



The Vine

July 2020

United Methodist Church
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635
E-MAIL Address: umclb@att.net
Phone (209) 826-4181
Address Service Requested

Worship Service 9:30 AM
Infant and Pre-school Care 9:30 AM (Currently Closed)
Sunday School: 9:40 AM (Currently Closed)

Online Service Available on our website: www.umclb.net

Church Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 8:30 AM–11:30 AM (Currently Closed)

Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

1 st	Alex Hew	10 th	Belinda Sabetta
10 th	Melinda Wall	11 th	Mason Ferreira
15 th	David Simmons	18 th	Carley Van Someren
23 rd	Jaycee Walsh	25 th	Karen Bonillas
26 th	Ayden Barcellos	27 th	Fay Davis
28 th	Don Van Someren	29 th	Hailey Battle
30 th	Keith Zack		
30 th	Katie Hollingsworth	31 st	Erik Martin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU!

17th Steve & Jody Battle 17th Jason & Tawny Walsh

24th Jonathan & Stacy Betschart

June contributions total: \$ 7,963.50

Attendance online for June 7th (61) 14th (59) 21st (61) 28th (63)

From the Pastor

Good news, our congregation is planning to resume in-person worship on July 19! Our planned re-opening is contingent upon approval by our District Superintendent, and on any changes in restrictions by our county or state, but it is looking good so far. We have had a team who has worked hard making preparations for us to regather safely and in accordance with all the required guidelines. Our church secretary, Cassie Miyamoto, has given great leadership in our work. We will need several volunteers each Sunday to help greet and seat folks. Call Cassie at the church office to volunteer.

When we return things will be a little different than usual. Even though St. Paul instructs us to "greet one another with a holy kiss," we will be observing physical distancing of 6 feet from anyone that we don't live with. That means we won't be kissing, hugging, or shaking hands, or even be close enough for holy fist bumps. We will have to practice holy waving and smiling with our eyes. We will be wearing masks the whole time we are in the sanctuary, with the exception of those on the chancel, children under two, and folks with medical conditions that preclude wearing masks.

Another difference is that we won't all be there. Of course, anyone who has a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and call their doctor. Many of us should not attend because we are especially vulnerable to complications if we were to contract the coronavirus. Many will just not yet feel it is wise or safe to gather in groups while the virus is spreading. If you fit into any of these groups we encourage you to stay safe and stay home and enjoy our online worship videos (found on the church website at umclb.net). We will continue providing these videos even as we resume in-person worship, although they may not be ready to view until Mondays.

When we arrive on Sunday we will enter through the main doors only, where we will be welcomed outside, reminded to wear our masks (or be provided one), and asked if we have experienced any covid-19 symptoms or been exposed to anyone who has tested positive. As we enter we will use hand sanitizer, and have our temperature checked with a no-touch forehead thermometer. If we have a fever of 100° or higher we will be asked to return home and attend to our health. In the sanctuary we may not be able to sit in our regular spot since every other pew will be "closed" to help us in our physical distancing. We won't be passing an offering plate, so there will be a box into which we can drop our offerings, or we can mail them in or give online through the Give+ app.

We won't be having Sunday school or nursery care, so children will sit with their families throughout the service (which should be somewhat shorter than usual). We will not have coffee hour afterward, and will be encouraged to do our visiting outside the building and 6 feet apart. During the songs we will wear our masks and listen, or hum, or sing along softly.

All of these changes may seem uncomfortable, but are necessary to protect one another's health and to comply with requirements so that we are allowed to meet together. I am sure that we will all express our love and concern for one another by cooperating cheerfully with these requirements.

Please continue to pray for one another and for our church and nation and world during these unusual times.

Pastor Jim

Administrative Council Highlights – June 2, 2020

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Coronavirus Matters.** The Conference has ordered all churches to remain closed at least through the end of June. It is developing a set of protocols that must be followed in order to re-open. Each church will submit a detailed re-opening plan that must be approved by the District Superintendent before in-person worship is allowed. The local plan is to be written by the COVID-19 team and needs to comply with applicable State and County regulations. For us, this means face coverings, social distancing, and a limit on total attendance to 25% of the capacity of the facility, or 80 people. Jim said that he and Cassie would serve on the re-opening team, with Susan Ramsey and Tawny Walsh volunteered to help as well. It was agreed that a representative of younger families involved in Sunday School should also be part of the team.

On May 13, the church received \$12,508.54 through the SBA Paycheck Protection Program. Our figures showed we qualified for \$18,816.85, but there was no explanation as to the difference. We will try to get the bank to reconsider. At any rate, the money will be a big help in paying our expenses, and it will be converted to a grant if it is spent on payroll costs in the 8 weeks after May 13.

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW):** Eleven members of the NOW team met by Zoom in May, covering many areas. Manna Ministries continues to serve boxed meals for takeout only. Manna has received donations of food and kitchen equipment from a couple of restaurants that went out of business. The office is not officially open, but Cassie has been handling things as well as possible from home and is making regular visits to the site. Vacation Bible School will be done by You Tube and/or virtual connection. Jim and his team are still recording Sunday morning worship services and children's messages. The weekly small group Bible studies are still going well. Members of the NOW team have

arranged meals for Deb Milnes, as she recovers from surgery. The next virtual NOW meeting is scheduled for June 15.

- **Trustees:** Bids are being sought to fix a broken window in the puppet room. Russell, our gardener, made some repairs to the riding lawn mower. The homeless encampment has not returned to our grounds.
- **UMW:** It is uncertain when the next UMW meeting will be, and the rummage sale has been postponed until sometime in the fall.
- **Financial Report.** We received donations of \$10,340.88 in May. Combined with the SBA loan of \$12,508.54, the total collections for the month were \$22,849.42. Paid expenses were \$12,339.74, leaving a checkbook balance of \$11,429.32. All May bills were paid up to date. The Finance Committee may consider increasing our \$200 monthly tithe payments to the Conference

Amazon Smile notified us that they sent \$11.05 for the first quarter of 2020, but it hasn't yet shown up in our bank account.

- Prayers were requested for the following **People in Need:** Kathy Garrison, Deb Milnes, Mykki from Dos Palos, George Foxworthy, Ed and Suzanne Kosters, George Mitchell, Bill Sloan, and Maribel Ybarra.
- **Pastor's Report:** Kathy fell and broke a bone in her left shoulder, and there is some hope that it might heal without surgery. For the first time in many, many years, the Garrison Family will not be getting together for their annual summer camping trip.

SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

We still have on hand thousands of dollars' worth of gift cards for immediate sale, good for food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries. We can also print paper certificates, almost immediately, for items that are not in our inventory. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone at (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at grice@inreach.com.

July 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Happy 4th!</i>
5	6	7 <i>Admin. Meeting 7PM on Zoom</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Joyce O'Dell's Funeral 11AM</i>
19 <i>Re-opening! Service @ 9:30am Jim Willis Funeral 3:30PM</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>Finance Meeting 3:30 in person</i>	29	30	31	