



The Vine

September 2021

United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635
E-MAIL Address: umclb@att.net
Phone (209) 826-4181
Address Service Requested

Worship Service In-person 9:30AM Sundays

Website: www.umclb.net **Service also online**

Church Office Hours: Currently at differing times, please call Secretary if you need time in office and phone line checked daily.

Pastor: Rev. Henry Pablo

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

1 st	Hans Younce	4 th	Sierra Alvarez
4 th	Jason Walsh	9 th	Riley Knight
12 th	Stella Green	13 th	Alejandro Patrick
18 th	Tony Michel	20 th	Juan Carlos Patrick

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

6 th	Jim & Melissa Jones
18 th	Kevin & MacKenzie Ferreira
27 th	Tom & SanDee Rooney

August contributions total: \$ 9,914.00
In-Person Services for August 1st (35) 8th (53) 15th (58) 22nd (47) 29th (51)



Dear Los Banos UMC,

During the last Sunday of August, I concluded our sermon series on discipleship. However, the communal journey of discipleship continues. Over the past month our newsfeeds have been occupied by devastating and saddening news - the earthquake in Haiti, the fires in California, the violence in Afghanistan, and Hurricane Ida beginning to devastate the Gulf Coast. As individuals on the journey of discipleship and a community of faith we must ask ourselves: ***What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the midst of the humanitarian crises we are seeing around the world? What can we as individuals and a faith community do for those experiencing these crises?*** I want to take this time to talk to you all about the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries. The mission of this agency is to (1) Make disciples of Jesus Christ, (2) Strengthen, develop and renew Christian congregations and communities, (3) Alleviate human suffering, and (4) Seek justice, freedom and peace. Under this agency is the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR, which is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR is currently working with various organizations to help areas in crises. For example, UMCOR is providing assistance to displaced families residing in the Kabul area and providing medical supplies to Haitian hospitals. If you are interested in learning more about Global Ministries and UMCOR, please visit the following website: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/> Although we are distant from some of these areas in crises, we can still provide our support to those on the ground through our prayers and financial support. As you give your offering to Los Banos UMC, our local church also financially supports the global church in what is called apportionments. Part of the apportionments goes to disaster relief. As we look outward toward the rest of the world, it is important that we also look inward toward the needs of our city. My plan is that in the following months we can begin expanding our outreach ministries in serving the city of Los Banos and increase our congregation's participation in community service. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be that peace within our community serving "the least of these." If you are interested in participating in these conversations on community outreach, please contact me at henrypablo.serve@gmail.com.

Once again, if you are in need of prayer or support - do not hesitate to reach out to the church. We are here for you, and you are loved.

Much Peace,

Henry Pablo

Pastor Henry



**Administrative Council Highlights –
August 4, 2021**

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 with nine people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Safe Gatherings Policy.** The existing Safe Ministry Policy that was adopted in 2009 needs updating, and Pastor Henry is drafting a revised policy. The Ad Council authorized Tawny Walsh, Shannan Doubek and Roxanne Hew to attend an online “Safe Gathering” training course at a cost of \$41.00 each.
- **Family Scouts Proposal.** Scout Pack 85, which our church has sponsored for 95 years, wishes to allow girls to join. There are 9 active members now, but several will “age out” fairly soon, leaving the Pack close to the required minimum of 5. They are now recruiting new members, and some girls have shown interest. Pack 85 was authorized to modify its bylaws and do whatever else is necessary to allow girls to become members of the Pack.
- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** NOW met by Zoom on July 26, discussing pastoral visitations of shut-ins, resumption of children’s church, the pew dedication on August 29, the course on Methodism and Membership, and revision of the Safe Gatherings Policy. We still need a prayer chain coordinator and a backup person for Sunday worship livestreaming. We will celebrate 20 years of Manna Ministries on August 22, with special recognition for Laree Rogers, Fay Davis and the family of Claire Jensen for their work in founding Manna. Certificates will also be awarded to the churches that have participated. Signup sheets have been put out for greeters, after church refreshment servers, scripture readers, communion helpers, and music leaders. There is hope that we may be able to get a youth choir started. A memorial service for Helen Brubaker will be held on September 13.
- **Trustees.** The parsonage window blinds have been installed and paid for, but the fence replacement is still pending. Russ has spent a lot of time and effort repairing the sprinklers. The security cameras have been quite effective and one more camera will be added near the Fellowship Hall kitchen door. Henry encouraged the group to think about how the church can reach out to local homeless people; maybe by enhancing Manna’s outreach or by promoting better use of available services offered by the City, County, and other church ministries. The defaced sign honoring Bobby Burnett on the bench in front of the church will be replaced.
- **UMW.** The next UMW meeting will be held on September 14, and UMW will provide a cake for the pew dedication on August 29.
- **Financial Report.** The church’s income for July was \$9,650.32, while paid expenses were \$11,583.95. The checkbook balance was down to \$2,979.83 as of July 31.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for the family of Helen Brubaker, Susan Ramsey, Steve Miyamoto, Wilma Ditter, Dennis Morris, and Tom and SanDee Rooney,
- **Other Business.** The Treasurer’s laptop and the Church Sound Tech computer are quite old and need to be replaced. Tom and the Trustees will do some research on this. There are some issues with the church’s software licenses through Microsoft.
- **Pastor’s Report.** Henry was pleased with the turnout for the initial meeting of the membership class on August 1. He had so far been to four small group meetings to meet members of the congregation. The church recently received a large supply of masks, hand sanitizer and other related items, donated to us by the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity.



