



The Vine

June 2020

United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635
E-MAIL Address: umclb@att.net
YouTube: Link available on our website weekly
Website: **umclb.net**
Phone (209) 826-4181
Address Service Requested

Worship Service: On YouTube

Church Office Hours: Office closed but secretary can be reached by leaving a message on church phone. It will be checked daily.

Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

2 nd Kelly Younce	6 th Carl Phillips
7 th Deb Milnes	7 th Matthew Patrick
12 th Mychaela Narcisso	22 nd Frances Hall
22 nd Danny Foxworthy	28 th Richard Dybas
29 th Eileen Sorensen	29 th Barbara Cobarruvias

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY !

2 nd	Jim & Kathy Garrison
26 th	Steve & Cassie Miyamoto
27 th	Don & Carley Van Someren

May contributions total: \$ 7,984.00

Attendance online for May: 3rd (77) 10th (92) 17th (58) 24th (65) 31st (64)



From the Pastor – June 2020



If anyone asks you when the church will re-open, please tell them that the church never closes, only our buildings are shut. The church is open whenever one member calls another and we share encouragement and prayer. The church is open when we feed the hungry through Manna Ministries. The church is open when we worship in our own homes watching the service on YouTube. The church is open when we pray for one another, and when we sacrificially give to continue the ministry. The church has existed without buildings through times of persecution, poverty, and rapid growth.



The church is not the building, but we are fond of the building God has provided. We value the time and place where we come to be with God and be with one another. We are all eager to worship in the sanctuary but balance that eagerness with a desire to keep one another healthy.



Our Bishop and conference leadership have been addressing the timing and process of re-opening the buildings. As to timing, we have been instructed to keep the buildings shut at least through the end of June. A re-opening task force is producing a guide for resuming worship in the sanctuary. Each congregation will be forming a team to apply those guidelines to our local situations. Worship will be different at first, with social distancing and masks required, possibly without congregational singing, and without coffee hour snacks. We are still waiting for the full protocol to be released.



In the meantime, continue being the church. Continue loving and supporting one another. Continue praying and studying and serving God.



On a personal note, Kathy tripped on a raised sidewalk in front of the Dos Palos UMC and broke her shoulder, almost certainly to require surgical repair. We are grateful for the support, prayers, meals and patience that the church family has extended.



Pastor Jim



Prayer for Troubled Times



Lord, we are grateful that you are always faithful. We are amazed by your ability to bring good out of bad situations. We turn to you for help in a time of deep pain in our nation. You created people of every race and call us all to worship you. You call us to love one another and practice your righteous justice without regard to race, language or color. We lament that too often our society has fallen short of that call. Too often people of color are seen and treated differently. Too often even minor situations have led to deaths of young black men at the hands of law enforcement. Lord, save us and heal us. We thank you for law enforcement personnel and the vital role they play in maintaining our safety. We ask that you use the outrage we are feeling as an opportunity to bring about true reform wherever it is needed. We ask that you would make all our law enforcement agencies to truly and consistently be agents for safety and justice for all of us. We invite you to examine and transform each of our hearts in whatever ways are needed. Amen.





**Administrative Council Highlights –
May 5, 2020**

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 with eight people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Tribute for Mother’s Day.** Because the church would be closed for Mother’s Day, Jim recorded remembrances by those present about their own mothers, which would be edited by Mackenzie Ferreira into the YouTube service for May 10th.
- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW):** The NOW team has not been able to meet Recently, but a Zoom session was scheduled for May 18th. Manna Ministries is serving boxed meals for takeout only. The small group Bible studies- some by conference call and some by Zoom- are going well and will probably be continued after we return to regular services. VBS will not be conducted as usual this year, but the VBS committee will likely try to provide something online.
- **Trustees:** The Trustees had likewise not met recently, but a Zoom meeting is planned for June. The Los Banos police have removed the growing homeless population from the church premises. Pastor Jim installed the new dishwasher in the parsonage, and it works “wonderfully.” We have postponed the planned fence replacement at the parsonage.
- **UMW:** It is uncertain when the next UMW meeting will be. The Rummage sale is cancelled for now but maybe rescheduled for October. Jim noted that the Bishop has advised all of our Annual Conference’s churches to remain closed until the end of June.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee:** All paid church staff members (secretary, janitor, gardener and pianist) are still working and being paid. The church has applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan through the SBA, which is intended to provide funds to keep employers from laying off employees. To the extent that the loan money is used for payroll costs, and to a lesser extent, utilities, the loan will be converted to a grant that does not have to be paid back.

