



The Vine

December 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: 8:30am – 11:30am Mon-Thurs.
Pastor: Rev. Henry Pablo
Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

8 th	Christopher Foxworthy	13 th	Ann Simmons
14 th	Amanda Bascue	14 th	Bill Tucker
14 th	Dennis Morris	15 th	Robert Doubek
17 th	Bud Ramsey	19 th	Beth Sloan Johnson
23 rd	Juli Rice	30 th	Kris Hew
31 st	Lynn Martin	31 st	Robert Cardenas

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU!

December 4th - Bill & Debbie Tucker

December 31st - Hans & Susan Younce

November contributions total: **\$ 8,254.00**
In-Person Services for November 7th (42) 14th (47) 21st (63) 28th (49)



December 1, 2021

Dear Los Banos UMC Family,

It is hard to believe that November is finished, and Christmas is around the corner! Many of you may be already rushing into the Christmas season: setting up decorations, planning holiday gatherings, and purchasing presents for friends and family. In the midst of all this Christmas chaos, we forget that we are also in the season of Advent. It is a season of preparing, expecting, and waiting for Christ. It is a time to remember the story of Jesus' birth and look toward the second coming of Christ who will show us a new heaven and a new earth! As we prepare for Christ, I invite you all to slow down and savor all that has happened in 2021 - all the blessings that you have received and all the struggles that God has guided you through! Take a breath. Look around you. Plant your feet onto the ground. Embrace the presence of the Holy Spirit. Extend gratitude to Emmanuel, God with Us!

New things are emerging at Los Banos United Methodist Church, and I can't help but be thankful to all the leaders, volunteers, and the rest of the congregation for the support. From baptisms to welcoming new members and leaders, from church gatherings to new ministries there is an abundance of community happening in our church. On November 7th we started our Youth Confirmation Fellowship, happening on Sundays with a lesson/discussion from 2PM to 3PM. Then, from 3PM to 4PM the fireside room is open where youth can hang-out, play board games, or do homework. Furthermore, through Manna Ministries there has been an increase of people being served! During Thanksgiving, our church and other churches in the community were able to provide meals for various families and distributed numerous canned goods donated from the community. Finally, we concluded our Stewardship Campaign, discovering that Stewardship is rooted in cultivating our relationship with God and the rest of God's creation, while acknowledging that we already have enough to do the work that God calls on us to do!

There are also events to be excited about in December! During the worship service on December 19th, the children will be doing a Christmas play. Then, on Friday, December 24th we will be having our Christmas Eve Candle-Light Service at 7pm. Let us finish this year strong in love and strong in service. Let us move through this advent season intentionally, being the Stewards and Disciples that God calls on us to be, exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ. Once again, if you are in need of prayer or support - do not hesitate to reach out to the church during this season.

Much Peace, Pastor Henry



**Administrative Council Highlights –
November 2, 2021**

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 with four people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** NOW met by Zoom on October 18, with their next meeting to be held on November 15. They discussed decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season on Saturday, November 27, with a soup meal to be shared. A group finished preparing 159 boxes to be shipped off for Operation Christmas Child, the cause supported by this year's VBS.
- **Trustees.** The Ad Council considered and denied a request from a local church to purchase our large barbecue pit. The decision to keep it was in anticipation of possible future use by a rejuvenated youth group and/or other church social events. The parsonage fence repair/replacement project is still pending. Russ has scaled back the lawn watering three times in the past few months in response to our very high water bills, and he will soon turn the system off altogether for the winter. Russ will also run a test and check the meter to determine if there might be a leak somewhere underground, as has been suggested by the City.
- **UMW.** UMW is setting up for a fall rummage sale on November 5 and 6. There is no meeting in November, but a Christmas party is planned for December 8 in the recreation room at the Four Seasons. Pastor Henry found two laptop computers for about \$330.00 each through Amazon that should be powerful enough to run Quickbooks for our treasurer and PowerPoint for our worship services. The UMW will pay the entire purchase price, and will use Amazon scrip for the purchase. UMW will handle the bereavement meal for George Foxworthy, probably in the spring of 2022.

