



The Vine

July 2024

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

Worship Service In-person 10:00AM Sundays
Service is also online Website: 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 Alex Hew	23 Jaycee Walsh
5 David Simmons	25 Karen Bonillas
7 Jon Betschart	26 Ayden Barcellos
10 Melinda Wall	27 Fay Davis
11 Mason Ferreira	27 Kellen Brehm Saucedo
15 Dave Simmons	28 Don Van Someren
18 Carley Van Someren	29 Hailey Battle
20 Enrique Mowad	30 Katie Younce Hollingsworth
20 Eduardo Mowad	31 Erik Martin



17	Steve & Jodi Battle
17	Jason & Tawny Walsh
24	Jonathan & Stacy Betschart

June contributions total: \$ 8,569.12

In-Person Services for June 2nd (49) 9th (-) 16th (34) 23rd (43) 30th ()



Vine Monthly Events for July

Important dates:

Tuesday, July 2nd . Ad Council meeting Zoom 7:00pm

Wednesday, July 3rd - 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**

Tuesday July 9th – Trustee Meeting 6PM

Wednesday July 10th - SPRC Meeting 7PM Zoom **Canceled**

Monday July 15th – NOW meeting 7 PM Zoom

Tuesday, July 16th - Craft night 6 PM, this month we will be making mugs to welcome new people who attend our church.

Saturday July 27th – Church Picnic at the Cardenas house. More info to come.

Sunday July 28th - Lunch after Church in the fireside Room

Tuesday, July 30th - Finance Committee 6 PM Zoom **Canceled**

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Please consider volunteering for future fundraising lunches, they make a difference. You can partner with other families to share in the work. We need help to make this work. Please feel free to contact Roxanne Hew or Pastor Ivoi with any questions.

SCUBA VBS was another fun filled year! Over 100 youth in our community learned about and shared God's friendship. The offering totaled just over \$1200 and will go to World Vision to provide clean water for the people of Honduras. These amazing youth will provide 210 people with clean water for over a year!

Thank you to Morning Star for their financial support; and thank you to our church family and staff for all your prayers, time, and support.

Kerri and Shannan

SAVE THE DATE

All Church Picnic and swim party! Saturday - July 27, 2024 6:00PM
At Robert & Rhonda's House
535 Page Ave Los Banos Ca
Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided.
Please bring a side dish or dessert.
Please RSVP so we know how many to plan for

If you need visitation for yourself or someone else please contact
Karen Bonillas, Melissa Jones, Susan Younce or Ivoli Maama.

Save the date: The United Women of Faith Rumage sale will be
September 6th and 7th this year. If you can help in any way please
contact Melissa at 209-678-5205

Save the date: August 24th Luau at the church

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE ON BREAK STARTING JULY 7TH 2024 AND
WILL BE BACK ON AUGUST 11TH, 2024. Please know we are looking for
a Sunday School Superintendent and volunteers. If we can have
people to sign up for 1 Sunday a month or every other month that
would help a lot.

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER AT THE NURSERY.

Bible Reading Group starting August 12th, 2024 - Reading the New
Testament - and
Story of Ruth, Esther in the Old Testament. contact Pastor Ivoli for
details.

• Centering Prayer resume back August 14th, 2024 - contact Pastor
Ivoli for details.

Bible Study Group - Summer - August
More information to come

A few months ago, Morgan Ferreira set up a book swap as part of his
reading merit badge for scouts. In the fireside room there are 3
different boxes of books, one for children, young adults, and adults.
It's an easy way to find something to read each week when you
come. You can simply borrow a book to enjoy and return it when
you're done or bring a book to put in the box and swap it for a book
in the box. It can be any kind of book. Enjoy reading something good
during these hot summer months.

Report about 176th Session of the California-Nevada United Methodist Church Annual Conference Session

The 176th Annual Conference Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference was held in the Convention Center in Sacramento. Representing our church at the four-day gathering were Pastor Ivoni Maama and Lay Delegates Susan Ramsey and Gregg Rice.

