



The Vine

March 2023

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

Worship Service In-person 10:00AM Sundays
Service is also online Website: www.umclb.net
Sunday School following Children's Moment in Worship Service
Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-4:00 or call (434) 258-3922
Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM-12:00 Noon.
Please call the Secretary if you need time in the office.
Messages are checked Monday-Thursday.
Pastor: Rev. Peter Suhn
Church Secretary: Lori Winters
<https://www.facebook.com/LosBanosUnitedMethodistChurch>



5 Tom Kaljian	13 Stacy Betschart
5 Olivia Hew	14 Michael Bonillas
6 Ron Dybas	29 Kevin Ferreira
13 Susan Younce	30 Liam Walsh

Happy Anniversary!

18 Gregg & Juli Rice

February contributions total: \$ 6,035.12
In-Person Services for February 5th(38) 12th(23) 19th (27) 26th (30)

March

Vine Monthly Events for March

Important dates:

Tuesday, March 7th – Administrative Council 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Wednesday, March 8th -SPRC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Thursday, March 9th – United Women in Faith Meeting 6pm Fellowship Hall, picnic/potluck

Monday March 20th- NOW meeting 7 p.m. Zoom

Tuesday, March 28th –Finance Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom

Fridays in March Bible study at 5:00 pm

Sundays in March Bible study at 9:00 am

We will not be having Children's Church from February 19th to March 19th unless someone else wants to step up and take it over for that time. Please let me know if you are willing to do that.

Thanks



United Women in Faith is having an evening meeting at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall, we are hoping all the working ladies that cannot attend the morning meetings will join us. We are going to have a picnic/potluck so bring what ever you like and we will enjoy good company.



If you would like to purchase a lily to decorate our sanctuary, in honor/memory of a loved one, for easter the cost will be \$9.00 there will be forms to fill out in the sanctuary and in the office.

From the pastor

We have entered the wonderful journey of Lent. So I want to share with you this holy season. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Saturday. The English word “Lent” comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. In many other languages, the word used for this season refers to the 40 day length of the season. The season is a preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday, Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. The readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship, in continuity with the season’s original purpose. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the repentant spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection. Holy week is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday. It is during these days that the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus. The three days from sunset Thursday through sunset Easter are the climax of Lent and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the mystery of Jesus Christ’s passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. They should be seen as a great unified service concluding with the services of Easter Day. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

May God bless each of you and your families on this journey to the joy of His Resurrection!

In Christ,

Pastor Peter Suhn

Administrative Council Highlights – February 7, 2023

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 with five people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met January 16, and discussed the following items: Photos are still being sought for the new directory and a draft copy will be made before publishing the final version; visitations are done or are being planned for Jean Bright, Diane Moon and Guadalupe; Roxanne has been teaching Galatians, Chapter 5 in Children's Church, but will be off from February 19 through March 19; Peter is offering Bible studies on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings; Peter and Sunha will be in Korea on vacation for a couple of weeks, so Bud and Susan will lead the service on February 19, and Jason Walsh will cover on February 26; Peter presided over the memorial service for Rick Winters on January 20; and he was gone to a retreat January 24-26. The next NOW meeting is set for February 20.
- **Trustees.** The Fellowship Hall roof leak was repaired for \$1,200.00, but the damaged ceiling tiles still need to be replaced. The lawn mower is broken down, so Russ has been building shelves in a storage closet down the hall from the church office, and in the large closet off of the Fireside Room.

As approved by the Finance Committee, we have combined a large donation from the George and Dorothy Mitchell Estate with some Designated Fund money, and a total of \$100,100.00 has been invested in an FDIC-insured money market account with River City Bank in Sacramento. It pays about 4% interest, but the balance must remain over \$100,000.00.

We have signed an agreement with the Scouts that will allow them to use our facilities, but our church is no longer in a sponsorship role. Young Champions, a non-profit group that organizes youth programs, has been approved to use the Fellowship Hall for about two hours on Tuesday evenings for a youth Hip-Hop dance program. They will pay \$75.00 per session, subject to all of our usual rules.

We will soon re-install the projector screen in the sanctuary. The thermostats in the sanctuary and Fireside Room have been reprogrammed so the controls should not be turned off when exiting. There have been some problems recently with the sound system during the worship service, and the hearing aid system in the sanctuary needs to be checked out.

- **United Women in Faith.** The women will meet on February 9 with a guest speaker from the Valley Springs Memory Care facility in Los Banos. A retirement celebration honoring the many years of service to UMW by Karen Bonillas and Fay Davis is being planned for March.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Susan Ramsey, Lori and Gregg completed and submitted the year-end statistical reports to the Conference.
- **Financial Report.** The General Fund collections for January were \$12,499.99, but paid expenses were \$13,754.76, which left \$8,026.20 in the checking account. The Amazon Smile program is ending in February. The baked potato luncheon may be brought back to raise funds for the church.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Wilma, Jean Bright, Guadalupe Martinez; Kimery, and Amanda.