



The Vine

February 2024

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-Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm
or call (510) 552-7240
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. Ivoni Maama
Church Secretary: Lori Winters
<https://www.facebook.com/LosBanosUnitedMethodistChurch>



5	Tyler Morris	14	Jim Jones
7	Dan Bonillas	18	Larry Wiley
7	Chris Foxworthy	25	Allen Battle
11	Brooke Barton	28	Jean Roedell



11	Dennis & Donna Morris
14	Bud & Susan Ramsey
16	David & Belinda Sabetta
21	Jerry & Fay Davis
25	Robert & Shannan Doubek

January contributions total: \$ 9,191.12
In-Person Services for January 1st (49) 14th (47) 21st (53) 28th (42)

Vine Monthly Events for February

FEBRUARY
2020

Important dates:

Thursday February 1st - Mom's bible study 6 PM in the Fireside room every Thursday for 12 weeks.

Sunday, February 3rd - Youth Group Today

Wednesday, February 6th - ☎ 10:00 AM (every Wednesday) there will be a Prayer/upper room conference call, everyone is welcome to join and share any concerns. the number is **(720) 843-2603 Access Code: 8941334**

Tuesday, February 6th - ☎ Ad Council 7 PM Zoom

Thursday, February 8th – United Women of Faith 10 AM we will have a soup and salad lunch (please bring your favorite salad) and a white elephant game (please bring a small gift from around the house) All women are welcome.

Monday, February 12th - ☎ SPRC 7 PM Zoom

Tuesday February 13th - Trustees meeting 6 PM in the Fireside room. If you can only attend via Zoom contact Tom

Wednesday, February 14th- Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 – 7:00PM

Monday, February 19th - ☎ N.O.W. Meeting 7:00 PM Zoom

Tuesday, February 27th - ☎ Finance Committee 6 PM Zoom

Don't forget at 10:00 AM (Every Wednesday) there will be a Prayer/upper room conference call, everyone is welcome to join and share any concerns. the number is **(720) 843-2603 Access Code: 8941334**

Bell practice is every Wednesday at 4:30

We had another wonderful fundraising lunch. Please consider volunteering for future lunches, they make a difference, and it is great to all have lunch together after church. We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering for future fundraising lunches. You can partner with other families to share in the work. Please feel free to contact Roxanne Hew or Pastor Ivoni with any questions.

MOMS Bible study starts February 1st 6 PM and will last for 12 weeks. Everyone is welcome. Please Contact Mackenzie with any questions 209-826-9941

Wilma Ditter was a member of our church for over 30 years and served as Collections Secretary for most of them. She was also an active member of the United Methodist Women. In addition to this generous donation she also purchased our beautiful bells!
Thank You Wilma

Administrative Council Highlights – January 2, 2024

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The NOW Committee did not meet in December, but would get together by Zoom on January 15.
- **Trustees.** The Trustees were to hold their first meeting of the new year in person in the Fireside Room on January 9, largely to elect officers. Tom has authorized an electrician to reposition the security camera that is currently located inside the Fireside Room kitchen.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The job description for the new part-time youth director position is just about done and we will soon post it online and at local colleges, as well as with an online service that Tom's company has used successfully for many years.
- **Financial Report.** The General Fund collections for December were \$15,911.19, plus \$11,150.00 that was transferred from the Designated Fund for our 2023 apportionments. Paid expenses were \$25,403.00, including \$13,150.00 paid for apportionments. The checkbook balance was \$5,360.34 as of December 31, with unpaid bills totaling just under \$1,700.00.
Gregg said apportionments paid to date were 8.32% of our 2023 income, and about \$2,650 more would need to be paid by January 12 to reach the 10% target. Ivoni commented how important it was for us to make the full 10% payment, and she and Gregg pointed out this is one of the factors that the Conference apparently takes into consideration when reviewing

grant applications. Ivoni noted that our recent grant of \$5,000.00 from the Central Valley District for part of the cost of our new youth director position. In December we submitted a request for \$20,000.00 for the additional annual cost we are incurring for a full-time pastor instead of the 75% assignment that we had for several years.

- **Calendar of Events for 2024.** In order to avoid time conflicts and increase their chances of success, the Ad Council discussed developing a master calendar of events for the year. Tentative plans included resumption of the baked potato luncheon and the Fall Festival dinner, along with rummage sale(s) and a luau. Ivoni suggested establishing a fundraising committee to focus on scheduling those types of events.
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Kimery, Guadalupe, Dan and Karen Bonillas, Charlene, Jean Willis, the people afflicted by the earthquake in Japan, and areas involved in armed conflict, specifically Ukraine and the Middle East.
- **Pastor's Report.** Ivoni thanked the entire church family for the work accomplished in 2023, and said she was looking forward to an even better year in 2024. She mentioned some potential ideas for future activities for our church, including a Moms' Bible study; a men's group; social activities for all ages, including mid-week events; offering our church as a safe place for after-school activities; and providing transportation for youngsters to attend youth group
Ivoni invited suggestions for any other programs or events that we could attempt.
- **Other Business.** Effective July 1, we will have a new District Superintendent, as David Niu is being transferred to the Los Rios District.



Dear Family of Los Banos United Methodist Church:

Psalm 90:14 "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Praise be to God for another day in life. I may sound like a broken record, saying it all the time. Praise be to God for another day in life. The reason why? As they say, tomorrow is history, and tomorrow may never be mind. Let enjoy, treat, and manage today with praise and thanksgiving.

I wanted to thank you all for the beautiful and smooth journey throughout the 2023 and we are here at the end of the first month of 2024. As we are about to greet the month of LOVE, the Valentine month. I am pretty sure we filled our calendar with lots of appointments and daily routine and all of the above. I wanted to remind you to make sure you have a time with God. Either in the morning, evening or whenever during the day. Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself also in the LORD and He shall give you the desires of your heart."

A little reminder, our Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. We will have two Silent Services at 12noon to 1pm and 6pm to 7pm. Whichever one is convenient for you. Please have that on your calendar and plan to join us. Let us prepare ourselves for the Lent Season. My prayers and love are with you all. May God richly bless each and every one of you.

Blessings,

Pastor 'Ivoni Maama