# SUMC Newsletter

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



**November 2026**

# Upcoming Events

### THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

Join us for a Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 22 in Nick's Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service, to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed on our church. Please bring an appetizer, entrée or dessert to share. Turkey and mashed potatoes will be provided by the church. For more information to help in set-up and clean-up, please contact Darryl Alford.

Wishing you and your family a Thanksgiving filled with joy, harmony, good health, and countless reasons to be grateful.




# STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22

The annual stewardship campaign is a time to consider not only your financial support to the church, but also your non-financial support.

As for the financial portion, 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. You can also return your pledge card by mail.

# CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 1 at 1:30 p.m after the Halloween carnival and lunch.
D.S. Rev. Oliver Mangubat will preside.

# 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.

# OPERATION SHOEBOX

We hope you all got a chance to pick up a shoebox, and fill it for a girl/ boy or both **Please return filled shoeboxes to church by Sunday, November 1.** Our many thanks to Ken Redler for coordinating this whole project.

# Notes from the Associate Pastor

**Pastor Bayani Alkuino**



**A Season of Thanksgiving and Gratitude**

Hello, everyone! November is here, and we have an exciting month ahead! We will be holding our Charge Conference and welcoming back our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Oliver Mangubat. This is a good time for us to reflect on our ministry, celebrate what God is doing in our church, and look forward to what lies ahead.

First, I want to thank everyone who has signed up to serve in our church's positions, small groups, committees, and organizations. Your willingness to serve, your enthusiasm, and your faithfulness make a real difference in our church family. Every role matters, and every contribution helps our ministry grow. Thank you for sharing your time, gifts, and talents with God and our church!

I'm also happy to share that we are back worshipping in our sanctuary after spending several months in the smaller Johnson Shaner Room. We now have plenty of space for everyone, including room to park our walkers comfortably! And yes, we can once again stand together as we sing and praise God. While worshipping in the Johnson Shaner Room, we needed to remain seated so everyone could see the slides at the front. It feels good to be back in our sanctuary, worshipping together with more room to move, sing, and celebrate God's goodness!

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded that thanksgiving is more than a holiday; it is a way of life. The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Giving thanks in all circumstances does not mean that everything in life is easy or that we never face challenges. Rather, it means trusting that God is with us through every season of life. We give thanks for God's blessings, for the people He places in our lives, and for the opportunity to worship and serve Him together.

As a church family, we have many reasons to be grateful. We can be thankful for those who faithfully serve, those who welcome others, those who pray for our church, and those who quietly offer their time and talents behind the scenes. These simple acts of love help make our church a place where people can find faith, friendship, and a sense of belonging.

But gratitude is not just something we express through words or prayers. One of the best ways to give thanks to God is to share His love with others. A kind word, a helping hand, a welcoming smile, or a prayer for someone in need can make a difference in another person's life.

This November, let us continue to count our blessings, appreciate one another, and look for ways to be a blessing to others. May our hearts be filled with gratitude, our hands be ready to serve, and our church continue to grow in faith and love.

From my heart to yours, may you and your families have a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving! With grateful hearts, let us give thanks to God and share His love every day.

Rev. Bayani Alkuino

# SUMC MEN'S GROUP

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

# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**SUNDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY ZOOM MEETING ACCESS & MEETING TIMES**

**Adult Small Group Meeting** 11:30 am in person in the library.
**Adult Small Group Meeting** 1 pm Wednesday
Meeting ID 849 9959 1103, Passcode 962817-meets on zoom and in person in the library.
**Adult Small Group Meeting** 6:30pm Friday

# HOSPITALITY

**Chris Perianayagam**



**A Table Full of Love**

Fellowship hour is about so much more than the food on the table. It is where our faith moves beyond the words we hear on Sunday morning and becomes something we live out together.

As I look back on the months, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for the love, laughter, and fellowship we have shared as a church family. From Aiden's baptism in January to his First Birthday celebration in September, from our Multicultural Potluck to Tacos on Easter, from our Summer Picnic to World Communion Sunday, each gathering has given us another reason to come together, share a meal, and grow closer as a church family. Behind every one of these beautiful moments were people who gave their time, and energy, to make it all possible. In this month of Thanksgiving, I want to pause and say thank you to every single one of you.

**To our faithful volunteers:** thank you for being the hands and hearts of our fellowship. You arrive early to prepare the kitchen, turn on the ovens, set up tables, and make sure everything is ready and stay late to clear the tables, wipe down surfaces, take out the trash, and leave everything clean for the next congregation. So much of what you do happens quietly, behind the scenes, without anyone noticing. Thank you so much for serving so faithfully and pouring so much love into our church family. You make our fellowship hour a true place of joy and connection, and I am so blessed to serve alongside each of you.

