



# ***The Vine***

## ***January 2023***

United Methodist Church  
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635  
E-MAIL Address: [umclosbanos@gmail.com](mailto:umclosbanos@gmail.com)  
Phone (209) 826-4181  
*Address Service Requested*

**Worship Service In-person 10:00AM Sundays**  
**Service is also online Website: [www.umclb.net](http://www.umclb.net)**  
**Sunday School following Children's Moment in Worship Service**  
**Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-4:00 or call (434) 258-3922**  
**Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM-12:00 Noon.**  
**Please call the Secretary if you need time in the office.**  
**Messages are checked Monday-Thursday.**  
**Pastor: Rev. Peter Suhn**  
**Church Secretary: Lori Winters**



1 Jean Bright	8 Jerry Davis
8 Charlene Martin	13 Jennifer Knight
19 Donna Morris	20 Jeff Brubaker
21 Noah Cardenas	26 Melissa Jones
29 Gideon Moffitt	31 Mackenzie Ferreira

*Happy Anniversary!*

19 Robert & Rhonda Cardenas
26 Gerald & Melinda Wall

December contributions total: \$ 8,552.12
In-Person Services for December 4 <sup>th</sup> (45) 11 <sup>th</sup> (41) 18 <sup>th</sup> (64) 25 <sup>th</sup> (13)



## Vine Monthly Events for January

**WELCOME  
2023.**

### **Important dates:**

**Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Administrative Council 7:00 p.m.

Zoom

**Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** -SPRC Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** - N.O.W. Meeting 7p.m. by Zoom

**Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>** –Finance Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom

**Monday's January**- Bell practice in the fireside room at 6:15 come join in.

**Friday's in January**- at 5:00 p.m. Bible study in the Fireside room

**Sunday's in January**- at 9:00 a.m. Bible study in the Fireside room

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### **We will be resuming Children's Church on January 8th**

#### **SCRIP PROGRAM**

The Scrip Program marked its 15th year of operation in 2022, and it also hit a milestone: the church's net proceeds since 2007 have now surpassed \$40,000, including over \$2,800 this past year. There is much potential for growth, as fewer than half of our church family regularly participate in the program. Please stop by and check out our supply of on-hand gift cards each Sunday after church. We can also order scrip for any of about 500 stores, restaurants, gas stations and on-line merchants that we don't stock for immediate purchase. Orders are usually placed every Sunday afternoon, and the cards are normally delivered to Los Banos on the following Tuesday. There are dozens of retailers who also have e-scrip available, where we can purchase a gift certificate almost instantly, and either print it or email it to the recipient. For your convenience, we happily take payments by cash, check, Venmo and Zelle.

If you have questions about how the program works, or would like to buy or order anything, you can reach Gregg or Juli Rice by telephone at (209) 826-1027, by text at (209) 761-2737, or by email at [grice@inreach.com](mailto:grice@inreach.com).





## From the pastor

I hope you are doing well as we begin 2023! My prayer as we begin this new year is that we will keep our focus on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is worthy of all of our praise and worship.

We have just celebrated His birthday, but let us celebrate His life, death and resurrection all year long. He came to us and died on the cross so that we could have the gift of eternal life, if we repent of our sins and ask Him to come into our heart as our personal Lord and Savior.

