



Circuit Writer

Sunnyvale United Methodist Church

535 Old San Francisco Rd, Sunnyvale, CA 94086



November 2022

Upcoming Events

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK + SURPRISE GIFT

Join us for a Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 20 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 and Bob McGowan.

The church would like to thank everyone for the many blessings bestowed on our families. May you and your families celebrate Thanksgiving with love in your heart, prosperous vision in your mind, and gratitude in your being.

Please look out for a surprise gift from the church in the mail delivered by FedEx anytime from the 15th of November.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

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 2023. Everyone should have received their pledge cards in the mail. Please prayerfully consider your support to the church.



ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on November 7 at 7p.m. Pastor Arnel Clemente from Valley Faith UMC will preside.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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. Its time to deliver these shoeboxes so **Please return filled shoeboxes to church by Sunday, November 6.** Our many thanks to Mae Boaz for coordinating this whole project. Mae will also be delivering the shoeboxes to the collection site.

Notes from the Pastor

Pastor Jay Parr



Happy November! Yes, we are deep into autumn. All you have to do is look in our church courtyard at the tree next to the playground that is filled with vivid red leaves. God is good! Before we get going on our upcoming November ministries, let's look back at the terrific ministries that occurred in October.

The Craft Sale orchestrated by our United Women in Faith was a smashing success. I heard from the long time United Women in Faith that the crowd of people that arrived on that Saturday, October 22, was dramatically larger than in recent years. In the morning, a line appeared outside of Nick's Hall that had not been seen in a good while.

The proceeds from Saturday's sale topped \$7,000 – a fantastic success. Proceeds from the Craft Sale goes towards those in need in our community and world. The United Women in Faith decision to advertise in the paper for the first time was a major factor in the excellent turnout. Congratulations UWIF for a grand day for our church and community!

Our children and youth also had an outstanding October together. The youth group went bowling the afternoon of Sunday, October 23. It was heard after the event that no one was spared a good time (pun

intended). On October 30, we had a wonderfully festive Halloween carnival. Our church courtyard was alive with spooky and fun games, great music from a hip DJ (Nathan Irvine), pumpkin painting, ghoulish and Halloween décor throughout. The carnival brought big smiles and screams of joy.

Through November (specifically kicking off on Sunday, October 30) was our SUMC Stewardship Campaign. Each Sunday worship of the campaign we will have a minute



speaker sharing "*what Sunnyvale UMC means to me*". Enjoy the speakers! On Sunday, November 20, we have planned a Stewardship Celebration/Thanksgiving Lunch following worship. Roasted turkey and american thanksgiving style side dishes are being provided by our SUMC Hospitality Team. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish to have the event be a Methodist style potluck meal. A big thank you to the Hospitality Team for planning and serving this terrific all-church event for Thanksgiving and Stewardship!

Our youth choir, the *Treblemakers*,

will begin practicing on November 6. The weekly Sunday rehearsal will be from 11:15-11:30am in the choir room. Lisa Evans, our Treblemaker Director, is thrilled to be leading our youth in the joy of singing! All children and youth are welcome – no prior singing experience needed! Enjoy!

I am excited to let you know that we are starting a new SUMC food pantry ministry. Please watch the church announcements for more details. Essentially, we will all be invited to bring food items and other life necessities on Sundays to support our sisters and brothers in need of groceries and critical supplies. We have partnered with West Valley Community Services to support our siblings in Christ that are in need in our community. A large supply bin will be provided in our worship entryway to receive the food pantry items. Thank you to our

Church and Society Team for planning this new food pantry ministry!

And finally, our annual Charge Conference leadership meeting is happening over zoom on Monday, November 7. Pastor Arnel Clemente will be presiding over the meeting. Thank you SUMC leadership for the incredible work you do to support our church throughout the year.

I look forward to enjoying these fabulous ministry festivities with each of you in the month of November!

