



# Circuit Writer

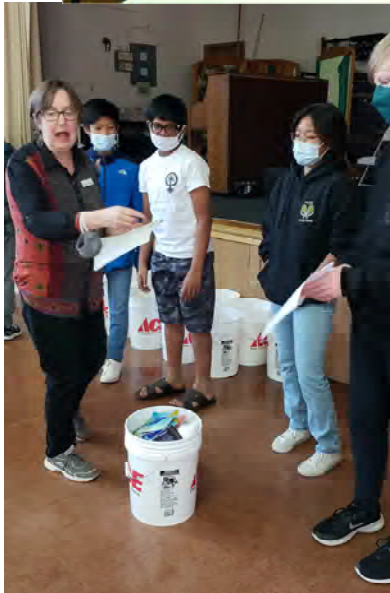
Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



March 2023

## Outreach for Flood Victims



PC: Bob McGowan



# Notes from the Pastor

**Pastor Jay Parr**



**G**reetings as we begin the Lenten season at SUMC! Lent began on Ash Wednesday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a drop-in service from 12-1pm. Our new Lenten sermon series 'Holy Play', which references the book authored by Dr. Kirk Byron Jones, will encourage us into a purpose lead life as a joyous and playful adventure with God!

In looking back at February, we were blessed in the discovery of a new outreach. Melissa and Dean Caudle introduced us to a ministry that supports our sisters and brothers that have been impacted by our winter floods and landslides. Our California Nevada Methodist Conference partners with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and the local church to supply Cleanup Buckets to those impacted by the floods. The conference supplied SUMC the checklist of items needed in the buckets and will also deliver our packed buckets to those in need. SUMC had a goal at the begin-

ning of February to raise enough monies for 20 or more buckets. Within three weeks, we raised \$1,300 in church donations and our Church and Society Committee contributed another \$1,000. The \$2,300 available monies allowed SUMC to purchase supplies for 24 Cleanup Buckets! Halleluiah! In the week prior to our Cleanup Bucket packing day, Melissa led a church shopping team in the purchase of the needed supplies. A big thank you goes to Ace Hardware that provided our church a 17% discount on the supplies for this ministry project. The big packing day was February 19<sup>th</sup> following worship service. Our youth group had been trained by Melissa the week before so they could lead all of us in the all-church Cleanup Bucket packing event. Melissa included our SUMC children in a similar outreach in February as they packed hygiene kits during Sunday School to support those in need of hygiene care essentials. Thank you to the Caudles for leading SUMC in these wonderful outreach ministries!

On Sunday, February 26 we welcomed Nishanth Solomon and Eunice Kanaga-

raj as our newest members to our church family.

On Sunday, March 5 we will celebrate Scout Sunday with our SUMC sponsored troop. The scouts will serve in the worship service as greeters, children's time leaders and scripture readers. Be sure to welcome and thank our scouts and their scout leaders for their service that supports youth in our community.

In planning your calendar through the Lenten Season, SUMC will offer a Good Friday on Friday, April 7 at 7pm and Easter Service on Sunday, April 9 at 10am. Our church's Scout Troop has offered to serve SUMC a pancake brunch following the Easter service. What a gracious gift from the troop at Easter. And of course, our education team is planning a terrific Easter celebration for our children and youth that includes egg dyeing and the all important Easter Egg hunt.

I am looking forward to the Lenten Season with each of you in the month of March!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jay

## Youth Corner

**Pastor Bayani Alkuino**

Our youth had the opportunity to participate in the packing of cleaning buckets. This program is sponsored by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. And it was a great program for our kids to be a part of. The gathered cleaning buckets will be distributed to people affected by calamities. Great job kids!

February 26, 2023 Our youth band had a blast singing in the prelude and the post-lude in the worship service. Then in the Children's time, our youth and kids joined together and sang one of our classic favorite in the kids ministry - Jesus Loves Me this I know, which is a song that has been translated in different languages and dialects in the world.

On the other hand, next month we will start a new lesson and that will be taken from the United Methodist Church handbook which talks about our theology history, polity etc. This is to deepen our understanding of our theology, our structure, our history, and polity.

Then lastly, our upcoming monthly activities are: March - bowling, April - Visit the Monterrey Aquarium.

Blessings everyone!



# United Women In Faith

Jane Dredge

- **UWF Executive Board** will meet March 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 PM., in Classroom 2, Education Bldg. A reminder will be sent a few days before the meeting. You may bring your lunch and come at 11:30 AM for conversation and visiting. Donna Phillips is our UWF President for 2023.
- **Mary Circle:** meets March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. **NOTE: new meeting place...Classroom 2, Education Building.** Nancy Cline is the Circle Leader. Flo Lord will give the “thought of the Day”. Donna Phillips will present the program and provide the refreshments. A message will be sent a few days prior to the meeting. All are invited and welcome.
- **Ruth Circle:** No meeting in March. The next meeting is April. Are you interested in becoming a member of SUMC’s United Women in Faith? Do you want to know more about our Mission, Vision, and Purpose? Please come to our Circle meetings and talk to any one of us.
- **Other UWF information:** please note dates, times, places... El Camino Real District news: The Women’s 2023 Spiritual Retreat will be held at Mission Springs, April 14-16. Reservations are due March 15. Space is very limited. Please contact Nancy Cline ([ncline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ncline@sbcglobal.net)) for more information.
- **Message from the National United Women in Faith:** “Day of Giving”-March 23, 2023 is the annual special day of giving. Ways to give are: Online at: [uwfaith.org/dayofgiving](http://uwfaith.org/dayofgiving); Text: “ACTION” to 20503; or by check to your Circle Treasurer and note “Day of Giving” in the memo section. Step forward with faith, hope, and love in action, by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund on Day of Giving, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. \ Holiday Craft Sale is scheduled for October 21, the Coordinator is Tonya Oravetz. Weekly craft workshops are Thursdays, from 10 AM until 2 PM in the Johnson/Shaner, Ralston rooms.

