



The Vine

January 2021

United Methodist Church

1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635

E-MAIL Address: umclb@att.net

YouTube: Link available on our website weekly

Website: **umclb.net**

Phone (209) 826-4181

Address Service Requested

Worship Service:

On YouTube or Live on Facebook.

Church Office Hours: Office closed but secretary can be reached by leaving a message on church phone. It will be checked daily.

Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

1 st	Jean Bright	4 th	John Machado	
8 th	Jerry Davis	8 th	Charlene Martin	
13 th	Jennifer Knight	14 th	Jim Garrison	
16 th	SanDee Rooney	19 th	Donna Morris	
20 th	Jeff Brubaker	21 st	Noah Cardenas	
26 th	Melissa Jones	29 th	Gideon Moffitt	31 st Mackenzie Ferreira

Anniversaries 2021

19th Robert & Rhonda Cardenas

24th John & Helen Machado

December contributions total: \$ 12,026.00

Attendance online for December : 6th (68) 13th (75) 20th (97) 24th (48) 27th (45)

In-person: 24th (32) Christmas Eve

From the Pastor – January 2021

Well after years of waiting for the joke, hindsight really is 2020. Most of us are quite happy to have 2020 in the rearview mirror. As we look back to that unusual year here are a few of the things we have seen (in no particular order):

- * many people's top priority emergency supply is toilet paper
- * wearing a mask makes your glasses fog up
- * wearing a mask makes it hard to understand the clerk at the drive through window
- * not believing in something doesn't make it not true
- * we can work and shop from home much better than we thought

And in regard to the church we see:

- * the church is not a building – it us, the followers of Jesus
- * we can worship, study, and pray through electronic connections
- * (see above) it isn't quite the same as physically being together
- * we have faithful givers in our congregation
- * God is faithful no matter what.

I am hopeful that 2021 will be an easier year and thankful that God is leading through whatever the future holds.





Vine Monthly Events January

All meetings and events are suspended or are being done on Zoom conferencing until we are out of the Purple tier in COVID-19 restriction levels. Thank you for your patience and communication during this time.

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Note: Boy Scouts - Still working together online and meeting when safe at the scout hut. We are currently selling popcorn to raise money for scouts who need help with annual dues. If you are interested in the yummy popcorn (it makes great New Year's gifts!) Please contact Mackenzie Ferreira @ bigreddogfan@yahoo.com and she will give you the link to make an order. This is a great way to support our local boy scouts.

Important dates:

January 1st - New Year's Day - Office closed.

January 5th - Admin. Council meeting- on Zoom @ 7PM

January 13th - SPRC meeting - on Zoom @ 7PM

January 18th - N.O.W. meeting - on Zoom @ 7PM

E-Giving - Did you know? There are now 8 families in our church using Vanco Give Plus to donate to the church securely and conveniently online! Accounts and payments can easily be set up and initiated on a laptop or desktop computer, or by using a mobile phone, using the free Give Plus app.

The other easy way is to go to our website: www.umclb.net, there is a link for this purpose there. If you have questions, please see Gregg Rice or Bud Ramsey. Thank you!



Christmas Poinsettias

Donor

Dan & Karen Bonillas

Dan & Karen Bonillas

Sue Hulse

Sue Hulse

Carl & Jolanda Phillips

Carl & Jolanda Phillips

June Sloan & Family

June Sloan & Family

Larry & Germaine Wiley

Larry & Germaine Wiley

Steve & Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

Steve & Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

In Memory of:

Bea Kessell

Minnie Bonillas

Dale Hulse

Earl & Dorthy Bolen

Bob Phillips

Marian Elsa

Bill Sloan

Abel & Grace

Machado

Guy & Georgia Wiley

Germe & Minnie

Trotter

Fred & Tomyie

Miyamoto

Jack & Mary Wolf



SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH

Even though our weekly in-person scrip “store” has been closed down since March, the scrip program is still alive and doing fairly well. In 2018 and in 2019, the program netted \$2,500 per year for the church. Despite the limitations and obstacles that we faced in 2020, we made \$1,750. The scrip proceeds are used to help us meet our share of the work and missions that are supported by the United Methodist Church around the world.

You may not be able to see the gift cards that we normally display each Sunday morning, but we do have on hand a wide variety of cards for immediate purchase, good for food, gas or merchandise at most local stores and eateries. We can also print paper certificates and electronic gift “cards” almost immediately for items that we do not have on hand.

The full list of the hundreds of participating retailers can be viewed by visiting www.ShopWithScrip.com. Please contact Gregg or Juli Rice by phone at (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at grice@inreach.com to check out what gift cards we have on hand, or to order something that we don’t currently have.

Pledge Cards – It is a new year! We will be sending out new pledge cards in the mail soon. These cards help us to budget for the year. If you could please think about what you plan to give this next year each month and let us know on the pledge card it would be a really big help. Please take your time and pray about what works for you and your family and then fill it out. This is a vital component of running the church. During these trying times having God to guide us and keep our hope alive and thriving is key to getting through this. Thank you again for your continued faithfulness to the United Methodist Church of Los Banos.

If you need help or wish to have prayers, please contact the church office at 209-826-4181, phone line is checked daily, or call the secretary or Pastor using the numbers provided in your church directory. Thank you.



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The Peace of the Lord Be with You All!