



# *The Vine*

July 2022

# United Methodist Church

1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635

E-MAIL Address: [umclb@att.net](mailto:umclb@att.net) or [umclosbanos@gmail.com](mailto:umclosbanos@gmail.com)

Phone (209) 826-4181

*Address Service Requested*

## **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: Peter Sung**

**Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

1 <sup>st</sup>	Alex Hew	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jon Betschart
10 <sup>th</sup>	Melinda Wall	10 <sup>th</sup>	Belinda Sabetta
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mason Ferreira	18 <sup>th</sup>	Carley Van Someren
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jaycee Walsh	25 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Bonillas
26 <sup>th</sup>	Ayden Barcellos	27 <sup>th</sup>	Fay Davis
28 <sup>th</sup>	Don Van Someren	29 <sup>th</sup>	Hailey Battle
30 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Hollingsworth	31 <sup>st</sup>	Erik Martin

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

2<sup>nd</sup> Matthew & Olivia Patrick  
17<sup>th</sup> Steve & Jodie Battle  
17<sup>th</sup> Jason & Tawny Walsh  
24<sup>th</sup> Jon & Stacy Betschart

June contributions total: \$ 7,620.00

Attendance for June 5<sup>th</sup> (52) 12<sup>th</sup> (36) 19<sup>th</sup> (32) 26<sup>th</sup> (43)

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Pastor

It is with great appreciation to the Lord and His leading in my life that I now begin my journey here at Los Banos United Methodist Church serving as your pastor. New things are exciting, because newness always asks me to grow, to learn, to develop new understandings. I am looking forward to joyous and fruitful ministry with the new church and the new people.

I am excited to have fellowship together through small group meetings with the new pastor in the coming days. I am sure it will be a great opportunity to get to know each other in Christ our Lord who made us one in Spirit. And I'll be listening for new stories, from new brothers and sisters.

Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

I wish our church is filled with the word of God so that we can teach one another, and sing for joy to God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Peter Suhn

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## A Short Autobiography of Peter Suhn

I was born and grew up in Korea. Receiving Jesus Christ as my Savior when I was 14 is the most important experience of my life. I was baptized and from that time on I grew up involving the Bible study each week in Shinchon Methodist Church in Seoul, Korea.

In my junior high and high school years I came to know the joy and discipline of regular small group Bible study, and I decided to be a missionary overseas in some countries in Southeast Asia. To prepare to be a missionary I earned a Bachelor's degree in Chinese Language from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. After graduating the University, I felt that I needed to study in America, so I attended Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire and earned a Master's degree of education.

In 1992 I went to the Philippines as an independent missionary, helping the young churches in and around Manila. After the ministry in the Philippines, I began to teach English at Jeonju University in Korea as a professor, where I also earned a Ph.D. in English Language and Literature in 2009. Along with teaching college students, I was actively involved in campus ministry as a director of the University Student Fellowship and as a coordinator of the Professor Mission Group. One day my senior pastor, who had known me well for five years, strongly recommended and challenged me to become a full-time minister. I shared the calling to full-time ministry with my wife, who fully supported me in every aspect of my life, especially in a spiritual way. We prayed for an answer from God, and ultimately we said "Yes" to God's calling to be a pastor of the United Methodist Church.

I earned a Master of Divinity degree at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley in 2016. During my study at seminary, I served the San Francisco Korean United Methodist Church as a pastoral assistant for five years. I led the United Methodist Youth Fellowship and the young adult group, and was involved in campus ministry at San Francisco State University.

In July 2018, I was appointed as a local pastor to Crystal Springs United Methodist Church in San Mateo. I experienced many joyful and celebratory moments in the ministry at Crystal Springs UMC, and reconfirmed God's calling to be a minister.

In July 2020, I was appointed to Fresno Korean United Methodist Church in Clovis, where I became a provisional elder in the second year of commissioning. I now look forward to my appointment serving the Los Banos United Methodist Church, beginning in July 2022.

I believe that physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual fitness is essential for a transformational leader to make disciples and equip others for leadership and ministry. I have trained myself trying to fit for these categories throughout my lifetime.

\*\*\*\*\*

## \*\*\*\*\* Administrative Council Highlights – June 7, 2022

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 with five people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** There has been some preliminary discussion about a job description for a paid attendant for the nursery and children's church. The VBS team has been hard at work in preparation for the week of June 20-24.
- **Trustees.** Much cleanup work has been done on the nursery and children's church areas. Two or three things were identified as needing attention at the parsonage before the upcoming change in pastors, most notably the hole in the back yard beneath where Pastor Jim had kept his boat. We have not yet made any progress on the additional security camera to cover the parking lot.
- **UMW.** The May rummage sale was very successful, with almost exactly \$3,000 made. The women hosted bereavement meals for Ellena Avara and George Foxworthy over the past few weeks. There will be no UMW meeting in June, and probably none in July either. Karen Bonillas would like to step down as UMW President in September, so a successor will need to be selected.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Gregg and Susan Ramsey met by Zoom with District Superintendent David Niu to discuss concerns about the expense of again having a-full-time pastor. DS Niu suggested some changes to the budget for medical coverage and accountable reimbursements, to bring the total yearly package to \$6,000 to \$7,000 more than we would have paid for a 75% assignment. SPRC and the Finance Committee are now much less concerned.

