



The Vine

August 2020

United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635
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Address Service Requested

Worship Service **Online see website: www.umclb.net**

Church Office Hours: Working from home- phone checked daily

Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

3 rd	Gregg Rice	3 rd	Tom Rooney
8 th	Addison Toscano	8 th	Audrey Hepworth
21 st	Wilma Ditter	21 st	Ethan Knight
24 th	Cindy Garrison Lattin	25 th	Karen Bonillas
28 th	Ellena Avara		

HAPPY ANNI VERSARY TO YOU!

2nd Ron & Lorrie Dybas

16th Carl & Jolanda Phillips

16th Dan & Lynn Martin

July contributions total: \$ 8,317.00*
Attendance online for July 5th (92) 12th (75) 19th (59) 26th (84)

Gone to Glory

We extend our deepest sympathy to the grieving families of Jim Willis, Bill Sloan, Muriel Bower, Suzanne Kusters, and Joyce O'Dell. Praise God for our confident hope of an eternal home in heaven, for the sustaining comfort of the Holy Spirit, and the supportive love of our church family.

An outdoor memorial service for Suzanne Kusters is planned for August 22 at 9:00 a.m.

If you would care to, you can honor their legacy and help the church by making donations in their names to the Memorial Fund. Money that is received from these special donations is kept separately from the church's General Fund and is made available for use by the Board of Trustees for special projects or unplanned large expenses involving our buildings and grounds. Please note on your check the name(s) of the honoree(s) so that we can track the donations appropriately.

Special Giving Opportunity

The double-wide commercial refrigerator in the Memorial Hall kitchen has broken beyond affordable repair and is being replaced. The cost for the new one is about \$2,700. Manna Ministries funds will cover part of the bill. If you would like to donate toward this cause please mark your gift "frig."

Gifts can be made through checks in the mail or through the online giving section of our website (umclb.net). A line item for the new Fellowship Hall Frig has been added to Give+.

From the Pastor

On our refrigerator door is a 2019 Christmas card wishing that "your 2020 may be full of blessings and adventures." I guess "adventures" usually means "dealing with the unexpected." By that definition we have had a very adventurous year so far. Almost nothing has gone the way we imagined back in February. I trust that we have also been experiencing blessings. We have had to suspend in-person worship, but we have launched an online mission. We haven't been able to gather physically, but we have been meeting by phone in small groups. We didn't get to hold our famous VBS, but we saw some amazing talents displayed as we produced an online VBS experience.

I am getting wary of even trying to predict how things will be in a few weeks, but there are some things that we can always know for certain. We know that God loves us. We know that God is with us. We know that God helps us and works through us. We know that God hears our prayers. I pray that the disruption of what is "normal" has helped you recognize what is certain. If we have been reminded of that, then 2020 has already been full of blessing . . . and who knows what more blessings are still to come?

Yours in the certainty of Jesus' love,

Pastor Jim

Administrative Council Highlights – July 7, 2020

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Coronavirus Matters.** A church re-launch committee has met a few times, and using a template designed by the Conference, submitted a plan to resume in-person worship services, starting July 12. The District Superintendent accepted the plan after we made a few revisions, and gave us the go-ahead to begin on Sunday, July 19. But the Governor closed down all in-person meetings until the number of COVID-19 cases decrease. There is to be no live singing, so options are being considered. We plan to continue videotaping weekly services, and we may livestream them if we can work out the technical issues.

Along with the Sunday services, we received permission to hold a memorial service on July 18 for Joyce O'Dell. Our request for a second memorial service, for Jim Willis, was also approved, but it has been postponed until sometime later. There is no planned re-launch date for the Dos Palos church, and the use of our facilities in Los Banos by other groups is still on hold.

Westamerica Bank finally responded to our question as to why the church received a loan of \$12,508.54 through the SBA Paycheck Protection Program, far below the \$18,816.85 for which we qualified. Without explanation, the bank replied that the SBA had funded "the amount requested" and there was no provision for reconsideration. At least we know that we will definitely qualify to have the loan converted to a grant, because it is all being used for payroll costs. Gregg helped the Dos Palos church apply for their own loan/grant in June, and they received about \$2,616, which was the full amount that they qualified for.

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW):** The NOW team did not meet in June, but a Zoom meeting is set for July 20. Jim's interview with Jennifer Barcellos about her work with the Jardin de Amor school in Guatemala was very well done, and those who

wish to donate to the school can do so through our church, by check or online. All who have watched the virtual VBS videos have been very impressed. The videos are available online by request only, due to privacy and copyright concerns. The small group Bible studies are continuing. Rhonda and Robert Cardenas are interested in hosting a study group focusing on a book about effective communications between parents and their children.

- **Trustees:** The broken window in the puppet room was fixed by Unique Glass. The parsonage washing machine has started making some unusual noises, so it might soon be in need of repair or replacement.
- **UMW:** It is uncertain when the next UMW meeting will be. The women plan to assist with Joyce O'Dell's memorial service, and they still hope to hold a rummage in the fall.
- **Financial Report.** We received donations of \$10,008.72 in June. Our paid expenses were \$10,844.49, dropping the June 30 checkbook balance to \$10,593.55, which is roughly \$2,000 less than the money we received from the SBA. All bills were currently paid up to date. We apparently gave Amazon Smile an incorrect bank account number, which has now been fixed. The missing \$11.05 from the first quarter will be added to our second quarter earnings, to be paid to us in August.
- Prayers were requested for the following **People in Need:** the families of Joyce O'Dell and Jim Willis, Ed and Suzanne Koters, Kathy Garrison, and Bill Sloan.
- **Pastor's Report:** Kathy's left shoulder will need surgery after all. Jim will be performing a baptism in Dos Palos on July 10.

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Just a reminder: We have on hand thousands of dollars' worth of gift cards for immediate sale, good for food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries. We can also print paper certificates, almost immediately, for items that are not in our inventory. You can see the full list of all participating retailers at www.ShopWithScrip.com. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone at (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at grice@inreach.com.

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.