Friday, June 7, 2024

- Bishop Minerva Carcaño opened the proceedings on Friday morning by exclaiming “What a joy it is to see you, my friends!” before she officially announced the beginning of the 176th Annual Session of the California-Nevada United Methodist Church Conference.
- The theme of the 2024 gathering was Following Jesus, Matthew 16:13-17. This theme was taken from the California-Nevada Annual Conference vision statement, “Following Jesus, Thriving in Community, Healing the World,” which was adopted at the 2023 Annual Conference session.
- Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, resident Bishop of the Ohio West Area, served as guest preacher for opening worship. During opening worship, an offering was collected to create a scholarship fund for students from the West Angola Annual Conference to attend Africa University.
- There were over 750 clergy and elected lay delegates gathered at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center at 1301 L Street, Sacramento on Friday morning, June 7, 2024. The guest preacher was Bishop Gregory Palmer, the longest serving active bishop, who shared about what it means to follow Jesus. He wondered if delegates were prepared to follow Jesus. In conclusion, Bishop Palmer encouraged the members to not *“worry about saving the church - instead focus on saving the world.” Let's love one another as Jesus loved us.* At the conclusion of the opening worship, an offering was collected to create a scholarship fund for students from the West Angola Annual Conference to attend Africa University.
- Bishop Minerva Carcaño recognized long serving clergy and laity. Ecumenical leaders in the American Methodist Episcopal church - Rev. Dr. Vernon Burroughs, serving Fairfield Community UMC and Rev. Dr. Carietta Cain-Grizell, serving Fair Oaks UMC, also brought greetings from the World Council of Churches and the Pan Methodist Commission.
- Other pastors brought greetings from national UMC agencies, including Rev. Greg Bergquist, retiring from General Secretary of the GBHEM; Rev. Motoe Yamada Foor, Director of Adult Discipleship; Rev. Benner Agtarap, Executive Director of

Community Engagement and Church planting; GCORR General Secretary Giovanni Arroyo; and PSR President David Vasquez-Levy.

- Conference Lay Leader and lead delegate, Micheal Pope gave a report on matters undertaken by The Western Jurisdiction.
- Delegate Emily Allen reported on her role as chair of the General Conference Agenda and Calendar Committee stated that the General Conference included approval of legislation on (1) Regionalization, (2) Revision of the Social Principles, and (3) Removal of exclusionary language.
- Other actions included a decreased general church apportionment percentage; new clergy retirement plan; allowing Deacons to offer sacraments in their ministry setting; official apology to victims/survivors of sexual misconduct in the church; apology for illegal overthrow of Hawaiian kingdom.
- There are 32 active bishops for the next quadrennium.
- Micheal Pope described the conference Missional Strategies include leading where God calls, making disciples in new places, overcoming poverty, seeking health for all, eliminating racism.
- The United Methodist Men have a new website with higher engagement and classes. United Women in Faith upcoming events are listed on their website.
- The afternoon laity session consisted mainly of a presentation about “Respite for All,” a highly acclaimed volunteer program that primarily serves individuals and their families who are dealing with Alzheimer’s Disease.
- Of special note was that for the first time, a YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE was held from 7:30p.m.- 9:00p.m. It was led by the lay ministers from Pittsburg UMC and New Vision UMC.

Saturday, June 8, 2024

- The General Conference and Jurisdictional delegations were introduced: Michael Hsu, Rev. Elizabeth Brick and Dr. Randal Miller. He stated that the 2020, held in 2024 General Conference has led the church to welcome LGBTQ+ folks into our midst. He also noted that the Social Principles are not considered church law but serve as “Prophetic statements.”
- The 2024 Called to Wholeness participants were called to be recognized by the Conference.
- The Board of Ordained Ministry gave a full report on the following:
 1. First time licensed pastors (4 candidates);
 2. Transfers from Other Annual Conference (2 clergy);

- 3. Commissioning toward elder's Orders (3 candidates);
- 4. One pastor being recognized as an Associate member; and
- 5. 6 residents were ordained as full connection as elders.
- The District Superintendent reports presented recommendation of closure of North San Juan UMC as of January 2024 and New Fruits UMC South San Francisco, effective May 7, 2024. Those recommendations were approved.
- **During the Superintendent appointment process for the Central Valley District, Pastor 'Ivoni Maama was re-appointed to the Los Banos United Methodist Church for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.**
- The Chair of the Committee on Finance noted that the General and Jurisdictional apportionment were paid 100% for the 7th year in a row by our Annual Conference. Local church tithing is up from 8.4% to 9.3%. The proposed 2025 budget totals \$5,800,000 based on the tithes to be collected.
- The Memorial service, called Remembering the Saints, recognized clergy and spouses who have passed away over the past year. The service was conducted by Bishop Gregory Palmer, who asked all to ponder, "Do you know the way?" as he emphasized our call to lean into Jesus and to have confidence in knowing that our loved ones are dwelling in the heart of God.
- Plenary session approved several legislative items:
 - Item 7: Recommendation to amend the standing rules to revise the Conference Committee of Pacific Islander Ministry.
 - Item 8: Recommendation to amend the standing rule to create a Conference Committee on Tongan ministries.
 - Item 9: Recommendation to support California-Nevada Annual Conference Divestment from Fossil Fuels.
 - Item 21: A Resolution to Endorse Reparations Task Force.
 - Item 22: A Resolution on Worldwide Regionalization, Expressing Gratitude and Commitment to Next Steps.
- In the afternoon, more than 85 people attended the Conference Committee on Reconciliation lunch at First UMC to reflect on the 2024 General Conference and learn more about partners in Ministry.

