



The Vine

October 2020



United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635
E-MAIL Address: umclb@att.net
YouTube: Link available on our website weekly
Website: umclb.net
Phone (209) 826-4181
Address Service Requested

**Worship Service: In-Person on the Lawn 9AM Sunday Mornings,
and On YouTube**

Church Office Hours: Office closed but secretary can be reached by leaving a message on church phone. It will be checked daily.

Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

3 rd	Amy Garrison Paterson	5 th	Alec Barcellos
5 th	Gerald Wall	6 th	Ed Kosters
6 th	Jacob Hepworth	10 th	Tawny Walsh
15 th	Eli Hepworth	16 th	Shannan Doubek
16 th	Rhonda Cardenas	21 st	Jennifer Barcellos
22 nd	Jean Arburua	28 th	Curtis Brubaker

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !

15 th	Ted & Bonnie Kraynick
20 th	David & Ann Simmons
30 th	Dan & Karen Bonillas

September contributions total: \$ 7,664.00

Attendance online for September: 6th (40) 13th (39) 20th (31) 27th (36)
In-person (16) (16) (15) (27)



From the Pastor – October 2020

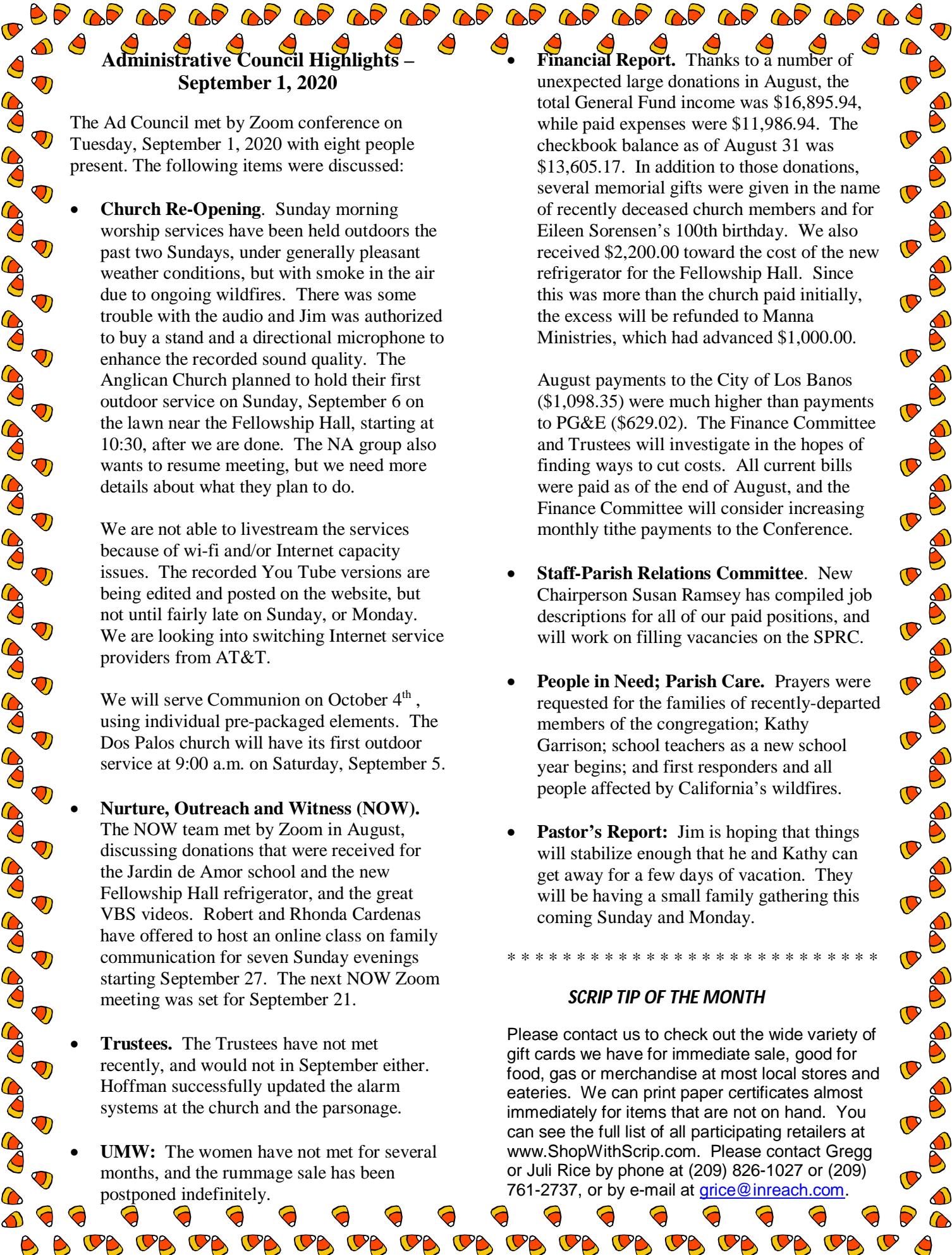
I am thankful that for several weeks we have been able to hold worship services on the lawn on Sunday mornings. Despite a heat wave and smoky skies, it has mostly been amazingly comfortable. It has been a true joy to see one another. We will continue with the outdoor service until our county moves into the next category on the statewide re-opening plan that permits indoor worship gatherings with limited numbers and safety precautions, such as masks and distancing. These categories are directly determined by the number of people catching Covid-19 in our county. The better we follow the safety precautions, the fewer new cases there will be, and the sooner we can get back inside our building for worship. I don't like to be critical of other Christians, but I have been disappointed that some have resisted requirements to wear masks as a point of individual and religious liberty. I admit that many of the emergency health requirements are so unprecedented that they bring up the issue of who has the authority to make them, but I don't believe that should be our main focus. As followers of Christ, who emptied himself and laid aside his divine privileges to bring us salvation, our focus shouldn't be on our rights, but on the welfare of others. We should be less concerned about asserting our rights and more concerned with demonstrating love for our neighbor. We wear our masks mostly to protect the health and safety of others.

