



# *The Vine*

## *January 2025*

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>



8 Charlene Martin	21 Noah Cardenas
19 Donna Morris	26 Melissa Jones
20 Jeff Brubaker	29 Gideon Moffitt
21 Sue Hulse	31 Mackenzie Ferreira



19	Robert & Rhonda Cardenas
26	Gerald & Melinda Wall

December contributions total: \$ 10,580.96  
In-Person Services for December 1<sup>st</sup> (47) 8<sup>th</sup> (42) 15<sup>th</sup> (56) 22<sup>nd</sup> (55) 24<sup>th</sup> (25) 29<sup>th</sup> (31)

# JAN

## *Vine Monthly Events for January*

### **Important dates:**

**Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>** -Bible reading in the church office starting at 6 PM every week

**Wednesday January 8<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 January 8<sup>th</sup>** -Centering Prayer 7 PM Zoom, contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

**Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** -Ad Council 7PM Zoom

**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**-SPRC Meeting 7PM in the fireside room

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** - United Women of Faith at 1 PM at Espanas

**Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup>**- Youth party and Scavenger Hunt 5:30 to 9:00 PM. You must RSVP by January 7<sup>th</sup> to save your seat in the car. Susan Younce 209-675-1550 or email poohyounce@gmail.com

**Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**-Trustee Meetin 6 PM

**Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**-Meeting after Church for planning new year 10 am to 2 PM

**Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** N.O.W. Meeting 7 PM Zoom

**Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**-Craft Night 6 MP, we will be making Valentine cards.

**Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**-Finance Committee 6 PM 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

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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**

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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 the office or Pastor Ivoni with any questions.

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The- United Women of Faith monthly meeting 1 PM at Espanas for lunch.  
All Women are welcome

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

**YOUTH PARTY AND SCAVENGER HUNT** 5:30 to 9:00 PM on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Food, Games, Lots of fun, don't miss out. Bring your flashlight and you must RSVP by January 7<sup>th</sup> to save your seat in the car. Susan Younce 209-675-1550 or email [poohyounce@gmail.com](mailto:poohyounce@gmail.com).

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Tuesday, January 21, st-Craft Night 6 MP, we will be making Valentine cards. Rosemary will be here to help us make some beautiful cards.

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee held its annual end-of-year meeting on December 30 to review our financial condition, and to decide whether we would be able to meet the goal of paying 10% of certain types of our applicable revenues as our "Apportionment" to the Conference. With some exceptions, all member churches of the United Methodist Church are asked to tithe 10% each year. Each year, the Finance Committee sets aside certain income for Apportionments, including the special offerings that are made for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, earnings from the scrip program, and the net proceeds of the Fall Festival.

Normally, the income from these special offerings and fundraisers falls short of our 10% apportionment obligation, and we have had to add some money from our General Fund. Sometimes this has created cash flow problems for the church, and some years in the past, we have not been able to make up the shortfall, and have not met our obligation.

We are pleased to report that our 2024 income from the special sources listed above actually exceeded the total needed to meet our 10% obligation, and in fact for the first time ever, we were actually able to transfer \$3,000 into the General Fund on December 31 to give us a bit of a cushion heading into the new year.

Thank you to all for your financial support, and we are looking forward to an even better 2025!

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## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually,



## **United Methodist Church of Los Banos**

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

**♦ [e-mail:umclosbanos@gmail.com](mailto:umclosbanos@gmail.com)**

**Pastor - Rev. Ivoni Maama, (510-552-7240) [ivoni.maama@cnumc.org](mailto: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 Bano United Methodist Family:**

***Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave or forsake you."***

First and foremost, I would like to thank our Heavenly Father for the beautiful opportunities you and I have. I want to thank each of you, all the members of our church, for your love and support. I want to thank our Church Leaders, Chairmen and women, all committee members, and Leaders of all the church's ministries. Your hard and wonderful work is much appreciated, and God be grateful. I thank God for all of you; I have been blessed with each and every one of you, my beautiful family of Los Banos United Methodist Church.

As we begin this new year, I pray that our Good Lord will continue to bless each family. Let's focus on the Lord and remember that God will never leave or forsake us. Remember to include God in all that you do. That way, we will not fear what the new year may bring. We will not be terrified of whatever comes our way because God is always with us. Set aside some time with the Lord every day. Please see the bible reading program attached. Let's start with the Lord this year and know that God is good all the time. May God richly bless us all with a wonderful and blessed new year.

Love and Prayers

Pastor 'Ivoni

***Psalm 27:1: "The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?"***

Please see attached the bible reading plan for this year. Please pray that the Lord helps you select a time of the day each day to read God's words. You will find and feel great once you get used to studying God's words daily. Give it a try, and you will witness God's words, which are powerful and helpful—the best time to read with all the family members and share their thoughts and messages that they received from daily reading. We will meet once a week to check and encourage each other with the reading plan, or we will divide into prayer partners, and each prayer partner will check on each other once a week. We will see how it goes. I hope that everyone will take the time to join in our first Spiritual Program this year. Please let me know if you would like to join this first and new program this year. Thank you and God bless.

## 52 Week Bible Reading Plan

Epistles The Law History Psalms Poetry Prophecy Gospels

Week (Sunday) (Monday) (Tuesday) (Wednesday) (Thursday) (Friday) (Saturday)

1 ▯ Rom 1-2 ▯ Gen 1-3 ▯ Josh 1-5 ▯ Ps 1-2 ▯ Job 1-2 ▯ Isa 1-6 ▯ Matt 1-2

2 ▯ Rom 3-4 ▯ Gen 4-7 ▯ Josh 6-10 ▯ Ps 3-5 ▯ Job 3-4 ▯ Isa 7-11 ▯ Matt 3-4

3 ▯ Rom 5-6 ▯ Gen 8-11 ▯ Josh 11-15 ▯ Ps 6-8 ▯ Job 5-6 ▯ Isa 12-17 ▯ Matt 5-7

4 ▯ Rom 7-8 ▯ Gen 12-15 ▯ Josh 16-20 ▯ Ps 9-11 ▯ Job 7-8 ▯ Isa 18-22 ▯ Matt 8-10

5 ▯ Rom 9-10 ▯ Gen 16-19 ▯ Josh 21-24 ▯ Ps 12-14 ▯ Job 9-10 ▯ Isa 23-28 ▯ Matt 11-13

6 ▯ Rom 11-12 ▯ Gen 20-23 ▯ Judg 1-6 ▯ Ps 15-17 ▯ Job 11-12 ▯ Isa 29-33 ▯ Matt 14-16

7 ▯ Rom 13-14 ▯ Gen 24-27 ▯ Judg 7-11 ▯ Ps 18-20 ▯ Job 13-14 ▯ Isa 34-39 ▯ Matt 17-19

8 ▯ Rom 15-16 ▯ Gen 28-31 ▯ Judg 12-16 ▯ Ps 21-23 ▯ Job 15-16 ▯ Isa 40-44 ▯ Matt 20-22

9 ▯ 1Cor 1-2 ▯ Gen 32-35 ▯ Judg 17-21 ▯ Ps 24-26 ▯ Job 17-18 ▯ Isa 45-50 ▯ Matt 23-25

10 ▯ 1Cor 3-4 ▯ Gen 36-39 ▯ Ruth ▯ Ps 27-29 ▯ Job 19-20 ▯ Isa 51-55 ▯ Matt 26-28

11 ▯ 1Cor 5-6 ▯ Gen 40-43 ▯ 1Sam 1-5 ▯ Ps 30-32 ▯ Job 21-22 ▯ Isa 56-61 ▯ Mark 1-2

12 ▯ 1Cor 7-8 ▯ Gen 44-47 ▯ 1Sam 6-10 ▯ Ps 33-35 ▯ Job 23-24 ▯ Isa 62-66 ▯ Mark 3-4

13 ▯ 1Cor 9-10 ▯ Gen 48-50 ▯ 1Sam 11-15 ▯ Ps 36-38 ▯ Job 25-26 ▯ Jer 1-6 ▯ Mark 5-6

14 ▯ 1Cor 11-12 ▯ Ex 1-4 ▯ 1Sam 16-20 ▯ Ps 39-41 ▯ Job 27-28 ▯ Jer 7-11 ▯ Mark 7-8

15 ▯ 1Cor 13-14 ▯ Ex 5-8 ▯ 1Sam 21-25 ▯ Ps 42-44 ▯ Job 29-30 ▯ Jer 12-16 ▯ Mark 9-10