Kuddles for Kids workshops are still on hold. One Warm Scarf Project... The 2023 scarf inventory is already increasing, many thanks to our knitters, and crocheters! Scarf sizes: Knit or crochet... adult size: 8” x 80”; children: 6” x 60”. Smaller scarves for children ages 3-5, are welcome. Project Days...We meet first & third Fridays: March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM-1 PM. Bring your own project. I have an option or two, if you don’t have a project.

# Christian Ed. Corner

**Easter Sunday Worship: To all children, parents, and grandparents:** Please invite your friends, neighbors, and extended family to the 10 am Easter Sunday worship at **Sunnyvale United Methodist Church**. The message and music are guaranteed to be enjoyable for the entire family and will celebrate the joy and hope that Easter brings. (Nursery is available for children 3 and under). There will even be an Easter egg hunt for the children immediately after worship!



**Easter Egg Coloring**  
All are invited to **Sunnyvale United Methodist Church** to color Easter eggs on Saturday, April 8, from 10 am to 1 pm. Please bring a dozen hard-cooked eggs for coloring. We will supply the egg coloring supplies.

**What is “Safe Gathering”?** You may have heard the term “Safe Gathering” and wondered what it meant. Safe Gathering is an online abuse prevention program that screens and educates staff and volunteers to help prevent abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults. All of our adults involved with children and youth are “Safe Gathering” certified. This means that they have had a background check and have done the SG training. We need 2-3 more adults to volunteer to do the training. We need “second adults” in our classrooms! We are NOT asking you to be teachers. We need the second adult to be the extra “eyes and ears” in the classroom or on the playground. The church will pay for the SG training. Please ask Pastor Jay or me, if you have questions about this program.

Jane Dredge, SUMC’s Safe Gathering Facilitator

# Birthdays

5 Betsy Ireland  
 9 David McAllister  
 14 Jayce Jeyapalan  
 20 Shobana Sylvester  
 22 Janet Clifton  
 23 Marjorie Johnson  
 26 Tomasi Panisi  
 27 Russell David Snead  
 31 Stephen Boaz



We would like to celebrate your special days like birthdays and Anniversaries by publishing it in our monthly newsletter. If you would like the same to be published please email it to [sunnyvaleumc@comcast.net](mailto:sunnyvaleumc@comcast.net). We do not mention any age, number of years married, just the name and event.

## Finance

**Les Cline**

### Sunnyvale UMC Finance Report

I'm pleased to report that Sunnyvale UMC continues to be blessed with very good financial health, although it's not reflected in January's \$19,613 Operating Income and \$51,309 Expense numbers. In looking back at FUMC's and TUMC's past few years, we noticed that starting a year slowly isn't unusual, so we're not too worried about January's \$31,696 deficit. SUMC's January 31 Operating Balance Sheet shows very healthy Assets of \$124k.

This month's Church Finance news is that we've started the process of transferring the Proceeds Fund to SUMC's name. Also, as I mentioned last month, our church now can accept paper checks written to "Sunnyvale UMC" or "Sunnyvale United Methodist Church". (We're also working towards just "SUMC", but it's become clear that this will take a while.) Please note that FUMC's and TUMC's banking accounts will be closed soon, and after this happens, SUMC won't be able to accept checks written to TUMC or FUMC. So, if you've not yet switched over to writing "Sunnyvale UMC", please do so very soon.

If you would like to conserve even more ink, please consider SUMC's "eGiving" (electronic giving) methods. SUMC's PayPal Giving Fund URL is <<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4706243>>, and its QR Code is in this article. It's a very efficient way of donating to SUMC, and we highly recommend it to everyone who has a personal PayPal Account or is willing to establish one. Alternatively, SUMC's PayPal Donate webpage is at <[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=BLBXGTD268FX2](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BLBXGTD268FX2)>, and it's a good method for anyone who doesn't want to have a personal PayPal account or who prefers automatic recurring donations to one-time donations. We will be closing TUMC's and FUMC's PayPal accounts soon, so if you have been using them, please switch over to SUMC's webpages. I should also mention that Amazon.com's "Smile" donations program closed in February as part of Amazon's efforts to narrow their philanthropic efforts, so SUMC (and the other one million charitable organizations that benefited from it) will no longer receive a cut of Amazon.com sales.

As we move towards springtime, please be assured that everyone associated with SUMC's finances is very grateful for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness ... and especially, your patience as we continue to work towards being a truly unified church.



### Special Giving Sundays

The United Methodist Church designates 6 Sundays a year for special emphasis and offering. These are intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the Church and as such our participation is encouraged. These Sundays are:

- Human Relations Day, observed in January, the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday;
- UMCOR Sunday, observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent;
- Native American Awareness Sunday, observed on the third Sunday of Easter.
- Peace with Justice Sunday, observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost;
- World Communion Sunday, observed on the first Sunday in October;
- United Methodist Student Day, observed on the last Sunday in November.
- The second Special Giving Sunday this year is UMCOR Sunday. Most of us know that UMCOR donations for disaster response go 100% to the response. Disasters like the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria receive every penny you give. In 2022, almost \$2.2 million was given to provide disaster relief. UMCOR can do this because the United Methodist Church provides administrative support through a Special Giving Sunday, which this year is March 19. Money given on this Sunday goes to support the "cost of doing business", so UMCOR can continue to operate. Please give generously; it will truly help.