



# *The Vine*

## *November 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	Morgan Ferreira	10	John M Wallace
9	Beth Miyamoto	15	Roxanne Hew
		25	Debbie Tucker

October contributions total: \$ 14,392.50
In-Person Services for October 1 <sup>st</sup> (51) 8 <sup>th</sup> (60) 15 <sup>th</sup> (43) 22 <sup>nd</sup> (33) 29 <sup>th</sup> (46)

# Vine Monthly Events for November/December



## **Important dates:**

**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** - Finance Committee 6 PM Zoom

**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** - 10:00 AM (every Wednesday) there will be a Prayer/upper room conference call, everyone is welcome to join and share any concerns. the number is **(720) 843-2603 Access Code: 8941334**

**Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** - Youth Group at 11:30 AM

**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** - Ad Council meeting by Zoom 7:00 PM.

**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** - United Women in Faith 10:00 AM, there will be a speaker from the Salvation Army

**Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>** - SPRS Meeting 7 PM in the Fireside Room

**Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>** - Service for Wilma Ditter 1:00 PM

**Saturday, November 18th** - Clean-up Day at the Church Please sign up. We will be doing small repairs and much needed cleaning.

**Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** - NOW Meeting 7 PM Zoom

**Wednesday, November 22nd** - Charge Conference in Fireside Room, with District Superintendent David Niu presiding 10:30 AM. Open to everyone, please join us.

**Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>** - We will be decorating the Church for Christmas. We will also be having a fundraising lunch, Soup and Salad, in the Fireside Room. Lunch is \$5.00 Hope you all can join us.

**Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** - Finance Committee 6 PM Zoom

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - the children will each put one ornament on the Christmas tree that they made in Sunday school. This will be during the Sunday morning service.

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** - 1:00 to 4:00 Pastor Iponi is holding a Christmas Party Open House at the parsonage. Everyone is invited. You can just stop in or come and stay the whole time. If you would like to help please bring a finger food to share.

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** - The children will be going a special Christmas program, during the Sunday morning service.

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** - The United women of Faith Christmas Gather. Potluck dinner open to all women, 6:00 PM in the Fireside Room. Bring your favorite dish and a small gift (under \$20.00) for a gift exchange.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** - the youth will be doing a special Christmas Program during the Sunday morning service.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** - The Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM

United Women in Faith will be meeting November 7th , at 10:00 am, there will be a speaker from the Salvation Army

We will be having a youth group meeting every Sunday at 11:30 am  
Please join us for some fun.

Don't forget 10:00 AM (Every Wednesday) there will be a Prayer/upper room conference call, everyone is welcome to join and share any concerns. the number is **(720) 843-2603 Access Code: 8941334**

Bell practice is every Wednesday at 4:30

We are having a \$5 fundraising lunch on November 26th following the church service. The goal of this fundraising lunch is to have funds to support the needs of the church including things such as youth group events, Sunday school programs, church repairs, or other unexpected costs. Our hope is that we can get families to volunteer once a month to provide a **simple lunch** and contribute to our fundraising efforts. This month the Hew and Wallace families will provide Minestrone soup (vegetarian and gluten free), salad, and bread. We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering for future fundraising lunches. You can partner with other families to share in the work. Please feel free to contact Roxanne Hew or Pastor Ivoni with any questions.

The annual UMC rummage sale was held the first weekend of October. The sale was a huge success. The total proceeds were \$5006.73. The proceeds will be used to support the church and various community activities. I would like to thank everyone for their donations, time and support. Pastor Ivonni , myself and the women of the church are grateful for a successful sale.

Carol Walton

sign-ups for purchasing Poinsettias to help decorate our church will be out soon

Good evening families,

I wanted to update you all regarding our Children's Christmas Program this year. After reviewing the voting by the children, we will be doing a combination of recorded acting and live singing. The vote was split 50/50. I think the children will really enjoy this year's program. I know that some of the older kids are feeling like they are too old for Children's church but I want to welcome them to participate and at minimum consider singing carols with us live on the day of our program which is Sunday December 10th. I will be sending out a copy of the script soon along with a list of carols we will be singing in between the recorded scenes. The children will be acting out Christmas Eve scenes where older children are teaching younger children the true meaning of Christmas.

\*\*If possible, please have the kids bring an oversized pajama shirt or a robe that they can put on over their church clothes for the acting portions that we will be recording. If these can be kept in the Sunday school room while we work on our program it would be greatly appreciated.

Important Notes/Dates:

November 5th- Communion Sunday - Maritza will be teaching Sunday School, please send the children after Children's Moment

Nov. 12, 19, 26, and Dec. 3 - Christmas Program Practice/Recordings, we will also be making ornaments and artwork to help decorate the Fireside room

Dec. 3rd - The children have been invited to place ornaments on the tree in the Sanctuary during a hymn, more details to follow. We will still be working on our Christmas program on this date as well, please send the children to children's church.  
Dec. 10th - Children's Christmas Program will take place.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to text, call, or email me. My phone number is 559-706-4683. If there are dates when your children cannot attend please let me know so I can plan accordingly for the recorded scenes.

