



# *The Vine* *August 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

**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-Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm**  
**or call (510) 552-7240**  
**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. Ivoni Maama**  
**Church Secretary: Lori Winters**  
<https://www.facebook.com/LosBanosUnitedMethodistChurch>



3	Gregg Rice	20	Kindle Wallace
3	Bonnie Kraynick	21	Wilma Ditter
8	Audrey Hepworth	21	Ethan Knight
8	Addison Toscano	26	Ross Betschart
8	Rex Betschart		

## *Happy Anniversary!*

2	Ron & Lorrie Dybas
16	Carl & Jolanda Phillips
16	Dan & Lynn Martin

July contributions total: \$ 10,949.40  
In-Person Services for July 2<sup>th</sup> (64) 9<sup>th</sup> (36) 16<sup>th</sup> (29) 23<sup>rd</sup> (46) 30<sup>th</sup> (35 )



## Vine Monthly Events for August

### **Important dates:**

**Wednesday August 2nd<sup>h</sup>**- 10:00 AM there will be a Prayer/upper room conference call, everyone is welcome to join and share any concerns. (Every Wednesday after) the number is **(720) 843-2603 Access Code: 8941334**

**Tuesday, August 1-** Ad Council meeting by Zoom at 7:00 pm

**Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Youth group starts at 6:00 pm

**Monday August 21<sup>st</sup>** – NOW meeting by Zoom at 7:00pm

**Tuesday August 29<sup>th</sup>** - Finance Committee meeting by Zoom 6:00pm

Bell practice will resume on August 2nd

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No children's church on August 6<sup>th</sup>

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United Women in Faith will be resuming their meetings on September 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am, it will be a luncheon, please bring a salad.

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We will be having a youth group meeting every Thursday at 6:00 pm  
Please join us for some fun.

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When you are back to school shopping, please keep in mind Operation Christmas Child Boxes. There will be more information and a display set up soon in the Fireside room.

## **Administrative Council Highlights – July 5, 2023**

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Welcome to Pastor Ivoni.** Each of the Ad Council members introduced themselves, briefly describing their roles in the church. Pastor Ivoni shared some of her background, having been born in Tonga as the 14th of 18 children. She said she has been very pleased by the kind and loving welcome that she has received during her first week in Los Banos.
- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee did not meet in June, largely due to VBS from June 19-23. The Roberta Howard family just made their final \$5,000 annual donation to VBS, and we need to determine the most appropriate way to express appreciation for their many years of financial support of VBS.
- **Trustees.** Lori is working with Hoffman to update our list of assigned alarm codes; we should also consider re-keying all church door locks. There are issues with restrooms at the church, and Joe Lopez may take a look at them. The heat sink, not the fan, is the problem with the laptop computer used for the Sunday services, and that should be taken care of this week. Noah Cardenas has agreed to run the slide shows while Kimery is recovering from her upcoming surgery.
- **United Women in Faith.** There will be no meetings until September, but they will hold a luncheon at Espana's on July 22 for the group members to meet Ivoni.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** There was a big turnout for Pastor Ivoni's first worship service on July 2, including a

large number of her family members. It was very hot, and the air conditioner didn't work; but it should be repaired before next Sunday. There are a few fairly small items needing attention in the parsonage, and Ivoni is looking for a gardener to care for the yard. Four small group gatherings have been organized for members of the congregation and Pastor Ivoni to get to know each other.

- **Financial Report.** Thanks largely to one exceptional contribution, the General Fund income for June was \$17,096.03. Total paid expenses for the month were \$11,709.44, leaving a balance of \$7,662.33 in the General Fund checking account on June 30. There were \$4,622.62 of unpaid bills at the end of the month.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Dan and Karen Bonillas, Jean Bright, Wilma, Guadalupe, Kimery, and for Bonnie's elderly aunt Evelyn in San Jose.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni advised that she will hold office hours at the church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Susan is helping her to arrange visitations for shut-ins and others in need. Ivoni will review the Sunday morning attendance lists, and plans to touch base with those who have not recently been coming to church. She would like to have a loaf of bread to break and a cup of juice to hold up in monthly communion services. She was highly impressed by the activity going on during her brief visit to the church in VBS week. Ivoni would like to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries, probably on the last Sunday each month.

Dear Los Banos, United Methodist Family:

Praise be to God for another day in life. Praise His Holy name and his name deserves to be praised. We sure do serve an awesome God. It is an honor and my privilege to write on The Vine Newsletter for my very first time. As I have been appointed to serve as your pastor effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. In few days, it will be a month being a pastor here serving God's people. I am hoping that you are as excited as I am excited and happy to be here.

I wanted to thank the Lay Leader Bud Ramsey, The Chair of Admin Board/Finance Committee, Gregg Rice, and his committee. The Chair of SPRC, Susan Ramsey and her Committee. The Secretary, Lori Winters and to all of you for this get together program that has arranged. I felt so blessed and thank God for all of you. Thank you to the Families that hosted this program. Robert & Rhonda Cardenas, Julie & Gregg Rice, Susan and Hans Younce and Laura Scott and the UMC Women of Faith Group. I also wanted to thank all the families and all of you that attended those get-togethers. All together there were about 49 people that I met through this "Getting to know the new Pastor program." I understand that there were some people who just got back from vacation. We praise God for their returning home safe.

This year was the 175<sup>th</sup> California/Nevada United Methodist Church Annual Conference. The New Conference Vision Statement is **"FOLLOW JESUS, THRIVING IN COMMUNITY AND HEALING THE WORLD."**

The theme was **"WITNESSES OF A NEW THING"** reflection from the Book of Isaiah **43:19. Behold, I will do a new thing now it shall spring forth: do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

We were blessed with some great speakers and very powerful messages. Bishop Dyck's focused on moving forward, "Let's be United Methodists." We can't just stop and wait for something to happen. We always must keep going, listening to God in the context of today. We are to follow Jesus, thriving in community and healing the world. This statement is for us all we are the Cal/Nevada Conference we are the Los Banos UMC. Let's move forward and allow God to lead us.

Conference Lay Leader Micheal Pope focus on "Social justice action is God's work," We are in a hurting world. We are to change and create pathways and bridges, be willing to embrace something we don't know what it is. We are all witnessing a new thing. Let's get out there, the world is waiting for you and me. God will make a way when there is no way.

As we are journeying together in this month of July and looking forward to the months to come. I invite you all to Let us follow Jesus, thriving in the community and healing the world. Let us witness the new things in our lives. Let's lift our church and our family in prayers. Please remember at noon to take a moment and pray for the pastor and the church. Every Wednesday at 10am, please join us in a Conference Prayer Call for a 5 to 10 minutes devotion. Call In number is 720 843 2603 code 894 1334. If you have a hard time calling in, please text me on 510 552 7240. Please note that we have our Youth Group Program begin this week, Thursday July 27, 2023, at 6pm. We adjust the time and date as we go to work around the kids and their parents schedule during the school vacation.

Let us pray – God, we thank you for your love, your faithfulness, your grace, and your mercy. You are the Alpha and the Omega. You were there before us and will be there after us. We pray that you give us wisdom. Help us to build your kingdom here on earth. We can't do it without you God. We pray these things in Jesus Name – Amen -