



Upcoming Events

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Join us for a special **Fellowship Lunch** on **October 4**, immediately following the service. We hope you'll join us for a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and community!

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 1 at 1:15 p.m after the Halloween carnival and lunch. D.S. Rev. Oliver Mangubat will preside.

OPERATION SHOEBOX

We hope you all got a chance to pick up a shoebox, and fill it for a girl/ boy or both with items like toy cars, jump ropes, socks, toiletries, school supplies. There are some "WOW" items like soccer ball with pump, dolls and stuffed animals.

Please **do not** include soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, foods, and glass items.

Please return filled shoeboxes to church by Sunday, November 1. Our many thanks to Ken Redler for coordinating this whole project.

HALLOWEEN AT CHURCH

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL & LUNCH

November 1

We invite our children, youth, and adults to come to worship in their church appropriate Halloween costume and to participate in our annual carnival and lunch after the service. Please contact Sarah to volunteer for the event.

SUMC MEN'S GROUP

The SUMC Men will be meeting for supper on Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm in the Johnson-Shaner Room or Nick's Hall. Please let Darryl Alford know if you plan to attend.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN starts November 8

This is a time to consider your financial support to the church. Both members and non-members can make a pledge of financial support for the calendar year 2027. Pledges help us plan ahead for the coming year. So, please watch for your pledge card to arrive in the mail, mark the date on the calendar, and plan to join us in church on Sunday, November 22.

Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jung Min Kim



Coming Home, But Not Going Back

In a few weeks, we hope to return to the

sanctuary. After months of worshipping in the Johnson Shaner Room while the roof work was being done, it will feel good to come home. We will see the familiar windows, the chancel, the organ, and the space where so many prayers, songs, memorial services, baptisms, and Sunday mornings have taken place. But lately, I have been thinking about what it really means to “go back.”

For the past few weeks, I have been dealing with a herniated disc. I have learned that when your back is unhappy, it wants everyone to know. Sitting hurts. Standing hurts. Walking hurts. Driving takes planning. Even getting in and out of a chair has become something of a spiritual exercise.

Things I used to do without thinking now require strategy. And that has made me think differently about many people in our congregation. For some, getting out of a chair is no small thing. For others, walking across a room takes real effort. Some live with pain every day. Some cannot stand for long. Some struggle to eat enough. Some are watching their bodies slowly stop doing things that once felt easy.

Sometimes the hardest part is

not even the pain itself. It is needing help with things we once did on our own. It is having to say, “I can’t today.” It is watching the world move at a pace our bodies can no longer keep. There is frustration in that. There is grief in it too.

Illness can make the world feel smaller. A short walk feels long. A meal becomes work. Plans get canceled. Independence becomes smaller. Sometimes we can feel trapped inside a body that no longer cooperates with us.



I have only had a small taste of that experience, but even that has changed the way I notice people. I notice more. And perhaps that is one of the strange things pain can do. It can make our world smaller, but it can also make our vision wider.

This is also where I find comfort in the character of God. God does not love us because we are strong,

productive, independent, or useful. God does not measure our worth by how far we can walk, how long we can stand, how much we can accomplish, or whether we can keep up with everyone else.

When our bodies slow down, God does not move ahead without us. God stays. God meets us where we are. And perhaps one of the ways God does that is through one another: through the person who waits, the person who offers an arm, the person who brings a meal, the person who notices, the person who simply sits beside us without trying to fix anything.

That may also be true of our church. When we first moved worship into the Johnson Shaner Room, most of us thought of it simply as temporary. We set up folding chairs in a much smaller room, close enough that we have gotten to know our neighbors’ elbows a little better than before. There is not much room to move around, and comfort has sometimes been in short supply.

We also lost a few things along the way. There has been no Children’s Time. Maybe some of you have secretly enjoyed getting out of worship a few minutes earlier, but I will not ask for a show of hands. There has not been enough space for the choir to come forward and sing, and I miss hearing them. I miss the organ too. There are sounds and rhythms of worship that you do not realize you miss until they are gone.

Contd. on page 3

Notes from the Pastor

Still, we worshiped. We prayed. We sang. We laughed. We listened. We shared Communion. We learned to turn around in our chairs to greet one another, at least those of us whose backs allowed it.

