



Deepen Your Lenten Journey in This Small Group Bible Study

To encourage each one of us to deepen our Lenten journey this year, Pastor Burke will lead a Bible study at 9 a.m. before Sunday worship for four weeks.

All are welcome to participate, and the only requirement is to read and consider the scripture for that week, listed below, before you arrive at 9 a.m. at church.

Through the study and reading of scripture alone and together, we will look to discern God's guidance and grace this season.

March 16	Luke 8: 43-48 1 John 3:16-17
March 23	2 Corinthians 1:12 John 10: 34-39
March 30	Joshua 1: 5-9 Hebrews 4:14-15
April 6	Matthew 11: 25-30 2 Corinthians 4: 7-9, 16-18

First Palo Alto UMC Joins Immigration Advocacy Group

by Nancy Glaser, Social Action Committee Chair

Background: Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice (MVPJ) has formed an immigration advocacy group with their current membership of 10+ faith congregations. Pastor Burke and FUMCPA are active participants.

The goal of this advocacy group is to organize our focus and offer assistance to our immigrant community in ways that will keep them legally informed and safe.

We acknowledge that there are several nonprofits working on the ground in the Bay Area, but there is a vacuum on the Midpeninsula. We decided to focus on the underserved areas from Mountain View, East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park, through Redwood City.

We will join the current nonprofits working with immigrant communities locally.

Organizing focus: Four large categories for action have been identified by the advocacy group, with a few examples under each:

Service Doing something that meets people's immediate needs. For example:

- Deliver groceries to families who are afraid to shop.
- Consider accompanying immigrants to work, court, walking children to school.
- Provide volunteer legal help including hiring Spanish interpreters for this project.

Education Hearing from leaders of impacted communities

- Plan a gathering of (non-immigrant) folks from our combined congregation lists to hear from local leaders of impacted communities on what they need and how we can support them.

Advocacy Aggregating information on the Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice website

continued on page 6

Pastor's Corner



Dear friends,

Once again, the year has gone by so very quickly and we find ourselves here at the beginning of Lent. Lent is when we prepare ourselves to work with God in the world, when we ready ourselves to follow the divine path laid out for each of us. Not just by reading scripture and praying but also by taking active steps to make our lives richer—fuller and more spirit filled.

Lent asks that we do this by taking stock of who we are and what we do with our lives. By considering what we give our resources to and by looking more closely at what our choices say about our values and who we take ourselves to be. Not that there is a simple right or wrong answer but what do we want in our lives?

Are we looking for the spirit to inform and challenge us so that we become closer to God, better agents for real and lasting change in the world?

Or are we secretly hoping to find a way to make our lives easier so that we can coast more often than run, sit more often than leap, ride more often than walk?

This is the season when we ask ourselves these challenging questions, so that we can better understand what it is God wants of us. Because Lent is when we are asked to give up foolish pursuits and pleasures, for a few weeks anyway, and instead, look within to the deeper requirements of the soul and the gifts of the spirit.

This period of close to seven weeks is a time of reflection, when we reconsider our daily lives and actions, evaluate our relationship with God and look closely at how well, how charitably we interact with the world at large. Though we always have room for improvement, this season of Lent is a perfect time to consider the path blazed by our teacher, our founder, and friend, Jesus of Nazareth.

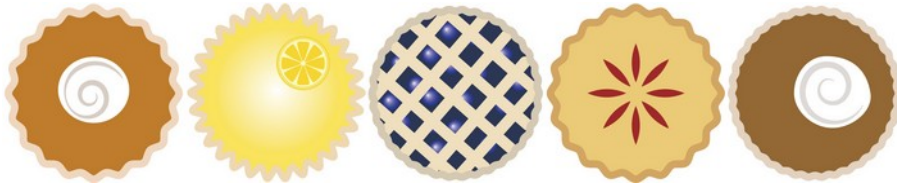
And in so doing, we hope through our own prayerful actions, questioning attitude, and humble yet joyous manner to become transformed by the spirit so that we are renewed, redeemed, and eventually resurrected into a new life of joy, love, wisdom and spirit.

For Lent/Easter is the great season in Christianity when we check in with God to ask for guidance and to see if we measure up to the task given us. For God's gift to us is life, and with it the responsibility to be stewards for this planet and for all of creation, to maintain and honor this most remarkable world and all the beings in it.

