



SUMC Newsletter

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



August 2026

ANNUAL Church PICNIC

— FAITH. FELLOWSHIP. FUN! —

*Let's come together as a church family
to celebrate, connect, and enjoy God's
good gifts and great company!*

— SUNDAY —
AUGUST
— 9 —

— After the —
WORSHIP SERVICE

-  **FOOD & DRINKS**
-  **GAMES FOR
CHILDREN & YOUTH**
-  **FELLOWSHIP
FOR EVERYONE**



We can't wait to see you there!
BRING YOUR APPETITE AND A SMILE!

Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim



Mountains, Monsters, and the Way Home

Last week, I watched Christopher Nolan's new

film, *The Odyssey*. It follows Odysseus on his long and difficult journey home, facing sea monsters, shipwrecks, angry gods, the Cyclops, storms, and countless wrong turns. By the end of the movie, I found myself thinking, The next time I complain about a delayed flight, I should probably calm down.

A few weeks earlier, I had the opportunity to visit Banff National Park in Canada. If you've ever been there, you know that photographs simply don't do it justice. The mountains seem impossibly large, and the lakes glow with colors that almost don't look real. Like everyone else, I took plenty of pictures. Then, at one point, I caught myself reaching for my phone again. Not to answer a message. Not to check the news. Just to take another picture. It suddenly occurred to me that I had been looking at the mountains mostly through my phone. I lowered it. The view hadn't changed. I had.

What struck me most wasn't simply how beautiful the mountains were. It was how completely unconcerned they were with me. They weren't trying to impress me. They didn't care whether I took

one picture or one hundred. They certainly weren't worried about tomorrow's weather forecast or my unread emails. They simply stood there, quiet and unhurried. I realized, too, that those mountains had been there long before I arrived, and they'll still be there long after I leave. Oddly enough, that didn't make me feel insignificant. It made me feel wonderfully free.

As I drove home from the theater, I realized that the mountains and Odysseus had somehow become part of the same story. One teaches us about stillness. The other reminds us of the long road home. Thankfully, most of us won't have to outsmart a Cyclops this week, but we do know something about long journeys. We all spend so much of life trying to get somewhere, hoping that peace is waiting just beyond the next project, the next problem solved, or the next season of life.

Even here at Sunnyvale UMC, we're on a journey of our own. While our sanctuary roof is being repaired, we've been worshiping in the Johnson and Shaner Room and adapting to a different rhythm. It isn't exactly what any of us would have planned, but every Sunday reminds us that church has never been defined by a building alone. Home is something we create together whenever we gather to worship, pray, laugh, serve, and care for one another.

The mountains reminded me that the most beautiful things are rarely

rushed. Rivers carve valleys one drop at a time. Trees grow ring by ring. Glaciers shape entire landscapes over centuries, and perhaps God has never been in as much of a hurry as we are. Instead of rushing us, God patiently invites us forward through ordinary conversations, quiet prayers, unexpected friendships, acts of kindness, and countless moments of grace we may not even notice until much later.

The Christian journey has never promised a life without monsters. We all encounter fear, uncertainty, disappointment, illness, grief, and questions we cannot easily answer. But our story is different from Odysseus's in one important way. We do not travel alone. The God we know in Christ does not simply wait for us at the end of the road. God walks with us through every mile. Maybe that's why Jesus spent so much of his ministry walking. Not because the destination didn't matter, but because transformation rarely happens at the finish line. It happens on the road.

So wherever this month finds you, may you notice beauty that cannot be rushed, grace that cannot be forced, and companions who remind you that you never walk alone. And if your journey happens to include a delayed flight instead of a sea monster... give thanks.

Blessings,
Pastor Jung Kim

Our Missionary in Nepal -Katherine Parker

Katherine is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as a Health and Community Transformation Advisor with the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). The UMN has been supported by the Methodist Church since its founding 65 years ago.

Native to California, Katherine comes from a family with deep roots in United Methodism on the West Coast. Two grandfathers, a great-grandfather, an aunt, and several cousins have served as United Methodist clergy. Katherine attended Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology. Her Master of Science degree, also in biology, is from California State University in Sacramento. Her thesis was on bacterial contamination of drinking water in rural Ghana.

In August 2000 after completing college, Katherine began service as a Mission Intern with Global Ministries' Young Adult Program. Her overseas assignment, as part of that program, was with the Asian

Rural Institute in Japan. After 16 months Katherine returned to the United States to serve with the Practical Farmers of Iowa to complete her Mission Intern service in May 2003. Before serving in Nepal, she was in Cambodia with the Community Health and Agricultural Development Program of the Methodist mission there.

In Cambodia, Katherine was involved in organizational development of the Social Concerns Committee of the emerging Methodist Church in Cambodia. Katherine began serving in 2013 as part of the Health Team of the United Mission to Nepal as a Health and Community Transformation Advisor focusing on water, sanitation, and hygiene. She is now serving on the leadership team as a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Advisor.

Katherine's home church is Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church in Mill Valley, California.

*Welcome Katherine Parker
To Our*
SUNDAY SERVICE

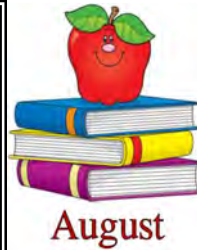
**HEALING &
JOY ON OUR
JOURNEY
TO GOD**



AUGUST 2, 2026 10:00AM
JOHNSON SHANER ROOM
**STAY BACK FOR LIGHT
LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

3	Jeanne Stilts	16	Donna McGuire
6	Lyn Irvine	21	Curtis McAllister
8	Tonya Oravetz	22	Kim Boaz
9	Lauri McAllister	31	Rabindra Mishra
10	Tanay Nathan		
	Becky Cline		



16	David & Melva Irvine
29	Roy & Janet Clifton

Meet Shelley Alvord

I was born and raised in the Washington, D.C. area until going to school at Boston College where I received a B.B. with a double major of Human Development and Special Education, and a Minor in Fine Art. After graduating, most years have been in the Boston and Santa Clara County suburbs. Last year I moved back to Sunnyvale and found the Sunnyvale United Methodist Church very warm and welcoming. Although I have come to many services and have enjoyed the Adult Small Group Meeting after service led by Ken, only recently have I become involved with the Praise/Worship band, the United Women of Faith, and the Senior Nutrition Committee.

I have been a caregiver and a Life Skills Coach as a profession, assisting individuals with differing abilities for decades. As an individual with Type 1 Diabetes for fifty years, I am also very knowledgeable about nutrition and health; something very dear to my heart. This year I have had the opportunity to find interests in playing pickleball, Ballroom and Latin dance, and would like to return to art as well. And I have a wonderful, creative daughter who lives in South Lake Tahoe. Although life has been very difficult at times, I am blessed to have always had the care of God, and continue to involve myself in the Triune God.



United Women In Faith

UWF Gathering: no meetings scheduled until September!

Craft workshops are being held in Classroom 2 in the Education Bldg. until further notice. Join the craft workers in Classroom 2 from 10 AM until approximately 2 PM, unless cancelled by Tonya Oravetz. Bring lunch or snack if you plan to come and stay for a while. There is a small refrigerator in the classroom, if you need to keep your lunch/snack cool.

Scarf project: The full scarf bins are now stored in the cupboards in "The Pit". The next scarf blessing will probably be mid-late September. Please keep your finished scarves at home or bring them to me. 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. (janeedredge@gmail.com)