



The Vine

April 2025

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 Jolanda Phillips	24 Dan Martin
22 Kimery Knight	27 June Sloan



26 Kristifer & Roxanne Hew

March contributions total: \$ 10,318.34
In-Person Services for March 2nd (42) 9th (49) 16th (46) 23rd (42) 30th (51)

Vine Monthly Events for April



Important dates:

Tuesday, April 1st - ☞ Ad Council meeting 7 PM Zoom

Wednesday April 2nd - ☞ 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**

Thursday, April 3rd -Bible reading (40 days Lent Journey) at the parsonage or Zoom starting at 6 PM ID 841 8056 5606 Passcode 876156

Monday, April 7th -Centering Prayer 6 PM Zoom, ID 841 8056 5606 Passcode 876156

Tuesday, April 8th Trustee meeting 7 PM Zoom

Wednesday April 9th-SPRC Meeting 7 PM in the Fireside room **Saturday April 12th**- Clean up day 8am to 12 noon

Thursday, April 10th -Women in Faith 1 PM Baked potato luncheon

Saturday April 12th- Trivia Night for the youth from 5PM to 7PM in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday April 13th- Bring a friend Sunday.

Sunday April 13th- Palm Sunday, the kids will be bringing in the palms.

Sunday April 13th- We will be making lunch for the encampment after church service

Tuesday, April 15th – Craft Night 6 PM, we will be decorating mugs for the church

Wednesday, April 16th – Worship Committee 7 PM Zoom

Thursday, April 17th -Mundy Thursday. Sender Meal at 6:30 PM in Fireside Room. Please be sure to sign up for this event.

Friday April 18th - Good Friday service, Stations of the Cross. Service will be from 11 AM to 1 PM and 5 PM to 7 PM. Please come anytime and stay as long as you want. This is a silent Service

Sunday April 20th -Sunrise service at the Forebay 6:30 AM with St. John's Lutheran and Easter Sunday service at the church 10 AM with Rev. Dr. Mary Maaga. Children's Easter Egg Hunt afterwards. Please don't forget to bring your flowers to decorate our Easter Cross

Sunday April 27th- We will be making lunch for the encampment after church service

Tuesday, April 29th -Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM Zoom

Please bring your donation for filling the easter eggs to Kerri, Shannon or the office. We have plenty of eggs this year.

Bell Choir Is every Wednesday at 4:30 PM

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

At 12:00 noon please take a moment to pray for your pastor and church

Office will be closed April 24th through May 1st

Our Homeless Ministry/Manna is going great. We have packed and delivered over 50 lunches each Sunday (2nd and 4th Sunday) If you would like to help make/pack lunches or go help pass them out, let Ivoni or Lori know or just show up on Sunday after church. We could always use some help.

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- The Women in Faith will be having a potato lunch this month at 1PM in the Fireside Room on April 10th
• No need to bring anything but your appetite.
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Good Friday is on the 18th of April. We will be having silent services in the Sanctuary 12 noon to 7 PM

March 2025

To Los Banos United Methodist Families:

Greetings! May God be with you and bless each of your families. As we approach the end of March and the beginning of spring, let us continue to reflect on the grace and love of God that surrounds us. I hope this letter finds you well and that you are looking forward to a season of renewal and growth. Let us continue to be a beacon of hope and a source of strength for one another.

I encourage you during this Lenten season. Let's repent for our sins to God and focus on aligning ourselves with Him. Try new activities, such as reading the Bible more frequently, praying more often, and doing something kind for yourself and others. Help someone by participating in church and community programs and activities. Pray for our country and those affected by wars and natural disasters. Pray for our children and grandchildren; they are our future.

I invite you to our church's Easter Program:

Sunday, April 13, 10 am. Join us for a special celebration of Palm Sunday with Sunday School and Youth.

Thursday, April 17, at 6:00 p.m. Join us at the Mundy Thursday Seda meal.

Friday, April 18th, 11 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm, Join us for a silent Good Friday Service.

Sunday, April 20, 10:00 a.m. Join us for a special service celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Our guest speaker is the Central Valley District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Mary Maaga.

May the good Lord continue to bless you and your family. For those of you traveling at this time, I wish you a wonderful and blessed trip, and a safe return home. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time if you need prayers for yourself or someone else. Until then, may God bless you all richly.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)

Blessings,
Pastor Ivoni Maama

Administrative Council Highlights – March 4, 2025

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee did not meet in February, but it was reported that Tawny would be working with the youth and children for the Palm Sunday service, and Kerri and Shannan were taking care of the egg hunt after the Easter Sunday service.
- **Trustees.** There was no report from the Trustees, but a church work day is scheduled for Saturday, April 12.
- **United Women in Faith.** The women will meet on March 15 for a Cupcakes and Conversation retreat.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Susan has produced a flyer listing the activities scheduled for the Lenten season. She and Trustee Chair Kevin Ferreira will soon do the annual walk-through of the parsonage with Ivoni, as required by the Book of Discipline. SPRC is beginning a search for a new part-time Youth Director.
- **Financial Report.** We have transferred \$1,200 from the Designated Fund to the General Fund, to cover this year's costs for the youth program prior to departure of our Youth Director. The \$1,200 was from the \$5,000 District grant for the youth program. With the transfer, the General Fund income for February was \$11,274.37, nearly identical to the paid expenses of \$11,306.06. The checking account balance was \$5,565.48, with \$1,519.58 of unpaid bills outstanding.
- **Restructuring of Committees.** Bud said he and Ivoni had discussed a change to the committee structure, as there was a lot of redundancy in the items covered by the NOW Committee and reports made to the

Administrative Council. He suggested that NOW and the Ad Council be

combined, with Gregg Rice remaining as Chair of the Finance Committee and Bud to be named Chair of the enlarged Ad Council. Gregg said he did not oppose the proposal, as he had not considered it to be a "lifetime assignment" in 1989 when he was asked to be Chair of the Ad Council. By unanimous vote, the proposed restructuring was approved.

- **Upcoming Events.** Lenten season events, including Ash Wednesday (March 5); Palm Sunday (April 13); Good Friday

(April 18), and Easter Sunday's sunrise service, worship service and egg hunt (April 20). DS Mary Maaga will preach Easter morning but Ivoni will be present. Starting March 9, Foa and Lori will head up a program to feed the homeless on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Other upcoming dates include: April 12 – Church work day; June 23-27 – VBS; June 27-30 – Annual Conference in Sacramento; September 5-6 – Rummage sale. We have officially withdrawn our application for a fireworks booth this year.

- **Parish Care; People in Need of Prayer.** Prayers were requested for Charlene Martin, June Sloan, Donna Morris, Kimery, Dan and Karen Bonillas, Melissa Jones, Dan Wilson, Diane Moon, Barbara Murphy, Laura's father-in-law Phil Scott, Cathie's mother-in-law Barbara Lopez, and Fay Davis.

- **Pastor's Report.** We are now having the choir personnel sing a few praise songs or hymns prior to 10:00 on Sunday

mornings. Ivoni is considering other changes to our praise and worship program. She reported that the Free Methodist Church will be joining in our March 23 service. Susan Younce will be coming up with fun activities for the youth once a month. Otherwise, Ivoni is concentrating on Easter season events.