- **Financial Report.** The church's income October was \$10,215.55, rebounding from a very poor September, while paid expenses were \$8,845.57, leaving a checkbook balance of \$1,441.29 on October 31. However, there were unpaid charges of \$3,212.54 that need to be cleared in November. The City's bills for water, sewer and trash disposal were still very high, and well above our PG&E payments in October.

A preliminary draft of the proposed budget for 2022 was shown, which will be refined and presented to the Ad Council for approval in December. There were two parts: a detailed budget, and a narrative budget to explain how the planned expenses would support our vision and mission goals. Those goals will be developed at an upcoming workshop involving all church leaders. Henry then described plans for the Fall Stewardship Campaign, which will involve one or more mailings, and sermons on three Sundays, from November 14 through 28.

- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC did not meet in October, but will get together by Zoom on November 10, without Henry present, to complete his annual evaluation.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for the Foxworthy family, Susan Ramsey, Donna and Dennis Morris, Ed Kusters, and for Robert Cardenas and the recipient of his bone marrow donation.
- **Pastor's Report.** Henry is conducting confirmation classes for about six youth, and has completed membership sessions for seven adults who will join our church as members. While he was at the Annual Conference Session in Sacramento from Friday, October 29 through Sunday, October 31, Ivan Garcia, from Mendota, did an admirable job as the guest speaker.



Vine Monthly Events for December

Important dates:

December 7th - Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

December 8th - **UMW Christmas Party @ 4 season's meeting hall
@ 6:30pm**

December 12th - **Children's Play rehearsal after church**

December 19th - **Children's Christmas Play during service**

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

December 24th - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7pm**

December 25th - Have a wonderful Christmas day!

December 28th - Finance Committee Meeting @ 3:30pm ?

December 31st - New Year's Eve - be safe!

Note: Boy Scouts : The cub scouts collected and donated several bags of canned goods to Manna Ministries, They will be on a float in the parade on Dec. 3rd. They plan to build gingerbread houses on Dec. 8th and go caroling on Dec. 11th. Awards for the year will be handed out on Dec. 15th and they will be helping with Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery on Dec. 18th. The pack is growing and very active. Blessings to all this holiday season! Mackenzie Ferreira.

**UMW Christmas Party – 6pm @ 4 Season's Meeting
Hall on H St.**

December 8th – Please bring: a (\$5) gift for gift exchange, \$5
donation, a food to share and a friend!



SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

This is a reminder that the scrip team is anxious to help you with your gift giving for Christmas this year, while also helping provide financial support to our church in its worldwide mission outreach.

In the past month, we have added two new items to our on-hand supply of gift cards. **Big Lots!** has just opened a store in Los Banos, and we have \$25.00 gift cards available for those who want to shop there. Prepaid \$25.00 and \$100.00 **Visa** gift cards are also now in our scrip supply, and they are usable anywhere where Visa cards are accepted.

Each Sunday after church, we display about \$4,000 worth of gift cards that are available for immediate purchase. We also encourage you to check out the hundreds of other vendors shown in the Retailer List on the scrip company's website (www.shopwithscrip.com). We can order anything that you find on the list, and usually have it here within a couple of days.

New this year, we can accept payments by Venmo or Zelle, in addition to cash or checks.

If you have any questions, want to purchase any of our on-hand inventory, or wish to place an order, please contact Gregg or Juli Rice at (209) 826-1027, or e-mail us at grice@inreach.com.

Confirmation Classes are happening! Youth are encouraged to attend. Pastor Henry does the class from 2pm to 3pm on Sundays with 3pm to 4pm as game time and social time for all attending youth.

Just last Sunday they had ice cream and played Quorkle. Want to know more come and see!

Christmas Poinsettias - You can order a poinsettia on the form provided and it will add to the decoration of the Sanctuary until Christmas eve then you may pick yours up and take it home! These are ordered to honor someone or to memorialize someone. Names will be in the Christmas Eve Bulletins. Poinsettias are \$10 each.

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.



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.



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Christmas Poinsettias



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If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia to decorate our Christmas Eve Service, Please fill out the information below.

Cost is \$10.00

In Honor of

In Memory of

Your Name:

Your Phone #:

Please take your Poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Thank you!

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