16 ▯ 1Cor 15-16 ▯ Ex 9-12 ▯ 1Sam 26-31 ▯ Ps 45-47 ▯ Job 31-32 ▯ Jer 17-21 ▯ Mark 11-12

17 ▯ 2Cor 1-3 ▯ Ex 13-16 ▯ 2Sam 1-4 ▯ Ps 48-50 ▯ Job 33-34 ▯ Jer 22-26 ▯ Mark 13-14

18 ▯ 2Cor 4-5 ▯ Ex 17-20 ▯ 2Sam 5-9 ▯ Ps 51-53 ▯ Job 35-36 ▯ Jer 27-31 ▯ Mark 15-16

19 ▯ 2Cor 6-8 ▯ Ex 21-24 ▯ 2Sam 10-14 ▯ Ps 54-56 ▯ Job 37-38 ▯ Jer 32-36 ▯ Luke 1-2

20 ▯ 2Cor 9-10 ▯ Ex 25-28 ▯ 2Sam 15-19 ▯ Ps 57-59 ▯ Job 39-40 ▯ Jer 37-41 ▯ Luke 3-4

21 ▯ 2Cor 11-13 ▯ Ex 29-32 ▯ 2Sam 20-24 ▯ Ps 60-62 ▯ Job 41-42 ▯ Jer 42-46 ▯ Luke 5-6

22 ▯ Gal 1-3 ▯ Ex 33-36 ▯ 1Ki 1-4 ▯ Ps 63-65 ▯ Prov 1 ▯ Jer 47-52 ▯ Luke 7-8

23 ▯ Gal 4-6 ▯ Ex 37-40 ▯ 1Ki 5-9 ▯ Ps 66-68 ▯ Prov 2-3 ▯ Lamentations ▯ Luke 9-10

