

Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



April 2024

Easter at our Church



Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim



“Let us rise as Jesus rose!” I often enjoy *bibimbap* as a meal. I usually eat a spoonful of the mixed

dish. Sometimes, however, I eat one vegetable or meat with my chopstick. Although all the ingredients are evenly mixed in a bowl, the taste of the texture of each ingredient is unique. I see a multicultural society in this value. When each culture retains its own identity, multicultural world will be harmonious.

I believe that the church can effectively serve a multicultural society and embody the inclusive nature of the faith community by involving multicultural members in planning and leadership, where each person feels equally valued regardless of gender, race, culture, financial means, etc. When the church is aware of and sensitive to specific cultural values and needs, we can be a harmonious faith community of unity in diversity.

The joy of a multicultural commu-

nity comes from sharing our diverse gifts on a multicultural level. We can acknowledge our differences while benefiting from different perspectives and using different approaches to solve common problems. Working together as a multicultural community can sometimes be challenging. It takes extra time and patience because of communication difficulties, the need for members to overcome their fear or resistance to something new, or to come to terms with different perspectives, norms and cultural values.

April 7th marks the second anniversary of our church’s merger (to keep the first Sunday of April as the anniversary each year). Some may feel a bit discouraged by the term “second anniversary,” as it may still feel like we’re still being treated like toddlers who haven’t grown beyond infancy. This sadness stems from the fact that the rich cultures and traditions of Trinity UMC and First UMC are somewhat overshadowed.

A congregation is a living organism. Its ability to sustain its life over the past 2,000 years has been due to

its constant adaptation and reformation. Many of you know that Trinity UMC in Berkeley closed its doors as a congregation in 2020. Organized in 1866, its history spans more than 150 years. Insisting on the nostalgia of its glorious past is not evidence of its continuity. Any church can close its doors if it is not sensitive to social changes and does not innovate new cultures.

Let’s celebrate our merger as an act of God’s perfect grace. It’s a second chance. It’s a revival from God that transforms each of our weak churches into one solid church. We plan to reflect on this significance and have all the congregants transfer our vows on this anniversary. It will be the day we become official members of Sunnyvale UMC.

It is my sincere hope that Sunnyvale UMC will become a place where, like a *bibimbap*, each individual flavor is retained while harmonizing with the others to create a richer and more diverse feast of flavors.

Your companion in Christ,
Pastor Jung Min Kim

Church Anniversary

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY & MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY-April 7
We will be transferring vows for all former FUMC and TUMC members to become official members of SUMC. We will also be taking in new members. Light lunch and cake will be served.

SUMC Men's Group

The SUMC Men will be meeting for supper on Monday, April 15th at 6:30 pm in the Johnson-Shaner Room. Please let Darryl Alford or Tom Morse know if you plan to attend.

Special Giving Sunday

Native American Awareness Sunday is observed on the third Sunday of Easter. This year this date falls on April 21. Your gifts to this church-wide Special Sunday help create strong Native American ministries and highlight the gifts and contributions to The United Methodist Church. Please write “Native American Awareness” on your check and our bookkeeper will forward it accordingly.

Graduate Recognition

In June, during worship, we will honor those in our church family who are graduating. If a member of your extended family has completed an educational milestone, we'd like to celebrate that achievement. We are proud of those transitioning from preschool to kindergarten, elementary to middle school, and from high school, community college, vocational training, and college. Please email your graduate's name, where they are graduating from, and your relationship to the graduate to the SUMC office at: sunnyvaleumc@comcast.net



Vacation Bible School

VBS - 2024

Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3

When : June 10 - 14

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Ages: 5 - 13 years

Registration Fees: \$100 per child

(includes lunch & snacks)

Where: Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Road

Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Phone: 408-739-0826

Email: sundayschoolsumc@gmail.com

Registration in progress. Limited spots...



Church and Society

Pamela:

Clients were allowed to sign up for their turn at the WVCS Food Pantry at 8:00 AM, but the pantry didn't start serving until about 9:30. The intervening time was used as a social event for the clients – a service that is a bonus for the clients. Many clients arrived early for this social time.

Early in my volunteering at WVCS, I was primarily involved in teaching computer techniques to the clients, many of whom had no access to computers other than at this community service organization or a public library. Many, therefore, had no real exposure on what a computer can do for them.

After many years of seeing me help clients with computers during the "social time", a lady call Pamela decided to ask about computers while she waited for her turn in the food pantry. As I often did, I used the example of food, or cooking. In this case, I used chocolate chip cookies as a search item to show how an internet search could be beneficial to her.

Pamela successfully navigated the search engine and found, I am sure, hundreds of pages and advertisements for chocolate chip cookies. She wanted to print out a recipe. OK, I can help you with that – there were rules about the number of pages a client was allowed to print. So I helped her trim the content down to one page.

