherine Blackburn	4.16.2016	Sarah Kwon, Ruwan Kiringoda
4.14	Steve Furney-Howe		
4.14	Sarymai Bapa		
4.16	Curt Gleason	4.24.1994	Alicia & Tim Breen
4.16	Harold Jones	4.30.1989	Dan & Michele Conway

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.

February 2024 Income and Expense Summary (DRAFT)	February 2024 Actual	Actual YTD 2024	Budget YTD 2024	Budget Annual 2024
Income				
Total Member Giving	19,096	80,213	71,611	407,617
Total Income All Other Sources	14,188	39,216	41,311	270,778
Total Income	33,284	119,429	112,921	678,395
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	3,137	11,485	10,833	65,000
Council on Ministries	891	1,289	8,017	40,050
Staff Parish Relations	27,396	55,838	63,982	423,321
Office and Finance	1,414	2,796	2,931	20,100
Board of Trustees	7,584	31,680	45,623	176,150
Total Expenses	40,422	103,088	131,385	724,621
Excess (Deficit) of Income over Expense	-7,138	16,341	-18,464	-46,226

APRIL

- 1 Church office closed
English Together interest meeting (Zoom),
7 p.m. (Watch e-news for details.)
- 2 Staff Parish Relations, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
English Together interest meeting (Zoom),
7 p.m. (Watch e-news for details.)
- 7 First Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion
Great Decisions: High Seas Treaty, 7 p.m.
(in-person and Zoom)
- 9 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 14 Second Sunday of Easter
UMC Native American Ministries Sunday
(special offering)
Focus on the Planet: Church library book cart
will feature reading selections for Earth Day,
on the patio after worship
Habitat for Humanity project (offsite, pre-
registration required, see page 3)
Great Decisions: Pandemic Preparedness, 7 p.m.
(in-person and Zoom)
- 16 Finance, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 21 Third Sunday of Easter
Deadline for May issue of INSIGHTS
San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m.
(free concert)
- 27 Rebuilding Day (offsite, pre-registration
required, see page 3)
- 28 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Information for the next issue of the Insights newsletter is due April 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!

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 or Friday e-news for the link.
- 11:45 a.m. 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) Note:
meets at 3 p.m. April 7 and 14

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

- 1:00 p.m. Call to Prayer
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

First Palo Alto United Methodist Church
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Palo Alto, CA 94301-2016
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Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**
APRIL 2024

- Great Decisions & Discipleship, p. 3
- Worship Series & Schedule, p. 4
- Library News & Book Review, p. 5
- Green Notes & Earth Day, p. 7
- March Memories & Thanks, p. 8

Next INSIGHTS deadline: April 20