These are big requirements and not easily accomplished, perhaps never truly accomplished in this life. But this is the season when we make the effort to try again, and do our best to live up to the standards that God, through Jesus, set for us. Can we be good, conscientious, righteous people who trust in faith, act in love and rejoice in the gifts and grace of the spirit? I believe we can and, God willing, we each will in our own way and time.

Join me as we follow Jesus's road of grace and suffering, a path that, though we do not always pay attention to it, we are always on for it is the road that all creation walks, the way of life and death, of joy and sorrow, of hatred and wisdom.

continued on page 4



Celebrate π Day 3.14

Bring your favorite pie to share!

7:00 p.m. Friday, March 14 in Kohlstedt Hall

This is a church-wide event. Sponsored by Koinonia.



Spring Equinox Gathering

7:00 p.m. Friday, March 21

In the Sanctuary

Celebrate the seasonal change with music from

Miracle Jones

Fiume di Musica

Organist Diane Keller

Words and tales from Pastor Burke

Look for E-News on Thursdays

by Pamela Cutkosky, Communications Chair

Starting this month, the church e-news will begin appearing in your inbox first thing Thursday mornings.

We have been sending out the e-news on Fridays at 4 p.m. under the title: "FUMCPA News for the Week of Sunday ..." with the goal of including news from Sunday through the next Saturday. However, because the e-news comes out on Friday afternoon, events that happen that night and the next day (Saturday) are included, too. But that doesn't give you much time to plan your weekend.

So, starting with the March 6 edition, you'll find the e-news in your inbox on Thursdays, including news and events from Thursday evening into the weekend and through Wednesday of the next week.

The deadline for the e-news will be moved up, too. Please send your news, events, and updates to Char (charlottefirstpaloalto@gmail.com) by Wednesday noon to be included in the Thursday e-news.

Questions or comments? Let the Communications Committee know. ❖

Hello First Palo Alto Readers!

by Char Cutkosky

This year, the church library is holding our **Annual Spring Guessing Game** from March 2 through March 16.

Find us on the patio after Sunday worship and submit your guess for how many candies are in the jar. Each person is allowed one guess per Sunday. Winners with the nearest guesses in children's and adult (12+) categories will win a prize!

We also have copies of this year's United Women in Faith reading list, and will have a couple of copies of the upcoming study book for Pastor Burke's Sunday study group: *The Emotional Intelligence of Jesus: Relational Smarts for Religious Leaders*. Please feel welcome to check any of them out! ❖

Plan to Attend the All Church Meeting

Saturday, March 22 at 10 a.m. in Kohlstedt Hall.

This is Pastor Burke's quarterly church meeting to share updates, ask questions, and renew our connection as a church faith community.

Plus! Coffee and donuts will be served.

❖



Pastor's Corner from page 2

You may find that if you pay attention and really work to learn from the challenges God brings, that you realize the most valuable gift of all, the pearl beyond price, the knowledge that we are all one in God, eternally blessed and here to create and to serve.

A great way to practice this is, as Jesus taught us, by loving God with all your heart, all your mind and all your spirit and loving your neighbors as yourself, or as we Methodists like to say:

Open Hearts,
Open Minds,
Open Doors

Blessings to you and may God bring you a grace filled Lenten season,

Pastor Burke

March 4 Mardi Gras "Fat Tuesday." Last day before Lent.
1 Corinthians 10:15-18, 31-32

March 5 Ash Wednesday. Imposition of Ashes. Drive up or walk up, 8-9 a.m. and 5-6 p.m., in the parking lot. (See page 5 for more about Ash Wednesday.)
Matthew 6:7-15

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday in observance of Jesus's 40 days in the desert at the beginning of his ministry, after his baptism. This year, we too journey from Mardi Gras with its attitude of fun and celebration on 'Fat Tuesday,' overnight to Ash Wednesday, moving from festivity to sobriety as we join Jesus on his journey of healing, awakening and understanding. ❖

March Worship Schedule

Theme for Lent and Easter: Recognizing and practicing Jesus' teachings on emotional intelligence

You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God himself is in you? No one will get by with wasting God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred—and you, remember, are the temple. —1 Corinthians 3:16-17

As the poet says, 'the miracle of Jesus is himself, not what he said or did.' Humanity has been touched and inspired by Jesus's 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 year.