**To our wonderful youth and children:** thank you for showing us that a heart of service has no age limit. Watching you arrange the tables, put back the chairs, set the flowers and carefully arrange the fork and spoon on the tables has been a joy. Your willingness to help reminds us that the next generation is already learning what it means to care for others. Every small act of service, offered with a willing heart, is a beautiful way to live out our faith.

**To everyone who donated food and baked goodies throughout the year:** thank you for your generosity. Every contribution added something special to our fellowship table and made our sweet tooth happy. Your generosity gave us a reason to linger, connect, and enjoy each other's company a little longer.

**A very special thank-you to Gloria and Melva:** for a tradition that has brought sweetness to our fellowship month after month. Faithfully, every third Sunday, you have brought home-baked goodies without fail. Melva's coffee cake and Gloria's cookies have become treats we look forward to every month. Thank you for creating such a sweet tradition and for sharing your gifts so generously with all of us.

**To our entire church community:** Thank you for choosing to stay back after worship, lingering over coffee, sharing conversations, asking about one another's lives, welcoming familiar faces, and making room for new friendships. Thank you for making fellowship hour a place where people feel that they belong.

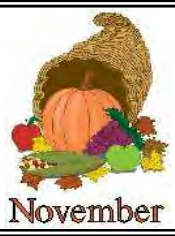
**And finally, to Pastor Jung Min:** thank you for the vision that brought us together month after month. Thank you for recognizing that these moments of connection are not simply additional events on our church calendar, but meaningful opportunities to strengthen the bonds that hold our church family together. Your vision and support have helped create space for us to grow not only as a congregation, but also as a community that cares for one another.



Our church is more than a building we gather in on Sunday mornings. It is a family we build together, one act of kindness, one shared meal, and one moment of fellowship at a time. Thank you for sharing what you have and giving what you can. Most of all, thank you for helping make our church feel like home.

# Birthdays

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | Ken Redler | 13 | Stephanie Reginold |
| | Fatu Poulivaati | 17 | Sylvester Rajasekaran |
| 5 | Robert Snyder | 21 | Ellie Jin |
| 8 | Nancy Cline | 26 | Nishanth Solomon |
| 13 | Steve Wu | 28 | Pat Tubbs |




# Our New Accompanist, Hey Shin Kim



Shalom, my name is Hey Shin Kim, and I have been given the opportunity to serve as a pianist for worship.
First, I want to thank God for the faith that has been passed down through four generations of my family, and for allowing me to serve Him through worship music.

My great-grandparents came to believe in God after hearing the gospel from a missionary, and they passed that faith on to their children. One of their hopes was that, if a daughter was born into the family, she would grow up to play the piano for church. Through my parents' faithfulness, prayers, and loving care, I am able to stand here today.
When I was in fourth grade, my parents attended early morning services at a nearby church. They told the pastor that he could call on me whenever the church needed a pianist. I began by playing for Wednesday services and choir rehearsals. By God's grace and guidance, I have continued serving in this way ever since.
One day, while I was helping accompany the choir, I was asked to play at a revival service. I was sitting at the piano, listening to the sermon, when the speaker began talking about dedication and making a commitment to God. He invited anyone who wanted to respond to stand and pray. I stood up right away.

As I prayed, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in a way I had never experienced before. I was still a child, but I remember feeling both fear and joy deep in my heart. God's grace felt so real and overwhelming that I could not put it into words. Since then, I have carried in my heart the assurance that the Lord, who sees even someone as small as me from His throne on high, loves me and holds me close.

Whenever I have asked for His grace or brought my struggles to Him, the Lord has been there. Through His Word, He has reminded me not to rush ahead on my own, but to trust Him completely. I still make so many mistakes, yet He continues to love me and lead me back to worship. For that, I give Him my thanks and praise. When He calls me to serve, I want to be willing to say yes. As I take this new step, I pray that I will recognize His will as I prepare in prayer, and that I will worship Him sincerely and joyfully. I trust that God's Word never changes. I am thankful that He is opening a new path before me, and I want to walk it depending fully on Him. With love and blessings in the Lord.

# United Women In Faith

**Jane Dredge**

**UWF Executive Board:** November 9th at 12:00 PM in Johnson/Shaner Rooms
**UWF Gathering:** November 9th at 1:30 PM in Johnson/Shaner Room. Watch for a message about the gathering and what to bring for Sunnyvale Community Services.
**Craft workshops:** Join the craft workers in the Johnson/Shaner rooms from 10 AM until approximately 2 PM, unless cancelled by Tonya Oravetz. Bring a lunch or snack if you plan to come and stay for a while. This is a good time to start looking at what project you might like to make or work on for the craft sale in October 2027!
**Scarf project:** The Youth Group is responsible for dealing with all the finished scarves. When you finish a scarf, you may give it to one of the Youth Group members. This project is to knit, crochet or weave scarves for people in need. The Youth Group will decide who receives the next batch of finished scarves. 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". Jane Dredge is a supporter of the Youth Group and will help you if you need supplies.