CHANGE IS COMING TO E-GIVING

Vanco has recently announced that it will be discontinuing use of the Give+ mobile app for online giving as of the end of September. It will be replaced by the new **Vanco Mobile app**, which can be downloaded for free from either the [Apple App store](#) or [Google Play store](#). You can easily join Vanco Mobile from within the church's website (www.umclb.net) or, if you have downloaded Vanco Mobile, you can search the app to connect with our church (United Methodist Church of Los Banos).

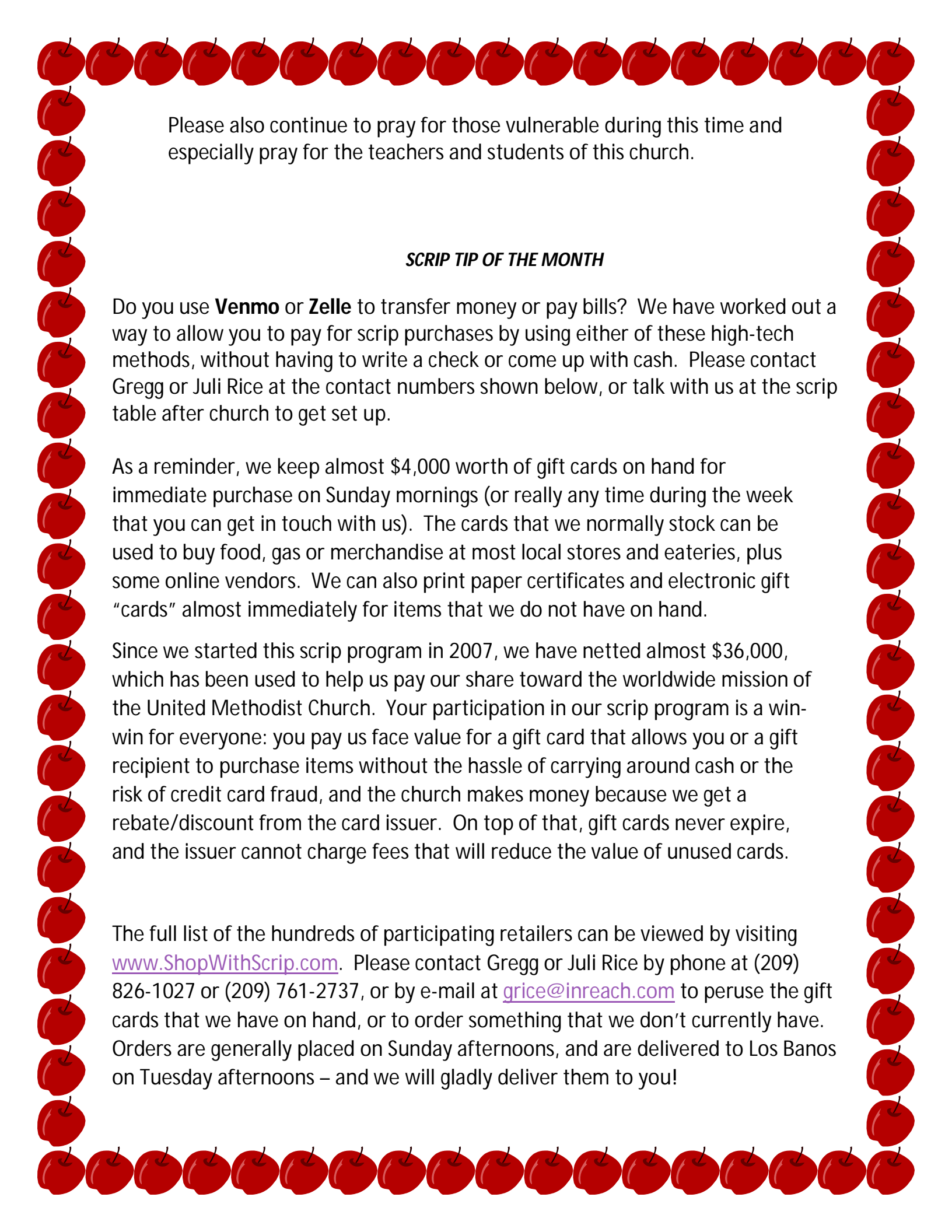
If you are one of the eight families who are already contributing to our church regularly online, we are told assured that all scheduled recurring gifts will process as previously set up. Once you launch your new Vanco Mobile app, you will be able to log in using your existing username and password.

