



The Vine

January 2022

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

Worship Service **9:30 AM**

Infant and Pre-school Care **9:30 AM**

Sunday School: **9:40 AM**

(Following Children's Moment in Worship Service)

Church Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 8:30 AM–11:30 AM

Pastor: Henry Pablo III

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | Jean Bright | 8 th | Jerry Davis |
| 8 th | Charlene Martin | 13 th | Jennifer Knight |
| 14 th | Jim Garrison | 16 th | SanDee Rooney |
| 19 th | Donna Morris | 20 th | Jeff Brubaker |
| 21 st | Noah Cardenas | 26 th | Melissa Jones |
| 29 th | Gideon Moffitt | 31 st | MacKenzie Ferreira |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

19th Robert & Rhonda Cardenas

26th Gerald & Melinda Wall

December contributions total: \$ 14,073.00
Attendance for December 5th (63) 12th (58) 19th (46) 26th (31)



Los Banos - January 2022 Newsletter

Dear Los Banos UMC family,

I would like to echo the words that I shared on the last Sunday of the year - words from theologian Howard Thurman - that when Christmas day is over,

*“The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.”*

With the glow of Jesus, the Christ's birth among us, I would like to invite all of us into imagining and exploring what the church's hopes and goals are for the new year! In 2022, how are we going to *continue* to serve our community? What new ministries will we create? How are we going to expand and build upon our current ministries?

In the month of January, my hope is to plan for a day or two in which we (leaders and congregants) can gather together to set goals and plan ministry for this upcoming year! This will also continue the conversation of what the *Mission and Vision* is for our church. In regards to possible ministry, one recent discussion that has emerged is of how the church can serve unhoused folks during these rainy and cold months? I recently met with the Fire Chief Mason Hurley and Pastor Raul of the Church of the Nazarene to brainstorm about the possible creation of a warming center in Los Banos for unhoused folks. This is an ongoing discussion, where we are making sure that a robust plan that involves the community is created. I will be sending updates throughout the month on both efforts of a **Planning Day and the possible creation of a Warming Center**.

In entering this new year, I invite us to take a moment to express gratitude to God - feeling the warmth of all His blessings even during all the hardship. It is through God's grace that we were able to get through and persevere through 2021. It is through God's grace that we were able to lean on each other during those difficult moments of grief. It is through God's grace that we were able to experience joy even in the midst of the struggles of life. **And it is through God's grace that we will enter into 2022 to further realize and usher in the Kingdom of God!**

Please let us know how the church can support you as we enter the new year. If you need a visit, a phone-call, or Pastoral Counseling, do not hesitate to let me know and we can schedule a time to meet.

I look forward to how we can respond to God's empowering Grace this year!

Much Peace,
Pastor Henry



***** Administrative Council Highlights – December 7, 2021

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 with eight people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** NOW met by Zoom on November 16. Manna has received some canned goods from the Knights of Columbus. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27, and plans were being made to decorate the sanctuary on November 26.
- **Trustees.** The church got another large water bill, and we have now turned off the lawn sprinklers for the winter. We checked the meters with all water valves turned off, and it appears that there are no leaks. Chris Foxworthy has committed to fix the fence at the parsonage within the next two to four weeks, which will probably entail a full replacement. We will add another security camera over the door to the Fellowship Hall kitchen after it's wired by an electrician. We recently received a mailing from PG&E offering a choice of three Time of Use plans for electric service for the parsonage; it was decided that the Trustees would look into it.
- **UMW.** UMW will hold its annual Christmas party at the Four Seasons' recreation hall on December 8. Their next regular meeting will be a soup lunch on Tuesday, January 11.
- **Financial Report.** The church's income November was \$10,682.64 and paid expenses were \$8,196.06, leaving a checkbook balance of \$2,570.42 on November 30. Roughly \$5,000 in unpaid charges for the Conference pension fund need to be cleared before the end of the year. It is hoped that we will receive enough in special donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas, plus the year's proceeds from the scrip program, to meet our 10% tithe obligation to the Conference. There was talk about fundraisers, and it was decided that the church should apply for the next drawing for a July 4 fireworks booth.

The most recent draft of the proposed detailed budget for 2022 was presented. It will be finalized and presented in January for the Ad Council's approval.

- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** There will be no meeting in December, but job descriptions will be updated after interviewing each employee to establish a list of all that they do for the church.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Sharon Barton-Mueller, Chris Foxworthy and family, Susan Ramsey and Wilma Ditter.
- **Pastor's Report.** Henry gave some background information on the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy case. LBUMC is named as a potential creditor by virtue of sponsoring a troop, and thus has a vote in the proposed settlement. Because of concerns over lack of protections for the Church and its local Scout chapters, the Church's Ad Hoc Committee is recommending all of its congregations to vote no. A District-wide Zoom Charge Conferences will be held on December 13 so that each church can officially vote on how to cast its ballot.

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

We are happy to report that our scrip program netted \$2,500 in 2021, which is being used to help support the worldwide missions of the United Methodist Church. A big thank-you to all who purchased gift cards from us during the year.

If you have any questions about how our program works, or want to purchase any gift cards, please check out the scrip table in the Fireside Room after church on Sundays, or contact Gregg or Juli Rice at (209) 826-1027, or by e-mail at grice@inreach.com. You can also see the entire list of participating retailers by checking out the company's website at www.shopwithscrip.com.

Vine Monthly Events for January

Important dates:

January 1st – New Year's Day! Begin the new year with God's hope.

January 4th – Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

January 9th – Confirmation Classes start back @ 2pm – 4pm

January 11th – **UMW Meeting in Fireside Rm. 10:30am**

January 17th – N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

January 21st – Manna Ministries Meeting 4pm in Hall

Note: Boy Scouts: The cub scouts are looking forward to another busy and joy filled year. They want to thank all who helped make 2021 a good year and they are sure 2022 will bring more promise to all. Mackenzie Ferreira.

Confirmation Classes are starting back on January 9th ! Youth are encouraged to attend. Pastor Henry does the class from 2pm to 3pm on Sundays with 3pm to 4pm as game time and social time for all attending youth.

Just last Sunday they had Oreos and played dice game. Want to know more come and see!

Pledges: Thank you to all who have submitted your pledges for 2022. We have received twenty-two pledges for a total of \$ 79,360 for the year, this is well above last years total! For anyone who has not yet sent theirs in we are still excepting them through this month. Please consider adding your pledge. It really helps us create a budget for church events and workings. Thank you!

February 13th – **Church Fundraiser – Bake Sale** – See Amanda for more details!

Still looking for prayer chain coordinator and Congregational Check In Leader. See bulletin board for description of these volunteer jobs. 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.

Church Directories will be coming out soon! Sorry for delay. COVID put a hold on my ability to be here to finish them for you safely. But they will be ready for you to pick up in Mid-January.



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January 2022



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| | | | | | | 1  |
| 2 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm Manna Ministries | 3 | 4 <i>Ad Council Meeting @ 7pm on Zoom</i> | . | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm Manna Ministries | 10 | 11 <i>UMW meeting @ 10:30am In Fireside rm.</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm Manna Ministries | 17 <i>N.O.W. meeting @ 7pm on Zoom</i> | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm Manna Ministries | 24 | | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |