



The Vine

November 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: 8:30am – 11:30am
Pastor: Rev. Henry Pablo
Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

3 rd	Morgan Ferreira	9 th	Beth Miyamoto
12 th	Helen Machado	15 th	Kathy Garrison
15 th	Roxanne Hew	25 th	Debbie Tucker



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October contributions total: **\$ 7,875.00** (without last Sunday of the month)
In-Person Services for October 3rd (36) 10th (41) 17th (39) 24th (37) 31st (00)

Dear Los Banos UMC family,

In October we had a busy and productive month! We successfully got through the Charge Conference and packaged over 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child during our monthly fellowship gathering. Thank you to all the coordinators, church leaders, and volunteers that made both events successful.

Now, let us look toward the month of November!

- **Welcoming New Members & Baptism** - On November 7th we will be receiving new Professing Members and on November 21st we will be celebrating a baptism! We are deeply excited to welcome new members into Christ's family and make a commitment to support them during their journey of faith.
- **Youth Confirmation Class** - On November 7th we will also begin our Youth Confirmation Class. It will be held weekly on Sundays from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Please let us know if you know any youth who may be interested.
- **Mission & Vision Workshop** - Finally, on November 7th from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM we will be engaging in a mission and vision workshop to discover and articulate God's vision for Los Banos United Methodist Church. This will be held in the fireside room. All are welcome - leaders and laity!
- **Stewardship Campaign** - Throughout October the leadership has been working hard on crafting a budget for 2022 as well as planning for a stewardship campaign to invite you all into participating in the mission and vision of the church. This stewardship campaign will begin on Sunday, November 14th and span three weeks. Come join us in Sunday service to discover what it means to be a steward of God and listen to the stories of hope and transformation from members of the congregation.
- **Advent Decoration** - Finally, on Saturday, November 27th we will be having our monthly church community gathering to set up for the Advent Season! Come join us in setting up decorations, eating food, and engaging in fun conversations to get to know each other in the community! As we prepare for this season with a central theme of giving through the church and giving thanks to God, I invite us to lean into all that is emerging for the family of Los Banos United Methodist Church. Two weeks ago I spoke about God's will and want for our restoration. Out of the chaos of our lives, it is God who creates paths for restoration. Out of our lives being restored, we are invited to guide others, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, toward restoration. But all of this requires an attentiveness toward God, an attentiveness toward the Holy Spirit moving in our lives, an attentiveness to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. In leaning into all these ministries, events, and gatherings in November I invite you all to continue to be attentive to how God is moving in your lives - asking yourselves, "How are we being transformed" and "How is God calling us to transform the lives of others?" Let us approach this month of November with gratitude and attentiveness, and continue praying for the life and ministries of this church family - a family that you are all a part of.

Much Peace,

Pastor Henry



Administrative Council Highlights – October 12, 2021

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 with four people present. The following items were discussed:

