

Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



January 2024

2023 IN REVIEW



Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim



“If anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and

look, new things have arrived!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate New Year's Day? It's just another day, so why do people find it important to mark a date change on a calendar?

I suspect it's because a new year symbolizes a fresh start, an opportunity to begin anew. January therefore becomes a crucial month for gyms and diet programs - it seems like a new chance to improve yourself. It seems a natural time to start something new, which is why many people make New Year's resolutions (whether they keep them or not is another sto-

ry!).

The Christian life offers many opportunities to start over, to change our actions, or to take a different path. Each week in worship, we confess our wrongdoings through individual silent prayers or collective prayers of confession. We admit to God and to each other that our lives are imperfect, that we don't live as we should, that we do things we shouldn't and don't do things we should.

And then we hear God's answer. We hear the good news that because of God's forgiveness and love, we all get a fresh start. Psalm 103:12 says, “As far as east is from west - that's how far God has removed our sin from us.” We don't have to carry the weight of our sins or guilt anymore. We are forgiven!

And then we step into the next week (or maybe just the next day, or the next few minutes!), and it doesn't take long for us to sin

again. It doesn't take long for us to forget what God has done for us. We take the burden that Jesus took from us, pick it up again, and try to carry the weight of our own sins again. But we always have another chance to remember God's love. God never tires of forgiving us!

You don't have to wait for a new year to get a fresh start. Every day is an opportunity to wake up and remember that you are a baptized child of God. You have been claimed, redeemed, and set free by Jesus Christ. After hearing the promise of forgiveness in worship, we continue in the only way we know how - by joyfully thanking God together in song, and by learning more about God's grace and love for us through hearing God's Word. See you in worship!

Your companion in Christ,
Pastor Jung Min Kim

Christian Ed. Corner

Sarah Jeyapalan

On behalf of the education committee, Pastor Bayani and myself we would like to thank Pastor Jung Min for encouraging the children and youth to have a memorable time this Christmas season. Our weekends were busy juggling multiple practice sessions and Christmas celebrations. The children and youth have worked hard for several weeks to practice the various roles they had to do, without any complaints. They loved the opportunity to perform at the pageant, sing songs with actions, perform the dance routines, and play the instruments. They were motivated with various gifts, treats, drinks and a visit by Santa. Thank you Pastor Jung Min for leading us along the way with your constant support and guidance. This Christmas was truly remarkable.

All these events would not have been possible if not for the dedicated parents and volunteers who were at hand at all times and made all the performances a huge success. We would love to name every single one of you who helped make it a success but we are sure to miss someone from the list. Shout out to all the parents and many volunteers who were in the front and behind the scenes in helping make all this a huge success.

Last but not the least to our dear congregation for being our cheerleaders and encouraging our performers. Thanks to all your kind words, praises, support and appreciations they had the confidence to perform without being shy.

This Christmas season was indeed very special as we all shared the hope, peace, love and joy with our church family. May we all ring in the new year with the same Christmas spirit....

Looking Back

Our Church was blessed by the Grace of God in many ways in 2023.

- We welcomed Pastor Jung Min Kim to our church in July.
- The Church took in new members: Melissa & Dean Caudle, Steve Sherman
- We also lost beloved members: Effiong Ibok, Richard Yamada, Pat Switzer and Ballard George.
- Two members of our congregation celebrated their 100th birthday-Eleanor Barskey & Mildred Knight.
- Gloria & Rod Castor celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary.
- Sarah Jeyapalan joined the staff as the Children's Education Director.
- Our ethnic and international diversity was apparent in the multicultural month in February where we had our altar displaying beautiful artifacts from different parts of the world.
- We participated in a new outreach and helped raise money for 24 Cleanup Buckets for those impacted by floods. The youth helped pack hygiene kits to support those in need of hygiene care essentials.
- We celebrated our first anniversary as a merged church.
- We held the Vacation Bible School in June which was very well attended.
- UWF awarded Mission Recognition Awards to Chris & Bob Cloke, Joyce Molyneaux, Margaret, Linda Morse, Les Cline and Jane Dredge.
- The UWF held their annual Holiday Faire where they raised close to \$8000 to be used in mission projects.
- Operation Christmas Child was able to supply 75 shoeboxes to children in different parts of the world.
- Katherine Parker, our missionary in Nepal visited us in November.
- Our annual picnic, Ice cream social and Thanksgiving lunch were enjoyed by one and all.
- Our Christmas Eve morning and evening worship service was very well attended and liked by many.

December Festive Celebrations



Birthdays & Anniversaries

6	Christa Morse
7	Faith Ibok
16	Flo Lord
17	Ronald Nathan
23	Rijula Edwin
31	Pam Hardin



2	Donald & Mary Jo Morin
27	Ronald & Ruhi Nathan

January

Finance

Les Cline

Wow, it's been a whirlwind year for Church Finance! When we officially started SUMC's business operations on 1/1/2023, we were one congregation but still three California corporations, and we began what has turned out to be a very long process of ramping up SUMC business activities while winding down FUMC and TUMC. The three-way corporate merger-of-equals that was applied for on 8/18/2022 was finally approved on January 9 (hurray!!) ... though, this day is bittersweet because it's also when the TUMC corporation (established 5/2/1963) and the FUMC Corporation (established 2/28/1903) officially ceased to exist.

Then, over the next few weeks, it really sunk in that we had to tell everybody who sent bills and invoices and

such to FUMC or to TUMC, to please send them to SUMC ... and then tell them again, and maybe a few more times. We're still getting things for TUMC and FUMC, but not nearly so many, and I'll take a moment now to say a big thank-you to everyone who's been involved in this part of our transition.

I'll also say a big thank-you to everybody who's been donating to our church! If you're writing your own donation checks, please write "2024" instead of "2023", so we don't need to chase you down and ask you to fix it. (Also, please write them to "Sunnyvale UMC" or "Sunnyvale United Methodist Church", but not any abbreviations of these names.) And if you've been thinking about using our two PayPal-based eGiving methods,

the change to a new year is a great time to start! 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. As of December 24, \$34,288 has been donated to SUMC via this method. Alternatively, SUMC's PayPal Donate webpage is <https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BLBXGTD268FX2>; its only downside is that PayPal charges a nominal fee for each donation.



United Women In Faith

UWF Executive Board will meet Monday, January 8, at 11:30 AM, in Classroom 2, Education Bldg. Bring your lunch, and remain for the UWF Unit meeting at 1:30 PM, led by Nancy Cline. NOTE: This **UWF Unit** is now the "Mary and Ruth Circles". Weekly craft workshops will start on Thursday, January 4th, 2024 from 10 AM until 2 PM in the Johnson/Shaner, Ralston rooms, unless you are notified by Pat Tubbs or Tonya Oravetz.

- Kuddles for Kids project...Cindy G. reported that most of the finished animals have been donated to an agency which assists low income families, since the children's hospital is not accepting handmade gifts.
- One Warm Scarf Project : One hundred and sixty-three scarves and 8 hats are helping to keep men, women, and children, warm this winter! The scarves and hats were blessed November 26th and delivered to the area coordinator five days later. Would you like to participate in this project? Do you need to learn to crochet or knit? Do you need yarn, hooks, needles? Please let me know. Scarf sizes: Knit or crochet... adult size: 8" x 80"; children: 6" x 60". Smaller scarves, size 4" x 40" are welcome for younger children.
- Project Days...Meetings are planned for Friday, January 5th and Friday, January 19th, from 10 AM until 1 PM. Hot water for tea, coffee, cocoa, is available. Simple snacks provided. Bring your own project. I have an option or two, if you don't have a project, or we will just visit!