- **Financial Report.** The income for May was \$11,487.17, while paid expenses were \$9,939.63. The May 31 checkbook balance was \$5,467.24, and all regular bills and pension plan contributions have been paid in full. However, we have still made no 2022 apportionment / tithe payments yet.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Susan and Bud Ramsey; Guadalupe Martinez; Laura Scott; and Ted and Bonnie Kraynick's son Kyle.
- **Pastor's Report.** Henry mentioned the previous Sunday's confirmation service for five youth, and said one more baptism and a dedication were set for June 19. He presided over a memorial service for George Foxworthy on June 4. He will be in Sacramento for the Annual Conference Session on Sunday, June 12, and Jason Walsh will fill in for him. His last Sunday in Los Banos will be June 26.

Henry has been busy wrapping up various projects, preparing for his move to Dixon, and is putting together an informational packet for incoming pastor Peter Suhn. The Dixon church has no parsonage, but wants him to live in town. But there is no available rental housing, so the church has arranged to rent the outgoing pastor's home for at least several months while she does some extended retirement traveling.

Henry said he has enjoyed his year as the pastor in Los Banos, and thanked the congregation for their hard work and dedication. He said he had learned a lot over the past year, and appreciated that everyone got along with one another, and did their part to work toward the church's success. He hoped that the youth program, which was just getting re-started, would flourish in the future.

## Vine Monthly Events for July

### **Important dates:**

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** – New Pastor: Rev. Peter Sung's  
first Sunday with us.



**July 4<sup>th</sup>** – Be safe this Independence Day!

Office will be closed!

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** – Admin. Meeting on Zoom at 7pm

**July 18<sup>th</sup>** – N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** – Finance Committee Meeting **by Zoom @ 3:30pm**

\*\*\*\*\*\\  
**VBS-** Another successful year! Over 100 campers and over 20 teen crew leaders. Campers raised a little over \$1,000.00 for UMCore relief for Ukrainian people. Way to Go!!! Gideon is doing Christmas child boxes again this year so watch for the boxes in the Fireside room and join in making the season special for boys and girls around the world. Youth spreading the message of Jesus love! (Kerri and Shannan would also like to thank the congregation for all their help in making VBS such a success.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cub Scouts:** Pack 85 has been on a vacation during the month of July. We'll return in July with recruitments and Cub Scout Day camp. We are welcoming any and all boys and girls entering Kindergarten thru 5th grade to join the pack! Please help us spread the word! We are holding a recruiting event in July and welcome all kindergarten thru 5th grade boys and girls to come and check out what we have to offer. Mackenzie Ferreira

## SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

June marked the 17th anniversary of our local scrip program. During that time, we have earned just about \$39,000, most of which has been used to provide a portion of our financial support of the worldwide mission of the United Methodist Church.

If you use **Venmo** or **Zelle** to transfer money or pay bills, we now accept payment for your scrip purchases by using either of these methods, eliminating the need to write a check or come up with cash. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice at the contact numbers shown below, or talk with us at the scrip table after church to get set up.

As a reminder, we keep more than \$4,000 worth of gift cards on hand for immediate purchase on Sunday mornings (or really any time during the week that you can get in touch with us). The cards that we normally stock can be used to buy food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries, plus a number of online vendors. We can also print paper certificates and electronic gift "cards" almost immediately for items that we do not have on hand.

Your participation in our scrip program is a win-win for everyone: you pay us face value for a gift card that allows you or a gift recipient to purchase items without the hassle of carrying around cash or the risk of credit card fraud, and the church makes money because we get a rebate/discount from the card issuer. On top of that, gift cards never expire, and the issuer cannot charge fees that will reduce the value of unused cards.

The full list of the hundreds of participating retailers can be viewed by visiting [www.RaiseRight.com](http://www.RaiseRight.com), or visit the scrip table after church on Sunday mornings. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone at (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at [grice@inreach.com](mailto:grice@inreach.com) to peruse the gift cards that we have on hand, or to order something that we don't currently have. Orders for physical gift cards are generally placed on Sunday afternoons, and are delivered to Los Banos on Tuesday afternoons – and we will gladly deliver them to you!

---

**A quick farewell from the secretary: It has been a pleasure to serve the members of UMCLB. I am so grateful for all your kind words and help over these past several years. I plan to look for a church family in Nevada but I would still love to visit with you any time you travel to the Reno area. I am just a phone call away or an email or zoom. Keep in touch and God Bless you all! Cassie**

## Visitations

**Wilma Ditter** is in Pacifica Senior Living: 3420 R St. Rm. #226

Merced, CA 95348 You just have to sign in and show Vaccination card if you have one when you get there and there are no exact hours so stop by when you are in Merced.

**Jean Bright** is in New Bethany Memory Care: 1441 Berkeley  
Rm# C102

**Eileen Sorenson** – Just turned 102! She is in New Bethany and loves to have visitors.

These ladies love to see your bright faces.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.





[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

**Rev. Peter Suhn and Mrs. Suhn!**  
**We are glad you are here and look**  
**forward to worshiping with you!**

---