



APRIL 2025

What's for Breakfast Easter Morning?

by Pamela Cutkosky,
Seasonal Events



Our annual Easter breakfast is planned for 8:30-10:30 a.m. on the Patio. Contribute one dish—and sample an array of goodies before you head in to worship. It's a wonderful time for fellowship with your church family and our Easter visitors. (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. Sign up online by “claiming” one or two of the food items listed or “claiming” a supervision shift on the Lucky Potluck page: www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/EasterBreakfast2025

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 or 650-328-5208 with questions, or Char in the church office. ❖

Holy Week Offers Shared Fellowship

This spring, First UMC Palo Alto will join with other local UMC churches for shared worship services during Holy Week.

First Palo Alto observes Maundy Thursday, April 17, together with Aldersgate UMC and Pastor Sungrae Kim. The two churches will share a simple soup and bread supper at 6:00 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall and worship together in our sanctuary afterward at 7:00.

Good Friday, April 18, offers an opportunity for fellowship with the Los Altos UMC congregation. At 7:00 p.m., Pastor Burke will be part of the Good Friday service at Los Altos UMC with Pastor Dirk Damonte. Dirk is the long-time Minister of Music and Worship Arts at LAUMC and will be retiring in June. Many members of our congregation are familiar with Dirk and his musical legacy.

On Easter Sunday morning, April 20, First Palo Alto UMC will host a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. along with First Tongan UMC and St. Andrew's UMC. First Palo Alto will also host our traditional Easter morning service at 10:45. ❖



Light in Deepest Night

A Lenten Meditation Based on the Writings of
Julian of Norwich (1342-c. 1416)

Music by Aaron David Miller

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:45 a.m. in our sanctuary

Julian was an English mystic and anchoress. At age 30, at the end of a grave illness, she received 14 revelations and later two more visions. Soon after her recovery from illness, she began living in a small dwelling attached to the Church of St. Julian. She became famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergymen and lay persons. Julian has been called the first English woman of letters and the first English theologian to write in English. This worship experience draws on her reflections on life, love, and light.

Aaron David Miller is a renowned organist and composer performing in the United States and Europe. ❖

625 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301-2016

650-323-6167 info@firstpaloalto.com
www.FirstPaloAlto.com

Pastor's Corner

Salvator Mundi highlight, Leonardo da Vinci, c.1500



Dear friends,

Over the last four weeks of Lent, I have been speaking a great deal about Jesus's living connection with others as he travels from baptism to his final trial. My intention with this series has been to explore his emotional intelligence, which is at the heart of his relationship with everyone he meets and knows, and his relationship with God also. This prime time of the church year, Lent, is when we are called to stop and look at Jesus's life more intently. His troubles and his challenges, his strength and his power are striking and humbling especially when we ponder how to apply his teachings and living example to our own existence.

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

This observation from Paul is incredibly perceptive. It helps us understand God's intention even as it sets the stage for us as Christians. We are each manifestation of God; we are each a temple for God in creation. Every one of us, in effect, is sacred and blessed by the spirit and by the divine presence. We only must realize it, which admittedly is the hard part. But when we bring our own awareness of the divine into everything we do, into our day-to-day reality, it changes us. Ultimately, God is not only with us but also who we are. With practice, our own place of recognition shifts so that the divine is not so far away in heaven or someplace else, but rather is amid our lives waiting for us to acknowledge its presence and power in and through us. When we acknowledge that God is alive and in us, we begin to be the blessing we are asked to be.

From self-awareness, consider empathy—the ability to notice another's emotional state, the ability to sense and then feel it, to be present with another and their state of mind and heart. It's the kind of thing we might experience with a family member or close friend. A sensitivity to realize how a person, like us yet not us, feels just as much, suffers just as much, loves just as much as we do. As we saw previously, when speaking about the need for self-awareness, empathy builds on this ongoing sense of awareness. For when we are self-aware, we can know and trust ourselves and so grow to appreciate and feel empathy for others. When we practice empathy, we are learning to bring the spirit more fully into our lives. By pulling out of our narrow point of view of our own self, our own needs and identity, we can let in so much more. We can let in more spirit, more God, more of who we truly are beyond our day-to-day sense of self. A pure, luminous, wonderful being who is right here. Underneath our limited sense of self—the independent me who is apart from others, is a connectional self who is ultimately part of a greater whole. That holy self within transcends the limited small self that we take ourselves to be most of the time.

Over the course of our life, like Jesus, we are encouraged to approach our lives and live them with confidence and faith that God is with us, that we are in this world for a reason. A reason known to God but one that we will realize, as the old gospel says, 'after a while,' through the course of our lives built over the years and with experience. To do this we need to develop confidence and patience and a growing ability to understand who we are. Then we are able to support our growing understanding of what our purpose is and how God is awakening into our lives. Confidence is a sense of purpose, of stability, in who we are and what we do in our life. It is strength and a sense of knowing that is beyond our everyday sense of self, for it is a surety that comes from God.

continued on page 9

EGG HUNT!

Pastor Gerardo, our director of Children and Youth Ministry, is getting ready for this year's egg-citing Egg Hunt, which will take place from 10–11 a.m. Saturday, April 19, on the Patio. Families in the local community are invited to participate. Spread the word to your kids, grandkids, neighbors' kids—all kids ages 1–11 are welcome! Kids and parents should come to the Patio Room overhang to check in and get instructions.

There are actually several hunts, geared to different ages. 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 (3 and under). There are prize bags for all and Easter pictures to draw too!

Can you volunteer to help out with this event? Pastor G needs volunteers to monitor specific areas of the campus and volunteers to pass out materials and give instructions. It takes 8 volunteers to put on this great community event! Last year more than 70 children participated in our annual egg hunt!

Contact Pastor G or Pamela Cutkosky if you can help and want to be part of our community outreach.



One More Great Decisions Discussion

The Great Decisions 2025 discussion series concludes April 6 with the topic: American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead. The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

Speaker: The session will be led by Dr. Mona Tajali, a Visiting Scholar at Stanford's Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law who specializes on women's political participation in Muslim countries.

Attend in person at 7 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall or online via Zoom. Masks are strongly recommended for indoor events. To attend via Zoom, please register at: <https://firstpaloalto.com/great-decisions-2025/>. Reminders and the Zoom link will be sent on Thursday before the session.

You do not need to buy or read the Great Decisions workbook but it is available for purchase from the Foreign Policy Association (www.fpa.org). Two copies of the workbook are in the church library.

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). ♦



by Nancy Olson

Earth Day, April 22, was established to concentrate our attention on our immediate environment. Today many people across the nation celebrate the earth not only for the day, but the week, and in some places, the month of April.

Palo Alto will host an Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 27, with activities for all ages: www.cityofpaloalto.org/Events-Directory/City-Manager/Earth-Day-Festival-2025.

Anything that induces individuals of all ages to recognize, to be awed by, to enjoy our God-given earth is very good news to me! A new tree in bloom! A beautiful sky more fantastic than any painting! That sunrise or sunset that takes my breath! Thank you, God!

These days newspapers, TV and radio news, and any number of online sources can pour down a torrent of sadness, fatigue, or fear worse than a destructive storm. I find spending a brief time outdoors and honestly seeing what is presented to me to be calming. We really are blessed.

Happy Earth Day—
Every Day! ♦



A Scottish Prayer

Peace between neighbors,
Peace between kindred,
Peace between lovers,
In love of the King of life.

Peace between person and person,
Peace between wife and husband,
Peace between woman and
children,

The Peace of Christ above all peace.

Bless, O Christ, my face,
Let my face bless everything;
Bless, O Christ, mine eye,
Let mine eye bless all it sees. ❖

Scott Thomas (in the GenieLift) and
Bill Nicholls replace bulbs in the
sanctuary chandeliers March 9.
Photo by Dan Conway



April Worship Schedule

Recognizing and applying Jesus's spiritual teachings

We conclude the survey of Jesus's emotional intelligence this month, leading up to Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

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

April 6	Fifth Sunday in Lent Sermon: Stress and Jesus Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30
April 13	Palm Sunday (special music) Sermon: Love and Jesus Scripture: John 13:31-35
April 17	Maundy Thursday Soup and bread supper at 6 p.m. Joint worship at 7 p.m. at First Palo Alto with Aldersgate UMC and Pastor Sungrae Kim Sermon: The Spirit and Jesus Scripture: John 14:15-31 (CEB)
April 18	Good Friday Joint worship at Los Altos UMC with Pastor Dirk Damonte and Pastor Burke at 7:00 p.m. Sermon: Sacrifice and Jesus Scripture: Matthew 27:32-61 (CEB)
April 20	Easter Sunday Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. Joint worship at First Palo Alto with First Tongan UMC and St. Andrew's UMC Traditional service at 10:45 a.m. Sermon: Forgiveness and Jesus Scripture: Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)
April 27	First Sunday after Easter Sermon: The Body of Christ Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-18

The **Lenten Bible Study** will meet for its final session at 9:30 a.m. before worship Sunday, April 6. All are welcome to participate, and the only requirement is to read and consider the following scriptures before arriving at the Wesley Room.