And now, as we prepare to return to the sanctuary, I hope we do not simply go back. I hope we go back changed. I hope we notice the person who needs a little more time to stand. I hope we notice the person who cannot stay standing very long. I hope we notice who needs a different chair, a helping hand, a ride, a

meal, or simply someone willing to sit nearby. And maybe we learn not to rush one another. Not everybody moves at the same speed. Not every person is carrying something we can see.

Coming home does not have to mean returning to the way things were. Maybe it means returning with wider eyes. Our sanctuary may look much the same when we walk back into it. But perhaps we will not be exactly the same people. And that may be a good thing.

So when we return, let us bring something with us from these

months away: a little more patience, a little more flexibility, a little more gratitude, and a little more tenderness toward bodies and lives that do not always cooperate with our plans.

We are coming home. But we do not have to go backward. We can come home more aware of one another, more compassionate toward one another, and more ready to reflect the kind of love that does not hurry past people, but stay. Perhaps that is what home is supposed to be.

Blessings,
Pastor Jung Min Kim

CELEBRATING MILDRED KNIGHT AT 103

Mildred was born on September 3, 1923, in Colorado. In 1935, she moved with her family to California, where she eventually graduated from Heald Business School.

In 1947, Mildred married Eugene at First United Methodist Church on Easter Sunday. At the time, the church was located in downtown Sunnyvale, before moving to its present location. Soon afterward, Mildred and Eugene welcomed two daughters, Colleen and Dianne (Yamada).

Mildred became an important part of the life of First United Methodist Church. During the 1950s and 1960s, she served as office manager for Rev. Harry Shaner. Her dedication to the church continued throughout the years, and she was always ready to lend a helping hand in the church office.

In the mid-1980s, Mildred worked at Bank of America and eventually retired from there. Even after retirement, she remained active in the church and continued to be a familiar and dependable presence.

Mildred was always curious and eager to learn. Having worked in the church office long before the days of the internet, she was especially intrigued by new technology. She even wanted to understand how PowerPoint presentations worked—a wonderful example of her lifelong curiosity and willingness to learn something new.

This year, Mildred celebrated her **103rd birthday**. Her life has been filled with family, faith, service, curiosity, and countless contributions to the life of First United Methodist Church. We are grateful for the many years she has shared with her family, friends, and church community, and we celebrate this remarkable milestone with her.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

14	Lora Corner
23	Dianne Yamada
24	Sara McAllister
28	Alison Boaz
30	David Irvine
31	Ronel Sylvester



21 Les & Nancy Cline



Church and Society

World Communion Sunday

On Sunday, Oct. 4 we will join United Methodists around the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday. As we share in the bread and cup, we also share in a mission: supporting diverse leaders through scholarships and training. Your gift empowers students from underrepresented communities to serve and lead the church into the future.

Celebrate unity and help create a more complete church. Contributions fund scholarships for U.S. and international students, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity and access training.

- Fifty percent of the funds collected go toward scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students of color pursuing ordained ministry.
- Thirty-five percent of the funds collected provide grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity and access. The In-Service Training Grants support the recruitment, training and retention of people of color in leadership roles across all levels of church ministry.
- Fifteen percent of the funds collected support leadership development among partner churches and communities in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe and communities of color in the U.S.

On October 4 we will provide envelopes and pass the offering plate for this special offering (cash or checks made out to Sunnyvale United Methodist Church, noting that it is for World Communion Sunday). You can also use the usual on-line giving methods of Zelle and PayPal, again noting that it is for World Communion Sunday.

United Women In Faith

UWF Gathering: October 12th at 1:30 PM in Classroom 2.

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 if you need to keep your lunch/snack cool. There is also a microwave.

Scarf project: The scarf blessing was September 20th. The Youth Group is responsible for dealing with all the finished scarves. They learned about the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota needing items to help keep them warm in the cold winter. They decided that all the finished scarves and hats would be sent to them. There were almost 200 finished scarves to pack and ship. Many thanks to Bryce Alkuino who announced where the scarves were going. He also thanked the scarf makers: Cheryl Herring, Keiko Hirano, Donna & Jackie Phillips, Patricia Roth, Jane Dredge. 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 Jane Dredge know if you need help with supplies. (janeedredge@gmail.com)