



Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



December 2025

Christmas Eve AT SUNNYVALE UMC Candlelight Service

Wednesday,
December 24, 2025
7:00 p.m.

Join us for a peaceful
evening of carols,
scripture, and candlelight
as we celebrate the birth
of Christ.

Sunnyvale United
Methodist Church

All ages and all people are welcome



Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim



"Where Wonder Begins"

"Wonder is the beginning of wisdom." — Socrates

Advent always seems to arrive too soon.

We're still catching our breath from Thanksgiving, and suddenly the lights go up, the carols start playing, and our calendars overflow. Every year I tell myself, *This time I'll slow down.* And then... I don't.

But maybe slowing down isn't the point.

Maybe Advent isn't asking us to escape the chaos — maybe it's inviting us to *find the sacred within it.*

This year, our Advent worship follows *The Nutcracker*, that dreamlike tale of Clara's journey through fear and wonder. Beneath the sugarplums and snowfall is a story about awakening — about courage born from love, and transformation born from mystery. Clara steps into a world she doesn't understand, and by the end, she's not the same. Isn't that what faith is too?

Advent is our own journey through the in-between — between what is and what might be, between our weary hearts and God's unfolding hope. It reminds us that joy doesn't arrive when everything is perfect; it grows quietly, like light returning at dawn.

As we close 2025, I hope you'll take time to look back with gratitude — not because every day was easy, but because grace kept finding us anyway. Through every meeting, every song, every act of care — God has been there, weaving light through our days.

So light a candle, share laughter, sing off-key carols.

Let this season remind you: *Christ comes not to escape our world, but to love it into wholeness.*

And if you find yourself surprised by joy — even in the smallest moment — that's where Christmas begins.

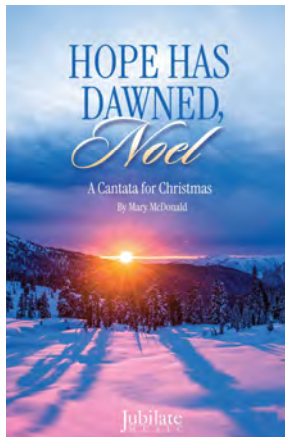
With deep gratitude and joy,

Pastor Jung Min

Christmas Cantata & Gift Exchange-December 21

Celebrate the season with us! Enjoy our Christmas Cantata on December 21 during the church service.

The world was once lost in darkness, awaiting a savior. Then came a new dawn of hope-Jesus Christ, born in a humble stable. This Christmas cantata invites you to Bethlehem to experience the story of Christ's birth through words and music, blending beloved carols with inspiring new songs that touch the heart and soul.





GIFT EXCHANGE

We invite everyone to our annual Christmas Gift Exchange as we celebrate the Greatest Gift of All: Jesus Christ, our Savior...

When: 12/21/25

Where: Nick's Hall after Service
(lunch will be served)

To participate: Please bring one wrapped gift per family, suitable for a general audience. Minimum spending limit \$20. Contact church office for assistance if needed. Gifts will be exchanged using the White Elephant rules, where gifts can be "stolen".



Events at Church



**CHRISTMAS
TOY DRIVE**

BRING A TOY FOR CHILDREN
OR \$25 GIFT CARDS FOR
TEENS AND GIVE JOY!

By Sunday, December 7
DROP OFF AT CHURCH &
SOCIETY TABLE DURING
FELLOWSHIP HOUR



**Merry
Christmas**

JOIN US TO HEAR THE BIRTH OF JESUS
AS TOLD BY OUR CHILDREN ON
DECEMBER 14 IN THE SANCTUARY

Poinsettias for Sanctuary



Each year potted Poinsettias are used to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas.

If you are providing potted Poinsettias, please complete this form.

Forms are due in the church office by Monday, December 16

Flowers may be brought to the church office during the week by December 19.

A listing of memorial and honorarium names will be included in the worship bulletin.


Your Name(s): _____

I/we will bring _____ (#) potted Poinsettias.

Please pick up the flowers after the service on Christmas Eve.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

6 Lopeti Hakeai		7 Susan and Rabindra Mishra
14 Darryl Alford		23 Sharon Yang & Dongping
15 Jia Sun		27 Simon & Sarah Jeyapalan
17 Christopher Ngan		28 Sylvester & Shobana Rajasekaran
18 Peter Parrish		
20 Edwin Thangaraj		
December		

Finance

Les Cline

Hey, long time! SUMC recently added Venmo as an electronic donation method, so I'm taking this as an opportunity to talk about it and a few other ways that you can support our church activities and ministries.

Venmo is a smartphone app for sending (or receiving) money. SUMC's Venmo name is @GiveToSUMC. Venmo withholds a "1.9% + \$0.10" transaction fee for all charitable contributions, so for example, a \$100.00 Venmo donation sends \$98.00 to SUMC and Venmo keeps \$2.00.

The PayPal Giving Fund is a [no-fees browser-based way to use a computer, smartphone or tablet to send money](https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4706243) from your PalPay account to charities that have registered with the Fund. So far this year SUMC has received \$27,042. The URL for SUMC's PayPal Giving Fund webpage is <<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4706243>>, and it can be reached by clicking the "One Time Donation" box at <<https://sunnyvaleumc.org/give>>.

SUMC's PayPal Donate webpage is a browser-based way to use a computer, smartphone or tablet to send money directly to SUMC; so far this year our church has received \$20,077. The URL for SUMC's page is <https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BLBXGTD268FX2>, but an easier way to get there is by clicking the "Recurring Donation" box at <<https://sunnyvaleumc.org/give>>. PayPal withholds a "1.99% + \$0.49" transaction fee; unlike Venmo, the fee amount is displayed on the webpage, so a donor can easily choose to add that amount to their donation. For example, with PayPal Donate you can pay \$100.00 to send \$97.52 to SUMC, or pay \$102.53 to send \$100.00 to SUMC.

- If you're at least 70.5 years old, you can tell your IRA Custodian to mail Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) checks from your IRA directly to SUMC.
- If you own a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), you can tell your DAF Custodian to mail donation checks from your DAF directly to SUMC.
- If your bank provides a "Bill Pay" service, you can tell them to write donation checks from your bank account and mail them directly to SUMC.
- And of course, even though we don't pass the offering plate through the pews anymore, you can still use the traditional donation methods of putting cash, coins, or personal checks in the offering plate. When you do the latter, please write your check to "Sunnyvale UMC". If you want your donation to go towards anything other than SUMC's ongoing expenses, please write your check to "Sunnyvale UMC" *and* write a note on it describing where you want your money to end up, and we'll make sure it gets there. Also, please do *not* put checks written to UMCOR or any other charity in the offering plate, because our bank may choose to return any check written to anything other than SUMC's official banking name.

United Women In Faith

Jane Dredge

UWF Monday, December 8, gathering at noon for potluck lunch in Johnson/Shaner rooms.

Craft workshop: Thursday Craft workshops in the Johnson/Shaner rooms from 10 AM until 2 PM, unless cancelled by Pat Tubbs or Tonya Oravetz.

One Warm Scarf Project...Scarf sizes: adults 8"x80", teenagers 6"x60", children 4"x40". (janeedredge@gmail.com)