Blessings,
Pastor Jay

Youth Corner

Pastor Bayani Alkuino

October has been an exciting month for the youth. We finally moved to our new room the Johnson Shaner room where we have wider space, pingpong table, and "The Pit" which the youth especially love to gather. So we also had several activities this month: October 22nd was volunteering in the clean-up during the Crafts Sale Event of the United Women in Faith. The kids had fun helping put back the chairs and tables at the same time have that sense of belongingness to the community of faith. October 23rd was a very busy and fun Sunday where the youth played in the band in the morning service and then went bowling in the afternoon. We were able to invite two new kids and hope we can invite more next time.



October 30th was exciting, and fun filled Sunday where the youth again played in the band for the morning service. We did not have youth group meeting, but we participated in the church wide Halloween Carnival. The youth had a blast going around the church courtyard where multiple stations of games and prizes were set up for everybody to participate in. What a month! Full of fun stuff. Next month we are again scheduled to play in the band on the fourth Sunday and all the youth are welcome to join us. Then our monthly activity will be a film showing in the youth special gathering place, "The Pit", where we plan to watch the movie "Greater" and eat pop-corn. For those who wants to join us know that you are welcome here and we love to meet you and your family. God bless everyone! Good job for all minisTree'ers!

Bayani Alkuino, youth pastor

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Halloween at Church



Meet Sylvester Rajasekaran

A little background about yourself and your family.

Whenever I get some free time, I used to read biographies of famous persons on Wikipedia on who, what, how and what they have really achieved during 17th to 19th century especially from Music, Mathematics, Arts and Science and I do marvel on certain areas how they've achieved in those difficult times... very impressive. One such person is Matthew Arnold, a British poet of the 19th Century who made very intelligent quotes and one which really stuck on me, **"Use your gifts faithfully, and they shall be enlarged; practice what you know, and you shall attain higher knowledge."**

I was brought up in a very simple church going family since my grandfather was a famous Reverend of Church of South India (CSI) in Tirunelveli Diocese and in the early 1970's where he joined a missionary organization (Friends Missionary Prayer Band) which is now currently serving the whole of India and proclaiming the Gospel for more than 50 years. My family and I are part of it since then.

I was raised by my mother Felicia Rajasekaran along with my younger sister Sylvia Charles in a town called Tirunelveli in South India. My dad Late. Samuel Rajasekaran served in the Indian Air Force in the Northern part of India. Our forefathers 6 generations ago accepted Christ as their Savior in the middle of the 18th Century. Tirunelveli by its name is a wonderful place and one of the oldest towns with pure greenery everywhere and famously called the Oxford of South India because of it has many schools, colleges, and universities in one town. The reason being when British ruled India, Tirunelveli was one of their main streams of southern operations and where many missionaries from Ireland, Scotland and England came and spread the Gospel that led to a lot of churches and missions' organizations to start. Our Church where we have attended belongs to **CSI Diocese** and from age 12 started attending Choir and learning music. Me and my wife Shobana Sylvester has been married for 27+ years and raising 2 boys, our eldest boy Ronel Sylvester who graduated last year from Northeastern University with his Masters in Analytics and Applied Machine Intelligence and now working as an Associate Director for Data Science at Media Monks and the youngest boy Chaniel Sylvester doing his 2nd year in Mission college and moving on and pursuing Bio Medical Engineering area. My wife Shobana Sylvester and her family are from Madras (Chennai), South India and they live very close to St. Thomas Mount where Apostle St. Thomas was killed and buried.



Since when have you been worshipping here and your experience?

We were attending our FUMC (SUMC) since the very first Sunday when we came to Sunnyvale from Houston in December of 1996. It's been a great blessing to our family where earlier CSI methods of worship, order of service and Methodist church methods in India are the same and no difference at all. We really enjoy every aspect of this church, and we could see the Lord's blessings being on everyone of this church family.

What does "Church" mean to you?

For me personally Church is a place where you stand before the Holy One and plead for His Mercy and Grace and you should see yourself about what you're since last week, meaning every week we need to progress and get closer to Him. Since we are all created in His Image which means His Agape for you and me are so deep, and it should not be blemished at any point till we live in this world. There are 2 things in Christianity through this greater love which is, you as a person support and enable the church and its missions and one day the church will send out it's missionaries to the world to proclaim the Gospel and in turn, they would build new churches in those new mission fields, when people accept Christ as their only Savior and the mission moves on further.

