



The Vine

August 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>



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



16	Carl & Jolanda Phillips
16	Dan & Lynn Martin

July contributions total: \$ 7,723.13
In-Person Services for July 7 th (54) 14 th (51) 21 st (40) 28 th (36)



Vine Monthly Events for August

Important dates:

Tuesday, August 6th - Ad Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Wednesday, August 7th - 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**

Wednesday August 7th - SPRC Meeting Zoom 7 PM

Saturday, August 10th- 1:00 PM All UMC women are invited to lunch at Espanas

Tuesday, August 13th- Trustee meeting at 6 PM

Wednesday August 14th- Centering Prayer will resume. contact Pastor Iponi for details.

Thursday August 15th- 6 PM in the Church Office, starting Bible Reading Group. Reading the New Testament – and Story of Ruth, Esther in the Old Testament. contact Pastor Iponi for details.

Monday, August 19- N.O.W. Meeting at 7 PM

Tuesday, August 20th - Craft Night 6 PM

Tuesday, August 27th - Finance Committee will meet by Zoom at 6:00 PM Bible Study Group - Summer – August

Our Church Rummage sale will be September 6th & 7th donations can be brought to the church. For questions, please call Melissa at 209-678-5205 Sign up to help is in the Fireside room.

Don't forget at 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**

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 the office or Pastor Iponi with any questions.

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

Save the date: The United Women of Faith Rumage sale will be **September 6th and 7th** this year. Donations can be brought to the church. If you have any questions contact Melissa at 209-678-5205 Sign up to help is in the Fireside room

Save the date
October 26th Luau at the church

SAVE THE DATE
November 16th will be our annual Fall Festival and Craft Fair, more info to come

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 Thursday, August 15th, 2024 - Reading the New Testament - and the Story of Ruth, Esther in the Old Testament. contact Pastor Ivoli for details.

- Centering Prayer resume back August 14th 7 PM, 2024 - contact Pastor Ivoli for details.

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 we to read each week when you come. You can simply borrow a book to enjoy and rerun 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.

July 2024

Dear family of Los Banos UMC:

“Following Jesus, Thriving in Community and Healing the World”

Praise be to God for all things in life. Let's take a moment to look around you and find all that you are grateful for. We have roofs over our heads, food on our tables. Clean water to drink, watch your children grow and your grandchildren play.

I stared at the hills from my bedroom window in Newark, California. Then I recall Psalm 121.” *I lift my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the creator of Heaven and Earth.*” Our help is from God, there is no other way. Friends, I know we all have our own dark valley, some tough time in our lives. Please do know that our help come from God. Don't give up, hang on to your faith and believed in Jesus Christ our savior and redeemer. He promised us, that He never leave nor forsake us.

New Programs and Activities

On the month of August, we are going to have more programs and activities. Bible Reading. Bible Study Groups, Centering Prayers. I also offered one-on-one devotion time with family or individuals. Please contact me for details. I also would love to visit you, your loved ones, if you want. There is a Spiritual Retreat, Walk to Emmaus in October for men and women. Please see me if you are interested in more details.

Sunday School

Please pray for people to help on our Sunday School. If we have 4 or 5 volunteers once a month or once in two months. That would be great and will help a lot. We also would like volunteer for Nursery or if you know anyone from outside church that would be interested. Please let us know.

Thank you for all your support, your love and prayers. I pray that each and every one of us will have a wonderful new month to come. Please make sure you pray for your pastor and all the family of Los Banos UMC and noon every day. Thank you for remembering my family and I during this very tough time.

Blessings,
Pastor 'Ivoni

Administrative Council Highlights – July 2, 2024

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 with eight people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee did not meet in June, so there was no actual committee report. Ivoni said that she had begun a ministry to go into the community after church on the second and last Sundays of each month to take food and drink to homeless people. She, Foa and Lori Winters had delivered hot dogs and water to about 40 people the previous Sunday., and planned to make and serve sandwiches on the second Sunday of July. Her hope was to include other needed items in the future, and to involve the youth group in helping to prepare food, leaving the actual serving to adults. We are still waiting for final figures, but the Vacation Bible School children collected approximately \$1,200 to be donated to World Vision, for its clean water projects in Honduras.
- **Trustees.** Gideon Moffitt has been hired as our groundskeeper, and Tom Kaljian did a walk-around of the church property with him to point out areas that need attention. The new ice maker is still not functioning, and Kevin Ferreira will get with the manufacturer to get it to work. The church's water bills for the past two months have been exceptionally high.
- **United Women in Faith.** The women are taking a break for the summer.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** All of our employees were reported as doing well. We are currently seeking personnel for Sunday School and to staff a nursery for preschoolers on Sunday mornings.

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- **Financial Report.** The General Fund collections for June were less than the paid expenses by roughly \$2,000. All current bills were paid in full, but the balance in the General Fund checking account was down to just over \$25,000. There was a discussion about possible fundraising events, including the annual rummage sale on September 6 and 7; a planned luau, probably in October, to include food and entertainment, with Ivoni suggesting selling tickets; and a return of the Fall Festival in mid-November, combining a craft fair in the morning and a spaghetti dinner in the evening. Gregg noted that we make about \$2,500 each year through scrip sales, and have a huge potential for more if we can increase the number of participating families.
- **Upcoming Events.** The following upcoming events were discussed
 - a. Craft night in the Fireside Room – July 16, to make new welcoming coffee mugs
 - b. Church barbecue and swim party at the Cardenas residence – July 27
 - c. Bible Reading Group, by phone, Zoom or in person – starting August 12
 - d. Weekly Centering Prayer Sessions, by Zoom, led by a professor who is an acquaintance of Ivoni – starting August 14
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Cathie Lopez, Amanda, Howard Haunga, Jaycee, Laura Scott's brother-in-law, Kimery, Guadalupe and Dennis Morris.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni reported that she has been named to the staff of a Walk to Emmaus in Madera on October 1 and 2. She hopes that some members of our congregation will be able to attend.

Vegetarian Enchilada Casserole

Think of this vegetarian enchilada casserole as a veggie-packed Mexican-inspired lasagna with corn tortillas standing in for the noodles! If your peppers are mild and you like heat, opt for spicy Pico de Gallo. This easy vegetarian dinner recipe is sure to become a new family favorite.

By [Robin Bashinsky](#)



Active Time: Additional Time: Total Time: Servings

35 mins 25 mins 1 hr 8

1 9x3-inch casserole

Nutrition Profile:

[High-Calcium](#) [Nut-Free](#) [Soy-Free](#) [High-Fiber](#) [Vegetarian](#) [Egg-Free](#) [Gluten-Free](#)

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped poblano peppers
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium yellow squash, halved and sliced (1/4 inch)
- 1 medium zucchini, halved and sliced (1/4 inch)
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels (from 2 ears)
- 1 cup pico de gallo
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 115-ounce can no-salt-added pinto beans, rinsed
- 115-ounce can no-salt-added black beans, rinsed
- 8 6-inch corn tortillas
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups shredded pepper Jack cheese
- 1 avocado, diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup scallions
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reduced-fat sour cream

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, poblanos and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 4 to 5 minutes. Add squash, zucchini, corn, pico de gallo and salt; cook, stirring occasionally, until the liquid comes to a simmer, 5 to 6 minutes. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until the liquid reduces by half, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in pinto beans and black beans.
2. Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Spoon one-third of the vegetable mixture into the prepared dish. Top evenly with 4 tortillas. Repeat with half the remaining vegetable mixture and the remaining 4 tortillas. Top with the remaining vegetable mixture. Sprinkle evenly with cheese.
3. Bake until the cheese is bubbly, 25 to 30 minutes. Sprinkle evenly with avocado and scallions. Dollop with sour cream.

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