24 ▯ Eph 1-3 ▯ Lev 1-3 ▯ 1Ki 10-13 ▯ Ps 69-71 ▯ Prov 4 ▯ Ezek 1-6 ▯ Luke 11-12  
25 ▯ Eph 4-6 ▯ Lev 4-6 ▯ 1Ki 14-18 ▯ Ps 72-74 ▯ Prov 5-6 ▯ Ezek 7-12 ▯ Luke 13-14  
26 ▯ Phil 1-2 ▯ Lev 7-9 ▯ 1Ki 19-22 ▯ Ps 75-77 ▯ Prov 7 ▯ Ezek 13-18 ▯ Luke 15-16  
27 ▯ Phil 3-4 ▯ Lev 10-12 ▯ 2Ki 1-5 ▯ Ps 78-80 ▯ Prov 8-9 ▯ Ezek 19-24 ▯ Luke 17-18  
28 ▯ Col 1-2 ▯ Lev 13-15 ▯ 2Ki 6-10 ▯ Ps 81-83 ▯ Prov 10 ▯ Ezek 25-30 ▯ Luke 19-20  
29 ▯ Col 3-4 ▯ Lev 16-18 ▯ 2Ki 11-15 ▯ Ps 84-86 ▯ Prov 11-12 ▯ Ezek 31-36 ▯ Luke 21-22  
30 ▯ 1Thes 1-3 ▯ Lev 19-21 ▯ 2Ki 16-20 ▯ Ps 87-89 ▯ Prov 13 ▯ Ezek 37-42 ▯ Luke 23-24  
31 ▯ 1Thes 4-5 ▯ Lev 22-24 ▯ 2Ki 21-25 ▯ Ps 90-92 ▯ Prov 14-15 ▯ Ezek 43-48 ▯ John 1-2  
32 ▯ 2Thes ▯ Lev 25-27 ▯ 1Chr 1-4 ▯ Ps 93-95 ▯ Prov 16 ▯ Dan 1-6 ▯ John 3-4  
33 ▯ 1Tim 1-3 ▯ Num 1-4 ▯ 1Chr 5-9 ▯ Ps 96-98 ▯ Prov 17-18 ▯ Dan 7-12 ▯ John 5-6  
34 ▯ 1Tim 4-6 ▯ Num 5-8 ▯ 1Chr 10-14 ▯ Ps 99-101 ▯ Prov 19 ▯ Hosea 1-7 ▯ John 7-9  
35 ▯ 2Tim 1-2 ▯ Num 9-12 ▯ 1Chr 15-19 ▯ Ps 102-104 ▯ Prov 20-21 ▯ Hosea 8-14 ▯ John 10-12  
36 ▯ 2Tim 3-4 ▯ Num 13-16 ▯ 1Chr 20-24 ▯ Ps 105-107 ▯ Prov 22 ▯ Joel ▯ John 13-15  
37 ▯ Titus ▯ Num 17-20 ▯ 1Chr 25-29 ▯ Ps 108-110 ▯ Prov 23-24 ▯ Amos 1-4 ▯ John 16-18  
38 ▯ Philemon ▯ Num 21-24 ▯ 2Chr 1-5 ▯ Ps 111-113 ▯ Prov 25 ▯ Amos 5-9 ▯ John 19-21  
39 ▯ Heb 1-4 ▯ Num 25-28 ▯ 2Chr 6-10 ▯ Ps 114-116 ▯ Prov 26-27 ▯ Obadiah ▯ Acts 1-2  
40 ▯ Heb 5-7 ▯ Num 29-32 ▯ 2Chr 11-15 ▯ Ps 117-118 ▯ Prov 28 ▯ Jonah ▯ Acts 3-4  
41 ▯ Heb 8-10 ▯ Num 33-36 ▯ 2Chr 16-20 ▯ Ps 119 ▯ Prov 29-30 ▯ Micah ▯ Acts 5-6  
42 ▯ Heb 11-13 ▯ Deut 1-3 ▯ 2Chr 21-24 ▯ Ps 120-121 ▯ Prov 31 ▯ Nahum ▯ Acts 7-8  
43 ▯ James 1-3 ▯ Deut 4-6 ▯ 2Chr 25-28 ▯ Ps 122-124 ▯ Eccl 1-2 ▯ Habakkuk ▯ Acts 9-10  
44 ▯ James 4-5 ▯ Deut 7-9 ▯ 2Chr 29-32 ▯ Ps 125-127 ▯ Eccl 3-4 ▯ Zephaniah ▯ Acts 11-12  
45 ▯ 1Pet 1-3 ▯ Deut 10-12 ▯ 2Chr 33-36 ▯ Ps 128-130 ▯ Eccl 5-6 ▯ Haggai ▯ Acts 13-14  
46 ▯ 1Pet 4-5 ▯ Deut 13-15 ▯ Ezra 1-5 ▯ Ps 131-133 ▯ Eccl 7-8 ▯ Zechariah 1-7 ▯ Acts 15-16  
47 ▯ 2Pet ▯ Deut 16-19 ▯ Ezra 6-10 ▯ Ps 134-136 ▯ Eccl 9-10 ▯ Zechariah 8-14 ▯ Acts 17-18  
48 ▯ 1John 1-3 ▯ Deut 20-22 ▯ Neh 1-4 ▯ Ps 137-139 ▯ Eccl 11-12 ▯ Malachi ▯ Acts 19-20  
49 ▯ 1John 4-5 ▯ Deut 23-25 ▯ Neh 5-9 ▯ Ps 140-142 ▯ Song 1-2 ▯ Rev 1-6 ▯ Acts 21-22  
50 ▯ 2John ▯ Deut 26-28 ▯ Neh 10-13 ▯ Ps 143-145 ▯ Song 3-4 ▯ Rev 7-11 ▯ Acts 23-24  
51 ▯ 3John ▯ Deut 29-31 ▯ Esther 1-5 ▯ Ps 146-148 ▯ Song 5-6 ▯ Rev 12-17 ▯ Acts 25-26  
52 ▯ Jude ▯ Deut 32-34 ▯ Esther 6-10 ▯ Ps 149-150 ▯ Song 7-8 ▯ Rev 18-22 ▯ Acts 27-28



