



The Vine
May 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>



1 Germaine Wiley	20 Taetum Cardenas
2 Naomi Pendus	Jayda Cardenas
3 Martha Hardy	23 Olivia Patrick
13 Carter Cardenas	24 Tara Dybas
14 Cathie Lopez	25 Brian Hepworth
Jody Battle	26 Susan Ramsey
Ted Krynick	29 Steve Battle
15 Kerri Michel	30 Jacob Barton
17 Tyler Simmons	31 Susana Hepworth
19 Haley Simmons	

Happy Anniversary!

28 Brian & Susanna Hepworth

April contributions total: \$ 10,857.66
In-Person Services for April 2nd (34) 9th (61) 16th (29) 23rd (26) 30th (21)



Vine Monthly Events for May

Important dates:

Tuesday, May 2nd – Administrative Council 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Wednesday, May 10th -SPRC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Zoom

Thursday, May 11th - United Women in Faith Meeting 10 a.m.

Monday May 22nd - NOW meeting 7 p.m. Zoom

Tuesday, May 30th –Finance Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. by Zoom

Fridays in May Bible study at 5:00 pm

Sundays in May Bible study at 9:00 am

Thursday, June 15 - Sunday, June 18 - Annual California-Nevada Annual Conference Session, Sacramento

Monday, June 19 - Friday, June 23 - Vacation Bible School



No children's church on May 7th or 28th



United Women in Faith meeting will be at 10:00 am on May 11th in the Fireside room. Please bring your favorite encouraging scripture. We hope you will join us, all women are welcome.



SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for something for Mother's Day, or for a soon-to-be graduate? We can help with gift cards for many restaurants, department stores and mail order services. Please check out the scrip table in the Fireside Room after church on Sundays, or contact Gregg or Juli Rice at (209) 826-1027, or by e-mail at grice@inreach.com. We gladly accept cash, check, Venmo or Zelle for payment, and can order from hundreds of retailers if you don't find what you are looking for on the table.

From the pastor

National Family Month is observed during the five-week period between Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June. It is timed to coincide with the end of the school year, when families start spending more time together, and focus attention on mothers and fathers as the most powerful support system for their children. May also is known as "Family Month" in Korea as three important days honoring family members and teachers are observed this month: Children's Day, Parents' Day, and Teachers' Day.

The idea for Mother's Day was born in a small Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. It was 1876 and the nation still mourned the Civil War dead. While teaching a Memorial Day lesson, Mrs. Anna Reeves Jarvis thought of mothers who had lost their sons. She prayed that one day there could be a Memorial Day for mothers. The prayer made a deep impression on one of Mrs. Jarvis eleven children. Young Anna had seen her mother's efforts to hold the war-split community and church together. As she grew into adulthood, the younger woman kept Mrs. Jarvis dream in her heart. On the day of her mother's death, Anna was determined to establish Mother's Day in her honor. On May 12, 1907, a local observance was held which later spread to Philadelphia. By 1910, Mother's Day was celebrated in forty-five states, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Canada, and Mexico. Elated, Miss Jarvis told a friend, "Where it will end must be left for the future to tell. That it will circle the globe now seems certain." On May 8, 1914, President Wilson designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day for displaying the American flag and for the public expression of love and reverence for the mothers of the country.

Mother's Day is a very important day to honor our mothers and we should honor them every day. God commands in Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." And God promises blessings in Deuteronomy 5:16, "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Honoring your mother brings benefits to your life. It brings long life, so if you want a long-life honor both your father and mother. The blessing of God will follow you everywhere. It is good and will be with you in every land and place. Dear Los Banos UMC families, let us honor our father and mother and be blessed by God. Best Mother's Day you can give your mother is to surrender your life to Jesus. She will rejoice here or with the angels in heaven.

In Christ,

Pastor Peter Suhn

Administrative Council Highlights – April 4, 2023

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met on March 20. Vacation Bible School will be June 19-23. We will resume passing around collection plates on Sunday mornings. The next NOW meeting is April 17.
- **Trustees.** The church grounds are being checked a few nights a week, and it has seemed fairly quiet lately. Tom just signed his fourth letter with the Police Department, authorizing officers to remove people from our grounds. This okay must be renewed every few months. Lori experienced a problem with homeless men who refused to leave as she arrived for work in March; she is to call Tom or another of the men of the church in the future. Police will be called if necessary. We still haven't relocated the security camera that is in the window of the Fireside Room kitchen so our view of the colonnade is not good. Two of the six cameras are currently offline; two show as being online but no picture is can be seen; and two are working as they should be.

The needed lawn mower part arrived that day, so the lawn should be mowed in time for Easter on April 9. In the meantime, Russ has been doing other work around the church.

- **United Women in Faith.** The women are planning to meet on April 13, to honor Fay Davis and Karen Bonillas for their many years of service to the group.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC members are checking in with

employees, and all is going well. The next committee meeting is on April 12.

- **Financial Report.** The March General Fund collections were better than February, but still well below the \$11,000 to \$12,000 needed to meet our monthly financial obligations. Total income was \$8,452.53, while paid expenses were \$12,310.19. The balance in the checking account was negative at the end of March, so Cathie held onto a few checks until the first deposit of April. Gregg stated that a special appeal memo inserted into a March Sunday bulletin did not yield any noticeable results, but he hoped that Peter's Easter appeal letter would help.
- **Parish Care.** Ted and Bonnie's youngest child just announced his engagement. Susan has fractures in her tailbone and pelvic area, but is still free from cancer. Prayers were requested for Wilma, Guadalupe, Kimery, and Amanda.
- **Pastor's Report.** Peter expressed his appreciation for Roxanne's work in organizing a Palm Sunday celebration. Concerned about our finances, he prays for all of us to keep our church in our hearts. He said he is hoping for a good turnout for the Good Friday service. To cap off the Annual Conference Session, Retired Bishop Werner Brown will lead a Sunday morning service on June 18. As all pastors in the Conference are expected to attend, it will be broadcast by Zoom, so our church won't meet in person that day.

