



Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086

July 2024



Our Associate Pastor- Rev. Bayani Alkuino



Hello Sunnyvale UMC! I am so grateful to the Lord for giving me this opportunity to be your associate Pastor. So to tell you about myself, first is that I am a second generation church worker. My mother was a former deaconess appointed in the Southern Provinces in the Philippines. Then followed by me, where I started my ministerial journey serving our churches in the Rural Provinces of Leyte, Philippines.

I finished my Bachelors degree in Statistics in Visayas State College of Agriculture which is now Visayas State University (VSU). After graduation, I proceeded to get my Master of Divinity in Union Theological Seminary in Dasmarias, Cavite Philippines. Then I also took, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and reached up to third year level before we left to migrate here in the US. I was a neighborhood Pastor in the slums of Manila, a mission Pastor in the rural communities of Leyte, an administrative Pastor in the biggest church in our District in the urban poor community of Cebu City, was appointed as District Superintendent for 2 years, an avid tennis player, a husband to Grace, a father to Blessy(17), Bryce(13) and Brynn(6), and most of all a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

My experience in the ministry was far from glamorous, it was full of challenges: people in poverty, people feeling hopeless, people oppressed, people questioning God why born in such hardship was my daily undertaking. And this is basically why I answered the call of the Lord to be in the ministry to share the Good News of the Lord.

Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And this experience is so valuable to me because it shaped my mindset to what I am today. With the simple phrase to remind me that: "God is Able." Like coming here in the US from where I came from was next to impossible, but armed with the belief that "God is Able" surely gave us the motivation to struggle and never waver. And indeed we are now, a citizen of our great nation. Truly there is hope in the Lord.

Future Ministry

Living here in the US for more than ten years, made me realize that there is not much difference with where I came from. Differences could be buying power, economic life style, and individual potential are higher here in the US, but if we look closer to what is happening in our community we can see the similarity: people in poverty, people feeling hopeless, people seeking justice, people marginalized, people discriminated, people looking to God for answers. And this is what we want to be involved in. God is sending us to give hope to the hopeless, voice to the voiceless, and rest for the weary. This will not be a one man action but a community of faith mission to be involved in the plight of people in our immediate community. Individually we might be powerless, but together and with the Lord we will make a difference.

Lastly in Mark 16:15 says, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good news to everyone." Our ministry will be for everyone who calls on us for help and probably wants to be helped. No one will be excluded whether in race, gender, political or religious affiliation, economic status, nationality, sexual orientation, age, and others. We all need God's grace, God's love and God's peace. Therefore everyone is welcome like our church motto: with Open hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

Blessings Everyone!

CHURCH PICNIC

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC on **August 4** after service on the patio and Nick's Hall. We will be having veggie burgers, beef burgers, turkey/chicken hot dogs with sides of potato salad, fruit etc. Be ready to have some summer fun. We would like some volunteers for set- up, serving and clean-up. Please contact the church office at sunnyvaleumc@comcast.net or Darryl Alford if you are available to help.

Vacation Bible School



Camp Firelight



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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Bayani Alkuino	16 Falesipi Panisi
3 Dawna Eskridge	19 Mae Boaz
4 Fulata Panisi	23 Roan Pouливааti
6 Penny Cole	27 David Herring
Chaniel Sylvester	Mary Wu
9 Daphne Reginold	29 Sione Panisi
11 Sharon Yang	30 Tupou Panisi
12 Ruth Hagan	



1 Curtis & Lauri McAllister
5 Tomasi & Falesipi Panisi
6 Steve & Mary Wu
27 Ken & Marion Redler

Columbarium

Through centuries of Christian history the churchyard has been a traditional place for burial. The Sunnyvale United Methodist Church Columbarium provides a peaceful, tranquil place of beauty for the inurnment of ashes of church members, their immediate families (such as spouses, children, parents, etc.), former members, long-term regularly attending friends of the church, and Methodist clergy. A bench and plantings provide a quiet place for meditation, reflection, and privacy for visitors. The main entrance to the site is a locked gate from the east side parking lot or through the sanctuary

(on your left as you enter the narthex). There is space for more columbarium structures on the site, or possible futures sites, if needed. For more information, please contact Margaret Mason, Mae Boaz or the Church Office.



SUMMER HIATUS

The **SUMC Men** will be on hiatus and will meet on September 16.

Our **choir** is taking a summer break and will be back on September 1.

Adult Small Group Meeting 1 pm Wednesday—on hiatus till September 4.

Adult Small Group Meeting 7:30 pm Thursday—on hiatus till September 10

Adult Small Group Meeting 6:30pm Friday— on hiatus till July 26

Youth Group 11:30 am— on hiatus till July 28

United Women In Faith

Jane Dredge

The next UWF events will be in September. Check the next newsletter for more information. Weekly craft workshops will continue through the summer: Thursdays, from 10 AM until 2 PM in the Johnson/Shaner, Ralston rooms, unless cancelled by Pat Tubbs or Tonya Oravetz. The exception is July 4th.

Project Day: You are welcome to come on Friday, July 5th, and Friday, July 19th, 10 AM-1 PM. We meet in classroom 2. Hot water for tea, coffee, cocoa, is available. Simple snacks provided.

One Warm Scarf Project: There are now 122 finished scarves and 14 hats! There are more than a dozen scarves in the finishing process: weaving in yarn ends and adding fringes. This project slows down a bit in the summer as folks have holiday plans. Many thanks to the busy fingers working on this project throughout the year. 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.