



The Vine

April 2021

United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635
E-MAIL Address: umclb@att.net
Phone (209) 826-4181
Address Service Requested

Worship Service In-person 9:30AM Sundays
Website: www.umclb.net Service also online
Church Office Hours: Secretary working remotely
but phone line checked daily.
Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison
Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

8 th	Jolanda Phillips	12 th	George Foxworthy
18 th	Helen Brubaker	22 nd	Kimery Knight
22 nd	Jean Willis	24 th	Dan Martin
27 th	June Sloan	27 th	Lorrie Dybas
28 th	Diego Patrick		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

12 th	Tony & Kerri Michel
26 th	Kristofer & Roxanne Hew

March contributions total: \$ 10,057.00

Online Attendance for March 7th (36) 14th (16) 21st (20) 28th (32)
In-Person Service for March 7th (28) 14th (22) 21st (21) 28th (38)



April 2021
From the Pastor,

Happy Easter! Christ is risen, and that makes all the difference. Good Friday seemed to challenge all that is good about God. The innocent one is unjustly condemned. The only truly good person suffers horribly. Evil mocks while Jesus dies. But that isn't the end of the story! Sunday finds the tomb empty and the crucified Savior alive!

We need the reassurance of Easter because sometimes our life resembles Good Friday. Too often we experience injustice. Too often we inflict injustice. Too often good people suffer badly. But that isn't the end of the story. There is also resurrection! There is the resurrection after we die and enjoy heaven forever, and there is the power of resurrection at work here and now. God can bring new life to things that seem dead. Addictions can be broken. Marriages can be restored. Racial hatred and injustice can be healed. Sinful habits can be transformed. Jesus invites us into new life.

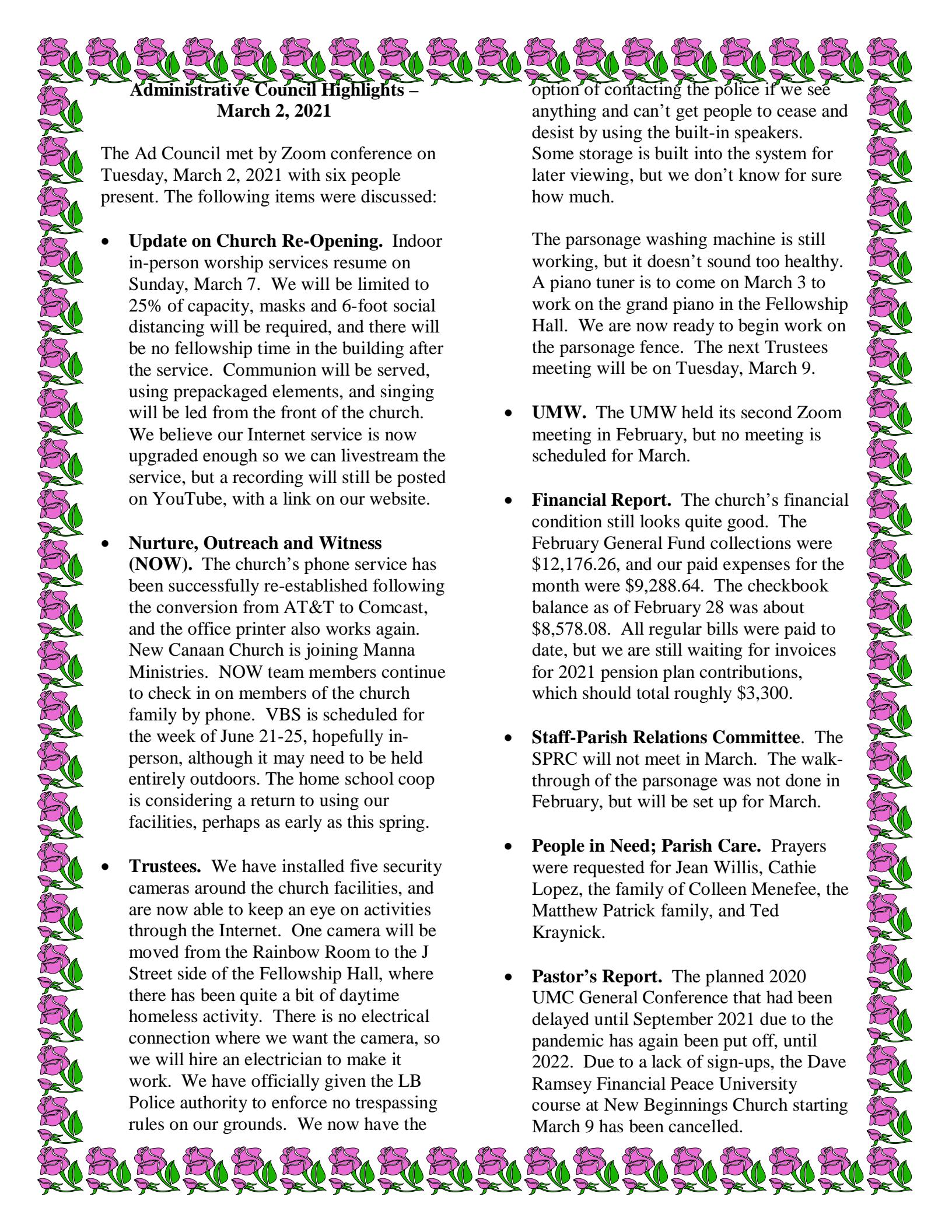
I invite you to make a habit of looking beyond the problems of the day to the promises of tomorrow – and start living those promises now. Christ is risen. You are also risen. So, arise!

