

# Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



February 2026

## Multicultural Month



February is multi-cultural month at our Church. We are very thankful to have such a diverse multi-cultural congregation. We come from all parts of the world with our various talents and gifts but with a single purpose— to worship One God. The altar has been decorated with artifacts, clothing, and other items from various ethnic cultures. Please take a moment to appreciate the diversity of our church.

Every Sunday in February during the 10 a.m worship service, we have the scripture of the day read in the native language of congregants. We will have members of the congregation talking to the children about their ethnic backgrounds too.

Lola Panisi (Tongan), Sharon Yang (Mandarin), Fitch Segraves (French) and Grace Alkuino (Cebuano) will be reading the scripture this month.

February 25 we will be celebrating the end of our month-long Multicultural celebration with a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share from your ethnic background. Please contact Chris Perianayagam to help for this event.

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 18: Noon-1 p.m**

Join us in the sanctuary for a worship service and imposition of ashes

# Notes from the Pastor

**Pastor Jung Min Kim**



Every February, we name this season Multicultural Month. But if we are honest, this is not something we

turn on once a year. It is woven into the fabric of who we are—every Sunday, every conversation, every shared meal.

This year, instead of talking about cultures as something to mix or blend, I want us to think about something simpler and more faithful. The table.

Tables are where stories show up. Not the polished ones, but the real ones. Stories told with accents. Stories told slowly. Stories told with laughter, pauses, and sometimes a little confusion.

At a table, no one has to explain everything perfectly. You do not need the right words. You just need to stay, listen, and be willing to share the space.

If you have ever lingered after worship with a cup of coffee or asked someone to repeat their story one more time—leaning in to really hear it—you already know this.

That is what multicultural life looks like here.

We speak in different ways. We come from different places. We sometimes misunderstand each other, and then learn, gently, how to listen again. And somehow, grace keeps translating—turning our stumbling words into understanding, our differences into communion.

This is why our faith has never been about everyone sounding the same.

## **Harmony, not uniformity.**

In music, harmony only works because voices are different. If everyone sang the same note, it would not be richer. It would be thinner. The church is no different. Our differences are not problems to solve. They are gifts that make the song deeper.

So during this Multicultural Month, we are not celebrating diversity as a concept. We are honoring the everyday courage it takes to sit at the same table. To stay in conversation. To choose curiosity over fear. To trust that love can carry meaning even when words fall short.

This is the work of building something together. And it brings us to something like home.

Not a place where everyone looks alike, thinks alike, or speaks alike. But a place where you do not have to leave parts of yourself at the door.

Home is something we build together. One table. One story. One shared moment at a time.

As your pastor, I am grateful that this is the kind of home we are building. And I am grateful that we are building it together.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jung Min

## Youth Corner

### **Systematic Theology for Youth**

Preparing our kids to stand strong in their faith. In a world full of questions, we want our youth to know why they believe, not just what they believe. This lesson series will help them discover that the Christian faith is not blind obedience, but a faith grounded in truth, reason, and God's Word. If you want your children to grow into independent, confident Christians—ready to face the world with a solid foundation in Christ—encourage them to join us.



Starting February



Every Sunday | 11:30–12:30 PM



Youth Fellowship

Let's equip the next generation with a faith they can understand, defend, and live out.

All youth are welcome!

## SUMC Men's Group

The SUMC Men will be meeting for supper on Monday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in the Johnson-Shaner Room. Please let Darryl Alford know if you plan to attend.

## Stewardship Update

Many thanks to everyone who has already submitted their pledge. Your generosity and commitment help support the ministry and mission of our church. We have received pledges totaling \$164,712 to date from 32 families. For those who have not pledged, we warmly invite you to join in supporting the church's mission. It's never too late to participate. Pledges can be dropped off in the offering plate, by mail or in the office. Every gift makes a difference. Thank you for being part of the church family.

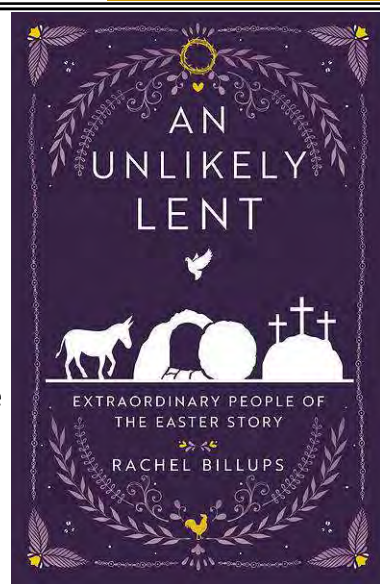
## Lenten Study

Marion Redler

Our Lenten study “An Unlikely Lent”, by Rachel Billups, begins Sunday, February 22, 2026. The six-week study introduces us to characters we don’t usually hear much about. By focusing on these individuals—Mary, Peter, Barabbas, Simon, the women at the cross, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus—the study invites reflection on themes like generosity, fear, shame, courage, loyalty, and discipleship. Each week we are encouraged to consider our own commitments and faith journey in the context of the Passion story. We are challenged to deepen our understanding of what it truly means to follow Jesus.