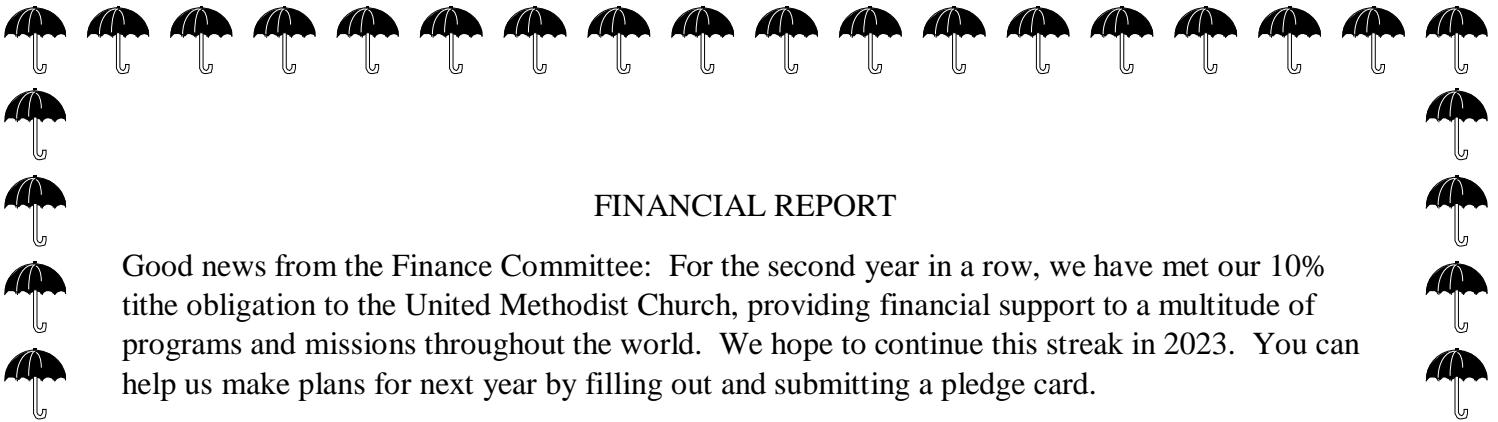
As we seek to keep our focus on Jesus Christ, let us realize that Satan will do his best to get us side tracked. But, if we seek the will of God to be done in our lives and in His church, we can remain faithful to Him in all we say and in all we do. As First Corinthians 10:31 says, "So whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." As we serve the Lord at home, church, school, or wherever we find ourselves, let us do everything we do for His glory. God loves you and He demonstrated that love to you in sending His Son to die on the cross, rise from the grave and go into Heaven to prepare a place for each one who receives Him as their personal Lord and Savior and loves Him. Let us demonstrate our love to God by being obedient to Him as we live in 2023.

God promised that He would never place on us more than we can bear if we will keep our eyes upon Him. So, let us keep our eyes, our focus on Him and strive to live in the center of His will. I hope each one of you will commit to be in worship and in service to our Lord with all you are and all you have. Pray that God's will be done. Always remember that if you need to talk with someone, as God's under shepherd, I will strive to be here for you. God loves you and so do I.

As the loving congregation of God, let's keep the first thing first, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Peter Suhn



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Good news from the Finance Committee: For the second year in a row, we have met our 10% tithe obligation to the United Methodist Church, providing financial support to a multitude of programs and missions throughout the world. We hope to continue this streak in 2023. You can help us make plans for next year by filling out and submitting a pledge card.

## HANDBELL CHOIR

If you have been to church recently, or have watched our Sunday morning worship services online, you have likely seen our handbell choir perform beautiful special music using a newly-purchased three-octave set of handbells. This was all made possible by an extremely generous donation by Wilma Ditter, an active and devoted member of our church for the past 30 years. Wilma now resides in Merced, but she is still doing great things in support of our church. We are indeed fortunate to have her as a member of our church family.

### Highlights of Charge Conference, December 3, 2022

Our annual Charge Conference was held by Zoom on Saturday morning, December 3, 2022, with 16 people present. District Superintendent David Niu presided over the meeting, beginning with a reading from Matthew 28 and talking about the call to “Make Disciples for Jesus Christ.”

The first item of business was the Membership Report, which indicated that our total membership remains at 97. Two new members were added during the past year, and fond memories were shared about George Foxworthy and Ellena Avara, who were removed by death in 2022.

Pastor Peter Suhn’s 2023 compensation package was approved as proposed by the SPRC. The salary and benefits will be the same as the prior year, but with a cost of living increase of 8.3%. Finally, with a few modifications, the Nominations Committee’s recommendations for church leadership positions for the coming year were approved.

After David Niu opened the discussion for questions, Mackenzie Ferreira gave information about the new Affiliation Agreement between the United Methodist Church and the Boy Scouts. Our church will no longer be sponsors of the Scouts, but they will still be able to use our facilities, requiring some forms to be signed in the near future by church leaders.

As there were no other questions, David Niu thanked everyone for coming and closed the Charge Conference with a blessing.