For 2025, First Palo Alto will approach Lent with renewed interest in our own spiritual growth and connection. I ask that we each take a vow this season, to dedicate our time, gifts, talents or resources to follow Jesus's path, in whatever manner is most appropriate for each. Whether it is a dietary change, a choice to be more involved with helping or supporting those in need, or a growing of your own spiritual practice, Lent offers an opportunity to support your deeper aspirations to draw closer to the spirit, to strengthen your soul, to realize and renew the divine action in your life.

To learn by example, our Lenten journey will consider how Jesus grew his soul in ministry, traveling the hamlets and cities in Judea and Syria, 2,000 years ago.

March 2	Last Sunday in Epiphany. Le Bon Temps Roule! Mardi Gras worship with King Cake and beads. Scripture: Psalm 150:1-6
March 9	First Sunday in Lent Scripture: 2 Peter 1:5-9 (MSG) Sermon: Self-awareness and Jesus
March 16	Second Sunday in Lent Scripture: Luke 8:43-48 (CEB) Sermon: Empathy and Jesus
March 23	Third Sunday in Lent Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:12 (NET) Sermon: Confidence and Jesus
March 30	Fourth Sunday in Lent Scripture: Joshua 1:5-9 (NRSV) Sermon: Optimism and Jesus



by Nancy Olson

Fire Safe: On Feb. 18 I attended a Town Hall webinar sponsored by Senator Josh Becker: Preparing Our Communities and Homes for Wildfires. The good news: the City of Palo Alto is in the next to lowest endangered communities in the Bay Area.

There were excellent information presentations by the Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshall Kim Giuliacci and the Santa Clara Country FireSafe Council CEO Seth Schalet, about the steps that are being taken locally and on the state level to prepare for fires, as well as how we can better protect our communities and homes.

Fires can be devastating whether wildfire, house, neighborhood. We have a responsibility to be as prepared as possible.

There were pointers for how to “harden” our homes and property to help prevent total destruction by a fire spreading our way. “Hardening” requires planning and preparation and probably expenditure. Waiting until you see nearby flames is waiting too long. I learned that my beloved wooden deck is considered fire fuel, as is my new wooden fence. Big sigh. Big grimace.

Information is available from Senator Becker’s website, from FireSafe, San Mateo County and from Santa Clara County.

Fossil Fuel Divestment: First United Methodist is within the El Camino Real District of the UMC California-Nevada Conference. The conference Council on Finance and Administration is organizing a Summit on Fossil Fuel Divestment at the Conference Center from Tuesday evening, March 25, through Wednesday afternoon, March 26.

It will be geared specifically towards conference financial officials and agencies, but presentations will be live-streamed March 25, 7 to 9 p.m. and March 26, 9 a.m. to noon for anyone who wants to know more about this issue.

“Investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure is moral and economic madness. Such investments will soon bear stranded assets—a blot on the landscape and a blight on investment portfolios.”

—UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

This Summit is the outcome of a Recommendation on fossil fuel divestment as a response to climate change that was passed in June 2024 at the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session. ❖

Why Ashes?

by Pastor Burke Owens

One Wednesday a year you’ll find a person at work, school, or elsewhere with a smudge on their forehead. Later you may see another person marked in this way. By the time you see a third, you realize it is Ash Wednesday and these passersby must have received the imposition of ashes.

This practice we use to mark the first day of Lent may seem odd. Yet ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity and in Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word translated *dust*, is occasionally translated *ashes*. When Abraham felt the need to acknowledge the difference between him, a human being, and the infinite God, he referred to himself as dust and ashes. “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord,” he said, “I who am but dust and ashes” (Genesis 18:27).

Later we may hear, “... and to dust you shall return.” Our very humanity calls to mind our actual mortality. Receiving the imposition of ashes is a powerful way to confront both physical realities, of life and of death. They remind us that we are God’s good creation, a spark of the infinite within a temporary yet grace filled lump of clay. So, we celebrate both our temporary and eternal natures, as God and Human in one being.