- Prayers were requested for the following **People in Need:** The family of Darryl Henley, who passed away, George Mitchell, George Foxworthy, Mykki from Dos Palos, Bill Sloan, Maribel Ybarra, Godfrey Zaunbrecher, Eileen Sorensen, Frances Hall, Deb Milnes, Kathy Garrison and Ed & Suzanne Kosters.
- **Pastor’s Report:** The big Conference-wide question is when and how do churches re-open following the Corona virus closures? Some churches have been doing communion online, which we may consider if the closures continue much longer. Cassie has contacted members of the church family, offering to deliver copies of the new Upper Room. We might continue to videotape our Sunday morning services, even after we re-open, so that people who are unable to attend in person can still see the services on YouTube.
- **Financial Report:** Our collections for April were just \$7,608.89, with no payments from any of the groups that normally use our facilities, due to their current closure. A total of \$160.00 was collected for Easter Lilies, and it was agreed that another \$40.00 would be added, to make a donation of \$200.00 to the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. So far, we have received nothing from Amazon Prime. Our paid expenses for April were \$11,133.46, leaving a checkbook balance of \$1,219.64. As of the end of the month, we owed bills for property and liability insurance and for the pension fund, totaling \$1,800.76. The first quarter statements have been mailed out, along with a cover letter encouraging continued giving.

Script Tip of The Month

We still have on hand several thousand dollars’ worth of gift cards for immediate sale, good for food, gas or merchandise. **If you are looking for a gift for Father’s Day or graduation**, please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone @ (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737 or email at grice@inreach.com.





Vine Monthly Events For June



All meetings and events are suspended or are being done on phone conferencing until we are ready to re-open safely. The Conference is advising us on developing a plan and we will need to do a few things before we are ready to open. Thank you for your patience and communication during this time. We look forward to seeing everyone hopefully in July.

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Thank you to all who participated in making meals for others in need during this time. Meals for the Garrisons is still on going. Kathy's arm will take a while to heal. If you wish to participate by making a meal for Jim and Kathy please contact Cassie at 209-829-0396.

It was and is a huge help!

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A weekly Bible study by phone is occurring (32 persons already participating!). It is a great way to stay in touch. If you wish to be included, please contact the church office: 209-826-4181. Also, our service is available on YouTube. Link is posted weekly on our website: **umclb.net** and will be sent to your email.

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Face Masks- Kathy Garrison and Juli Rice have made face masks to help in these trying times. They still have some available for free. If you need a few please contact the church office so that we can get them to you! Please leave your name and the number of masks you need.





Important dates:



Beginning of June – Rummage Sale will be postponed for now. More news on this later.



June 2nd – Administrative Council 7PM on Zoom.



June 14th – Flag Day



June 21st – Father’s Day



June 30th – Finance Committee meeting 3:30PM on Zoom.



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Note: VBS will not be in person but an online something is in the works.



More on this later. If you have questions or want to assist contact Shannon Doubek or Kerri Michel. Thank you!



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E-Giving – Did you know? There are now 8 families in our church using Vanco Give Plus to donate to the church securely and conveniently online! Accounts and payments can easily be set up and initiated on a laptop or desktop computer, or by using a mobile phone, using the free Give Plus app.



Here are the steps: go to your google play store and download the Giveplus app. This can keep our church going during these trying times. You go to this app and find your church name (UMCLB) select your church tap give now. Choose the fund to give to and the amount you wish to give. Select move forward to the payment information. Scan your card or enter your bank information. Review your donation summary then select complete donation. That way your tithe is all taken care of.



The other easy way is to go to our website: www.umclb.net , there is a link for this purpose there. If you have questions, please see Gregg Rice or Bud Ramsey. Thank you!





Newsletter - Dear Fellow Family in Christ,



Communication is part of what holds us together as a congregation. Our monthly newsletter, The Vine, is an important part of that communication. We are now posting the newsletter on our church website (umclb.net) and will be emailing the link to our members whenever a new issue is published. We will still print and mail copies for whoever would like hard copies. Would you like to go "digital only" or would you still like to also receive a paper copy in the mail?



The "digital only" option saves time and costs of paper, printing and postage. An additional advantage of digital is the ability to include better photos and being able to locate past issues.



Some people are more likely to read the paper copies, and some will be more likely to read the online version. You know your own habits. We want you to see the newsletter each month, so we ask you to respond to this letter with your preference (digital only - or paper by mail) to the church office. Still waiting for a few to let me know so please call.



Thank you to all who have already replied. Cassie



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Please keep praying for our leaders, pastors, first responders, hospital staff and all families affected by this pandemic. We are wanting to be warriors for Christ and show his love during these trying times. Keep in mind God is with us through it all.



If you need help or wish to have prayers, please contact the church office at 209-826-4181, phone line is checked daily, or call the secretary or Pastor using the numbers provided in your church directory. Thank you.

