

# Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



September 2023

## CHURCH PICNIC



# Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim

**O**ur church has been abundantly blessed in many ways. One remarkable blessing is the way it has become a channel of grace through the selfless dedication of many individuals. How deeply grateful we are for this! We firmly believe that God doesn't just seek worshippers who gather in the sanctuary, but also those whose lives seamlessly embody worship.

There is a way where life and worship are seamlessly intertwined. Within our local church, you have the opportunity to get involved as a member of various committees. You can volunteer for various organizations that serve our community, such as IAF, Sunnyvale Community Services Volunteers, West Valley Community Services Food Pantry Barrel, Senior Nutrition Program, and more. In addition, you can extend your support to global missions, including UMCOR, which provides relief to those affected by disasters or supports missionaries.

In Matthew 10:40, Jesus said, "Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me."

The people who extend hospitality to those who live outside the established social norms are usually those at the very base of that social structure. Wherever Jesus and his

disciples ventured, they were greeted with enthusiasm and joy by the marginalized, while the ruling authorities plotted Jesus' demise. Jesus and his disciples lived in constant crisis, relying on the kindness of others. Welcoming those despised by the prevailing system was a courageous act, yet it had profound meaning. That is why Jesus spoke these poignant words. The term "you" here refers to the disciples, who have passed from being mere learners to being "apostles" entrusted with a divine mission. Herein lies a double commission. Jesus himself was sent by God, and now he sends forth his disciples into the world. Thus, those who embrace the disciples ultimately embrace God.

However, there's another aspect to consider. While welcoming those who are sent is a noble endeavor, welcoming the risen Lord who enters our lives in the midst of the ordinary is of even greater significance.

Sometimes he appears as a destitute homeless person or as someone in the twilight of life in a hospice ward. He may appear as a lonely soul shedding tears or as a migrant worker. It's easy to welcome those we know, those who offer us warmth. But, the risen Lord presents himself to us today in the form of a stranger.

To welcome the stranger, we must open not only the doors of our homes, but also the doors of our hearts. We often try to shield ourselves from the strangers in our society, preferring not to engage with them. However, authentic worship and faith involve choosing the path of connection, despite the discomfort. The Lord left his exalted throne to become an integral part of our earthly existence and to show us the way to salvation.

Dearly beloved, when we fixate only on our personal challenges, our hearts narrow and our faces darken. But, when we open our hearts and offer a refuge to those in need, our own life's burdens seem to lighten.

Consider the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who welcomed a stranger they met on the road into their home and prepared a meal for him. As he prayed and broke bread, they recognized him as the Lord. Amazingly, He disappeared. Where had he gone? He had become an integral part of their being. They had evolved into individuals who could coexist with the Lord.

Open your hearts to serve as the dwelling place of the Lord. May his grace permeate every facet of our journey. Amen.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jung Min

**UMCOR RELIEF FOR MAUI** Wind-driven wildfires on Maui prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. Support the relief and recovery efforts by donating to UMCOR. You can give online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>. (You can designate your gift specifically for Hawaii) or by check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" Checks can be dropped in the offering plate and our bookkeeper will mail them to UMCOR.

## Meet Lyn Irvine

### A little background about yourself and your family.

I have been a teacher of 4th, 5th, 6th grades for 20+ years. My mother became a member of Mountain View's Trinity United Methodist Church in her young adult life. We spent many summers at different churches' s VBS. Neighbors down our street brought me to a Pentacostal church in middle school, and I became a member of that church in high school and was baptized. I was active in recruiting children for Sunday school, a youth group member and rode on the bus to pick up people for church. I was active in the church for many years. When my family moved to Santa Clara, we joined the College Group at Southbay Christian Church that our "Grandpa" attended. There I met lifelong friends, participated in Bible studies and even a mission trip to Germany just after the fall of the Berlin Wall. We went to churches and put on skits to teach about God's love. It was an amazing 2 weeks.



### Since when have you been worshipping here and your experience?

I came to Trinity United Methodist Church with my then boyfriend Nathan. I went with him to several Praise Band rehearsals and eventually joined the Praise Band and attended the church. Nathan grew up in this church. Everyone was so welcoming. I became a member in 2005 after Nathan and I were married. Marrying Nathan also made me an instant parent to 3 stepchildren ages 6, 10, and 11. We have grown as a family while attending Trinity. Our family has participated in the Sierra Service Project for three years. I have served on the Finance Committee, Vision Team, and helped in various ways such as greeter and frequent Sunday reader. Now at SUMC, I have taken on SPRC Chair for the first time. I look forward to helping our church grow!

### What does church mean to you?

Church is home to me. It is the place where everyone is family. We laugh together, cry together, and learn together. It is the place and people I go to find peace, knowledge, and love. Whether I attend in person or online, I look forward to learning more about God's love.

### Anything you feel the congregation doesn't know about you and would find interesting like a hobby or adventure you have had.

In my spare time, I am part of the Southbay Scottish Society. I also enjoy reading and playing games with my family. I am enjoying being a grandmother to 2, almost 3, beautiful granddaughters. We also travel almost every year for family vacations or just Nathan and me. We once did a trip to Ireland, Scotland, and England for 24 days.

## United Women In Faith

**UWF** Executive Board will meet September 5, at 12:15 PM., in Classroom 2. Watch for information from UWF Executive Board President Donna Phillips.

Mary Circle will meet Monday, September 11, at 1:30 PM., in Classroom 2, Education Bldg. Patty Boyer will present the "Thought for the day". Dawna Eskridge will provide refreshments. Linda Morse will present the program.

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, September 12, at 10:00 AM., in Classroom 2, Education Bldg. The program "Hodge Podge" will be led by Jane Dredge. Ruth Circle will NOT meet in October.

**Nancy Cline reported that in 8 hours...18 people, used 145 pounds of fruit, 10 jars of pectin, 65 pounds of sugar, to make 29 batches of 23 different kinds of jam which filled 263 jars!!! Get your favorite jam at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual United Women in Faith Holiday Craft Sale, October 21st!** Weekly craft workshops are held on Thursdays, from 10 AM until 2 PM in the Johnson/Shaner, Ralston rooms. Coordinator Tonya Oravetz, will help you find something to do for the craft sale!

54<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL  
FESTIVAL  
**Holiday Craft Sale**  
NEW and Reimagined!!

**October 21, 2023**

**Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Handmade Quilts, Seasonal Décor, Wall hangings,  
Aprons, Placemats, Quilts, Baby Items,  
Special Items for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and more.  
Homemade Jams and Jellies and Baked Goodies



# Finance

Les Cline

In last month's report I mentioned that your bank, credit union or brokerage might be able to write your donation checks to our church. Although QCD donor requirements are very specific, it's valuable for each of us to learn about QCD's because all of us know people who are qualified to request them and may benefit from them. There are also very specific QCD recipient requirements, and Sunnyvale UMC complies with all of them.

I'm not a financial advisor or expert, but a bit of research on QCD's has taught me that a QCD from a Traditional IRA has one huge advantage over most other donation methods: nobody pays income taxes on the money that's donated. You (the donor) didn't pay income tax on contributions or rollovers to your Traditional IRA, and you don't pay income tax on QCD distributions from your Traditional IRA. QCD recipients don't pay income tax on the donation because QCD's are only distributed to tax-exempt charities.

Another possible QCD advantage is that QCD's count towards your current year's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), so if the amount of your RMD is larger than what you really need, you can use QCD's to reduce your taxable income, which might reduce your income tax bills.

QCD donor requirements are very strict, but fortunately they are also very short: to request a QCD, you must own the IRA that funds the QCD, and you must be at least 70.5 years old. If you meet these requirements and you're ready to learn more, please refer to the "Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)" section of IRS Publication 590-B and contact your IRA Custodian to learn how to request a QCD. Also, if you're working with a financial advisor and have not discussed QCD's, please do so. Please inform our church office when you apply for a QCD to SUMC, so we can watch for it and send an IRS-required written acknowledgement to you after it's arrived.

In other Church Finance news: so far this year, \$22,920 has been donated to SUMC via the PayPal Giving Fund, and \$3,760 via PayPal Donate. Also, please write checks to "Sunnyvale UMC" or "Sunnyvale United Methodist Church", but don't write variations or abbreviations of these names.



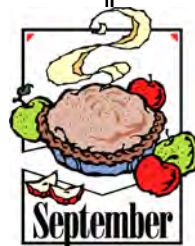
## World Communion Sunday

"How do your gifts support scholarships for students around the world?"

"We are called to reach out to all people and model the diversity of all God's children. Your gifts support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals while also transforming communities. Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Thirty-five percent supports ethnic scholarships for undergraduate students. Fifteen percent funds In-Service Training Programs for racial and ethnic persons."

# Birthdays

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 7 Margaret Poulivaati | 24 Kenny Ora-vetz |
| 11 Donna Phillips     | 27 Deewen Jin     |
| 12 Lillie Oravetz     | Susan Rao         |
| 16 Jim Marken         |                   |
| 17 Margaret Mason     |                   |
| 23 Bill Malmstrom     |                   |



# Church and Society

**Operation Christmas Child**, is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. They ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

We will provide you with a shoebox and a label by September 10. We ask you to go out and pick out small items to fill a shoebox with a minimum of \$10. Ideas to put into a shoebox are on the right. You can choose to pick up items for a boy/girl or both. Along with the filled shoebox, Samaritan purse requires a \$10 donation to send the box to different locations in the world.

This amount is critical to cover project costs involved in collecting, processing, and shipping your shoebox gifts to over 100 countries. The donation can be made online or by check. You can even track your box to see who gets it.

This is a great opportunity to go shopping with kids, look for stuff to fill the shoebox and give to the less fortunate. We will collect the boxes by November 5.

## SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS

**"WOW" ITEM**

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes

**TOYS**

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators

**ACCESSORIES**

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)

**DO NOT INCLUDE**

candy, toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit [SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC](http://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC)