



SUMC Newsletter

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



April 2026

Easter Worship Service 10a.m



OUR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY We will be celebrating our fourth anniversary as SUMC.

EASTER EGG HUNT Immediately following 10 am worship on Easter, all children are invited to participate in a fun-filled egg hunt on the campus.

EASTER BRUNCH Celebrate the day with good food and fellowship after the service. Delicious tacos will be served and vegetarian options will be available too.

Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim



April always feels like that moment when you realize something has shifted. Not dramatically. Not overnight.

But quietly, steadily, something has changed.

Here in Sunnyvale, the signs are everywhere. Flowers are blooming. The sky feels impossibly clear. The air is just right, not too cold, not too hot. It's the kind of weather that almost nudges you and says, "Why are you still inside?"

And yet, even here, many of us are still living like it's winter. We're still wearing the heavy coat, still holding onto things that made sense in a different season, still bracing ourselves for a cold that has already passed.

That's what makes Easter so strange, and so beautiful. Because Easter is not just a celebration. It's a reset. After the long journey of Lent, after reflection and the weight of Holy Week, Easter does not simply tell us everything is okay. Easter tells us something new

has begun. It is like hitting a reset button, like opening your closet and realizing it's time to change what you're wearing.

But we don't always update very well. We receive new life but keep old habits. We hear good news but keep old fears. We step into spring but hold onto winter. It's like our souls got the update, but we clicked "remind me later."

So what does it look like to live as Easter people? Maybe it's not about becoming entirely different people overnight. Maybe it's something more ordinary, and more courageous. Easter people are those who choose to begin again, even after disappointment or loss. Easter people travel lighter. They don't carry everything forever. Easter people notice life, small signs, new growth, unexpected joy. Easter people risk love again, not because it's easy, but because they believe life is still unfolding. And maybe most of all, Easter people learn to live in the season they are actually in, not in yesterday, not in fear, but here, in this strange and beautiful spring of God's grace.

So as we move through April, perhaps

the invitation is simple. Step outside. Breathe deeply. Notice what is already alive around you. Do not stay inside when the world is opening. God's creation is calling you out into it. Take a walk. Sit under the sky. Let the warmth and light remind you that new life is not just an idea. It is happening. And a small personal note. I will be taking some time away this April to visit my family in Korea. I try to make it back at least once a year, and I'm grateful that this is that time. I am looking forward to being with them, resting, and reconnecting. You could say I will be practicing resurrection in a slightly different way. Resting. Breathing. Receiving. Not to worry, I will be back. But even in this, I am reminded that resurrection is not just about doing more. Sometimes it is about receiving more. More life. More grace. More space to be renewed.

So wherever April finds you, busy or quiet, joyful or tired, may you not miss the season you are in. The stone has been rolled away. The air has changed. It might just be time to take off the coat.

Blessings,
Pastor Jung Min

Special Offering Sunday

Native American Awareness Sunday will be observed on April 19. 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.

Scouts Sunday

On Sunday, April 19, our Scouts Troop 463 will be helping with our worship service. They will be greeters at the door and reading the scripture of the day. A pancake brunch will be served after the service.

Trustees News

NO Access to Sunnyvale United Methodist Church site between Sunday, April 12 at 5pm and Saturday, April 18 at 9am.

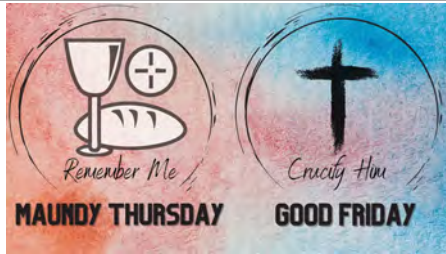
After lengthy discussions, the Trustees of Sunnyvale United Methodist Church, as the legally responsible guardians for the site, have decided that the entire SUMC site will be closed to all people and vehicles from Sunday, April 12 at 5pm until Saturday, April 18 at 9 am.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THIS DISRUPTION OF ACCESS.

The ONLY exception to this policy will be for the employees of Silicon Valley Paving who will be removing the old parking lot materials and installing new parking lots: front, side and back.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

MAUNDY THURSDAY service with Holy Communion will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:30p.m on April 2.



GOOD FRIDAY service will be held at noon in the Sanctuary on April 3.

Easter Egg Coloring

All are invited to **Sunnyvale United Methodist Church** to color Easter eggs on Saturday, April 4, from 11 am. Please bring 1 dozen hard boiled eggs and come ready for fun, laughter and a little bit of mess. Pizza will be served for lunch. We will supply the egg coloring supplies.