And so, we are complying with the requirements for a county in the purple "widespread" category and holding church outside. We are also continuing to post our worship service online so that those who cannot (or should not) attend in person can still participate. Special thanks to Shannan Doubek who has taken over recording and editing the worship video. Unfortunately, because we are making the recording on Sunday morning, it cannot be ready to view until Sunday evening or Monday morning.

So, pray for a cure, for a vaccine, and for the opportunity to worship inside again. But in the meantime, pray that we will know how to be the church in new ways and always to love one another.

Pastor Jim





Administrative Council Highlights – September 1, 2020

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 with eight people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Church Re-Opening.** Sunday morning worship services have been held outdoors the past two Sundays, under generally pleasant weather conditions, but with smoke in the air due to ongoing wildfires. There was some trouble with the audio and Jim was authorized to buy a stand and a directional microphone to enhance the recorded sound quality. The Anglican Church planned to hold their first outdoor service on Sunday, September 6 on the lawn near the Fellowship Hall, starting at 10:30, after we are done. The NA group also wants to resume meeting, but we need more details about what they plan to do.

We are not able to livestream the services because of wi-fi and/or Internet capacity issues. The recorded You Tube versions are being edited and posted on the website, but not until fairly late on Sunday, or Monday. We are looking into switching Internet service providers from AT&T.

We will serve Communion on October 4th, using individual pre-packaged elements. The Dos Palos church will have its first outdoor service at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 5.

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW team met by Zoom in August, discussing donations that were received for the Jardin de Amor school and the new Fellowship Hall refrigerator, and the great VBS videos. Robert and Rhonda Cardenas have offered to host an online class on family communication for seven Sunday evenings starting September 27. The next NOW Zoom meeting was set for September 21.
- **Trustees.** The Trustees have not met recently, and would not in September either. Hoffman successfully updated the alarm systems at the church and the parsonage.
- **UMW:** The women have not met for several months, and the rummage sale has been postponed indefinitely.

