



The Vine

February 2022

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

Worship Service **9:30 AM**
Infant and Pre-school Care **9:30 AM**
Sunday School: **9:40 AM**

(Following Children's Moment in Worship Service)

Church Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 8:30 AM–11:30 AM

Pastor: Henry Pablo III

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

5 th	Tyler Morris	7 th	Dan Bonillas
7 th	Chris Foxworthy	11 th	Brooke Barton
14 th	Jim Jones	18 th	Larry Wiley
25 th	Allen Battle		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

11th Dennis & Donna Morris

14th Bud & Susan Ramsey

16th David & Belinda Sabetta

25th Robert & Shannan Doubek

January contributions total: \$ 8,246.00 (without last Sunday – Jan. 30th)
Attendance for January 2nd (30) 9th (28) 16th (20) 23rd (30) 30th (00)

Los Banos - February 2022 Newsletter

Dear Los Banos UMC family,

The month of January has been a month of preparation, discernment, and discussion. The leadership of the church, specifically our *Nurture, Outreach, & Witness Committee* has worked diligently to enhance *Manna Ministries*. During our initial discussion, it became evident that there were parts of the ministry that were unsustainable due to various logistical factors. However, it also became apparent that this was a ministry that the people of the committee, as well as myself, wanted to see continue. What came out of our initial discussion was the goal of addressing those logistical factors and formulating a new *Ministry Action Plan* for *Manna Ministries*.

The mission of Manna Ministries is to invite all people into the love and hope of Jesus Christ through the vision of providing food, clothing, mental health resources, housing resources, and community service opportunities. Within this ministry both those serving and being served are being transformed through the love of Jesus Christ.

With this mission and vision in mind, the church's next steps involve implementing the new logistics outlined in the *Ministry Action Plan*. If you are interested in seeing the *Ministry Action Plan*, feel free to send the church an email of your request. Another ministry that is in discussion and planning is the trial-run for a *short-term emergency warming center* in our Fellowship Hall. Various leaders have begun reaching out to our immediate neighbors to get their thoughts and concerns. The ministry has also gained support and approval by the *Central Valley District Superintendent* of the United Methodist Church. As of now, we are currently waiting on the approval from our insurance provider.

As evident above, ministry, *especially in serving the needs of the community*, takes a lot of faith and planning. At times, ministry itself becomes difficult. However, in my experience, ministry - even the process of planning it - can be much more fulfilling. The compassion given from oneself to another person during ministry can become an act of spiritual restoration, empowering oneself to center Jesus' call *to love neighbor* even in the midst of questions, doubts, and problems. In the midst of all this discernment and planning of ministry I am reminded of Isaiah 43:19, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (NRSV). I believe that God is doing a new thing in Los Banos United Methodist Church and its community, a *new thing* that centers Jesus' love and Jesus' call to love. It is not solely in the ministry, but also in those engaging in the ministry, where hearts are being transformed. With this said, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you who support the church and its ministries in prayer, tithes, gifts, or service. I pray that we all become attentive to the *new things* that God is doing in each and every one of our lives during the month of February. And, if you are interested in learning more about the *new things* - the ministries of Los Banos United Methodist Church - do not hesitate to contact us.

As always, please let us know how the church can support you as we enter into the new year. If you are in need of a visit, a phone-call, or Pastoral Counseling, do not hesitate to let me know and we can schedule a time to meet.

Much Peace,
Pastor Henry

Administrative Council Highlights – January 4, 2022

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Update on Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Bankruptcy.** Pastor Henry gave an update on developments in the BSA bankruptcy case since the special Charge Conference that was held on December 13, at which our church had submitted a “No” vote, as recommended by the Conference. He said that shortly after the vote was taken, he had received an email informing us that the United Methodist negotiating team had reached a satisfactory settlement in the BSA Bankruptcy. It was now recommending all congregations to vote to accept the plan, which now provides releases and protection from sexual abuse lawsuits for all United Methodist churches that have chartered a BSA Troop or Cub Pack. The email told how to submit a replacement vote to accept the agreement, which was done in time to meet the late December deadline.
- **Proposed Los Banos Warming Center in Fellowship Hall.** Pastor Henry gave background information on a proposal brought to him by Pastor Raul of the Nazarene Church, and representatives of the Los Banos Fire and Police Departments, to utilize our Fellowship Hall a few nights a week as a warming center for homeless individuals and families during the winter months. He said he had compiled emailed feedback received from leaders of the church, and drafted a set of potential ground rules, staffing levels and safety protocols, which he then presented.