Vacation Bible School



Join us for a fun and exciting week of:

- 📖 Bible Stories
- 🎵 Music & Singing
- 🛠️ Crafts
- 🧪 Experiments
- 🎮 Games
- 📖 Story Time
- 🍎 Snacks/Lunch
- 🤝 Friendship & Faith

**FIND
YOUR
STRENGTH
IN GOD**

DATE: June 15 - 19

TIME: 9:00am - 5:00pm

AGE: 5 - 13 years

WHERE: Sunnyvale United Methodist Church,
535 Old San Francisco Road, Sunnyvale94086



Help us fill our cross with flowers for Easter. You are invited to bring cut flowers from home and place them in the cross on Easter Sunday.

Memorial Services

Memorial services are being held celebrating the life of **Eleanor Field** and **RaeAnn Moldenhauer**.

Eleanor Field-11a.m in the sanctuary on April 11.

RaeAnn Moldenhauer- 11a.m in the Johnson Shaner Room on April 18.

A reception will follow the services. Friends and members of the congregation are invited to gather in gratitude for their lives and to support the family in prayer.

SUMC MEN'S GROUP

The SUMC Men will be meeting for supper on Monday, April 20th at 6:30 pm in the Johnson-Shaner Room. Please let Darryl Alford know if you plan to attend.

United Women In Faith

UWF Monday, April 13: due to the scheduling of the parking lot upgrade, the UWF will not be meeting.
Craft workshop: NO workshop on April 16. This is due to the parking lot upgrade. The workshops are held in the Johnson/Shaner rooms from 10 AM until approximately 2 PM, unless cancelled by Tonya Oravetz. Come and see the projects in process. You might find something that would interest you. Helpful hint: bring lunch or snack if you plan to come and stay for a while.
One Warm Scarf project: This project is to knit, crochet or weave scarves for people in need. The scarf sizes are a helpful hint, but you don't have to be exact: adult 8"x 80", women & teenagers 6" x 60", children 4" x 40". Please let me know if you need help with supplies. (janedredge@gmail.com)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

6 Myrah Mishra
 7 Jennifer Cline
 11 Therese Wu
 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 Bayani & Grace Alkuino

Finance

SUMC's February newsletter included a message from our denomination regarding a new federal tax deduction for charitable donations. Here's some information about it and how you might use it:

Starting this year, taxpayers who take the standard deduction can claim an income (top-line AGI) deduction for monetary gifts to qualified charities of up to \$1,000 on individual returns and up to \$2,000 on joint returns. Since about 90% of taxpayers use the standard deduction, this makes a charitable deduction available to many more people.

Only monetary gifts qualify; you can't include gifts of household items or clothing or other objects. Also, not all charities qualify; you can't use this deduction for gifts to a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) or other organization that collects and then distributes donations. So, you can deduct donations that go directly to SUMC (and other qualified charities) by cash, check, PayPal Donate, Venmo or Zelle, but donations that end up at SUMC after going through an intermediary (PayPal Giving Fund, online retailer "Round-up" or "Donate at checkout" prompts, or Qualified Charitable Distributions

(QCD) from retirement accounts) don't qualify.

SUMC recently adopted Zelle as another electronic donation option. Zelle doesn't charge transaction fees, so all money in a Zelle transfer goes directly to the recipient's bank, which makes it a very efficient way to donate to SUMC. Although criminals who trick people into sending money to them via Zelle have given it a bad reputation, Zelle users simply need to make sure they are sending money to reputable Zelle recipients for valid reasons, much like mailing a personal check. SUMC's "Enrolled with Zelle" name is sunnyvaleumcbkpr@gmail.com and SUMC's Zelle QR Code has replaced Venmo's QR code in our worship bulletins. When sending money to SUMC via Zelle, *please* include your full name in the Memo field so we can correctly record your donation, and check that "SUNNYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH" is the recipient. (If you've not already enrolled with Zelle on your bank's website, you'll need to do that first.)

Before this year, the PayPal Giving Fund was the most-efficient electronic way to donate to SUMC: since it doesn't have fees, your entire do-

nation goes to SUMC, and you can use a credit card that rewards you with miles or points or whatever. (Oh, and a big thank you to everyone who has been doing this!) Unfortunately, since it's a middleman that collects and distributes money, donations to the Fund don't qualify for the new tax deduction. So, if you're looking to maximize your benefits on donations to SUMC, you may want to use cash, checks or Zelle up to your tax deduction limit, and use the PayPal Giving Fund for additional giving (to get your entire donation to our church and collect credit card rewards).

Incidentally, if you're wondering why I've not characterized PayPal Donate or Venmo as "efficient," it's because they charge a small fee on each donation. SUMC is ok with this because churches have always had fundraising costs, but if it bothers you that they end up with a bit of each donation to SUMC, then your best electronic donation methods are the PayPal Giving Fund and Zelle. Also, if you're thinking I'm trying to persuade you to donate electronically instead of the offering plate, that's not my intention; I'm just trying to keep everyone updated on our many donation options.