

SUMC Newsletter

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



May 2026

Vacation Bible School

VBS

I can share my gifts!

Get ready for the ultimate summer chill!

Snowball Mountain Challenge is trekking into Sunnyvale UMC, and you're invited! Join us for a frosty VBS adventure as we discover our strength in God through alpine games, summit songs, and mountain-sized fun.

I can be brave!

Date: 15 - 19 June, 2026

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Age: 5 - 13

(13+ youth leaders or volunteers)

Includes: lunch, 2 snacks and VBS materials

Contact Sarah for more details.

I can give my all!

I can pray!

I can hope!

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NIV



FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

Notes from the Associate Pastor

Pastor Bayani Alkuino



May is a beautiful reminder that God's love is both nurturing and transforming. As flowers bloom and the days grow brighter and longer, we are invited to celebrate two

meaningful occasions in the life of our faith community: **Mother's Day** and **Peace with Justice Sunday**. Each of these Sundays calls us to reflect on God's heart—His compassion for families and His desire for us to be salt and light of the World.

Mother's Day reminds us of the strength, sacrifice, and quiet faith of mothers and mother-figures who shape lives through love. Scripture tells us, *"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come"* (Proverbs 31:25). I remember a mother in one of the communi-

ties I served early in my ministry. She worked tirelessly to provide for her children, often carrying burdens quietly and faithfully. There was a season when her children struggled in their faith and drifted away from the Lord. Yet she never grew tired of praying for them. She continued to hope, to trust, and to believe that one day they would find their way back to Christ. She did not give up, even when the waiting was long and the answers were not immediate.

Years later, I witnessed the fruit of her faithful prayers. Her children returned to the Lord and became faithful servants in the church. One of them even answered the call to ministry and is now serving as a full-time minister in our church. Her story reminds us that a mother's faith plants seeds that may take time to grow, but in God's perfect time, those seeds can bear fruit that

blesses generations.

Peace with Justice Sunday calls us to live out God's command: *"Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God"* (Micah 6:8). As followers of Christ, we are called not only to believe, but to bring healing and fairness where there is brokenness. ☒

I encourage you to prayerfully consider which Sunday you feel led to participate in. Whether you come to honor mothers ☒ or to support the work of peace and justice, your presence matters. Each gathering is an opportunity to grow deeper in faith and to be a blessing to others.

May this month inspire us to love more deeply, serve more faithfully, and trust God more fully. I look forward to worshiping with you this May!

Blessings,
Pastor Bayani Alkuino

Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 10th, the Hospitality Team invites you to our Mother's Day Celebration. Please join us in Nick's Hall after worship service for a light lunch and something sweet.

SUMC MEN'S GROUP

The SUMC Men will be meeting for supper on Monday, May 18th at 6:30 pm in the Johnson-Shaner Room. Please let Darryl Alford know if you plan to attend.

Special Giving Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday will be observed on May 31. This Sunday raises awareness and support for peace related ministries. Half of the donations collected remain in each annual conference to strengthen local social justice ministries and fund peace with justice coordinator. The remaining dollars fund three grants that support ethnic/minority local church ministries and are made available to United Methodist congregations and organizations.

Graduate Recognition

On June 14, 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 pre-school 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

Easter at our Church



Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Mary Jo Morin
 4 Shannen Edwin
 5 Sheehan Edwin
 10 Les Cline
 Katy Cole
 18 Ruhi Nathan
 31 Suzanne Dougan



May

22 Lopeti & Fulata Hakeai
 25 David & Cheryl Herring

Church and Society

2026 CROP HUNGER WALK

The South Bay-Crop Hunger Walk, which serves the Silicon Valley area, is part of a nationwide movement to raise funds for hunger relief and poverty alleviation. The money raised is to support the **Church World Service (CWS)** global and local hunger-fighting efforts (see below).

What is the CROP HUNGER WALK?

CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith hunger education and fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by CWS local offices across the United States. On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, ND, walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP, and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year.

Where do CROP Hunger Walk funds go?

The Crop Hunger Walks program helps to support the overall ministry of Church World Service which is the grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. There is an old saying that says if you give a hungry person a fish to eat, you have fed that person for one day. If you teach that person how to fish, then you have fed that person for a lifetime. Analogous to that old saying, the Church World Service, with moneys raised by the Crop Hunger Walks, provides food and water to those experiencing an emergency need for food and water. While at the same time, for others able to help themselves, CWS provides the resources that empowers them to raise their own crops. These resources may vary from seeds, fertilizers and tools to till the soil, to wells and water systems for watering crops, to technical training and, as necessary, to small enterprise loans. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to support hunger-fighting organizations in its own community such as Second Harvest of Silicon Valley.

Church World Service CROP Walk, May 17

We will be walking with the South Bay CROP Walk on the afternoon of May 17. To sign up to walk or donate go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/sanjoseca> . Our team is: Sunnyvale UMC.

United Women In Faith

UWF Executive Board Mtg...will start at 12:00 PM. You may come at 11:30 AM and eat lunch before the meeting begins. Eating lunch during the meeting is still fine.

UWF Gathering: May 11, 1:30 PM in the Johnson/Shaner rooms. A message from the UWF leaders, Donna Phillips and/or Nancy Cline will be sent prior to the meeting.

Craft workshop: 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 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)