



# *The Vine*

## *September 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>



1 Hans Younce	13 Alejandro Patrick
4 Sierra Alvarez	16 Sarahjean Santos
4 Jason Walsh	18 Tony Michel
7 Penelope Wallace	20 Juan Carlos Patrick
9 Riley Knight	27 Austin Toscano
9 Lori Winters	

### *Happy Anniversary!*

6	Jim & Melissa Jones
18	Kevin & MacKenzie Ferreira
23	Steve Rebelo & Amanda Basque

August contributions total: \$ 9,997.12  
In-Person Services for August 6<sup>th</sup> (41) 13<sup>th</sup> (56) 20<sup>th</sup> (53) 27<sup>th</sup> (52)



## Vine Monthly Events for September

### **Important dates:**

**Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** - Ad Council meeting by Zoom at 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** - 7:00 p.m. Nominations Committee meeting by Zoom

**Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**-Trustees meeting in person in the Fireside Room at 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** - SPRC meeting by Zoom 7:00 pm

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** - 10:00 a.m. United Women in Faith meeting and lunch in the Fireside Room

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** - 1:00 p.m. – Luau-themed potluck lunch and talent show

**Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** - NOW meeting by Zoom at 7:00pm

**Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** - Finance Committee meeting by Zoom 6:00pm

**Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> -through Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** – Rummage Sale

**Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** - 10:00 a.m.,SPRC meeting with District Superintendent in person in the Fireside Room

**Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>** -10:30 a.m., Charge Conference in person in the Fireside Room

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No children's church on September 3<sup>rd</sup>



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.



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 has resumed if you are interested in joining, they are  
Wednesdays at 4:30



**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Semi Annual  
Methodist**

1031 Iowa Ave  
On the corner of  
Iowa and "J"



If you need large items picked up call Carol (817)-829-2140 or you can  
drop items off at the church, office hours are  
Monday-Thursday 8:30 to 12:00 P.M.

## **Administrative Council Highlights – August 1, 2023**

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met on July 17 and discussed the following items: The air conditioning in the sanctuary has been fixed; a total of \$1,436.00 was donated by the VBS attendees, with this year's recipient charity being Gideons International for their Bible ministry. Pastor Ivoni has started a weekly prayer conference call on Wednesday mornings, where participants hear a devotional and share their prayer concerns and joys; seven were on the first call. She has also asked all of us to take a few minutes at noon each day to pray for our church. Bud mentioned that Gideon has lately been running the PowerPoint during on Sunday mornings. Because Kimery will be unable to put together the presentations while she recovers from surgery, Robert Cardenas has agreed to coordinate that work. The next NOW meeting is set for August 21, by Zoom.
- **Trustees.** Russ is cutting back some branches at the church property. We are still waiting for the electrician to install service so we can relocate the security camera at the Fireside Room kitchen, and also waiting for Ronny's to complete the annual certification of our backflow preventer. Because Ivoni has set regular office hours at the church, we will look into installing a doorbell at the Pastor's study, and possibly a peephole.
- **United Women in Faith.** The Women in Faith will resume meeting in September.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Things are going well with our staff

members, and the next SPRC meeting was planned for Wednesday, August 9, by Zoom. Susan was to meet with Ivoni the next day.

- **Financial Report.** The General Fund income for July was \$12,261.97, but total paid expenses were \$15,082.68, leaving a checking account balance of \$4,453.50 on July 31. There were \$3,038.46 of unpaid bills at the end of the month. Vanco has just raised their monthly fee for online giving by \$10.00, to \$39.99.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Kimery, Dan and Karen Bonillas, Wilma, Jean Bright, Eileen Sorensen, and Jean Willis.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni was happy to note that she had now completed her first month here, and she expressed her appreciation for the support and help she has received. She has started meeting weekly with the revived youth group on Thursdays, but expected that schedule to change when school resumes. She has plans to offer a special blessing one Sunday each month to all those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries during the month. She mentioned that she is open to suggestions from any members of the congregation, and she encouraged everyone to join with her on her weekly prayer conference calls on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

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### **MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF**

From now until September 10, we are accepting donations to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in aiding people affected by the wildfires in Maui. As of this writing, we have received \$596. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to our church, with UMCOR or Maui on the memo line, and bring it to church on Sunday, or mail it to the office.

Dear Los Banos, United Methodist Family:

Greetings! In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we are on our last day of August and getting ready to roll in to the new month of September. We praise God for each and every day of our lives. I am writing this article from Stanford Hospital accompanying Kimery for her surgery this morning at 4:45am. I am with her sister, Kathe Hamilton and my cousin 'Anau Pulu. Please pray for Kimery during her recovery.

I wanted to thank all of you for your prayers and supports. That we journey together in God's love in these two months. I felt your love and support and I thank God for all of you.

#### PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

Youth Group - Our youth group begins in July 27th, 2023 and still continuing once a week. We meet after the service on Sunday. Please pray for our Youth Group, we are hoping to have a Director soon. We also applying for some Funds from the Conference to help our Youth program.

Conference Prayer Call - Every Wednesday 10am. Begin in August 2nd, 2023. Based on our Daily Devotion "Upper Room Devotion" Please join us when you can it's only take a few minutes. Telephone number is 720 843 2603 Code 894 1334.

Homeless Ministry - Last Thursday, Amanda and I went with 30 lunch bags and feed the homeless people around town. I am looking into doing it once or twice a month. Please pray for this Ministry. I understand that we can't do it here at church for some issues that happen before. Since they can't come to our church. We may have to take the church to them in some way. God will make a way when there is no way. Let's keep praying.

Silent Prayer - Please pray for your pastor and the church at 12noon every day.

My prayers are with you all always. May God richly bless you all and all that you do. As we are looking forward for a better month. God bless.

Blessings

'Ivoni Maama

## MEMORIAL FUND

In August, we lost two longtime valued members of our church family: Jean Bright and Stella Green. In their own way, each of these remarkable women played a part in making the Los Banos United Methodist Church the special place that it is.

You may not be aware that we maintain a Memorial Fund bank account where money is kept separate from the General Fund, which is used for our everyday operations. If you are so inclined, we encourage you to honor Jean and Stella's legacy, and help the church by making donations to the Memorial Fund in their names. Money that is received from these special donations is made available for use by the Board of Trustees for special projects or unplanned large expenses involving our buildings and grounds. Please note on your check the name(s) of the honoree(s) so that we can track the donations appropriately.

## Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of year again! We will be filling Operation Christmas child boxes. There is a table in the fireside room with pamphlets and a donation box. If you would like to help make a child's Christmas brighter, there are three ways you can help. You can find this information below and a few ideas of donation items on the back of this form.

Please have donations (items and/or financial) to the church by October 29th. Please keep this process in prayer, the people who are donating and the children who are receiving these boxes.

### Ways to help

- Take a Christmas shoe box from the fireside room and fill it, then return it to the church.
- Donate items that can be used to help fill a box and we will fill boxes for you
- Donate financially to help buy items to fill boxes (script cards or cash/check)
- You can add a note/card/letter to the boxes to let the child know you are thinking and praying for them

There is also a \$10 shipping fee which you can donate if you would like, otherwise just fill a box and there will be donations from others for the shipping.