Anything you feel the congregation does not know about you and would find interesting.

I have served various committees since Pastor Carl Thomas, and currently serving as the President of Trustees and I do really appreciate every one of our church members and their involvement with this church and Pastor Parr's great messages and leadership to move this church as a vibrant international community in the heart of Silicon Valley.

I love to play Cricket (well a British game now it's been the highly paid sports next to FIFA Soccer) and been part of my State's Divisional games and Inter-Collegiate games in India for many years and played for Sri Lankan's Cricket Club in Middlesex County, England for a Summer in '96 while working there. My wife, our children and I read the Bible daily in the morning and family prayer before we go to bed. The Lord has blessed us, and we will continue His missions wherever go and live to glorify His name.

Church and Society

Food Drive Starting

The Church and Society Team is re-starting a Food Drive that was shut down due to the COVID problems and the sale of Trinity's building. We will be accepting donations of unopened, non-perishable food starting the first Sunday in December and each month thereafter. A barrel from West Valley Community Services will be delivered before that date as well as fliers regarding the details.

As a "bonus", personal care products suitable for Outdoor People will be accepted in the same container.

Introduction to West Valley Community Services (WVCS)

Our volunteer partner, Sunnyvale Community Services (SCS) serves roughly the Sunnyvale city area. Nearby West Valley Community Services (WVCS) serves the area to the south and west of Sunnyvale, including Cupertino, Saratoga, Los Gatos, West San Jose, etc. Less is known of WVCS as it is a smaller organization and not quite as local: 3.5 miles away from SUMC vs 2.5 for SCS.

Small sometimes has its advantages. Currently SCS cannot accept individual's donations of food or products for Outdoor People.

WVCS is small enough to accept smaller donations and has a staff of volunteers to sort the donations and check for quality. Attempting to do this would not be possible at the volumes SCS handles.

For the clients, WVCS allows individual shopping in its small food pantry on a weekly basis, whereas SCS found that they were too large to offer this shopping method due to the volumes they serve.

Until COVID, I was a volunteer at WVCS for 16 years and can vouch for the individual care given to each client. This interaction with the clients is what made my volunteer hours so compelling. WVCS has openings for individuals and teams of volunteers.

By: Bob Cloke

Special Giving Sundays

The United Methodist Church designates 6 Sundays a year for special emphasis and offering.

These are intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the Church and as such our participation is encouraged. These Sundays are:

- Human Relations Day, observed in January, the Sunday before the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday;
- UMCOR Sunday, observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent;
- Native American Awareness Sunday, observed on the third Sunday of Easter;
- Peace with Justice Sunday, observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost;
- World Communion Sunday, observed on the first Sunday in October;
- United Methodist Student Day, observed on the last Sunday in November.
- The next Special Giving Sunday this year is United Methodist Student Day, November 27. Offerings from this Sunday support loans and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate United Methodist students and their Christian service. Please give generously, it will truly make a difference.

By: Bob McGowan

Introducing IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation)

IAF is probably the biggest organization you'd never heard of before Pastor Jay introduced it to you.

IAF began in South Chicago in 1940 and has expanded over the years to become an international force, with affiliates in Europe, Canada and Australia. In the US there are at least 60 affiliates, with 6 in California alone.

The primary purpose of IAF is to organize local organizations into groups that can effect change through grass roots actions. What this means is that IAF determines what the basic concerns of a community are through house meetings and one-on-one conversations. Then they formulate a plan of action to address the issue with community, civic and government leaders.

But you can only get these leaders to take notice if you have enough people involved to make a serious impact. As an example, which you can check out on the IAF [webpage](https://www.industrialareasfoundation.org/), <https://www.industrialareasfoundation.org/>, early in the pandemic (May, 2020) an IAF action was instrumental in getting the state to extend the Earned Income Tax Credit to all California workers. This was an online meeting with over 1200 people present.

Numbers matter and the larger the number is, the more leaders take notice. We are working with the Silicon Valley Organizing Committee to reach a membership of 30 institutions so we can successfully form a new affiliate of the IAF here in Silicon Valley. The planned founding date is June of 2023.