Matthew 11:25-30, 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 ❖



Celebrating Earth Month

George Washington Carver: A Scientist Motivated by Faith and a Desire to Help

Image and article by Ben Conway

This image was inspired by the life and work of George Washington Carver. Most people have heard of him, but few people fully understand the significance of his work.

Carver was born in the South towards the end of the Civil War. His early life was a hard struggle with racial discrimination and disease. However, Carver overcame these difficulties. He was recognized as an expert botanist (or “plant doctor”) from an early age, and eventually became a professor at Tuskegee University.

Much of his research focused on finding practical solutions to problems faced by impoverished farmers in the South. He searched for ways to make farmland more productive, and recognized the dangers of pesticides and artificial fertilizers well before most others did. “We know that commercial fertilizers will stimulate and for a while produce good results in the way of vegetables, but by and by a collapse will come, as the soil will be reduced to practically clay and sand.” ¹

Carver’s work as a scientist was driven by religious and humanitarian motives. He viewed scientific discovery as a religious experience: seeking God’s truth in the natural world, and expressing that truth for others. “That is what the scientist is seeking. That is what the artist is seeking; his writings, his weaving, his music, his pictures are just the

expressions of his soul in his search for Truth. My paintings are my soul’s expression of its yearnings and questions in its desire to understand the work of the Great Creator.” ²

Carver followed a straightforward, robust religious practice: “Having good wishes for others; doing good deeds for others; listening to good singing and instrumental music; studying to master some trade; saying words of cheer, and above all, doing to others as you wish to be done by—all are a part of how you contact and keep in tune with thy Creator.” ³

His research was primarily motivated by a desire to help others. He tried to ensure that the results of his research would be available to everyone: “I don’t want any discoveries to benefit specific favored persons. I think they should be available to all peoples.” ⁴

I think that Carver’s worldview is a valuable one, especially in the modern era of global sustainability challenges.

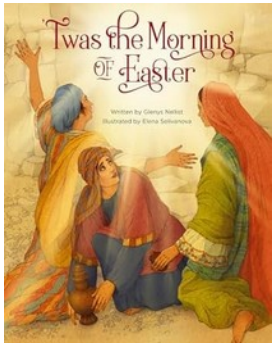
Ben Conway is a professional illustrator and a member of First UMC Palo Alto. He based this image and article on the National Park Service study “George Washington Carver: For His Time and Ours,” Burchard, 2005. 1. p 27, 2. p 13, 3. pp 11-12, 4. p 14. web.archive.org/web/20230128172944/nps.gov/gwca/learn/manage/ment/upload/GWC-For-His-Time-Ours-Spec-History-Study.pdf Additional information from www.nps.gov/gwca/learn/historyculture/index.htm. ❖

Hello First Palo Alto

Readers! by Char Cutkosky

Congratulations to the winners of our annual Library Guessing Game! This year we had two winners in the adults category, Debbie Krueger and Diane Allen, and Aavya Kalas won the children's category. Thank you to everyone who participated!

We have a new Easter book for children, *'Twas the Morning of Easter* by Glenys Nellist, illustrated by Elena Selivanova.



This re-telling of the Easter story focuses on Mary Magdalene and features beautiful

illustrations and depictions of everyday life in Biblical times.

For adults, *Isola* by Allegra Goodman is a survival story chronicling the true life of Marguerite de La Rocque, a young 16th century French noblewoman whose greedy and cruel guardian abandons her and her lover on an island in “New France” (eastern Canada and parts of the United States). *People* magazine calls it a “lushly painted historical epic of love, faith, and defiance.”

As always, happy reading! ❖

Pastor Gerardo (L) and Pastor Burke prepare for our drive-through blessings and imposition of ashes on a windy Ash Wednesday in the parking lot. Photo by Pamela Cutkosky

A Spiritual Alignment Across Faiths

Adapted from an article by The Rev. Brian E. Williams, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Indianola, Iowa

This year, something extraordinary, and quite rare, happened.

