



The Vine

October 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>



5 Alec Barcellos	15 Eli Hepworth
5 Gerald Wall	16 Shannan Doubek
6 Ed Koters	16 Rhonda Cardenas
6 Jacob Hepworth	21 Jennifer Barcellos
8 Reese Betschart	22 Jean Arburua
8 Rachel Betschart	28 Curtis Brubaker
10 Tawny Walsh	



15 Ted & Bonnie Kraynick
30 Dan & Karen Bonillas

September contributions total: \$ 10,802.62

In-Person Services for September 7th (39) 14th (47) 21st (35) 28th (34)

Vine Monthly Events for October

Important dates:



Wednesday October 1st - 📞 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, October 1st -Centering Prayer 6 PM Zoom, ID 841 8056 5606 Passcode 876156

Thursday, October 2nd -Bible reading group-2 PM Zoom, ID 841 8056 5606 Passcode 876156

Saturday, October 4th - We will have a painting class starting at 2 PM all supplies and snacks will be provided at this event. The cost is \$45 each. Please Text or call Lori (209-617-8469) if you would like to go. All are welcome, invite your friends. This will be fun

Tuesday, October 7th – Ad Council Meeting 7 PM Zoom.

Wednesday, October 8th -SPRC Meeting 6PM in the Fireside Room

Thursday, October 9th-United Women of Faith Craft day1 PM Fireside room

Saturday October 11th- Cleanup day 8AM to 12 noon please come for as long as you are able, you don't have to be there the whole time

Sunday October 12th – Making lunch for the encampment after Church

Tuesday, October 14th -Trustee Meeting 7 PM ID: 897 0585 8917
Passcode: 406217

Wednesday, October 15th -Worship Committee meeting 7PM Zoom, we need to get ready for the Charge Confrenc.

Tuesday, October 21st -Craft Night 6PM. I thought we would make center peaces for the Fall Festival. We could take them home for Thanksgiving. Please bring a small pumpkin.

Sunday October 26th – Making lunch for the encampment after Church

Tuesday, October 28th - **Canceled** Finance Committee 7 PM Zoom

Thursday, October 30th - Charge Confrence 2PM. This year we will be combining Los Banos and Dos Palos, we are hosting. Please come if you ae able

Bell Choir Is every Thursday at 4:30 PM

Saturday November 22nd -Mark your calendar. Fall Festival Chicken Dinner

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

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.

United Women of Faith next meeting will be October 13th at 1PM. If you have any ideas for a field trip please send them to Laura Scott.

Our Fall Festival will be November 22nd We will be having a chicken dinner this year (sounds yummy) See flyer attached for more information. We will be raffling tickets for Disney again and lots of other fun stuff. If you would like to help please contact Gregg Rice or Susan Younce If you know anyone who would like to be a vender for the craft fair please let Lori know or have them email the office umclosbanos@gmail.com We hope to have a well-attended event!

The 150 Anniversary Celebration was a great success.

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/auLJVZYjeXs>



Dear family of Los Banos United Methodist Church:

Praise be to God for all things in life. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers and hard work throughout this year. As we just finished our 150th celebration last two weeks. I am forever thanking God for all of you.

Please continued to pray for our church and especially our children, youth and young adult's ministry. These are our futures and let's pray for a program that God will guide us on these ministries. As I am going to start a program with our Youth and Young Adults as well as our children ministries. It has been heavy in my heart.

I also want to ask you to make sure you pray with your family, try to read the bible daily. We have devotion books available at church. Contact us if you need assistant on those devotion books. I am also available to have devotions with your family at anytime via phone, zoom or messenger call even text and email.

As we are approaching the new month and say goodbye to September. I pray all our family will be having a better month ahead. Please try to send any amount of your donations to church when you can. I promise you to give is a blessing. When you blessed someone, you will be blessed. Not only through money, etc, but a kind words, a little smile, a little visit to someone, a card and prayers. Keep up the good work. Contact me anytime to pray or just to chat. Until then may God richly bless you all.

Blessings,
'Ivoni

Pray and pray again, when done praying, pray again.