## Administrative Council Highlights – December 3, 2024

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 with nine people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** Bud stated that the NOW Committee met on November 18. The women would meet on December 12 at the Four Seasons for their Christmas Party. All women are invited. VBS dates will be June 23 through June 27. We plan to decorate the sanctuary after church and lunch on December 1.
- **Trustees.** Lori is making a list of the users of our church facilities, how often and when they use our buildings, and how much they pay. The Rainbow Room faucet is broken and the thermostat in the Fireside Room is not working. The Relay for Life organization has asked to use the Fellowship Hall and kitchen for an annual breakfast for Cancer Survivors. After some discussion, it was agreed to allow the use for a \$50.00 fee. Russ is still working on the sprinkler repairs. Jim Jones has proposed replacing the dumpster with two garbage cans, which would save the church money. Where the cans will be stored is to be determined. The dishwasher needs repairs; its valve had to be shut off after each use during the Fall Festival dinner. The new ice maker is working great.
- **United Women in Faith.** Laura Scott reported that the women are helping a family in need. The women will gather on December 12 at the Four Seasons for their Christmas Party. All women are invited. On January 11, 2025, the women will meet for lunch at Espana's.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** We have been approved for another \$5,000.00 grant to support the youth program.
- **Financial Report.** There was no current report of the church's finances, but

preliminary total proceeds for the 2024 Fall Festival were over \$10,000. The Finance Committee will meet late in December to decide how much our church can safely pay toward 2024 apportionments; it was likely that we would again meet our 100% goal.

- **Recap of the Fall Festival.** Pending any expenses that need to be reimbursed, the gross income for the Spaghetti Dinner was \$1,503. We made \$250 from craft booth rentals, \$3,500 from the Disney Raffle, \$1,117 from the general raffle, and \$4,000 from the Tongan online raffle handled by Foa and Ivoni, for an overall total of \$10,370. It was agreed that the entire event was very successful, and repeated in 2025. It was suggested that we advertise on the town marquee next year, which would cost approximately \$100.00 for a month. We will also look into setting up a Venmo or Zelle account for the church.
- **Upcoming Events.** Brief mention was made of the following upcoming events:
  - a. 2025 all-church planning meeting – Sunday, January 19 after church
  - b. VBS – June 23-27, 2025
  - c. Fireworks booth at Target parking lot – June 28 - July 4, 2025
  - d. Date TBD - Susan and Hans Younce have proposed a drive-through BBQ Chicken Dinner
  - e. Date TBD – rummage sale
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Rhonda's father, Dan Wilson.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni has been in contact with and/or visited a number of our church family members, and has performed several services for non-member families at the San Joaquín Valley National Cemetery. She has submitted a grant request for \$20,000 to help pay for her full-time salary in 2025. She will be on vacation December 10 to 13, 2024, and December 26, 2024 to January 3, 2025. She has asked Jason to preach for her on Sunday, December 29.

## Easy week night dinner

### Lemon Herb Grilled Chicken

*This Lemon Herb Grilled Chicken is easily made with just a few simple ingredients for a delicious, healthy meal! Packed with so much flavor thanks to tangy lemon juice, tons of garlic, and fresh thyme!*

Prep Time 10 minutes mins

Cook Time 15 minutes mins

Total Time 25 minutes mins

Course: dinner, Main Course

Cuisine: American

Keyword: Lemon Herb Grilled Chicken

Servings: 6

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 2 tsp lemon zest
- 4 cloves garlic minced
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme and fresh rosemary
- Salt and black pepper to taste

### Instructions

#### To Make the Marinade:

1. In a small bowl or jar, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, fresh herbs, salt and pepper until all combined.

#### Prepare the Chicken:

1. Place chicken in a shallow dish or a 1-gallon sealable plastic bag and pour most of the lemon herb sauce over the chicken (I always suggest reserving a little bit of the sauce to brush on the chicken later while grilling!)
2. Place chicken in the fridge and let it marinate for at least 30 minutes, but no longer than 2 hours (lemon is very acidic and will start to break down the chicken's texture so you don't want to marinate this too long). When ready to grill, remove chicken from the dish or bag, shake off any excess and discard leftover marinade.
3. Heat a grill or grill pan on medium heat and brush grill with oil to prevent the chicken from sticking. Grill the chicken for 5 to 6 minutes on each side or until cooked through and no longer pink (cooked chicken should have an internal temp of 165 degrees). Remove chicken from grill and let it rest for 5 minutes before serving.

### Nutrition

Serving: 1/6th of

recipe | Calories: 226kcal | Carbohydrates: 1.9g | Protein: 29.5g | Fat: 12.9g | Saturated Fat: 1.7g | Sodium: 153.7mg | Fiber: 0.1g | Sugar: 0.4g