



The Vine

April 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>



8	Jolanda Phillips	27	June Sloan
22	Kimery Knight	27	Lorrie Dybas
22	Jean Willis	28	Diego Patrick
24	Dan Martin		

Happy Anniversary!

12 Tony & Kerri Michel
26 Kristifer & Roxanne Hew

March contributions total: \$ 7,511.62
In-Person Services for March 5th(27) 12th(19) 19th(33) 26th(36)

Vine Monthly Events for April



Important dates:

Tuesday, April 4th – Administrative Council 7:00 p.m.
Zoom

Friday April 7th- Good Friday service 7:00 p.m.

Sunday April 9th- Sunrise Service at O'Neill Forebay at 6:00 a.m./ Easter Service will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by Easter Egg Hunt at the church

Wednesday, April 12th -SPRC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Thursday, April 13th – United Women in Faith Meeting 10 a.m. Honoring Karren and Fay, we will also have a small Passover meal in the Fireside room

Monday April 17th - NOW meeting 7 p.m. Zoom

Tuesday, April 25th –Finance Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom

Fridays in April Bible study at 5:00 pm

Sundays in April Bible study at 9:00 am

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We will not be having Children's Church on Easter Sunday

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United Women in Faith meeting will be at 10:00 am on April 13th in the Fireside room, we will be honoring Karren and Fay, we will also have a small Passover meal. We hope you will join us, all women are welcome.



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

I greet you all in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who loves us so much that He continues to give himself for us and for our Salvation. I want to wish a blessed and joyous Easter to you and your family.

I think that the most important part of Easter is not necessarily Easter itself, but what comes before and what comes after. The rich context of Christ's Passion before and his resurrection appearances following give the empty tomb of Easter meaning. The cross of Christ marks a moment of transition in our lives from darkness into light, from despair into hope, from the old to the new creation and even from past into the future. The cross of Christ represents the ultimate act of sacrifice based upon the selfless, redeeming love of Christ.

When I think about us, Los Banos United Methodist Church, as a community of faith, I give thanks for the mission and service in the name of Jesus.

I hope you might consider honoring the sacrifice of our Lord that leads to new life and resurrection by offering yourself as the Lord leads you. I hope you invite a friend to church. Invite them to service on Good Friday, April 7th 7:00 pm, service on Easter Sunday 6:00 am (Sunrise), and 10:00 am service so they might encounter the living Christ through worship. And I would like you to consider a sacrificial gift to the church, above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings. You can use the attached envelope to make a sacrificial gift.

Easter is time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, that you will be filled with joy no matter what your circumstances, no matter what you face. Rejoice and sing as we celebrate how Jesus still changes lives today.

As Easter people, let us continue to be the church in Los Banos.

Loving God with all our hearts and loving Others!

In risen Christ,

Pastor Peter Suhn

Administrative Council Highlights – March 7, 2023

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

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met briefly in February covering the following topics: Susan Ramsey has assisted with some visitations; Shannan and Kerri have stepped down from the leadership of Vacation Bible School this year, with the Cardenas family taking over; Roxanne has taken off from Sunday School duties for about a month, and will return March 19; Bud and Susan, and Jason Walsh led the two Sunday morning worship services while Peter and Sunha were on vacation for a couple of weeks,. The next NOW meeting was set for March 20.
- **Trustees.** The lawn mower was still broken down, and we were still waiting for parts. It was agreed that this had been a bad purchase made just two years ago. We are entering into a new agreement with Hoffman, which will include service calls for the church's alarm system for a slight increase in the monthly cost. The security camera in the Fireside Room kitchen window needs to be relocated to the outside of the building so that the speaker can be heard down the corridor.
- **United Women in Faith.** The women will have a potluck dinner on the evening of March 9.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC members are routinely checking in with employees, and the next committee meeting is on March 8. Peter was on his way home from an afternoon Conference meeting in Sacramento.
- **Financial Report.** The General Fund collections for February were the lowest for any month in at least the last five years. Total income was just \$6,376.03, while paid expenses were \$11,709.71, leaving \$2,682.98 in the General Fund checking account. As directed by the Finance Committee, Gregg wrote an appeal memo for the Sunday bulletin on March 5, but clearly more needs to be done to increase donations. Susan noted that we would soon resume using the collection plates on Sunday mornings, with some hope that this might help.
- **Other Business.** Gregg shared a flyer that he had received from the Los Banos Fire Department and American Red Cross, asking for volunteers from Los Banos churches and other non-profits to help install smoke alarms in low-income neighborhoods on Saturday, April 1.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Wilma, Jean Bright, Guadalupe Martinez; Kimery, Amanda, and for Ted and Bonnie's daughter-in-law. Susan reported that she has now been cancer-free for one year.