(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Administrative Council Highlights – September 2, 2025

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 with ten people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Social Justice/Manna Ministries** – 2nd and 4th Sundays a month. There will be sign ups to help with food distribution.
- **United Women of Faith** – A Salad luncheon is planned for Sept 11, at 1:00. A field trip is beginning to be planned.
- **Education/Sunday School** - Tawny Walsh reported that Sunday school started 2 weeks ago but had to stop because the air conditioner went out.
- **Board of Trustees** – Staff Parish clean up day is planned for Sept 11. Kevin still getting estimates for electrical work.
- **Treasurer's Report / Finance Team** - Gregg Rice reported that the finance met last Thursday. 5 Sundays in August but can only count 4 as it doesn't mesh with the bookkeeping financials. August budget was short about \$1,100 to pay monthly bills. Workers Comp was overpaid and Cathie is trying to figure out why. The General Fund has a balance of \$1,000 so hopefully the church will get a boost from the Rummage sales. Scrip has Mackenzie helping with a new download to help collect data.
- **Youth Ministries** - Pastor Ivoni reported we need a Welfare Prayer to help find a youth director.
- **Other** – Ivoni stated we are Finalizing the date for Fall Festival
 - The Rummage Sale will be Sept 4th and 5th
 - The Fall Festival will be in November.

- Sept 8th going to meet with people who are helping with the 150 year celebration.
- Sept 20th 150th celebration
- September 23rd at 6:00PM Nominating Committee will meet for recommendations to all committees
- Oct 4th paint class
- Oct 7th Ad Council meeting
- Oct 8th CRV Meeting
- Oct 11th Cleanup day
- Oct 16-19 Walk to Emmaus
- October 30th is Charge Conference

• Parish Care; People in Need of Prayer.

Prayers were requested for Donna who is still in hospital.

Karen Bonillas not well as hubby is not doing well and she needs to feed him.

Guadalupe is home now.

June Sloan getting Alzheimer's and walks the neighborhood. Her daughter had to hire a care person

Carlene is doing well.

Kimery is unknown



THE LOS BANOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Presents the Annual

FALL FESTIVAL AND CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Craft Fair 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Menu: A full dinner, including Barbecued Chicken, Rice, Salad, Garlic Bread and Dessert

Dinner Ticket Prices: \$20.00 for Adults, \$8.00 for Children Under 12

*Location: Memorial Fellowship Hall at LB United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Street, Los Banos (209) 826-4181*

Take-outs will be available.

To purchase dinner tickets, please call the church office (209-826-4181) or Gregg Rice (209-761-2737).
For Craft Fair Vendor information, call the church office or email at umclosbanos@gmail.com



**YOU COULD BE GOING TO DISNEYLAND,
DISNEY'S CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE OR
A DISNEY CARIBBEAN CRUISE!
RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

For a \$10.00 donation, one lucky person will win a \$1,000 gift card that is good for admission to Disneyland, Disney's California Adventure, a Disney Cruise Line voyage, or any of Disney's other products or services.

The drawing will take place at our Fall Festival Dinner on Saturday, November 22.

(You need not be present to win.)

We have printed a total of only 400 tickets, so the odds of winning will be one in 400 or better.

Tickets are on sale in the church office, on Sundays after church, and from several members of the congregation. For further information, please call the office (209 826-4181), Susan Younce (209-675-1550), or Gregg Rice (209-761-2737).

Vendor fees for Craft Fair are:

Space fee is \$25.00 and you must donate 1 item from your booth for a raffle.
Hall will be open at 8 am to set up and you must not break down before 2 pm.
You will have a 10 X 10 space. We will provide 1 table and 2 chairs per space.
you may bring more for your set up but keep in mind your space is 10 X 10
Fees and applications due by November 10th 2025