Sunday, June 9, 2024

- The morning was filled with reports from the Core Team by Rev. Samuel Yun; Endowment Board presented by Mary Popish; Board of Pensions; and fixing of appointments for all districts.

- ***The Conference vision for 2024: Following Jesus; 2025: Thriving in Community; 2026: Healing the World. The four values of the California- Nevada Conference strategic vision are: Collaborative Ministry, Diversity, Innovation and Connectionalism***

- At 3:30pm was the Service of Ordination. Of particular note to the Los Banos UMC, Henry Pablo III and Peter Suhn were among the six candidates who were ordained as elders during this session.
- Sunday evening was a celebration of Justice for Bishop Minerva Carcaño. More than 500 attendees across the conference gathered to celebrate the return of Bishop Minerva Carcaño. The theme was justice and reconciliation for Bishop Minerva Carcaño and the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Monday, June 10, 2024

- Today concluded the appointment process.
- Reports from Commission on Religion and Race; Committee on Native American Ministry; A report on the Commission on Annual Conference; concluding with the report from the Committee of Episcopacy.
- A Retirement liturgy for Bishop Carcaño concluded the 176th Annual session for the California-Nevada UMC Conference.
- The 2025 Annual Conference Session will again be held in Sacramento, from Friday, June 27 through Monday, June 30.

Administrative Council Highlights – June 4, 2024

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 with eight people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met on May 20, but will not meet in June or July. The Homeschool Coop will not use our facilities the next school year. Roxanne's final day at Sunday School was May 26, and plans are being made to recognize her for her fine work. Shelves were requested in the youth room closet for the handbells, and the youth want to paint the room. Ivoni has met with the new Visitation Committee, and she has been in touch with the Willis family and June Sloan. A church luau is planned for August 24.
- **Trustees.** The May meeting was cancelled, but the Trustees plan to meet in person on June 11. Russ completed the shelf construction, but his yardwork has not been satisfactory, so we will make a switch by the end of June. It appears that Gideon Moffitt is interested and available.
- **United Women in Faith.** The women will not meet again until they hold a party the second week of August; their next business meeting will be September 12.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Susan and Ivoni are to interview an applicant for our Sunday School teacher position after the Annual Conference Session in Sacramento. Ideally, we will have a team of instructors who can rotate and share the duties, and teachers for at least a couple of different grade levels.

The Cardenas family has offered to host an all-church BBQ and swim party on July 27. The church will provide meat and buns for hot dogs and hamburgers.

Christine is in the Philippines for 8 weeks, but she lined up replacement pianists for the whole time, through August 4. Brian, the piano tuner, has received all of the required parts to repair our piano, and he will do the remaining work as soon as it can be scheduled with us.

- **Financial Report.** The General Fund collections for May were just \$10,940.04, while paid expenses were \$14,798.97, a shortfall of almost \$4,000. All current bills were paid in full, and the General Fund checking account balance was down to \$26,756.80. Because of family issues, Carol and Mark Walton can't head up the rummage sale this year. There was some discussion about who might be willing to assume the leadership role, noting that it had been the church's largest fundraiser in 2023, bringing in around \$5,000.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Susan Younce, Amanda, Kimery, Guadalupe, Barbara Murphy, June Sloan, Donna Morris, and Donna Murphy. Ivoni commented that the funeral service for Eileen Sorenson at the National Cemetery on May 31 had gone very well.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni has met with the Visitation Committee members (Karen Bonillas, Melissa Jones and Susan Younce) to work on plans for this program. She has begun to form a Homeless / Social Justice Ministry to serve the less fortunate members of our community a couple of Sundays a month. She said that Foa has been a Sunday School superintendent in the past, and can serve on an interim basis if need be. Ivoni has nearly completed a grant application to the Conference for \$10,000 to upgrade our sound system, but needs minutes of a meeting of the Trustees giving her authority to submit the application.