Vacation Bible School - 2023

June 19th - 23rd from 9:00 – Noon
Kindergarten – 5th Grades

Make Space for VBS this summer! Soon the church will be full of children, teens and adults singing and playing, learning, and growing in their faith in Jesus. Children will be learning that God is faithful!



Registrations for children and application forms for youth and adults are coming in daily. Registration forms and application forms for children and counselors are available outside the office door from May 12th – June 12th. There is no fee for VBS.

Volunteers are needed to help with registration, crafts and snacks. We need people available to welcome the children each day. We need adults available to help guide and encourage. We need volunteers to help in some of the stations to assist the leaders. If you would like to help for one day or for the week, please let us know.

You can also support VBS through financial contributions (mark your gift "VBS") or by donating needed supplies.

Please pray for all who are or will be involved with VBS. Please pray for the children, that they will feel God's love and learn to trust Him. Please pray for the counselors, for patience and wisdom, for a good leadership experience, and the excitement of sharing God's love with the children. Please pray for the adults involved, for patience and wisdom, and for joy in sharing God's love.

For more information please contact: the church office (209) 826-4181

Gluten Free French Toast Casserole

• AUTHOR: ASHLEA CARVER

• PREP TIME:12 HOURS

• COOK TIME:1 HOUR

• TOTAL TIME:13 HOURS

• YIELD:9

Ingredients

- 1 pound gluten free white bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 8 eggs
- 1 3/4 cup full fat coconut milk
- 1 1/4 cups almond milk
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 tablespoons ground cinnamon (plus 1 teaspoon)
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2/3 cup coconut sugar (plus 3 tablespoons)
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- powdered sugar, for serving

Method

1. Grease a 9×13 baking dish and then add the bread cubes to the baking dish.
2. Next, make the custard. Add the eggs, coconut milk, almond milk, vanilla extract, 1 tablespoon cinnamon, nutmeg, 2/3 cup coconut sugar, melted butter, and orange zest to a large mixing bowl. Whisk together until everything is well combined.
3. Pour the custard mixture evenly over the bread. Press the bread down slightly into the custard to ensure that every piece comes in contact with the custard mixture.
4. Cover the casserole dish with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight or up to 24 hours. Or, if you are short on time, cover the casserole with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours.
5. Once you are ready to bake the casserole, preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Remove the casserole dish from the fridge, uncover, and let sit for 30 minutes to allow the baking dish to come to room temperature.
6. While the oven is preheating combine 3 tablespoons of coconut sugar and 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon in a small bowl. Sprinkle the cinnamon sugar mixture over the casserole.
7. Place the casserole in the middle rack of the oven and bake at 350 degrees for 50-55 minutes until it is golden brown and set in the middle.
8. Let the casserole cool for 10 minutes before serving. Top with sifted powdered sugar, fresh berries, and maple syrup.

Keywords: overnight French toast casserole, French toast casserole, gluten free overnight French toast casserole, gluten free French toast casserole

Recipe by: Ashlea Carver / All the Healthy Things

MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 26, 2023

Our church is continuing to struggle financially. For three months in a row, our income has been between \$3,000 and \$5,000 less than our expenses. We began 2023 just over \$9,000 in the checking account, but as of the end of April, the balance is down to \$2,449 – but we have a total of \$6,378.81 in bills that need to be paid soon.

After quite a bit of discussion, the Finance Committee on April 25 voted to make an emergency appeal to our church family for help in paying the following invoices that are now due and payable, but which we currently cannot afford to pay. Please look over the list below and consider making a special donation to the church. Your gift can be to cover the cost of “adopting” a specific bill, or a portion of a specific bill, or it can be a contribution that our Treasurer can apply as needed toward the whole list.

Please make checks payable to the United Methodist Church and mail or deliver them to the church office at your earliest convenience. Or we will gratefully accept them in the collection plate this coming Sunday.

UNPAID BILLS DUE AND PAYABLE AS OF APRIL 25, 2023

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| 1. | 896.25 | Church Mutual (Workers Compensation Insurance for balance of 2023-24) |
| 2. | 105.66 | Hoffman Electronic Systems (April invoice for church alarm system) |
| 3. | 918.00 | IPFS Corporation (May monthly premium - liability and property insurance) |
| 4. | 231.16 | Mid Valley Disposal (April invoice for church trash disposal) |
| 5. | 131.00 | Saenz Pest Control (April invoice for church pest control) |
| 6. | 23.94 | Spriggs Business Equipment (supplies purchased for office printer/copier) |
| 7. | 43.20 | Upper Room (Invoice for copies of May-June issue of Upper Room) |
| 8. | 1,007.40 | Westpath/Board of Pensions (January Bill for Conference Pension Plan) |
| 9. | 1,007.40 | Westpath/Board of Pensions (February Bill for Conference Pension Plan) |
| 10. | 1,007.40 | Westpath/Board of Pensions (March Bill for Conference Pension Plan) |
| 11. | 1,007.40 | Westpath/Board of Pensions (April Bill for Conference Pension Plan) |

Thank you so much for whatever you are able to do to help our church in these difficult times. Please contact the Finance Committee Chairman, Gregg Rice, at (209) 761-2737 if you have any questions or comments.