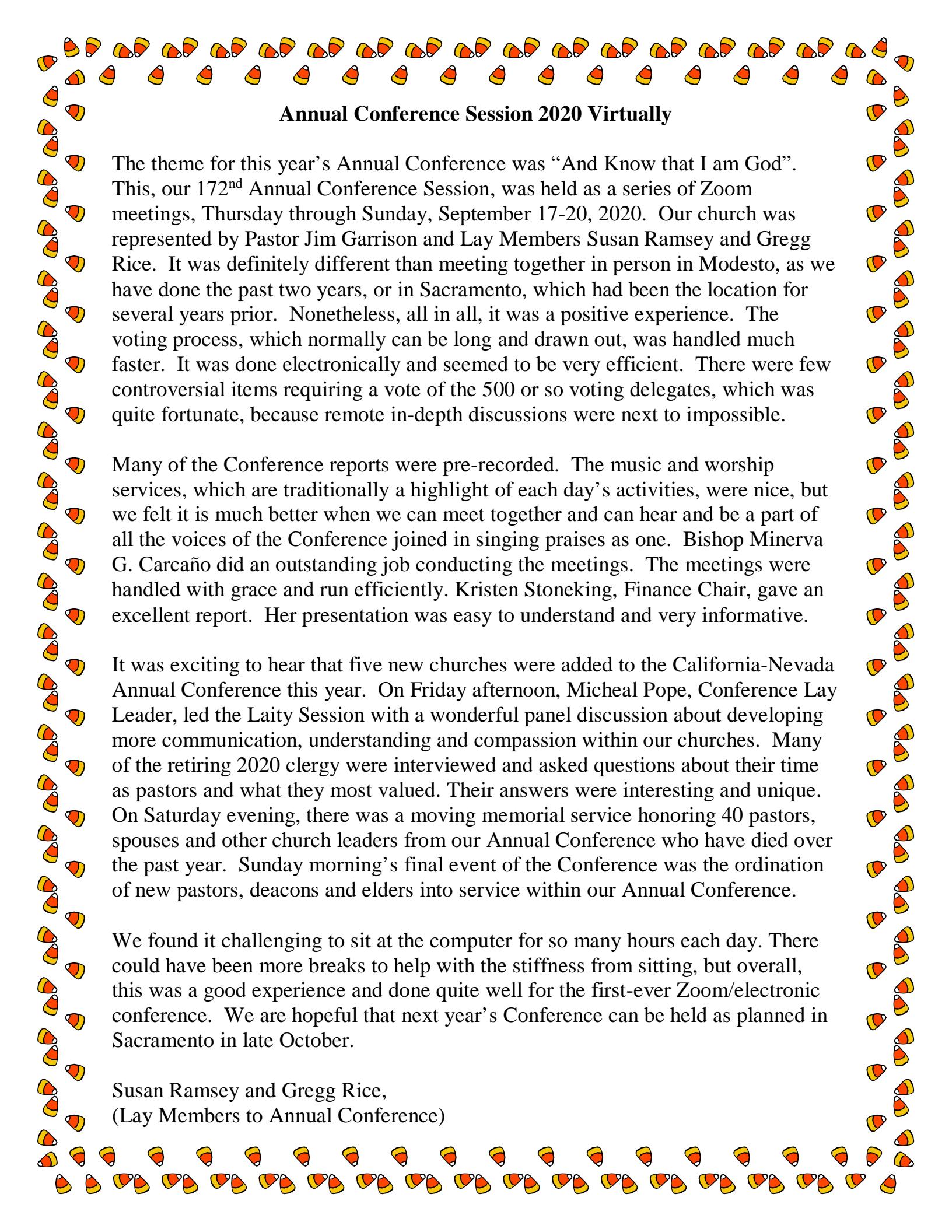
- **Financial Report.** Thanks to a number of unexpected large donations in August, the total General Fund income was \$16,895.94, while paid expenses were \$11,986.94. The checkbook balance as of August 31 was \$13,605.17. In addition to those donations, several memorial gifts were given in the name of recently deceased church members and for Eileen Sorensen's 100th birthday. We also received \$2,200.00 toward the cost of the new refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall. Since this was more than the church paid initially, the excess will be refunded to Manna Ministries, which had advanced \$1,000.00.

August payments to the City of Los Banos (\$1,098.35) were much higher than payments to PG&E (\$629.02). The Finance Committee and Trustees will investigate in the hopes of finding ways to cut costs. All current bills were paid as of the end of August, and the Finance Committee will consider increasing monthly tithe payments to the Conference.

- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** New Chairperson Susan Ramsey has compiled job descriptions for all of our paid positions, and will work on filling vacancies on the SPRC.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for the families of recently-departed members of the congregation; Kathy Garrison; school teachers as a new school year begins; and first responders and all people affected by California's wildfires.
- **Pastor's Report:** Jim is hoping that things will stabilize enough that he and Kathy can get away for a few days of vacation. They will be having a small family gathering this coming Sunday and Monday.

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Please contact us to check out the wide variety of gift cards we have for immediate sale, good for food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries. We can print paper certificates almost immediately for items that are not on hand. You can see the full list of all participating retailers at www.ShopWithScrip.com. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone at (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at grice@inreach.com.



Annual Conference Session 2020 Virtually

The theme for this year's Annual Conference was "And Know that I am God". This, our 172nd Annual Conference Session, was held as a series of Zoom meetings, Thursday through Sunday, September 17-20, 2020. Our church was represented by Pastor Jim Garrison and Lay Members Susan Ramsey and Gregg Rice. It was definitely different than meeting together in person in Modesto, as we have done the past two years, or in Sacramento, which had been the location for several years prior. Nonetheless, all in all, it was a positive experience. The voting process, which normally can be long and drawn out, was handled much faster. It was done electronically and seemed to be very efficient. There were few controversial items requiring a vote of the 500 or so voting delegates, which was quite fortunate, because remote in-depth discussions were next to impossible.