Sincerely,  
Roxanne

## Administrative Council Highlights – October 3, 2023

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 with ten people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met on September 18, discussing many items. There is concern about how messy our facilities are being left by the Homeschool Co-op. We have secured funds for a Christian Education aide on Sunday mornings. On September 23, the youth group is to go bowling. A doorbell and peephole have been installed on the Pastor's Study door. Ivoni will lead a women's recognition day on September 24. Roxanne has asked for the playground to be cleaned up. The scouts now meet on Sunday afternoons; they are making a rock garden at the church.
- **Trustees.** Weeds have recently been knocked down in the playground, but more will be done if needed. The Trustees toured the church grounds in September to note items that need work. A list is being made for a work day on November 18. Russ will now be mowing the whole yard each week. We are seeking bids to paint the fascia boards around the sanctuary. We will notify the City about a sidewalk tripping hazard along Iowa Avenue.
- **United Women in Faith.** On October 12, Jennifer Barcellos will report on her work with the Jardin de Amor school in Guatemala. November's meeting will be on a Tuesday, rather than its usual Thursday. About 50 attended the luau-themed potluck on September 16, enjoying lots of great food, a talent show, and fund-raising Tongan dances.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Lori has started preparing forms for the Charge Conference on November 22. Our staff members are doing well. Ivoni has been calling and visiting many church members, and was presently on her way to Sacramento for a class for new pastors. She will go to a family wedding in Oregon on October 14, and then fly to Chicago for a conference of women pastors. John Wallace will fill in for her on October 15. District Superintendent David Niu attended our worship service on September 24, and was highly impressed with the women's recognition observance.
- **Financial Report.** General Fund income for September was \$9,395.03, with paid expenses of \$11,141.62, leaving a balance of just over \$800 in the checking account, with \$5,581.98 of unpaid bills due. We collected and sent UMCOR \$761.00 for Maui wildfire relief and \$100.00 for Florida hurricane relief. Quarterly statements are to be distributed soon and plans are underway for a fall stewardship campaign.
- **Grant Application for Youth Director.** Susan described a grant application to pay for a part-time youth director, initially for 10 hours a week. We are seeking \$11,000 from the California-Nevada Annual Conference. The grant can be renewed for up to four years. By unanimous vote, the Ad Council approved the grant application and authorized it to be submitted once finalized and signed. Susan noted that the Conference also has grant money available to replace our sound system.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for the many members of Ted and Bonnie's family who are traveling here for their upcoming 40th anniversary. Also mentioned were Lupe, Kimery, Dan and Karen Bonillas, and Wilma.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni said she is praying for all of our church's committee openings to be filled, and asked that everyone pray for our church and for an answer to our financial difficulties. She said she was hopeful that our grant application will succeed, as well as a potential future grant for our sound system. She wants to know of anyone needing prayer, or a pastoral visit or phone call. She added that she is planning a membership class for late October, which will be open to anyone who wants to join or learn more about the United Methodist Church. She was very impressed with the size and quality of the rummage sale, saying that it looked better to her than any that she had seen in the Bay area. She suggested that the church consider setting up a thrift or second hand store. She is planning a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Saturday, December 9.

Dear Los Banos United Methodist Church Family:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" - Philippians 4:4

Rejoice, is "to give you" or "to feel joy or great delight," while to rejoice in means to "have or possess." So, the Scripture conveys that to rejoice in the Lord is to have joy or delight in the Lord; to feel joy when you think of Him always and love the Lord with all your heart mind and soul. The greatest commandment, and love your neighbor as yourself. Rejoice.

We are approaching the new month of November. We praise the Lord with all we have for the opportunity of life. This month is celebrate Thanksgivings holiday in this country. Giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for all the blessing that we have. The blessings of this church meaning all of you. You are the church not the building but you and I are the church. That we come together to fellowship and worship together in His love and Mercy.

I want to thank you all for you love, prayers and support of our church. thank you for your generous gifts to our church. Please know that your gift will go a long way in helping to support our church. You play such an important role as a partner in the Kingdom of God. Without partnership from donors like you, we would not be able to meet together, worship, and share Jesus with the community. Rent, staff salaries, utilities and repairs are just a few of the basic expenses required to keep our church alive. Thank you and may God richly bless you for all that you do. May we continue to keep up the good work in walking hands in hands to build our church and God's ministry in this community.

Wishing you all a wonderful month of November and do remember to rejoice in the Lord always and be a blessings.

Love & Peace

Pastor 'Ivoni