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Since its inception, our church's scrip program has earned nearly \$47,000, most of which has been used to provide a portion of our financial support of the worldwide mission of the United Methodist Church. Participating in our scrip program is a win-win for everyone: you pay us face value for a gift card or a paper certificate or even funds in a digital wallet. This allows you or a gift recipient to purchase items without the hassle of carrying around cash or a checkbook, or the risk of credit card fraud. The church makes money because we get a rebate/discount from the card issuer. On top of that, by law gift cards never expire, and the issuer cannot charge fees that will reduce the value of unused cards. If you use Venmo or Zelle to transfer money or pay bills, are set up to accept payment for your scrip purchases by using either of these methods. Of course, we also accept checks and cash. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice at the contact numbers shown below, or talk with us at the scrip table after church to get set up. We keep more than \$4,000 worth of gift cards on hand for immediate purchase on Sunday mornings. We are also happy to meet your scrip needs almost any time during the week. The cards that we normally stock can be used to buy food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries, plus a number of online vendors. We can also print paper certificates and electronic gift "cards" almost immediately for items that we do not have on hand. Some local vendors that you might not know we carry include Kentucky Fried Chicken, Crumbl Cookies, Great Clips hair salons, and El Pollo Loco. The full list of the hundreds of participating retailers can be viewed by visiting www.RaiseRight.com , or by stopping by the scrip table after church on Sunday mornings. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone at (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at jgrice717@att.net to peruse the gift cards that we have on hand, or to order something that we don't currently have. We generally place orders for physical gift cards on Sunday afternoons, and are usually delivered to Los Banos on Tuesday afternoons – and we will gladly deliver them to you!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LOS BANOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FACILITIES

1872. Rev. Elias A. Wible, a Methodist minister originally from Pennsylvania, moved with his family to the Volta area and conducted the first Protestant religious services on the West Side of Merced County. He utilized a 20-ft. by 30-ft. wooden school house that had been built by local farmers and ranchers in 1870, near the intersection of Pioneer Road and Ortigalita Road.

1874. After achieving only limited success at ministry (his congregation consisted of only 14 members after two years), and apparently failing at farming due to a lack of irrigation water, Rev. Wible and his family departed the area. As luck would have it, one of the lay members of the church was Mr. W. F.

Clarke, a teacher in the little school house. Clarke had grown up in Virginia, and was the son of a Methodist minister. Interestingly, he served as an aide to Confederate General Robert E. Lee in the Civil War, and had moved to California in 1871. He strongly felt that the area needed a Methodist church, and he traveled in the fall of 1874 to Stockton to attend the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church South. He was so passionate and persuasive that he convinced the Annual Conference to appoint a circuit rider to work with Mr. Clarke to organize a church here. On February 27, 1875, the Los Banos Methodist congregation was officially launched. 1889. A railroad line was built through the Central Valley, and a new town called Los Banos was staked out along the railroad track. Henry Miller, a German immigrant and hugely successful businessman and cattle rancher, owned much of the entire Central Valley, including almost all of what became Los Banos. 1891. The Methodist congregation was growing rapidly, and it was agreed that a larger church building was needed, located within the newly formed town. A contract was let for \$2,300 to construct a new church building – 30 feet by 50 feet – with an addition in the back for a pulpit and a steeple in the front. The steeple housed a 600-pound bell that was used to call the congregation to worship. Henry Miller gave the Methodists \$500, and the new building became the very first church erected in Los Banos. The location was at Fifth and J Streets – where Wells Fargo Bank now resides. Miller later donated \$500 to the Catholic Church, which built its own church one block away – at Fifth and K Streets, which is now the site of the Los Banos Arts Council. 1922. The 1891 building was repurposed as a Sunday School, and a much larger sanctuary building was constructed on the lot at Fifth and J Streets, at a cost of \$13,000. 1958. With plans beginning to come to fruition for the future construction of Interstate 5, the California Aqueduct and San Luis Reservoir, the Methodist Church of Los Banos anticipated a large growth in the City's population, and a need to minister to its new residents. Plans were developed, and a new sanctuary and classroom wing were constructed on a larger piece of property on the western outskirts of town, at Iowa Avenue and West K Street. 1960. The plans for the new modern church did not include a belfry for the bell that had been rung every week since 1891, so the bell was placed in storage in a congregation member's warehouse. In the summer of 1960, it was brought out of storage and installed in the yard of the new church as a memento of the past. 1965. With the planned-for major government construction projects in full swing, and hundreds of workers, engineers and government officials and their families now based in and near Los Banos, the church established an outpost Sunday School in Santa Nella. According to an April 1965 article from the Merced Sun Star, total membership in the church reached 430. 1998. Responding to a new population growth surge in Los Banos, the church constructed the Memorial Fellowship Hall at the northern edge of its property, along J Street, at a cost of approximately \$300,000.