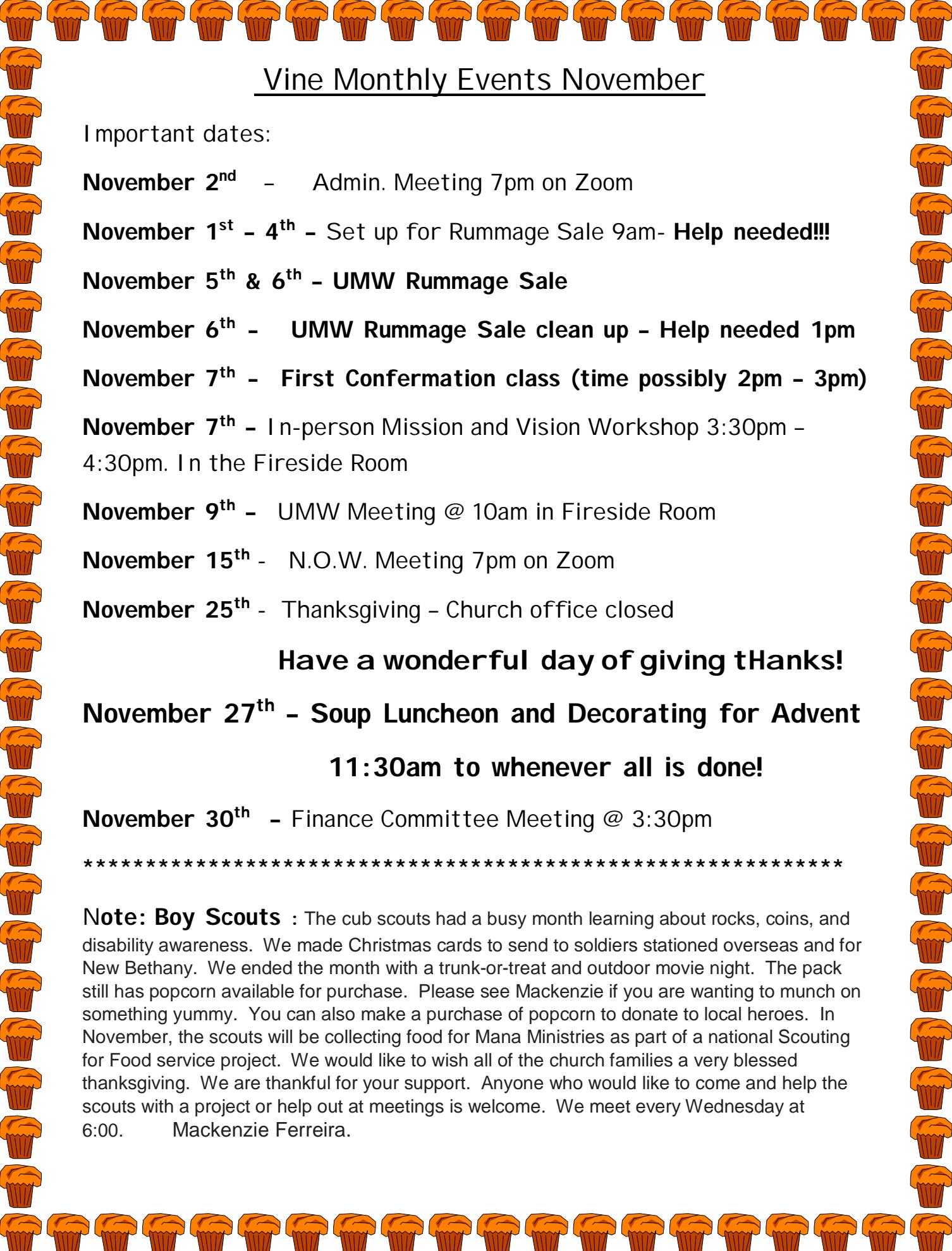
- **Preparations for Charge Conference.** Our Charge Conference will be held in-person, combined with Dos Palos, on the afternoon of October 25 in our Fireside Room, presided over by David Niu, the new District Superintendent. The proposed 2022 Pastor's compensation package was presented, featuring only two changes from 2021: a 5.2% Cost of Living increase as suggested by the Conference, and a decrease from \$7,000 to \$4,000 in Accountable Reimbursements. The proposal was accepted by the Ad Council, with Pastor Henry abstaining.

Two other handouts were then reviewed: the membership report, with a net loss of two members. Six would be removed: 3 by death (Claire Jensen, George Mitchell and Helen Brubaker) and 3 by transfer to Madera UMC (Kathy Garrison, Amy Paterson and Cindy Lattin). Four will soon be joining our church: John and Kindle Wallace and Kristopher and Roxanne Hew. The final handout was the Nominations Committee report, showing nominees for the various church committees for 2022 and beyond/

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** NOW members made plans for church family to gather on October 24 to prepare shoeboxes to be shipped for Operation Christmas Child. Since Manna has not been serving meals in house since the pandemic began, they have spent a lot of extra money buying takeout containers. There has lately been trouble with the condition of the donated frozen food that Manna has been receiving, so much more food than before has had to be purchased. There was discussion of possible fundraisers for Manna to cover some of the additional costs. Memorial Hospital is reportedly planning to make another large donation to Manna before the end of the year. Finally, Calvary Baptist Church has inquired about purchasing our large barbecue pit, which we have not used in many years; the matter will

be referred to the Trustees. Tawny and Roxanne are teaching the Sunday School classes, alternating months.

