



The Vine

October 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

Secretary will be out on October 11th for bereavement leave

Pastor: Rev. Henry Pablo

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

5 th	Alec Barcellos	5 th	Gerald Wall
6 th	Ed Kusters	6 th	Jacob Hepworth
8 th	Reese Betschart	8 th	Rachel Betschart
10 th	Tawny Walsh	12 th	Jennifer Barcellos
15 th	Eli Hepworth	16 th	Shannan Michel Doubek
16 th	Rhonda Cardenas	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: \$ 6,742.00
In-Person Services for September 5 th (28) 12 th (32) 19 th (42) 26 th (44)

Dear Los Banos UMC,

In September, we concluded our “Methodism and Membership” class and are preparing to receive new *Professing Members* into the church! It was a joy to engage in fruitful conversations about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a member of Los Banos United Methodist Church. During our final session we brainstormed about how we can build up the current ministries of the church and possibly create new ministries. Many ideas emerged from this discussion, some of which we are hoping to begin in the following months.

1. **Monthly Community Gatherings** - These are gatherings that will occur once a month for the people of the church and surrounding community to get to know each other. This may involve having a shared meal, engaging in community service work, and having other fun activities that can deepen our relationships with each other. For our first gathering, we are currently in the midst of planning a time in October to package the boxes for *Operation Christmas Child* with the community.
2. **Confirmation Classes for Youth** - These will be classes for youth to explore what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be a United Methodist, and what it means to be a member of Los Banos UMC. Not only are we hoping to engage in conversations about faith, but these classes also aim to build community among the youth, empowering them to get to know each other. Our hope is to plan for these classes in October then begin in November.

If you are interested in being a part of these gatherings, please let us know! With all these ideas emerging and plans being implemented, I am also reminded to slow down. With so much going on in our lives and the world, it is important that we take care of our mental health, physical health, and spiritual health. For me, slowing down means attentively listening to where God is moving in my life and savoring the moments of joy, peace, and laughter. I am reminded of the words in Psalm 27:13 - 14,

13 I remain confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living.

14 **Wait** for the Lord;

be strong and take heart

and wait for the Lord.

Waiting or slowing down is not necessarily idleness or “doing nothing.” Instead, waiting and slowing down involves an attentiveness to the “Goodness of the Lord” in our lives. I believe being mindful of joyful things that God has placed in our lives can sustain us and give us rest in the midst of all that is going on.

Much Peace,
Pastor Henry

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Administrative Council Highlights – September 7, 2021

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Wednesday, September 7, 2021 with five people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Reinstatement of Mandatory Mask Requirement.** It was noted that the church had resumed requiring masks for in-service worship services, effective September 5. This action was taken by the Ad Council in late August in response to a large increase in COVID-19 cases locally and nationwide. Henry advised that the Dos Palos church had completely shut down its services for three weeks due to cases involving members of its congregation, and two other churches in Dos Palos had also been forced to shut down.
- **Safe Gatherings Policy.** Henry highlighted portions of a proposed updated Safe Gatherings Policy to bring our church into compliance with current regulations. Tawny, Shannan and Roxanne have already undergone online training. After a short discussion, the updated policy was approved. Henry will work with the three Christian education leaders on implementation, and the new rules will be publicized on our website.
- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** NOW met by Zoom in August. Discussed were funerals by St. Alban's in August, and for Helen Brubaker on September 13; our turn to host Manna on August 22; visitations by Pastor Henry; and an upcoming debriefing meeting by the VBS team. The Sunday afternoon Methodism and Membership classes have been well attended, with much sharing of ideas and development of fellowship bonds. Henry mentioned that he would like the NOW group to help create a vision for the church to strive for, and he would soon begin working with the Nominations Committee for 2022 leadership and committee positions. The next NOW meeting was to be September 20.
- **Trustees.** There was discussion about adding one more security camera at the northwest corner of the Fellowship Hall, but it was decided to hold off for now. The parsonage fence replacement project is still pending.

- **UMW.** It was uncertain when the next meeting would be, but UMW will be serving a bereavement meal at Helen Brubaker's service on September 13 and had provided a cake for the pew dedication ceremony in honor of Bill Sloan on Sunday, August 29.

- **Financial Report.** The church's income for August was \$11,712.56, but paid expenses were \$11,968.89, including a \$500 tithe payment to the Conference. The checkbook balance continued to decrease, and was down to just over \$3,000 as of August 31. 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 was scheduled to meet on September 8.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for the Russell Milnes, SanDee Rooney, Susan Ramsey, Steve Miyamoto, and Wilma Ditter.
- **Pastor's Report.** Henry has begun planning for a robust stewardship campaign, featuring adoption of detailed and narrative budgets for 2022, and the development of clearer vision and mission goals for our church. These concepts will be worked into a sermon series. Henry wants us to consider ways to better use our facilities for community outreach. Other goals and potential activities for the coming years could include hosting monthly community events, short-term small group study sessions on Sunday afternoons and/or mid-week mornings or evenings, and an active youth fellowship.

Preparations for the upcoming Charge Conference include meeting with the Nominations Committee and completing the various required forms and reports.

- **Other Business.** Our domain name needs to be renewed, and we will acquire a Zoom license for use by all authorized church leaders to set up and host virtual meetings.

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Vine Monthly Events October

Important dates:

October 6th - Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

October 9th - Funeral for Steven Miyamoto (Secretary's husband)
10am. Meal following in Fellowship Hall

October 11th - Office closed for secretary bereavement day.

October 18th - N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

October 22 or 23rd - **Packing the Christmas boxes and sharing food**
Time to be determined.

October 25th - Annual Conference for UMCLB & Dos Palos 1pm-2pm

October 26th - Finance Committee Meeting @ 3:30pm

October 31st - Happy Halloween!

Note: Boy Scouts : The Cub Scout pack is continuing to put the 'out' in scouting. This month we worked on the basis of scouting for our new families. These 5 scouts will receive their first rank of bobcat on September 29th. The pack also went on their first outing in a very long time! We took a nature hike/walk at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. We saw animal tracks, birds, and lots of scat! We are planning another hike in the fall. We are having a recruitment table at the fall street fair and hope to add more scouts to the pack.

Thanks again for your support with our popcorn fund raiser. We have a couple more weeks for the sale. If you'd like to help and buy a bag, please contact Mackenzie Ferreira.

Funeral for Steven Miyamoto will be on Oct.9th at 10am with a meal to follow, all are welcome. Office will be closed the Monday after for me to have some family time. Thank you for your understanding and prayers at this time. Catherine Wolf – Miyamoto UMCLB Secretary

Christmas boxes will be filled on October 22nd or 23rd. These are the 137 boxes that VBS provided items for with their fundraiser buckets. If you can come to the Fireside room and help fill them please let Kerri or Shannan know. We will also be having food! This is a great way to gather as Christians and help support the cause of spreading Christian cheer to others. Time and exact day to be announced soon!!!

Confirmation Classes will begin soon- see Pastor Henry's letter in this issue of 'The Vine'. 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!



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.

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Blessings of the animals with St. Alban's 10:0 AM - 2:00PM
3 9:30 Worship 5:00 PM Manna-Nazarene Church	4	5	6	7	8	9 Miyamoto Funeral 10am meal after in the Hall
10 9:30 Worship 5:00 PM Manna-UMCLB	11 Office Closed Secretary Bereavement day	12 <i>Ad Council Meeting on Zoom 7pm</i>	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship 5:00 PM Manna-Everlasting Church	18 <i>NOW Meeting On Zoom 7pm</i>	19	20	21	22 Packing the Christmas boxes And food Together. Here Or there	23 Packing the Christmas boxes And food Together. Here Or there
24 9:30 Worship 5:00 PM Manna-New Canaan 31 Manna- St. Alban's Halloween	25 Annual Conference for UMCLB & Dos Palos @ 1pm to 2pm here	26	27	28	29 Annual Conference Session in Sacramento	30