Many of the Conference reports were pre-recorded. The music and worship services, which are traditionally a highlight of each day's activities, were nice, but we felt it is much better when we can meet together and can hear and be a part of all the voices of the Conference joined in singing praises as one. Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño did an outstanding job conducting the meetings. The meetings were handled with grace and run efficiently. Kristen Stoneking, Finance Chair, gave an excellent report. Her presentation was easy to understand and very informative.

It was exciting to hear that five new churches were added to the California-Nevada Annual Conference this year. On Friday afternoon, Micheal Pope, Conference Lay Leader, led the Laity Session with a wonderful panel discussion about developing more communication, understanding and compassion within our churches. Many of the retiring 2020 clergy were interviewed and asked questions about their time as pastors and what they most valued. Their answers were interesting and unique. On Saturday evening, there was a moving memorial service honoring 40 pastors, spouses and other church leaders from our Annual Conference who have died over the past year. Sunday morning's final event of the Conference was the ordination of new pastors, deacons and elders into service within our Annual Conference.

We found it challenging to sit at the computer for so many hours each day. There could have been more breaks to help with the stiffness from sitting, but overall, this was a good experience and done quite well for the first-ever Zoom/electronic conference. We are hopeful that next year's Conference can be held as planned in Sacramento in late October.

Susan Ramsey and Gregg Rice,
(Lay Members to Annual Conference)



Vine Monthly Events for October

All meetings and events are suspended or are being done on Zoom conferencing until we are ready to re-open inside safely. Thank you for your patience and communication during this time.

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Note: Boy Scouts - Still working together online. Badges and events taking place but with social distancing. Looking forward to meeting together in-person sometime in the fall or New Year.

Important dates:

October 13th - Admin. Council Meeting on Zoom 7PM

October 14th - SPRC Meeting 7PM

October 19th - NOW Meeting @ 7PM on Zoom

October 26th - Trustees' Meeting 7PM on Zoom

October 27th - Finance Committee Meeting 4PM

October 31st - Charge Conference by Zoom

E-Giving - Did you know? There are now 8 families in our church using Vanco Give Plus to donate to the church securely and conveniently online! Accounts and payments can easily be set up and initiated on a laptop or desktop computer, or by using a mobile phone, using the free Give Plus app.

The other easy way is to go to our website: www.umclb.net , there is a link for this purpose there. If you have questions, please see Gregg Rice or Bud Ramsey. Thank you!

Charge Conference - This year the Conference will be by Zoom meeting. It will take place on **October 31st** in the morning. Heads of Committees will be sent links to join by email.

Upper Room Deliveries- Dear Family in Christ, I never thought we would be going on this long with physical distancing and protocols for safety. If you are still keeping yourself at home and wish to have the Upper Room Delivered to you every other month please contact the church office so I can get a list of who needs this service. Blessings and health prayers for you all. **Church office # 209-826-4181.**

Thank you, Cassie

Please keep praying for our leaders, pastors, first responders, hospital staff and all families affected by this pandemic. We are wanting to be warriors for Christ and show his love during these trying times. Keep in mind God is with us through it all.



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If you need help or wish to have prayers, please contact the church office at 209-826-4181, phone line is checked daily, or call the secretary or Pastor using the numbers provided in your church directory. Thank you.

P. S. - Still working on the new church directory. If you have changes, please email the church - umclb@att.net or call the office. I plan to have the new directory done by the end of this month.

Thank you all! Cassie

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
4 Service on the Lawn Communion Sunday 9AM	5 	Mad Hatter Day 	7	8	9 World Egg Day 	10
11 Service on the Lawn 9AM	12	13 Admin. Council Meeting 7PM on Zoom	14 SPRC Meeting 7PM on Zoom	15	16 Boss's Day 	17 National Pasta Day 
18 Service on the lawn 9AM	19 NOW Meeting 7PM on Zoom	20	21 National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day 	22	23	24 Make A Difference Day 
25 Service on the Lawn 9AM	26 Trustees' Meeting 7PM on Zoom	27 Finance Committee Meeting 4PM	28	29 National Frankenstein Day 	30 National Candy Corn Day 	31 Charge Conference By Zoom 
				Frankenstein Day	Com Day	