- **UMW.** UMW's next meeting has been set for November 9. They are planning for a fall rummage sale on November 5 and 6, and are seeking a location for a Christmas party in December. UMW will be making a donation designated for a church youth program in memory of former member MaryAnn Edminster, and as a group they would also like to contribute toward something needed by the church, such as computer or sound equipment, or seed money for a youth program. Henry advised that he plans to include a line item for youth in the budget for 2022, and added that some grant money is available from the District for such programs, which he will look into.
- **Financial Report.** The church's income for September was just \$7,533.60, but paid expenses were \$10,822.82, leaving a checkbook balance on September 30 of essentially zero. The Finance Committee will be preparing both a detailed and a narrative budget for 2022, and has begun making plans for a fall stewardship campaign.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC would not be meeting in October, but had voted by email to accept the Pastor's compensation package and recommend its approval at the Charge Conference.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Amanda and her family, Susan Ramsey, SanDee and Tom Rooney, Dennis Areias and the family of Steve Miyamoto.
- **Pastor's Report.** Henry has been focused on preparing for the Charge Conference, October 25, and the Annual Conference Session in Sacramento from Friday, October 29 through Sunday, October 31. Six people are to be welcomed into the church family over the next few weeks as professing or affiliate members, and Penelope Wallace is to be baptized in late November. Finally, a confirmation class will soon begin for youth from fifth grade through high school.



Vine Monthly Events November

Important dates:

November 2nd - Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

November 1st - 4th - Set up for Rummage Sale 9am- **Help needed!!!**

November 5th & 6th - UMW Rummage Sale

November 6th - UMW Rummage Sale clean up - Help needed 1pm

November 7th - First Confermation class (time possibly 2pm - 3pm)

November 7th - In-person Mission and Vision Workshop 3:30pm - 4:30pm. In the Fireside Room

November 9th - UMW Meeting @ 10am in Fireside Room

November 15th - N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

November 25th - Thanksgiving - Church office closed

Have a wonderful day of giving tHanks!

November 27th - Soup Luncheon and Decorating for Advent

11:30am to whenever all is done!

November 30th - Finance Committee Meeting @ 3:30pm

Note: Boy Scouts : The cub scouts had a busy month learning about rocks, coins, and disability awareness. We made Christmas cards to send to soldiers stationed overseas and for New Bethany. We ended the month with a trunk-or-treat and outdoor movie night. The pack still has popcorn available for purchase. Please see Mackenzie if you are wanting to munch on something yummy. You can also make a purchase of popcorn to donate to local heroes. In November, the scouts will be collecting food for Mana Ministries as part of a national Scouting for Food service project. We would like to wish all of the church families a very blessed thanksgiving. We are thankful for your support. Anyone who would like to come and help the scouts with a project or help out at meetings is welcome. We meet every Wednesday at 6:00. Mackenzie Ferreira.



November event! The 27th, Mark your calendars for Soup luncheon and decorating of the church for Advent! Please come and begin the season of joy with us!!!! 11:30am to whenever all is done. Help needed!!! November 28th begins Advent.

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Christmas is rapidly approaching, and the scrip team is anxious to help! Make your Christmas shopping as easy as possible by purchasing gift cards through our scrip program. You and the recipient get full value for your purchase, because gift cards do not expire, and vendors cannot assess service charges or other fees. The church makes money (approaching \$2,000 so far this year) because each vendor gives us a discount off the face value of their gift cards.

Each Sunday after church, we display about \$4,000 worth of gift cards that we have on hand for immediate purchase. We also encourage you to check out the hundreds of other vendors shown in the Retailer List on the scrip company's Web site (www.shopwithscrip.com). We can order anything that you find on the list, and usually have it here within a couple of days.

New this year, we have worked out a way to accept payments by Venmo or Zelle, in addition to cash or checks.

If you have any questions, want to purchase any of our on-hand inventory, or wish to place an order, please contact Gregg or Juli Rice at (209) 826-1027, or e-mail us at grice@inreach.com.

Christmas boxes were filled on October 24th. They are now on their way to places of need. Thanks to all who came and helped and for all who provided the delicious food. It was a good time for all. We would like to do more potlucks and get- togethers each month. Have an idea please let the office know! Thanks!

Confirmation Classes will begin soon- 5 young persons have already signed up! These are for any children or young adults that want to become full members of the church and learn what that means. If you fall into this category and want more information, please contact Pastor Henry or the office. Thank you!





Still looking for prayer chain coordinator! If you feel you can help in this ministry, please see Cassie UMCLB Secretary or call the church office and leave a message. Thank you for your prayerful help.



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 using the numbers provided in your church directory.



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