There was much discussion about a variety of concerns, and reluctance to make a long-term commitment, but general agreement that it was probably “the right thing to do.” In the end, the Ad Council voted to authorize the use of the Fellowship Hall for a two-day trial run of a warming center toward the end of January 2022, pending

approval of the church’s insurance carrier and approval of the District Superintendent and the Bishop, and following consultation with potentially affected neighbors.

- **Trustees.** It was reported that nothing had yet been done yet on the parsonage fence repair project, and we were also still waiting for the electrician to make the connection for the new security camera near the kitchen door of the Fellowship Hall.
- **UMW.** The annual UMW Christmas party at Four Seasons on December 8 went very well, with about 25 in attendance. The next meeting would be January 11, featuring lunch and a presentation by the Alpha Pregnancy Center in Merced.
- **Financial Report.** The church’s income for December was \$15,486.77, the best month of the year. Paid expenses were \$14,032.67, which covered all current 2021 bills, including the pension plan bills. Our church also paid 100% of our tithe, and had a checkbook balance of \$3,361.57 at the end of the year. We received 22 pledges so far for 2022, for a total of \$79,360, which was well above the 18 pledges received for 2021, for a total of \$55,816. The Council then reviewed and approved the proposed 2022 budget, which projected total income of \$165,000 and total expenses of \$163,842, including full payment of apportionments.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for the Walsh and Goggin families, Susan Ramsey, Wilma Ditter, Jean Bright, Jennifer Barcellos, Karen Bonillas’ daughter-in-law, Nathan Jones and Beth Miyamoto.
- **Pastor’s Report.** Henry mentioned plans for a 2022 Planning Day on Saturday, January 15, at which he wished to develop goals for the year, set dates for special events, and brainstorm for ideas for fundraisers.

Vine Monthly Events for February

Important dates:

February 1st _ Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

February 21st - N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom **Happy President's Day!**

February 28th - Finance Meeting @ 3:30pm on Zoom

Note: Boy Scouts: The cub scouts are looking forward to another busy and joy filled year. They want to thank all who helped make 2021 a good year and they are sure 2022 will bring more promise to all. Mackenzie Ferreira.

Confirmation Classes are continuing 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.

Want to know more come and see!

February 13th – **Church Fundraiser – Bake Sale** – canceled due to COVID up surge.

Please see the following job descriptions- volunteers still needed for both jobs and more volunteers needed for Manna.

Coordinator of Prayer List: First Pastor Henry and/or Cassie should ask the person or family if it is okay for their name and situation to be put on our prayer list. If it is okay they will then call the Coordinator with the appropriate information.

The coordinator will contact the members of the prayer group by phone and/or email explaining the prayer request. The coordinator should contact each member of the prayer group at least twice a year to see how they are doing. There is a prayer team already in place but the coordinator is encourage to reach out and ask others to join.

Congregation Check-in Coordinator: First Cassie and the coordinator will go through the attendance to create a list of those who have not been attending for a few weeks. This will be done twice a month. The coordinator can reach out to these people or arrange for one of the volunteers to reach out by phone or in-person to see how they are doing and if they need help. The coordinator or volunteer should contact Pastor Henry if the member would like to talk directly to him or the volunteer believes there is a need for the pastor to become involved.

The coordinator, with Cassie's help, will recruit some volunteers who would be willing to give of their time this way.

Pastor Henry will create a script that the volunteers can follow when reaching out to our members.



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.

Church Directories will be coming out soon! Sorry for delay. COVID put a hold on my ability to be here to finish them for you safely. But they are ready now. If you need yours sent to you please call the office and let me know. Thank you, Cassie



Have a joyous month! Enjoy one another.

February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Ad Council Meeting @ 7pm on Zoom</i>	2	3	4	5
6 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm <i>Manna Ministries</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm <i>Manna Ministries</i>	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm <i>Manna Ministries</i>	21 <i>N.O.W. meeting @ 7pm on Zoom</i> <i>President's Day</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30am <i>Church Service</i> 4pm <i>Manna Ministries</i>	28 <i>Finance Meeting @ 3:30pm on Zoom</i>					