By: Bob McGowan

Finance

Les Cline

Sunnyvale UMC Finance Committee Report – Les Cline, Finance Co-Chairperson

I'm pleased to report that Sunnyvale UMC continues to be blessed with very good financial health. Year-to-Date Income thru September 30 is \$411,008, and Expense is \$453,028. SUMC's Trustees have invested a total of \$70,176 in our church campus during July thru September via tree trimming, painting, door replacement, and termite extermination projects, so we've tapped reserve funds to help pay for these, and we'll do so again when it's time to pay for the next big thing the Trustees are working towards.

During October we made a great deal of progress towards starting to do business as "Sunnyvale United Methodist Church." Our 501(c)(3) Federal Tax Exemption letter from the denomination finally arrived and SUMC's bank accounts have been established. However, since the end of this year is rapidly approaching, and to simplify our church's bookkeeping records and our required reports to the Conference and the government, we've decided to start SUMC business operations at the beginning of 2023. So, if you use paper checks to donate to our church, please continue to write them to "Trinity United Methodist Church" or "First United Methodist Church" (but please don't abbreviate either of these names).

Alternatively, please consider "eGiving" (electronic giving). SUMC's best option is the PayPal Giving Fund, which accepts electronic donations to our church (and to more than 175,000 other charitable organizations) and sends 100% of every donation to our church. We'll establish a SUMC webpage at the Fund early next year. Until then, FUMC's PayPal Giving Fund webpage is available for donations by anybody who has a PayPal account; its URL is <<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2521207>> and the QR Code is in this article. So far this year the Fund has accepted and sent \$18,250 to our church.

We'll also establish a PayPal Donate webpage for SUMC early next year, so we'll be able to accept donations via PayPal's other methods. Until then, both TUMC's and FUMC's existing PayPal Donate webpages will remain active. This eGiving method is good for anybody who doesn't want to have a PayPal account or who prefers automatic recurring donations to one-time donations.

We're also researching additional eGiving methods for SUMC, and we would greatly appreciate your input on any eGiving methods with which you're comfortable and would like SUMC to offer.



Music Corner

As we head into the fall season, the choir reunites and comes back after a long hiatus. We have a cantata on our horizon December 17, "Candles and Carols" as we celebrate Advent and the lead up to Christmas. We are rehearsing choir and praise singers on Thursday evenings, 7:30p.m-8:30 p.m. We are in short supply of male voices. If you can sing please come join us for music adventures, fellowship and fun. All our pieces are demoed so you can practice at home

The Candles and Carols will be a community cantata where choir praise singers, kids band, and kids choir and congregation get into the act.

EVERYBODY SINGS some of the songs. We are just launching so Get on board!

Don Cardoza
510 298 2663

"Exciting news! *Treblemakers*, the SUMC children and youth choir, will begin November 6 practicing each Sunday from 11:15-11:30am in the choir room. Lisa Evans, our Treblemakers director, has some wonderful tunes lined up for Advent and Christmas."



Mark your calendars for the
CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 7p.m in
Nick's Hall. Admission is Free .
Light refreshments will be served.

Jots from Jane

- Kuddles for Kids... Cindy G. is patiently waiting for the "OK" to deliver finished animals to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Workshops are still on hold.
- One Warm Scarf Project... Chris C. has been delivering finished scarves she made to West Valley Community Services. There are now 154 finished scarves ready for a blessing, hopefully by the end of November, before delivery to the area coordinator. There are some scarves still in the finishing process. Many thanks to the busy fingers of Lynne C., Anne M., Carol W., Apolina R., for their support. Scarf sizes: Knit or crochet...adult size: 8" x 80"; children: 6" x 60".
- Project Days...first and third Fridays from 10 AM until 1:00 PM, in Classroom 2. We will plan to meet November 4th and 18th. These are good dates to attend Project Day! WHY? Bring your holiday cards, stamps, address book, and pen, so that you will be able to get your cards in the mail early!!! There is enough space for you to spread out your supplies and get this task done. Snacks are available, as well as hot water for tea, coffee, etc.,
- UWF (formerly UMW) Ruth Circle Gloria C., Jane D., Melva., Nancy K., met and planned how we will end this year and planned meetings for 2023. The Ruth Circle will meet on the second Tuesdays in: January, February, April, June, September, and October. Meetings will start at 10:00 AM. Please mark your 2023 calendar now! Check the newsletter each month for updated information.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Flower Calendar