Jim

Pastor Jim

Intentional Giving- It is not too late to turn in your Plan of Giving. At present we have received 17 plans for a total of \$48,416. This is quite a bit less than the final 2020 figures of 23 plans for \$69,340, although our total giving has remained fairly constant. We encourage everyone to complete a Plan of Giving as a way of giving intentionally and prayerfully.

VBS- Taking place here! June 21st - June 25th in-person! If you can help please let **Kerri Michel or Shannan Doubek** know. We will need several adults for outdoor stations! And teens for crews! It is coming up faster than we think so please be considering how you can help! Thanks!



Administrative Council Highlights – March 2, 2021

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Update on Church Re-Opening.** Indoor in-person worship services resume on Sunday, March 7. We will be limited to 25% of capacity, masks and 6-foot social distancing will be required, and there will be no fellowship time in the building after the service. Communion will be served, using prepackaged elements, and singing will be led from the front of the church. We believe our Internet service is now upgraded enough so we can livestream the service, but a recording will still be posted on YouTube, with a link on our website.
- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The church's phone service has been successfully re-established following the conversion from AT&T to Comcast, and the office printer also works again. New Canaan Church is joining Manna Ministries. NOW team members continue to check in on members of the church family by phone. VBS is scheduled for the week of June 21-25, hopefully in-person, although it may need to be held entirely outdoors. The home school coop is considering a return to using our facilities, perhaps as early as this spring.
- **Trustees.** We have installed five security cameras around the church facilities, and are now able to keep an eye on activities through the Internet. One camera will be moved from the Rainbow Room to the J Street side of the Fellowship Hall, where there has been quite a bit of daytime homeless activity. There is no electrical connection where we want the camera, so we will hire an electrician to make it work. We have officially given the LB Police authority to enforce no trespassing rules on our grounds. We now have the

option of contacting the police if we see anything and can't get people to cease and desist by using the built-in speakers.

Some storage is built into the system for later viewing, but we don't know for sure how much.

The parsonage washing machine is still working, but it doesn't sound too healthy. A piano tuner is to come on March 3 to work on the grand piano in the Fellowship Hall. We are now ready to begin work on the parsonage fence. The next Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, March 9.

- **UMW.** The UMW held its second Zoom meeting in February, but no meeting is scheduled for March.
- **Financial Report.** The church's financial condition still looks quite good. The February General Fund collections were \$12,176.26, and our paid expenses for the month were \$9,288.64. The checkbook balance as of February 28 was about \$8,578.08. All regular bills were paid to date, but we are still waiting for invoices for 2021 pension plan contributions, which should total roughly \$3,300.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC will not meet in March. The walk-through of the parsonage was not done in February, but will be set up for March.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Jean Willis, Cathie Lopez, the family of Colleen Menefee, the Matthew Patrick family, and Ted Kraynick.
- **Pastor's Report.** The planned 2020 UMC General Conference that had been delayed until September 2021 due to the pandemic has again been put off, until 2022. Due to a lack of sign-ups, the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course at New Beginnings Church starting March 9 has been cancelled.