Three of the world's major religious traditions—Christianity, Islam, and the Bahá'í Faith—simultaneously observed a season of fasting, creating a unique moment of spiritual alignment across faiths. In a world often divided by religion, this moment of alignment feels like a divine reminder of how much we share.

I've realized how fasting does something profound—it strips us down to our most basic human longings. Hunger, after all, is universal. So is the ache for meaning. So is the desire for hope, transformation, and renewal. And so is the desire for God, even in our varied understandings.

As Christians, this is what Lent invites us into—a season of intentional emptiness that creates space for God to reveal Godself to us. We give something up not for the sake of suffering but to remind ourselves that we do not live by bread alone. We feel the ache of hunger or longing and turn that ache toward God. It's a practice of letting go in order to receive.

But how beautiful is it that this year, millions of people across the world have done the same thing—in different ways, through different traditions, but with a shared purpose of drawing near to the Divine? There's something quietly hopeful about that.

While the calendars and practices are different, the heart of it is the same—a longing to be less tethered to our desires and more rooted in something eternal. A desire to become more awake to God's presence. A hope for renewal, both in ourselves and in the world around us.

So this Lent, I'll keep my fast. But I'll also pay attention to the hunger that connects me to my neighbors—the ones I worship with and the ones I don't.

Because maybe, in some mysterious way, God is using all of this collective longing to crack open something new in the world. May it be so. ❖





FUMCPA Immigration Advocates

by Nancy Glaser, Social Action Committee Chair

As a follow up to our article in March about our church's participation with Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice (MVPJ), the first action our group took was to attend the Rapid Response Training

March 16 at Saint Mark's Church in Palo Alto. Over 100 faith-based volunteers showed up for this community-wide training!

Linda Grossman and I attended the training and will participate in the San Mateo County group. We learned how to alert the right contact when immigrants are being followed by ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement). We learned how to properly record the event via phone video. We also learned the legal rights of both subjects as well as ourselves.

We met the Faith in Action Bay Area leader who covers San Mateo County and the one who covers Santa Clara County.

This is a start of our journey in protecting the legal rights of undocumented immigrants in our midst. Our geographic area has been quiet so far but preparation for when ICE arrives is critical.

If you are interested in joining the next legal defense training, contact me at GlaserNancy@gmail.com or watch for the notices that will appear to sign up.

The goal of our group is to aid our immigrant community in ways that will keep them legally informed and safe. We have joined the current nonprofits working with immigrant communities locally, focusing on Mountain View, East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park, and Redwood City.

We will keep the congregation updated on the progress and activities regarding our immigrant actions taking place in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. ♦

If you see ICE activity in San Mateo County or Santa Clara County, please call the appropriate hotline immediately.

**For San Mateo County:
(203) 666-4472**

CALL (203) 666-4472

COMMUNITY RESPONSE LINE

Call for attorney referrals and general information on:

- IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS
- RENT INCREASES, EVICTIONS, LIVING CONDITIONS
- WORKERS' RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY!




**For Santa Clara County:
(408) 290-1144**

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY



**REPORT ICE ACTIVITY!
CALL (408) 290-1144**



IF YOU SEE ICE
ON THE STREET

IF ICE KNOCKS
ON YOUR DOOR

IF ICE DETAINS
A LOVED ONE

* THIS IS NOT A GENERAL INFORMATION HOTLINE



An all church meeting was held Saturday, March 22, in Kohlstedt Hall with 20-plus in attendance. The morning included sharing about Lent, and discussions about church business, social action regarding immigrants, and church participation trends analyzed by the Cal-Neva conference. Many thanks to Scott and Bill for their good work with the a/v.

We Are the Ones We Are Waiting For

Excerpts from a Lenten Devotional by Rev. Andromeda Woodworth, the first openly trans pastor to deliver the daily devotional to the Georgia State House of Representatives (in March 2024)

My heart and mind are so full of things these days. I am a history person, and I am not unaware of historically what happens next when 330 million people wake up and realize that about 300 people are driving the country straight off a cliff, on purpose.

I am full of anger, and I am full of rage. Maybe you are too. I am full of ideas of what might happen next, some of these things involve tears, and hunger, and poverty for many of us, and for sure it involves being insulted and hated and condemned. I mean, that last one is already true, and is just called a regular Tuesday. ...

Jesus is reminding me that it doesn't have to be this way, and that it won't always be this way. But rather than being comforted into accepting the present, my anger paired with my deep faith in the way of Jesus compels me to show up and act. And I invite you to join me.