Every Sunday fresh flowers are placed in the Sanctuary to remind us of Jesus' resurrection and provide a spirit of praise and thanksgiving. Beginning the first Sunday in November, a flower chart will be available in the church narthex where you can sign up to fund altar flowers. Enter your name on the Sunday of your choice and note the reason for your gift; i.e., birthday, anniversary, remembrance, etc. Cash or check in the amount of \$40 covers the expense of the flowers including delivery. Write your check to the church, note "altar flowers" in the memo line, and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. On the Sunday you choose, your name and the reason for your gift will be noted in

United Women In Faith

With a lot of dedication, hard work, an incredible amount of help, generous donations, and far less stress, the UWIF Craft Faire has been declared a success!



Many, many thanks to each of you for helping us to raise \$7264 for our mission work! The Executive Board will be meeting soon to finalize a budget and plan our mission giving. We could not have done this without you! Thank you and Blessings!



Birthdays

3 Ken Redler	16 Kiyoshi Sakamoto
4 Fatu Poulivaati	17 Sylvester Rajasekaran
5 Robert Snyder	21 Ellie Jin
8 Nancy Cline	25 Elizabeth Wu
Lynne Chrysler	27 Linda Marken
13 Steve Wu	28 Pat Tubbs
Stephanie Reginold	



Church and Society

Volunteers at Sunnyvale Community Services

There are 10 Sunnyvale UMC Volunteers that, once at month, help pack nonperishable foods in grocery bags for distribution to those families in Sunnyvale that are "food insecure". Because we are one of the smallest groups, we generally pack slightly more than four hundred bags in two hours. During the Holiday Packing Season, the goal for the larger groups will be 600 bags in two hours or 1,200 for the two shifts per day. The need for the larger numbers has grown because the number of families in Sunnyvale that are food insecure has grown. According to Marie Bernard, Director of Sunnyvale Community Services, there are now one out of every three households in Sunnyvale that are uncertain whether they will have enough food to feed their families. These families must resort to alternate food resources to exist. The grocery bags that are packed at Sunnyvale Community Services and distributed weekly are one of those critical resources. Knowing that we are helping these families to put food on their tables is a very rewarding feeling so if anyone reading this article would like to join us please contact us to let us know.

We need your help. We are currently scheduled to pack groceries on:

Thursday, November 3rd, from 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Thursday, December 15th, from 10:00am to 12:00 noon

Please come join us! Below is a picture of our team after packing 420 bags on October 13th.

By: Ken Redler



Fund For Humanity

The concept "**Funds for Humanity**" is an outgrowth resulting from a desire on the part of many in our past congregation wanting to provide concrete support to those organizations that, in turn, provide, for the marginalized peoples in our community, the basic necessities of life and protection from social injustices.

In the spirit of gift giving during the Advent season, the Sunnyvale UMC Fund For Humanity will be accepting donations to approximately 10 people-oriented social concerns organizations. In parallel to giving money directly to the organizations selected for a donation, Sunnyvale UMC Fund For Humanity will provide a mechanism for "alternative gifting".

What this means is that our congregational members can elect to give the gift of money in the name of a loved one or a friend in lieu of purchasing them a gift. A gift card will be sent to the person you designate. The highlight of the Funds for Humanity Advent season will be the Parson's Table. During Advent, each gift of money to one of the social-concerns organizations will be symbolically acknowledged with a candle. The candles will be lit during the worship service every Sunday during Advent and during the Christmas eve worship service. The goal is to have so many candles lit at the Christmas eve service, that, when the lights are turned off, the candles alone will light up the entire alter area making it glow in the spirit of giving. Pamphlets will be available soon for selecting the organizations to which you wish to give. For this year, checks will still need to be made out to the congregational names of the congregation to which you belonged prior to our merging, namely, First UMC or Trinity UMC.

By: Ken Redler