If you have not yet experienced the convenience of online giving, Vanco has a variety of tools to help you get started. A link to specific setup instructions can be found on the church website, or you can contact Gregg Rice by email (grice@inreach.com) or by phone (209-761-2737) and he will send you a link or answer any questions you may have.

New – reinstated COVID restrictions

These guidelines will go into effect on 9/5/21

- 1.) During Sunday Activities on the church premises (Sunday Service, Children's Church, Social Hour, and Manna Ministries) all persons are required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status, except for children two years old or younger.
- 2.) During the service in the Sanctuary we will create a section of pews in the back that are socially distanced. This means that some pews will be closed off for this purpose.



Please also continue to pray for those vulnerable during this time and especially pray for the teachers and students of this church.

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Do you use **Venmo** or **Zelle** to transfer money or pay bills? We have worked out a way to allow you to pay for scrip purchases by using either of these high-tech methods, without having to write a check or come up with 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.

As a reminder, we keep almost \$4,000 worth of gift cards on hand for immediate purchase on Sunday mornings (or really any time during the week that you can get in touch with us). The cards that we normally stock can be used to buy food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries, plus some online vendors. We can also print paper certificates and electronic gift "cards" almost immediately for items that we do not have on hand.

Since we started this scrip program in 2007, we have netted almost \$36,000, which has been used to help us pay our share toward the worldwide mission of the United Methodist Church. Your participation in our scrip program is a win-win for everyone: you pay us face value for a gift card that allows you or a gift recipient to purchase items without the hassle of carrying around cash or the risk of credit card fraud, and the church makes money because we get a rebate/discount from the card issuer. On top of that, gift cards never expire, and the issuer cannot charge fees that will reduce the value of unused cards.

The full list of the hundreds of participating retailers can be viewed by visiting 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 to peruse the gift cards that we have on hand, or to order something that we don't currently have. Orders are generally placed on Sunday afternoons, and are delivered to Los Banos on Tuesday afternoons – and we will gladly deliver them to you!



Event Highlights of this last month

Manna Celebrated its 20th year! It was a nice dinner with several groups in attendance. All the persons who are involved in Manna were acknowledged with a beautiful Bible verse wall hanging, hand made by Amanda, and certificates. Amanda was presented with a certificate and gift cards for her long-standing leadership and dedication to Manna. Also, the founding women who began Manna were acknowledged.

Pew dedication ceremony was well attended on Sunday August 29th. All went well and June and her family were thanked for the refurbishing of the pews that look so nice in the Sanctuary. A plaque dedicating this work to Bill Sloan is on display on the back pew for all to see. Also, thank you United Methodist Women for the yummy cake to celebrate.

