



The Vine

December 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>



8	Christopher Foxworthy	19	Beth Sloan Johnson
14	Amanda Basque	23	Juli Rice
14	Bill Tucker	30	Kristifer Hew
14	Dennis Morris	31	Lynn Martin
15	Robert Doubek	31	Robert Cardenas
17	Bud Ramsey		



4	Bill & Debbie Tucker
31	Hans & Susan Younce

November contributions total: \$ 11,628.31
In-Person Services for November 3rd (39) 10th (43) 17th (33) 24th (37)

Vine Monthly Events for December



December

Important dates:

Tuesday December 3rd - Ad Council 7 PM Zoom

Wednesday December 4th - 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 December 4th -Centering Prayer 7 PM Zoom, contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

Thursday December 5th -Bible reading in the church office starting at 6 PM every week.

Tuesday December 10th -Trustee Meeting 6 PM

Wednesday December 11th - SPRC Meeting Zoom-CANCELED

Thursday, December 12th – United Women of Faith Christmas Meeting 6 PM at the four seasons. Please bring your favorite potluck dish, a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the gift game and a donation for a Christmas project. All Women are welcome

Monday December 16th – NOW meeting CANCELED

Tuesday, December 17th - Craft night CANCELED

Tuesday December 24th - Christmas Eve service 7PM

Thursday, December 31st – Finance Committee 6 MP Zoom

Bell Choir is every Thursday at 4:30 PM

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 meeting 6 PM at the four seasons. Please bring your favorite potluck dish, a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the gift game and a donation for a Christmas project.

All Women are welcome

Bible Reading Group every Thursday. We are reading the book of Luke. We will be meeting in the church office at 6PM. If you cannot come in person, you can join us through Zoom. Contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

• Centering Prayer is back at 7 PM, Zoom - contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

Christmas Eve service December 24th 7PM Please come and celebrate with singing and praise.



United Methodist Church of Los Banos

1031 Iowa Ave. ◆ Los Banos, CA 93635-3451 ◆ 209-826-4181

◆ e-mail:umclosbanos@gmail.com

Pastor - Rev. Ivoni Maama, (510-552-7240) ivoni.maama@cnumc.org

"To love God and to share His love; to know Christ and to make Christ known"

November 24, 2024

Dear Los Banos, United Methodist Family:

We rejoice in all the ways our beautiful community of faith brings joy and hope to our church and to each of us.

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to remind you that your generous giving makes all this possible, and more! Your faithful support makes possible community involvement, fosters positive life change, and keeps the lights on. Your gifts become a beautiful church where everyone is beloved and welcome.

This is our Season of Joy! Your generous giving grows us as disciples of Jesus Christ. If you've not yet begun the spiritual practice of regular giving, please try and know that you are God's hands and feet. You are planting a seed for the next generations. We are blessed today from the seeds that were planted by our ancestors.

If you have any questions about ways to give, when to give, how to give, or how much to give, we're here to assist and accompany you in this important journey of faith and joy. Please pray to God to guide your heart to become a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".

If we haven't already, let's try it, and please continue your generous giving. You will notice God's promise in the Book of Malachi 3:10. Thank you for prayerfully and joyfully considering your 2025 financial gift to support, sustain, and grow the vital, life-giving ministry and mission of Los Banos United Methodist Church.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor 'Ivoni Maama

Administrative Council Highlights – November 5, 2024

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW).** Bud stated that the NOW Committee had met on October 21, covering the following topics. He reaffirmed that he wants to get a men's group started. Lori mentioned that a group from Santa Nella called the Reconnected Women has been renting our Fireside Room one Saturday afternoon a month, and wants to hold a larger event in the Fellowship Hall. Tawny has been teaching Sunday School, and Robert and Rhonda Cardenas were to cover for her one Sunday in October.
- **Trustees.** Tom Kaljian reported that Private Property signs were purchased for the driveways to the parking lot. Tom is having difficulty finding a security camera that could be aimed at the parking lot and trash bin. Some valves in the sprinkler system are not getting electricity. Two church groups have asked about renting space for holding Sunday services. Gregg reported on the work day on October 19, 11 people trimmed bushes, mowed and edged the lawn, and disposed of a lot of cardboard stored in the Fellowship Hall. A replacement ice maker for the Fellowship Hall kitchen has been received.
- **United Women of Faith.** Laura Scott said that the women would meet on November 14 and hear a talk on hospice care, by guest speaker Sharon Dupris. Their annual Christmas party is set for December 12 at the Four Seasons. They discussed the Fall Festival Dinner and Craft Fair on November 16. The homeless ministry will begin in earnest next year, after church on the second and fourth Sundays.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Susan explained that she was working on an application to renew our grant from the Central Valley District to partially fund the cost of a part-time youth director and was given the approval of the Administrative Council to proceed. Susan said that there were between 7 and 12 youngsters presently involved in the program, noting that they had recently been split into junior high and high school groups.
- **Financial Report.** Gregg showed that our General Fund income in October was just \$10,233.57, while paid expenses were \$14,471.64. All invoices were current, but the checkbook balance had dropped to \$12,163.94. He pointed out that without the two large one-time additions early in the year – a \$25,000 gift from the late Wilma Ditter, and a \$20,000 grant from the District – the bank balance would be very far in the negative. He said he would work with Ivoni to appeal to the congregation for special gifts for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and/or year-end.
- **Progress Report for Fall Festival Event.** All 350 tickets for the Disney \$1,000 gift certificate have been sold, so we will gross \$3,500 on that portion of the event. Sales of dinner tickets were not as good. Gregg asked Ad Council members for donations of "good quality items" for the second raffle. Those tickets would be selling for \$1.00 each (or 6 for \$5.00 or 25 for \$20.00). Susan and Karen will secure enough table cloths.
- **Upcoming Events.** In addition to the above-mentioned Fall Festival Craft Fair, Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle on Saturday, November 16, Gregg noted that the first Sunday of Advent would be December 1.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Guadalupe, Donna Morris, and for Ted's family.