



The Vine
June 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>



2 Kelly Younce	20 Taryn Morris
7 Deborah Milnes	22 Frances Hall
Matt Patrick	Danny Foxworthy
9 Carl Phillips	23 Steve Rebelo
12 Mychaela Narcisso	29 Eileen Sorensen
13 Diane Moon	Barbara Cobarruvias

Happy Anniversary!

2	Jim & Kathy Garrison
16	Larry & Germaine Wiley
25	John & Kindle Wallace
27	Don & Carley Van Someren

May contributions total: \$ 8,116.12
In-Person Services for May 7th (22) 14th (29) 21st (26) 28th (21)

Vine Monthly Events for June

June

Important dates:

Sunday, June 4 - SPRC meeting right after worship

Tuesday, June 6 - Administrative Council meeting - 7:00 p.m. by Zoom

Monday, June 12 - Church Conference 6:30 Zoom

Tuesday, June 13 - Trustees' Meeting

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

Sunday, June 18 - No in-person church worship service

Monday, June 19 - N.O.W. meeting at 7:00p.m. by zoom

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

Sunday, June 25 - Pastor Peter's last worship service in Los Banos please join us in fireside room after church to show our gratitude to Peter and to say good bye.

Sunday, July 2 - Welcome Pastor Ivoni's first worship service in Los Banos

Bell practice will resume in July

United Women in Faith will resume meetings in September

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### *Church Conference*

The District Superintendent, Rev. David Nui is holding a Zoom Church Conference on June 12, 2023 at 6:30PM.

This Special Conference is for all Administrative Board members. We will be voting on the new pastor's compensation. It is important for all of us to take part in this meeting. The Zoom meeting should be 30 minutes or less. The Zoom link will be emailed to the Administrative Board.

### *June 18, 2023 there will be no Church Service at the Los Banos UMC.*

The Annual Conference will be live streaming their service on June 18, 2023. It will be held in Sacramento at 9:00AM. Please go to the California Nevada Conference Website at <https://www.cnumc.org> on Sunday Morning and follow the link. Pastor Peter will be attending Annual Conference and the church service. We will be meeting again in our own sanctuary on June 25, 2023.

No children's church on June 4<sup>th</sup>

## Administrative Council Highlights – May 2, 2023

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 with six people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee met on April 17. A new group is using the Fellowship Hall a few times a month. Ongoing homeless challenges were discussed, such as trash and a broken window above the sanctuary front door. The picture directory is progressing, and Lori is proofreading it. Susan has visited Kimery, Jean Bright and Lupe. The Finance Committee okayed Roxanne's purchase of about \$50.00 of materials for Sunday School. Peter said he is praying for increases in worship attendance and giving. He is now lining up the Sunday morning greeters and Scripture readers. Lori is working on getting the projector repaired. Roxanne will no longer hold Sunday School classes on Communion Sundays. The next NOW meeting is May 22.
- **Trustees.** Our nightly checking of the church grounds is improving the situation. The City's Code Enforcement Officer has helped clear out overnight campers. Several security cameras still aren't working, and we haven't found anyone to work on them. The mower was finally repaired at a cost of \$600. We probably can't match the broken stained-glass window at the church entry door, so will likely replace two windows to make it symmetrical. The cost is below our deductible so we won't submit an insurance claim. Ronnie's will be asked to check the leaky backflow preventer in the front lawn.
- **United Women in Faith.** The women are participating in the National Day of Prayer on May 4, and are again joining forces with the women's group of St. John's Lutheran Church to provide Subway sandwiches for the attendees.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC members routinely check in with employees, and all seems to be going well. Peter and Sunha will be away May 25-30, so we need a fill-in for the May 28 worship service. The next meeting is on May 11.
- **Financial Report.** The April General Fund collections were \$9,748.29, well below the \$11,000 to \$12,000 that is needed to meet our monthly financial obligations. Eleven people responded to Peter's special Easter appeal letter, donating a total of \$4,985.00 "above and beyond" their normal offerings. Because we had more than \$6,000.00 in unpaid bills at the end of April, the Finance Committee voted to move the Easter offering into the General Fund to reduce some of the shortfall. With this transfer, our total April income was \$14,733.59, while paid expenses were \$11,439.96. The balance in the General Fund checking account on April 30 was \$2,102.60, and there were still \$6,147.67 of unpaid bills.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Guadalupe, Kimery, Cathie Lopez, Dan Bonillas, Godfrey Zaunbrecher, Amanda, Wilma and Jean Bright.
- **Pastor's Report.** Peter said he was happy that Susan Ramsey is recovering so well from her back ailments and cancer battle. He helped discover the broken window the previous Tuesday, but there was no rock found. The damage was heartbreaking to him, since, unlike government agencies and businesses, churches exist to spread God's love. He lamented that we haven't done a better job of expressing this to the homeless in our neighborhood. Tom, Gregg and Susan responded by pointing out that Manna Ministries and other efforts in the past worked fairly well, but unfortunately, more recent incidents of verbal abuse, trash dumping and general disregard of rules have caused us to resort to contacting the authorities.