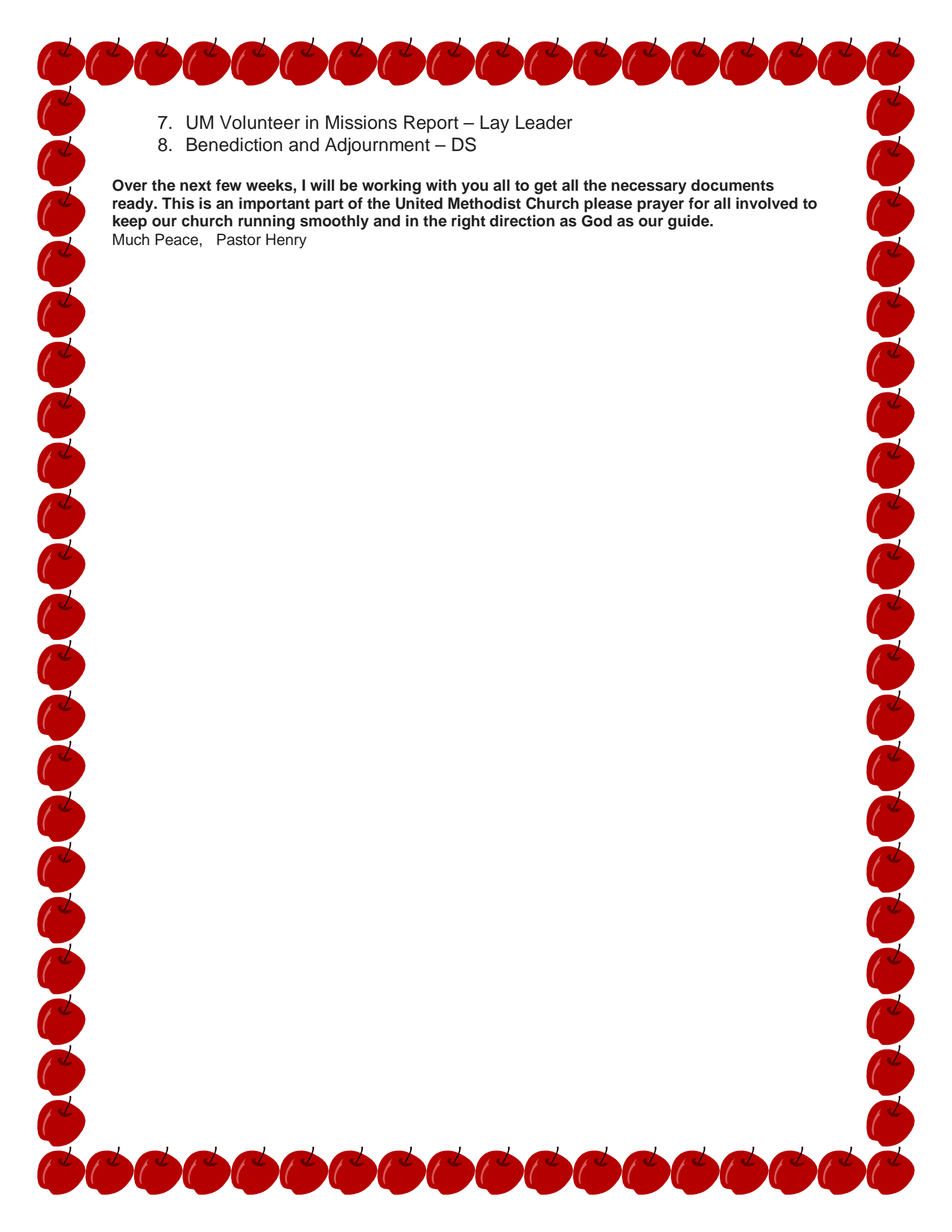
Annual Charge Conference News

The Charge Conference will take place on Monday, October 25th. The schedule will be as follows:

- 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM, Pastor's Consultation
- 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM, SPRC Consultation
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM, Charge Conference (60-90 Minutes)

The Agenda for the Charge Conference is the following:

1. Welcome and Introductions – Pastor
2. Call to Order, Scripture, Opening Prayer – DS
3. Membership Report – Membership Secretary or Pastor
4. Approval of 2022 Clergy Compensation - SPRC Chair
5. Election of Church Leaders – Pastor
6. Certification for Candidates for Ministry and Lay Servants, Lay Speakers – Pastor

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7. UM Volunteer in Missions Report – Lay Leader
 8. Benediction and Adjourment – DS

Over the next few weeks, I will be working with you all to get all the necessary documents ready. This is an important part of the United Methodist Church please prayer for all involved to keep our church running smoothly and in the right direction as God as our guide.

Much Peace, Pastor Henry



Vine Monthly Events September

Important dates:

September 5th - Last class - 3 to 4 PM on Zoom /and in Fireside room

Methodism & Membership Class by Pastor Henry!

September 7th - Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

September 13th - Funeral for Helen Brubaker @ 10am
meal following in Fellowship Hall

September 14th - UMW Meeting will occur, time to be
determined.

September 20th - N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

September 28th - Finance Committee Meeting @ 3:30pm

Note: Boy Scouts : The cub scouts ended their year by awards 82 advancements to the 7 registered scouts and presenting rank advancement to 7 scouts. We are very proud of their hard work throughout the pandemic. Many of the scouts worked on advancements at home with families and even did scouts on zoom. We welcomed 4 new scouts to the pack this month and said good bye to 2 scouts who are moving on to the troop. The church board approved the changing of the pack from a boy only pack to a family pack. This means we will be recruiting and welcoming girls into our groups. We are excited to share our love of scouting with more youth in our community. August marks the return to traditional scouting program and the beginning of our annual popcorn fundraiser. The scouts will be out in the community selling popcorn for the next few months. If you see them out and can help us out, we would appreciate it. Finally, if you are interested in helping with the pack and have any time to share with the youth, volunteers are always invited. It does not have to be a permanent leader position. Maybe you have a love of gardening or wood working or music that you would like to share. We always welcome guests and the scouts love hearing from and meeting guests. Please contact Mackenzie if you would like to help. We are always recruiting new scouts. There are fliers about the program in the church office. If you know of anyone in kindergarten through 5th grade who is interested, please invite them to contact Mackenzie for more information.

Thanks! Mackenzie Ferreira



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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 using the numbers provided in your church directory.

Still looking for prayer chain coordinator! If you feel you can help in this ministry please see Cassie UMCLB Secretary or call the church office and leave a message. Thank you for your prayerful help.



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