See page 4 for imposition of ashes schedule at FUMCPA. ❖

Prayer for Overcoming Indifference

For the sin of silence,
For the sin of indifference,
For the secret complicity of the neutral,
For the closing of borders,
For the washing of hands,
For the crime of indifference,
For the sin of silence,
For the closing of borders.
For all that was done,
For all that was not done,
Let there be no forgetfulness before the Throne of Glory;
Let there be remembrance within the human heart;
And let there at last be forgiveness
When your children, O God,
Are free and at peace.

Immigration Advocacy Group *from page 1*

- List planned actions such as press conferences, protests, rallies. (See www.multifaithpeace.org for details.)
- List the names of local and national movements and organizations.
- Promote planned activities and advise on ways to help.

Solidarity Learning safe and helpful ways to support immigrants

- Attend the Rapid Response Training on March 16, 2 p.m. at Saint Mark's Church in Palo Alto.
- Learn to recognize when folks are being followed by ICE. Learn how to properly record the event via phone video. Know the legal rights of both the subject as well as yourself.
- Consider being in public places to observe actions that might be suspicious; report to the correct party.

FUMCPA Actions and Plans

FUMCPA held a meeting in February, and these additional items were discussed:

- Connect with local and state governments to find supporters and partners for local presence and for their role in the US government.
- Urge state legislators to issue legislation that protects immigrants.
- Connect with local sheriffs for their cooperation/partnership if you know their positions on immigration.



- Connect with Silicon Valley companies to create a high level of support statement that the wider community can use as a branding message (as was done with the LGBTQ community).

- Build the community of supportive nonprofit organizations into one strong entity to work together as a team.

- Red Cards: These cards describe the rights of an immigrant if ICE knocks on their door. Cards come in a number of different languages and are available through the Immigrant Legal Resource Center at www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas/ or www.redcardorders.com/.

Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

—Matthew 25:35

Photo from UM Communications.

Our next step:

Join us at our next FUMCPA meeting on Zoom, Sunday, March 2, at 2:00 p.m. Contact Nancy Glaser for the Zoom link. ❖



Great Decisions Discussions Continue in March

by Lou Bellardo and Tom Fingar

It is never too late to join the Great Decisions discussion program. All are welcome to attend individual discussions or all the remaining six sessions. Upcoming discussions will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 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. You will find instructions for registering on the Church website: firstpaloalto.com/great-decisions-2025/. Reminders and the Zoom link will be pushed to all who have registered on the Thursday before each Sunday session.

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 on the website at www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=show_material&product_id=16892 in order to do so. Two copies of the workbook are available for reading in the Church library.

Here is the schedule for March:

March 2: The Future of NATO and European Security

This session will be led by Rose Gottemoeller, the William J. Perry Lecturer in Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Her previous positions include Deputy Secretary General of NATO (2016-2019) and Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

March 9: India Between China and the West

The discussion will be led by Dr. Sumit Ganguly, a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and Director of the Huntington Program on Strengthening US-India Relations. Previously he was the Rabindranath Tagore Professor in Indian Cultures and Civilizations at Indiana University.

March 16: US-China Relations

This session will be led by Dr. Thomas Fingar, the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Fingar has written or edited four books on China and played direct roles in the US-China relationship since the Nixon administration including as head of the China Division at the State Department.

March 23: To Be Determined

Our planned speaker for this date cannot do it on March 23. We hope to reschedule on April 13 but that is not yet confirmed. We might pause the series for one week or, if there is interest, convene on March 23 for a freewheeling discussion of international affairs led by Tom Fingar.

March 30: AI and American National Security

Dr. Herb Lin is senior research scholar for cyber policy and security at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation and Hank J. Holland Fellow in Cyber Policy and Security at the Hoover Institution. He is Chief Scientist, Emeritus for the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board at the National Academies.

There will be two sessions in April, one on American Foreign Policy and the Middle East, the other on International Cooperation and Climate Change.

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). ❖

"Nothing, how little so ever it be, if it is suffered for God's sake, can pass without merit in the sight of God."
—Thomas à Kempis



Special Offering Sunday

UMCOR Sunday Is March 30

UMCOR Sunday focuses on increasing awareness and support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR’s administrative costs.