Lenten study will primarily be done in small groups, but anyone who is not part of a small group and would like to participate is welcome to join any of the groups on the dates and times listed below: Child care is available for the Sunday group session. Please contact Marion Redler and Donna Phillips.

- Sunday @ 11:30 AM
- Wednesday @ 1:00 PM



## United Women In Faith

Jane Dredge

UWF Monday, February 9, 2026, gathering at 1:30 PM in Johnson/Shaner rooms. Visitors are welcome to attend. Are you interested in joining UWF? You can “GOOGLE” United Women in Faith and learn about us and what we do. You may also ask any member about UWF, or Jane Dredge, who is “Membership, Nurture & Outreach “ committee representative.

**Craft workshop:** Thursday Craft workshops are a good way to get to know a few more people. You do NOT need to know how to do any special craft. There are many things you can do to prepare items for the annual craft sale. The workshops are held in the Johnson/Shaner rooms from 10 AM until 2 PM, unless cancelled by Tonya Oravetz. Helpful hint: bring a lunch or snack if you plan to come in the morning and stay for a while.

## Scarf Blessing

**2025 was a banner year for Scarves! 396 scarves were blessed, sorted, and packed for distribution to people in need!**

Congratulations to our Youth Group and Pastor Bayani for their first year of coordinating THREE scarf blessing events for the “One Warm Scarf” project!

The first scarf blessing of 2026 was January 18<sup>th</sup>, Human Relations Day. Eighty-two scarves were blessed. Two scarves were gifts to two attendees at the worship service. Many thanks to the knitters and crocheters whose busy fingers created the warm scarves: Keiko Hirano, Donna Phillips, Jackie Phillips, Rizwana Rajgara, Patricia Roth and Jane Dredge. There were several beautiful hats crocheted by Keiko. The Youth Group and Pastor Bayani did a great job of sorting and packing the scarves...all done in 20 minutes! Special thanks to Eshaan Ravi and Apolina Ravi for also helping. Would you like to support this project but need supplies? Please let us know. Approximate scarf sizes: adults 8” x 80”, teens 6” x 60”, children age 4 and up 4” x 40”. ([janeedredge@gmail.com](mailto:janeedredge@gmail.com))



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

3 Sarah Jeyapalan  
15 Melva Irvine  
17 Ivy Cheung  
24 Chris Perianayagam  
28 John Tubbs



We would like to celebrate your special days like birthdays and Anniversaries by publishing it in our monthly newsletter. If you would like the same to be published please email it to sunnyvale-umc@comcast.net. We do not mention any age, number of years married, just the name and date.

## Finance

**Les Cline**

### Sunnyvale UMC Finance Report

While reviewing SUMC's 2025 financial reports, I remembered a message our denomination recently sent to all Church Finance leaders: "Our churches have been through a lot, and if your congregation is struggling financially there are a lot of things we can point to: pandemics, denominational turmoil, uncertain economy, a culture of division and frustration. While we may feel powerless when it comes to these situations, a reality much closer to home is that many of us in the church just don't like talking about money. Some even advocate that money conversations should be taboo in church. Thankfully, Jesus didn't feel that way. As we read the gospels, we realize Jesus spoke more about money and possessions than almost any other subject, except the kingdom of God."

Fortunately, SUMC is not "struggling financially," but our finances are a bit complicated. Expenses are tracked in "Church Operations" and "Trustees Major Projects" categories, with income tracked in "Church Ops Income" and "Reserve Funds Withdrawal" categories. During 2025, SUMC spent \$616,370 on Church Operations. Church Ops Income was \$332,000 (including congregational donations totaling \$259,861), so SUMC's Reserve Funds paid the remaining Church Ops bills. Also, SUMC's Trustees spent \$356,656 of SUMC's Reserve Funds on church campus and parsonages renovations, which brought last year's total expenses to \$971,619.

If you're thinking that SUMC is highly dependent on our Reserve Funds, you're correct ... if not for this money, last year our church would have had only one pastor and a much smaller church staff, many of last year's activities would have been unaffordable, and Trustees Major Projects would have been impossible. SUMC embarked on this path in 2022 when we adopted a philosophy focused on investing in our church's activities, facilities, pastors and staff to support SUMC engagements with our community and the world. Fortunately, although a large amount of money was withdrawn from SUMC's Reserve Funds during 2025, the total value increased by 6.53% due to our Investments Team's outstanding money management skills.

For this year, we're expecting Church Ops Expenses to be a bit larger than last year's and Trustees major expenses to be much larger. On the income side, as of January 8 our Stewardship Campaign had collected 32 pledges totaling \$164,712. (For reference, 2025's pledges were 37 for \$150,052, and 2024's were 37 pledges for \$172,994.) We're currently estimating that we'll need 2026's Church Ops Income to be around \$640k (including roughly \$300k from Reserve Funds), and that Trustees projects will continue to be paid from Reserve Funds.

If you've not heard yet, here's another message from our denomination: "Beginning in 2026, you may be able to deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married couples) of your charitable giving, even if you take the standard deduction. Your generosity to the church not only advances God's mission - it may also reduce your tax bill!"

And as always, many thanks to everyone who is supporting SUMC with your prayers, your presence, your gifts (talents and money), your service, and your witness.