We can build a world where everyone is valued—and we don't need those in power to give us permission, or for them to recognize our identities, or to praise us.

continued on page 9

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

As we continue to witness a rapidly shifting political landscape, it becomes ever clearer that the policies enacted by the current administration directly impact the lives of women, children, and youth in the United States and across the globe. These shifts challenge us as a faith-based organization to remain vigilant, faithful, and actively involved in social justice work.

As United Women in Faith (UWFaith), we hold steadfast to our belief that faith without action is empty, and it is through our work that we demonstrate the love and justice of God in a world that deeply needs it. We strive to be humble in our advocacy and recognize that we are part of a larger community of justice-seekers.

We call on all members of United Women in Faith to take up the Micah 6:8 Pledge as a concrete expression of our commitment to justice. The Micah 6:8 Pledge invites us to:

- Act justly by standing against injustice in all its forms.
- Love mercy by showing compassion and empathy to those who are suffering.
- Walk humbly with our God by dedicating our work to God's service.

As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9, *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."* We are confident that by continuing to work together, grounded in faith and guided by justice, we will create a future that reflects God's vision of love, peace, and healing for all people.

United Women in Faith stands as a voice for justice, and our faith compels us to take action. We will not rest until we have created a world that honors the dignity and worth of every person, especially women, children, and youth. Together, we can—and will— make a difference. ❖

Reprinted in part from the UWFaith blog



Pastor Burke and musicians from Fiume di Musica and Miracle Jones perform for the Spring Equinox Gathering on March 21. Songs of spring renewal and texts from cultures throughout history celebrating the equinox were on the program. About 45 people attended. Photo by Pamela Cutkosky

We Are the Ones ... *from page 8*

We are the ones we are waiting for—to move with compassion and generosity and grace in the world. We are the ones who will need to overcome evil not with more evil, but with good. We are the ones, alongside so many others, who will need to show up with generosity and care for folks when we don't have jobs anymore, or places to live anymore, or we are threatened with imprisonment or deportation just for speaking out.

We can live like the new world is here, full of compassion and generosity and love—until it is here, and the old way is so insignificant that it just doesn't matter any more.

The Reverend Andromeda Woodworth (she/they) is pastor of Neighborhood Church in Atlanta and an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. ❖

Pastor's Corner *from page 2*

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches. —Matthew 13:30-32

Ultimately, our confidence comes from our faith. For some this is faith in their own abilities. For others it is faith in chance or fate. For still others there is no faith at all and so they look for opportunities to take advantage of life or they live hopeless in a faithless world. But for us—we who believe or who try to believe or perhaps who once believed and hope to again—faith offers us meaning, a sense of purpose and optimism in life. Faith gives confidence. It leads to an abiding knowing that God is present and the spirit is with us. Jesus was led by the spirit in all he did. He had great confidence and strength of purpose because his faith was constantly awake and alive in him. We too, by listening to the voice of God within us, can hear the divine and follow its miraculous word.

A previous Sunday sermon was about optimism, that wonderful sense of hope and possibility that is at the heart of creation. Optimism is another way of seeing God's all-embracing and giving nature, of experiencing the abundance of spirit and creativity at the heart of creation.

Optimism is the spontaneous flow of love. Optimism also represents trust in that love. Love trusting love: this is optimism. Jesus speaks about optimism in his teachings, especially when he tells of God's abundance in creation.

Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. There is more to life than food and more to the body than clothing. Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? If you can't do such a small thing, why worry about the rest? Notice how the lilies grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. —Luke 12:22-27

Our life in this world and the nature of its distractions and challenges is so fluid and inconstant, if one complained about it, a whole lifetime would be too short to rant fully. Every moment would be needed to cover all the gripes we might find. But when we consider our lives with hope, yet realistically so, then we continue to grow and become more pragmatic and also more spirit filled. For it is not by being happy all the time that we become optimistic, it is by being honest about our lives and its challenges. By allowing God's grace to inform us so that the hope and joy which God brings will become our response to life's trials and joys. This is what Jesus did as a human and what he asks us to do also.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. —Romans 15:13

May this Lent and Easter bless and keep you, and may God's peace and grace abide, now and forevermore.

Pastor Burke

CONCERT NOTES

April 11: 7:30 p.m. **Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale** **Tout de Suite**

Music by Jean-Féry Rebel, Bach, Handel, and Jean-Philippe Rameau. Avi Stein, conductor. Tickets at philharmonia.org/concerts/.