Your gift on UMCOR Sunday helps ensure that 100% of donations given to specific UMCOR programs can be directed toward on-the-ground relief efforts. By covering UMCOR’s operational costs, we empower the church to mobilize resources quickly and efficiently, making a meaningful impact in communities affected by disaster and hardship in the U.S. and around the world, such as the wildfires in southern California and the humanitarian crisis in Congo.

Donations can be made online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMHG/campaign/C-14Z6H> or at church on March 30. ❖

UWF CONNECTIONS

by Nancy Olson

“The light-soaked days are coming” (quotation from author John Green). Yes indeed, Daylight Savings Time begins March 9. So by the time you read this you may already be experiencing how the change affects you personally. For me and my cat, Frankie, it takes about two weeks to adjust.

Some other news that made me happy recently:

Our former pastor Rev. Dr. Shijung Shim is now Associate to our new Bishop Sandra K. Olewit.

Tongan Ministry Committee formed. By action of the June 2024 Annual Conference Session, the newly formed Tongan Ministry Committee met for the first time in person at the Conference Center. “This gathering marked a significant milestone as we dreamed together about strengthening youth and young people ministries and teaching United Methodist structures and polity to help to understand Wesleyan theology and our connectional church.”

Press release from United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith, the nation’s largest denominational organization for women, today expressed concern regarding the early policy actions of the new administration:

“We are deeply disturbed by the attempt to roll back basic civil rights protections for students, to increase the criminalization of communities of color and to undo gains made in advancing climate justice. As United Women in Faith, we’re committed to ensuring that the long-term interests of women, children and youth are central.

“United Women in Faith calls on our nation’s leaders to place greater emphasis on policies that promote justice, equity, and reconciliation. We urge all elected officials to uphold human rights and the dignity for all God’s creation and work toward the common good of all people, regardless of their background or political views. The health of our nation depends on a commitment to fair and just policies that reflect the values we hold dear as a society.” ❖

God the sender, send us. God the sent, come with us. God the strengthener of those who go, empower us, that we may go forever and wherever, with you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. —Welsh prayer



BAY CHORAL GUILD

Beethoven, Brahms & Beauty!



Chamber orchestra and soloists join us for Ludwig van Beethoven’s emotionally direct *Mass in C*, Johannes Brahms’s rhapsodic *Schicksalslied*, and the premiere of Sanford Dole’s *All is Beauty*, based on texts by John Muir.

Saturday, March 15, 7:30pm

First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto

Sunday, March 16, 4:30pm

Campbell United Methodist Church, Campbell

Tickets at the door or online, www.baychoralguild.org

Saturday, March 1, 3:00 p.m.

J&H Foundation Concert

“On Wings of Song”

From a world of imaginative flights to the beauty of the four seasons, this diverse musical performance showcases cross-generational collaborations ranging from classical to contemporary compositions in English, Mandarin, Taiwanese, Hakka, and Bunun.

Tickets \$25.00 on site.

Saturday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra

“String Serenades”

Tchaikovsky’s incredible “Serenade,” Evan Price’s brand new concerto for two mandolins, and Jessie Montgomery’s spirited “Strum.”

RSVP to secure a space at this free concert: thesfco.org/main-stage

Saturday, March 29, 2:30 p.m.

Peninsula Women’s Chorus **The 11th New Music for Treble Voices Festival**

The festival will celebrate vocal improvisation through Circle Singing and will feature guest choirs including San Francisco-based Musae, Ensemble from the Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir, Sacramento-based Vox Musica, and the PWC.

Festival members will participate in workshops exploring the art of vocal improvisation.

A public Circle Singing workshop will take place at 2 p.m. followed by a concert at 2:30. The program will conclude with an interactive Circle Singing session where everyone is invited to participate!

More information and tickets at pwchorus.org/concert/nmftv2025/

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.

Peninsula Cantare

“In Time of War & Peace”

Celebrating peace and hope in our troubled times, Peninsula Cantare will sing Franz Joseph Haydn’s stunning “Mass in Time of War.” Plus, you’ll hear music from around the globe, including music by Joni Mitchell and Moses Hogan. This concert will inspire and uplift as we celebrate our shared humanity!

