



# *The Vine*

## *September 2024*

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	09	Lori Winters
4	Jason Walsh	18	Tony Michel
7	Penelope Wallace	27	Austin Toscano
9	Riley Knight		



6	Jim & Melissa Jones
18	Kevin & MacKenzie Ferreira

August contributions total: \$ 7,960.12  
In-Person Services for August 4<sup>th</sup> (24) 11<sup>th</sup> (47) 18<sup>th</sup> (31) 25<sup>th</sup> (42)



## Vine Monthly Events for September

### **Important dates:**

**Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Ad Council 7 PM Zoom

**Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</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**

**Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup>** - Centering Prayer 7 PM Zoom, contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

**Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup>** - 6 PM in the Church Office, Bible Reading Group. Reading the New Testament – and Story of Ruth, Esther in the Old Testament. contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

**Our Church Rummage sale will be September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** - Trustee meeting at 6 PM

**Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** - United Women of Faith monthly meeting. This will be a salad pot luck lunch, we will also be having elections for secretary.

**Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** - N.O.W. Meeting at 7 PM

**Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** - Craft night in the office at 6 PM

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** -Finance Committee 6:00 p.m. (Zoom )

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** - Administrative Council 7:00 p.m. (Zoom )

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** our new Superintendent Rev. Dr. Mary Maaga, requested to have our Charge Conference on October 6th, after Sunday Service.

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

---

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 Ivoni with any questions.

The- United Women of Faith monthly meetings will resume on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the Fireside room. All women are welcome. This month we will be having a salad pot luck lunch,(please bring your favorite salad) we will also be having elections for secretary Please consider stepping up for this position.

---

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

---

Save the date  
**October 26<sup>th</sup>** Luau at the church

---

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

---

Bible Reading Group every Thursday, We are Reading the New Testament – and the Story of Ruth, Esther in the Old Testament. We will be meeting in the church office at 6PM, if you cannot come in you can join us through Zoom. Contact Pastor Ivoli for details.

---

- Centering Prayer is back at 7 PM, Zoom - 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.

Dear Family of Los Banos UMC:

*"Following Jesus. Thriving in Community and Healing the World"*

*John 13:34 - Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another."*

Praise be to God. I hope this monthly letter finds you and the family in good health and God's blessings. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your prayers, kind words and encouragement to my family and I, during the sad and difficult time in our lives. Even it is expected in our big family, but not like this time. My brother left to be with the Lord in May and two sisters and one sister in-law all in July and August. Your prayers are powerful and very comforting and granted us peace.

Program and Activities Reminders

Thursday at 6pm - Bible Reading Group - In person at the Church Secretary Office. Telephone Conference Call # 720 843 2603 Access Code 8941334 .. Available in zoom link too. Please Contact Lori Winters.

Wednesday 6pm - Centering Prayer - Ivoni Maama is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Please note Professor Rev. Heesoon Kown will join us to do training on Centering prayer on September 4th, 2024 at 6pm via Zoom. Please join us if you can. Contact me for details.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89265089453> Meeting ID: 892 6508 9453 Passcode: 742102

+16699006833,,89265089453# US (San Jose) +16694449171,,89265089453# US

Visitations - Please let me know if you want the pastor to visit you or any of your family members that needed pastor's visit. Please contact Susan Younce, Karen Bonillas, Melissa Jones and Ivoni Maama.

Feeding the Homeless - Every 2nd Sunday and 4th Sunday of the month after church service. Contact Lori and Foa for details.

Offerings - As we are journeying toward the end of the year. Please help our church with any donation amount that you can be comfortable with. Have faith in the Lord and know that God's provide for all that we need. Let's praise God and give partial of God's gift to build His Kingdom on earth.

May God richly bless you all and all that you do. Don't forget to pray for our church at 12noon every day. Have faith in the Lord, let's go to God in prayers in all that we do.

Blessings,

Pastor 'Ivoni

## Administrative Council Highlights – August 6, 2024

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 with eight people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** Bud stated that the NOW Committee had not met in July, so he had nothing to report.
- **Trustees.** It has been determined that the new ice maker cannot be easily repaired, so the manufacturer will ship us a new one, allowing us to keep the original machine for parts if we want. There was a discussion of the church lawn situation, and a number of broken sprinkler pipes are expected to be repaired very soon. Lori advised that she had not heard anything recently from the hospital, but we presume that they still want to use the Fellowship Hall kitchen for a couple of months this fall.
- **United Women in Faith.** The women will have a non-business lunch at Espana's on Saturday, August 10, and all women were invited.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** To date, just a few of our employees have been fingerprinted, but eventually all employees and volunteers who have dealings with children will need to be fingerprinted and registered with the state.
- **Financial Report.** Our General Fund income in July was the best since April, but it fell short of the paid expenses by roughly \$2,100. All bills were paid in full, but the checking account balance was down to \$21,800.47. We are hopeful that three future fundraisers – the Rummage Sale in September, the luau in October, and a Fall Festival Craft Fair and Dinner in November – will help significantly.

### • **Upcoming Events.** The following

upcoming events were discussed:

- a. Centering Prayer Sessions – Wednesday evenings, starting August 14
- b. Bible Reading Group – Thursday evenings, starting August 15
- c. Church Rummage Sale – Sept. 6-7
- d. Second Annual Luau – October 26
- e. Fall Festival Craft Fair and Dinner – November 16

- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Guadalupe, Ivoni, Amanda, Howard, Foa and the Sunday School program, and Tom Kaljian for safe travels.

- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni reported that she had recently visited Barbara Murphy in the memory care facility in Los Banos, and Donna Morris as she prepares for her second shoulder surgery. She has also made several attempts to contact June Sloan, but so far without success.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ONLINE GIVING OPPORTUNITY**

Do you want to support our church financially, but are among the millions of Americans who no longer like to write checks? We have an easy way for you to donate to our church and its missions online, through a company called Vanco. Payments can be made by direct transfer from a checking or savings account, or by charging a credit card or debit card.

There are two ways to get set up:

- Download their free app on your smartphone (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement) or
- Click the **Donate On-Line** link on the church website ([www.umclb.net](http://www.umclb.net))

Questions? Please contact Gregg Rice at (209) 761-2737 or [jgrice717@att.net](mailto:jgrice717@att.net).



## Operation Christmas Child

It's time again to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child. You can help by praying for the children. You can also donate financially or take a shoe box (which will be in the Fireside room soon), fill it and return it by Sunday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. You can also include a note for the child. It does cost \$10 a box to ship which you can include, but it's not necessary. The shipping will be paid. Select either girl or boy and an age group (2-4yrs) (5-9 yrs) (10-14 yrs) Fill with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and whatever seems right to you. Do not include food, liquid, breakable, used or scary items. Here are some Ideas.

Doll/stuffed animal	pads of paper	Crayons/colored pencils
Soccer balls	wash cloth	socks
Puzzles	Coloring books	brush/comb
Hot wheels/small balls	bar soap	Bead set
toothbrush (no toothpaste)		

Thank You!

# September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

1031 Iowa Ave

On the corner of Iowa and "J"

Annual

## Methodist

# Church Rummage Sale



**Friday 8 am – 6pm**

**Saturday 8am – 12pm**