May 25, 2023

**SUSAN RAMSEY**, SPRC Chair  
Los Banos United Methodist  
Church 1031 Iowa Street  
Los Banos, CA 93635

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Los Banos United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My thoughts and prayers are with you. It is with great joy that I inform you that, after much prayer and consultation with the cabinet, the Bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference has decided to appoint Pastor Ivoni Maama to serve as your pastor, effective July 1, 2023.

Pastor Ivoni is a wise pastor who is also an excellent leader, teacher, and administrator. She was born in Tonga and moved to the United States in 1994 to pursue her dream of being a businesswoman. Little that she knows that God had planned for her.

In May 2021, she received her Master of Arts and Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Pastor Ivoni has a passion for pastoral care and children's ministry. She is uniquely gifted to lead Los Banos UMC into further growth and vitality as you strive to reach youth and young families in your community.

Pastor Ivoni and Pastor Peter will work together with your SPRC and lay leadership for a smooth and effective leadership transition.

On behalf of the Bishop of the California Nevada Conference, thank you for the great insights and prayers you have offered throughout this process. I anticipate even more outstanding things from your congregation as we journey onward.

Finally, I ask for your prayers during this important time of transition for Pastor Ivoni. I trust that you will welcome her warmly. Please also pray for Pastor Peter as he and his wife prepare for their transition. Please also pray for the vitality of the wonderful faith community that is Los Banos United Methodist Church.

Peace and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Niu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Niu".

**REV. DAVID NIU**  
Central Valley District Superintendent

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West Sacramento, CA 95691

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## *Getting to Know Pastor Ivoni Maama*

Pastor Ivoni graduated from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA in May of 2012 where she earned her Master of Divinity in Theology and her Master of Arts in Social Transformation, as well as a Certificate of Spirituality and Social Change. She also received a diploma in Accounting and Business Management in 1984 from St. Joseph Business College in Tonga.

She has worked as manager from 2009-2023 for MAAMALOVING CAREGIVING SERVICES in San Mateo, CA. Before that she worked as Accounts Payable Specialist from 08/2015 - 10/2017 for Tesla Motors Inc. and as an Accounts Payable Specialist from 02/2004 - 05/2015 for Network Video Technologies, Inc.

Pastor Ivoni has served her church in many areas. She has been a Lay Leader since 2009. She has assisted the Pastor when needed, i.e., liturgist, worship services, bible studies, pastoral visits, marriage counseling, rallying volunteers for church needs and other services when needed. She has mostly done liaison work with Pastor and various groups and individuals in the congregation. She has been preaching at her home church two Sundays a month and guest speaking at other congregations and organizations for several years. Pastor Ivoni has served as the Sunday School and Youth Director from 2011 – 2019. She has given the Children's sermon, organized vacation bible school, and been in charge of teaching and fulfilling the curriculums for the year. She has also organized a Home Prayer Group In loving memory of her sister Maloti Maama, who left to be with the Lord, in 1995.