Tickets available at peninsulacantare.org/concerts/

Isn't this the fast I choose: releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke, setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering the naked when you see them, and not hiding from your own family? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and you will be healed quickly. Your own righteousness will walk before you, and the Lord's glory will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here." If you remove the yoke from among you, the finger-pointing, the wicked speech
—Isaiah 58:6-9



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|-------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 03/04 | David Perry | 03/19 | Simone Bikai |
| 03/08 | Wesley Rose | 03/21 | Martha Branner |
| 03/08 | Ane Dauster | 03/21 | Kai Larson |
| 03/08 | Zuriel Bailon | 03/22 | Jasmine Mokhlessi |
| 03/09 | Steve Wood | 03/22 | Beth Bunnenberg |
| 03/09 | Christina Fifita-Fakalata | 03/23 | Joe Buxton |
| 03/09 | Miles Keep | 03/24 | Amanda Fifita |
| 03/10 | George Carpenter | 03/26 | Chris Friesen |
| 03/10 | Julie Lopez | 03/27 | Pam McKee |
| 03/12 | Diane Allen | 03/29 | Jean Cole |
| 03/13 | Nelson Stafford | 03/29 | Colleen Crangle |
| 03/13 | John Fifita | 03/30 | Kathleen Branyon |
| 03/15 | Nancy Olson | 03/31 | Shannon Perry |
| 03/17 | Mila Yoshikawa | 03/04/1985 | Daniel & Asotolu Fifita |
| 03/17 | Pat Shelly | 03/19/1954 | Jim & Lynn Gibbons |
| 03/18 | Emma Newton | 03/31/2001 | Jeff & Emily King |
| 03/18 | Penni Savou | | |



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.

January 2025 Income and Expense Summary (DRAFT)	January 2025 Actual	Actual YTD 2025	Budget YTD 2025	Budget Annual 2025
Income				
Member Giving	44,111	44,111	27,537	426,040
Income from All Other Sources	33,643	33,643	29,657	349,207
Total Income	77,754	77,754	57,194	775,247
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	7,351	7,351	7,779	73,000
Council on Ministries	0	0	2,581	41,450
Staff Parish Relations	40,641	40,641	45,005	518,669
Office and Finance	1,589	1,589	1,676	21,400
Board of Trustees	24,360	24,360	28,975	198,100
Total Expenses	73,941	73,941	86,017	852,619
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	3,813	3,813	-28,823	-77,372
Offset from 2024 Surplus	6,448	6,448	6,448	77,372
Net Over (Under) after Offset	10,261	10,261	-22,375	0



Monday–Friday, La Comida, 11–1 p.m., ongoing

- 2 FUMCPA Immigration Advocacy, 2 p.m. (Zoom)
See page 6.
Great Decisions (in-person and Zoom), 7 p.m.
- 4 Staff Parish Relations, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 5 Ash Wednesday
Drive up and walk up imposition of ashes, 8–9 a.m. and 5–6 p.m. in the parking lot.
- 8 San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m.
Free concert. See page 9 to RSVP.
- 9 Daylight Savings Time begins
Great Decisions (in-person and Zoom), 7 p.m.
- 11 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 14 Celebrate π Day, 7 p.m. See page 3 for details.
- 16 Lenten Bible Study, 9 a.m. See page 1.
Great Decisions (in-person and Zoom), 7 p.m.
- 18 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 20 Deadline for April issue of Insights
- 21 Spring Equinox Gathering, 7 p.m. See page 3.
- 22 All Church Meeting, 10 a.m. See details, page 3.
- 23 Lenten Bible Study, 9 a.m. See page 1.
[tentative] Great Decisions (in-person and Zoom), 7 p.m.
- 25 Church Council, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 30 Lenten Bible Study, 9 a.m. See page 1.
UMCOR Sunday (special offering; see page 8)
Great Decisions (in-person and Zoom), 7 p.m.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 9

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



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- **Masks are optional but recommended for in-person activities.** Some activities meet online via Zoom, as noted. See e-news for 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 4-11
- 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 (1st & 3rd Sundays)
- 12:15 p.m. Bible Study (March 9 only)
- 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Friends (schedule varies)

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

- 5:00 p.m. Covenant Class (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m. Upstream Contemporary Worship (Zoom)

Thursdays

- 1:00 p.m. Call to Prayer
- 7:00 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 or bring them to the church office. Thank you!



FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Next INSIGHTS deadline: March 20



Filoli in spring
Photo by Burke Owens