Vine Monthly Events April

Church services are back in-person at 9:30am Sunday mornings!

All meetings are being done on Zoom conferencing until we are out of the Purple tier in COVID-19 restriction levels. Thank you for your patience and communication during this time.

Note: Boy Scouts - Still working together online . We are currently selling popcorn to raise money for scouts who need help with annual dues. If you are interested in the yummy popcorn (it makes great birthday gifts!) Please contact Mackenzie Ferreira @ bigreddogfan@yahoo.com and she will give you the link to make an order. This is a great way to support our local boy scouts.

Important dates:

April 2nd - Good Friday (Service in Dos Palos @ noon on the lawn)

April 4th - **Sunrise Easter Service** at San Luis Reservoir

April 4th - 9:30am Easter Service here inside. Basket with goodies give away for children after service. And pick up your lilies after service.

April 6th - Admin. Council meeting- on Zoom @ 7PM

April 14th - SPRC Meeting - on Zoom @ 7PM

April 19th - N.O.W. Meeting - on Zoom @ 7PM

UMW Rummage Sale is on! June 17th thru the 19th! Set up June 14-17th.

Please do not bring items until **May**, we have limited space for storage. Thank you!

Please pray for: the Patrick family- grieving the death of his mother, Barbara. **Jean Willis** in rehab in San Jose after two bad falls. **Ted Kraynick** healing from shoulder surgery. **Other members who are having or have had surgery recently or this month and need prayers of healing.**

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!

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Here's a new way that you can support both our church and a local business owned by members of our congregation. As you may be aware, Sorensen's Hardware has recently become part of the Ace Hardware network. We are now stocking \$25.00 gift cards for Ace Hardware, and can also order \$100.00 cards.

Another opportunity for you – and a delicious one at that – would be to purchase \$10.00 or \$25.00 gift cards for Chipotle Mexican Grill, which will soon be opening a new location on Pacheco Blvd. between Walgreen's and España's.

Even though church has not been meeting in person, and we have not been able to display our inventory of on-hand gift cards on Sunday mornings, we do stock a wide variety of cards for immediate purchase, good for food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries. We can also print paper certificates and electronic gift "cards" almost immediately for items that we do not have on hand.

The full list of the hundreds of participating retailers can be viewed by visiting 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 to check out what gift cards we have on hand, or to order something that we don't currently have.

Big Thanks to all who donated to the Children's Easter Baskets, and a special big thanks to the Doubek and Michel families for putting them all together!



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.



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Easter Lilies on Easter Sunday:



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Donor

Jean Arburua
Jean Arburua
The Battle Family
Betschart Family
Betschart Family
Jim & Kathy Garrison
Jim & Kathy Garrison
Charlene Martin & Family
Charlene Martin & Family
Charlene Martin & Family
Charlene Martin & Family
Guadalupe F. Martinez
Guadalupe F. Martinez
Dennis & Donna Morris
Dennis & Donna Morris
Dennis & Donna Morris
Bud & Susan Ramsey
Bud & Susan Ramsey

In Memory of

Jack Arburua
Bob Arburua
Pat Graves
Bob Jackson
Harvey & Lola Petitt
Doris Howard
Doug Garrison
Charles & Helen Jones-Taylor
Helen McColloch-March
Jane Elizabeth Martin
Leon Martin
Paul J. Martinez
Silvia Ramirez
Bob & Janice Becker
Maybelle Tanner
Brooks Morris
Our Parents
Elijah Ramsey Clarke



Memorial Easter Lilies

(continued)

Donor

June Sloan

June Sloan

Larry & Germaine Wiley

Jean Willis

Jean Willis

Jean Willis

The Wolf-Miyamoto Family

The Wolf-Miyamoto Family

In Memory of

Bill Sloan

Able & Grace Machado

Guy Dell & Georgia Wiley

Jim Willis

Michael Willis

Mark Willis

Jack & Mary Wolf

Fred & Tomyie Miyamoto

Donor

Guadalupe F. Martinez

Guadalupe F. Martinez

Dennis & Donna Morris

Gregg & Juli Rice

Larry & Germaine Wiley

In Honor of

Susan & Bud Ramsey

Aitana Garcia (born 3/17/21)

Wilma Ditter

Beverly Rice

Germe & Minnie Trotter