Pastor Ivoni has helped with feeding the Homeless once a week with two pastors in her neighboring area. She has also helped organize entertainment for the Elderly Facilities during Christmas time.

She has worked with the Tongan Fellowship Leadership 2015 to present. She has also served the Tongan language worship services for our Tongan members as well as preached and organized Lay Speakers for the monthly Tongan services.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee met with Pastor Ivoni and the District Superintendent David Nui in May. We had a good meeting and all the members of the committee are excited to have Pastor Ivoni serve as our new pastor.

We will be organizing some home meetings in July so the congregation can have a chance to talk with Pastor Ivoni and get to know her. If you are interested in hosting on of the meetings, please let me know.

God bless you all,  
*Susan Ramsey*  
Chair SPRC  
budsusanr@att.net

## From the pastor

I have been appointed to serve at Tulare United Methodist Church in Tulare, California. This new appointment will begin July 1st. It will indeed be hard to say goodbye to all of you. In the United Methodist Church, all clergy enter a covenant with one another. Part of that covenant is that we will go where the bishop and cabinet sends us. I believe that God works through the appointment process and the work of the cabinet. There's a time to meet and a time to leave. All throughout my life I realized that I would meet many wonderful people who would be in my life for a season and then leave for various reasons. We have had a wonderful time together, now we must accept this new reality and prepare for the next chapter as a church. We have done some awesome things. I have seen many of you grow in your faith through small group Bible studies and fellowship. We have partnered together in the work of the Gospel through faith in the power of Jesus Christ. My prayer is that your next pastor will work with you to lead you into a future of blessing and growth as you reach out to those in your community who do not know Christ. I have seen you act in faith, and so I pray and hope that you will continue to serve, lead, and worship in this church. I want you to always remember that you are called to be followers of Jesus Christ. I would like to close with a prayer. "Our Father, we thank you for your love, your faithfulness, your grace, and your mercy from the beginning of time until now. We especially thank you that we have had the time to work in partnership together to make a difference in the name of Jesus Christ. We ask now that during this time of transition, you would help us to trust in you for a hopeful future. We thank you for this chapter in our lives together, and we anticipate with hope the next chapter that will unfold in July. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Peter Suhn

## **Vacation Bible School - 2023**

June 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 – Noon  
Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> – June 12<sup>th</sup>. 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

## Spicy Shrimp Tacos

These spicy shrimp tacos owe their kick to a smoky chipotle shrimp seasoning blend. Cooling avocado and tangy pico de gallo round out the flavor. This vibrant, easy dinner comes together in a flash, making it perfect for busy weeknights.

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**Prep Time:**

20 mins

**Total Time:**

20 mins

**Servings:**

4

**Yield:**

8 tacos

**Nutrition Profile:**

Dairy-Free Egg Free Gluten-Free Healthy Aging Healthy Immunity High-Protein Nut-Free Soy-Free

### Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 pound peeled, deveined large shrimp
- 1 tablespoon Shrimp Seasoning (see Associated Recipes)
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon salt
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups thinly sliced red cabbage
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 8 (6 inch) corn tortillas, warmed
- 1 avocado, sliced
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup pico de gallo

### Fresh Limes

### Directions

1. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large skillet over high heat. Sprinkle shrimp evenly with shrimp seasoning and salt. Add the shrimp to the pan; cook, stirring often, until opaque, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to a plate.
2. Toss cabbage, cilantro, lime juice and the remaining 2 tablespoons oil in a medium bowl until combined.
3. Divide the shrimp among warm tortillas. Top with cabbage mixture, avocado and pico de gallo.

### Shrimp Seasoning Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons chipotle chile powder
- 3 tablespoons paprika
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder

1. Stir chile powder, paprika, cumin and garlic powder together in a small bowl.