The next week, something similar – and I helped her trim it down to one page, as it was a fairly complex operation for a beginner. The following week, again a request for chocolate chip recipes. I began to question my effectiveness as a teacher. It wasn't until this same request occurred week after week that understood that there was more going on here than my ineffectiveness or her desire for different chocolate chip recipes. On my own, I researched some of the early symptoms of memory problems, and Pamela seemed to check off many of them. I needed to change my approach and increase compassionate understanding.

A little while later, Pamela developed an interest in obtaining a Red Pomeranian puppy. Her searches changed from cookies to puppies. As we searched together, it became clear to me that these puppies were very expensive and that many of the web results were from puppy farms. I needed to dissuade Pamela from this line of endeavor. I showed her that there were many shelters in the area where she could look for a loving companion for little or no cost. I think she understood this and did investigate shelters.

One never knows what levels of ability others have or don't have and we must be flexible and compassionate to show Christian Love in this world.

Bob Cloke

Birthdays & Anniversaries

6 Myrah Mishra
7 Jennifer Cline
11 Therese Wu
14 Joyce Molyneaux
16 Marion Redler
17 Lola Panisi
20 Linda Morse
23 Grace Alkuino
24 Blessy Alkuino



4 Rod & Tonya Oravetz
14 Sione & Lola Panisi
18 Edwin Thangaraj & Rijula Edwin
Nishanth Solomon & Eunice Daphne
23 Mary Ruth & Darryl Alford
28 Bill and Linda Malmstrom
Bayani & Grace Alkuino

Finance

Les Cline

Sunnyvale UMC Financial Report – Les Cline, Committee Chairperson

I'm delighted to report that SUMC's finances are off to a very healthy start. Through February, total income was \$115,143 and total expenses were \$107,142. On February 29, SUMC's financial assets totaled \$7,593,817, with \$142,865 held by SUMC's Church Operations for funding SUMC's day-to-day operations, and \$7,450,952 in SUMC's Proceeds Fund.

What's now the SUMC Proceeds Fund began as a set of investment securities (primarily Mutual Funds and ETFs) that Trinity UMC purchased prior to the pandemic with cash from the sale of TUMC's former church facility at 583 East Fremont Avenue. SUMC officially acquired the Proceeds Fund (plus many other things) on 1/9/2023 when California's Secretary of State approved the 3/8/2022 church merger agreement that launched Sunnyvale UMC. SUMC's Proceeds Fund currently consists of a very large growth-oriented section, a small preservation-oriented section, and a significant amount of cash, all of which is actively managed by SUMC's Investments Team.

Prior to SUMC's formation, the Proceeds Fund paid for Trinity UMC's move to First UMC's facility and TUMC's subsequent move-related expenses, plus major church merger expenses. Thus far in SUMC's short lifetime, SUMC income from donations and facility rent has only been sufficient to support fundamental church operations and a small church staff, so we've tapped the Proceeds Fund to invest in several new church staff positions, enhanced and new activities in our church and our community, and a number of facility upgrades and repairs, all of which are intended to attract new participants while retaining the interest and enthusiasm of current ones.

God has gifted Sunnyvale UMC with extraordinary opportunities to make a difference in our community and our world, and we need to recognize and treat our Proceeds Fund as one of His gifts to us and use it accordingly. If we can do this well, our church will become an even better place for worship, fellowship, and service to God, and its future will be bright.

United Women In Faith

Jane Dredge

UWF Unit will meet Monday, April 8, 1:30 PM, in Classroom 2, Education Bldg. Margaret Mason will give the "Thought of the Day". Gloria Castor will present the program and provide refreshments. Members wishing to pay their 2024 pledges, please see Margaret Mason. UWF Vice-president, Nancy Cline, reported that the special gifts projects for Sunnyvale Community Services in December, was so well supported, that we will do this monthly! Her March report shows contributions were: 34.5 lbs. of food, valued at \$56.59, plus a \$5 gift card and a \$20 check, for a total value of \$96.00! Congratulations ladies! April attendees are encouraged to bring food items beginning with the letter "A"-Apple Sauce, Alphabet Cereal, Artichoke Hearts, Apricots, Almonds, "Anything", etc. Weekly craft workshops are ongoing: Thursdays, from 10 AM until 2 PM in the Johnson/Shaner, Ralston rooms, unless cancelled by Pat Tubbs or Tonya Oravetz.

Project Day-You are welcome to come on Friday, April 5th, and Friday, April 19th, 10 AM-1 PM. Hot water for tea, coffee, cocoa, is available. Simple snacks provided. One Warm Scarf Project-There are now 58 finished scarves and 4 hats, thanks to all the busy fingers knitting and/or crocheting! Have any of you tried the new "granny square yarn"? Please let me know if you have. I am wondering how it would work for a scarf. Please feel free to join us in this project. Please let me know if you need supplies. 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.