April 26: 7:30 p.m. **San Francisco Chamber Orchestra Main Stage** **4: Rising Stars**

Featuring Nathaniel Heyder—World Premiere, an SFCO Commission with support from the NEA and Emerging Black Composers Project, and Klein Competition winner Pearl de la Motte, viola. RSVP to thesfco.org/main-stage.



Finance Update

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

04/03	Warren Yowell	04/18	Rohan Sharma
04/03	Vicki Wolfenbarger	04/20	Samie Lee
04/05	Meg Ferguson	04/22	Douglas Norris
04/06	Hope Crockett	04/22	Grace Stafford
04/06	Valorie Hamachek	04/22	Rob Stuart
04/07	Susan Harris	04/22	Everett Gee
04/08	Melvin Arterberry	04/24	Nancy Glaser
04/08	Daniel Fifita	04/25	Alec Martin
04/08	James Thomas	04/28	Michele Hollar
04/09	Phillip Salisbury	04/28	Mary Ann Michel
04/09	Blair Crangle-Hall	04/28	Aidash Kombou
04/09	Sean Huston	04/29	Kathy Rose
04/11	Alex Johnson		
04/12	Julie Blackburn	04/11/1992	Caroline Bowker & Charles Bliss
04/12	Al Lee		
04/13	Ann Reddick	04/15/1995	Mark & Brynn Iglehart
04/13	Catherine Blackburn		
04/14	Steve Furney-Howe	04/16/2016	Sarah Kwon & Ruwan Kiringoda
04/14	Sarymai Bapa		
04/16	Curt Gleason	04/24/1994	Alicia & Tim Breen
04/16	Harold Jones		
04/16	Christian Fernandez	04/30/1989	Dan & Michele Conway
04/18	Orlene Fingar		

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 2025 Income and Expense Summary (DRAFT)	February 2025 Actual	Actual YTD 2025	Budget YTD 2025	Budget Annual 2025
Income				
Member Giving	44,411	88,522	43,075	426,040
Income from All Other Sources	27,214	60,857	57,198	349,207
Total Income	71,625	149,379	100,272	775,247
Expenses				
Conference Tithe	6,722	14,073	10,703	73,000
Council on Ministries	1,078	1,078	5,012	41,450
Staff Parish Relations	43,696	84,336	87,327	518,669
Office and Finance	1,990	3,579	3,352	21,400
Board of Trustees	14,414	38,774	46,962	198,100
Total Expenses	67,899	141,840	153,356	852,619
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	3,726	7,539	-53,084	-77,372
Offset from 2024 Surplus	6,448	12895	12895	77,372
Net Over (Under) after Offset	10,174	20,434	-40,189	0



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

- 1 Staff Parish Relations, 7 p.m. (Zoom)
- 6 Lenten Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. (See p. 4.)
Great Decisions (in-person and Zoom), 7 p.m.
- 8 Trustees, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 12 Koinonia Comedy Night at the Movies, 5:30 p.m.
at Stanford Theatre
- 13 **Palm Sunday**
“Light in Deepest Night,” special music in 10:45
a.m. worship
- 15 Finance, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- 17 **Maundy Thursday**
Jointly with Aldersgate UMC and Pastor Sungrae
Kim: Soup and bread supper at 6 p.m.
Worship at 7 p.m. at First Palo Alto
- 18 **Good Friday**
Worship at Los Altos UMC with Pastor Dirk
Damonte and Pastor Burke, 7 p.m.
- 19 Annual Egg Hunt, 10–11 a.m.
- 20 **Easter**
Sunrise service at First Palo Alto, 6:30 a.m., with
First Tongan and St. Andrew’s UMCs
Easter Breakfast, 8:30–10:30 a.m.
Traditional worship, 10:45 a.m.
Deadline for May issue of Insights
- 26 San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 p.m.
(Free concert. RSVP requested. See p. 10.)
- 27 Bible Study with Pastor Burke, 12:15 p.m.

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 with Pastor Burke (2nd & 4th Sundays) resumes April 27
- 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 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!



FIRST PALO ALTO
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



www.facebook.com/firstpaloalto/

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PALO ALTO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside this issue of **INSIGHTS**
APRIL 2025

- Holy Week, pp. 1, 4
- Easter Breakfast, p. 1
- Annual Egg Hunt, p. 3
- Celebrating Earth, pp. 3, 5
- Spiritual Alignment, p. 6

Next INSIGHTS deadline: April 20

