



The Vine

May 2021

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 In-person 9:30AM Sundays
Website: www.umclb.net Service also online
Church Office Hours: Secretary in office 8:30- 11:30
and phone line checked daily.
Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison
Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

1 st Germaine Wiley	2 nd Naomi Pendus
3 rd Martha Hardy	13 th Carter Cardenas
14 th Cathie Lopez	14 th Jody Battle
14 th Ted Kraynick	15 th Kerri Michel
20 th Taetum Cardenas	20 th Jayda Cardenas
23 rd Olivia Patrick	26 th Susan Ramsey
29 th Steve Battle	30 th Jacob Barton
31 st Susana Hepworth	

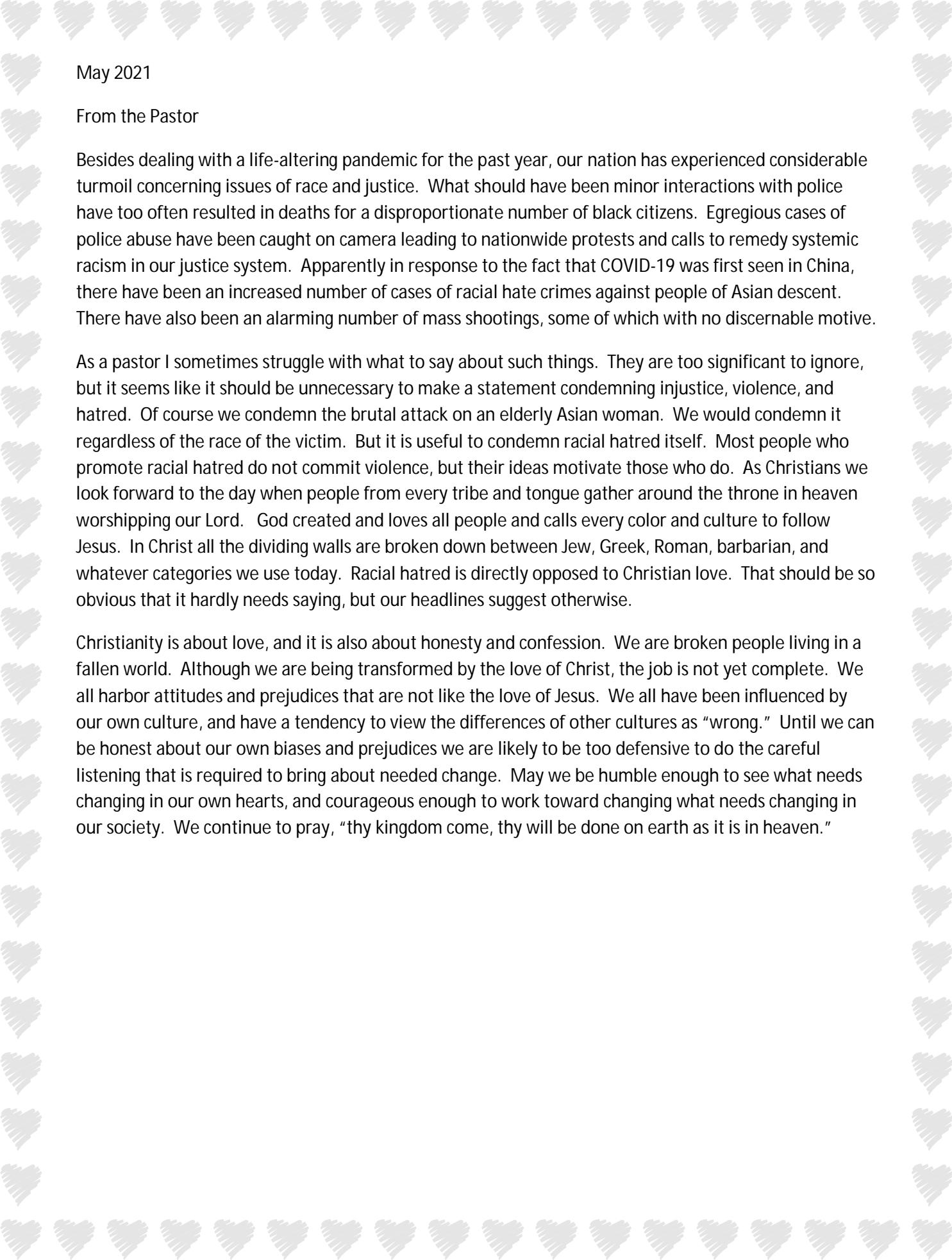
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

28th Brian & Susanna Hepworth

April contributions total: \$ 7,453.00

Online Attendance for April 4th (16) 11th (35) 18th (31) 25th (16)

In-Person Attendance for April 4th (52) 11th (26) 18th (35) 25th (21)



May 2021

From the Pastor

Besides dealing with a life-altering pandemic for the past year, our nation has experienced considerable turmoil concerning issues of race and justice. What should have been minor interactions with police have too often resulted in deaths for a disproportionate number of black citizens. Egregious cases of police abuse have been caught on camera leading to nationwide protests and calls to remedy systemic racism in our justice system. Apparently in response to the fact that COVID-19 was first seen in China, there have been an increased number of cases of racial hate crimes against people of Asian descent. There have also been an alarming number of mass shootings, some of which with no discernable motive.

As a pastor I sometimes struggle with what to say about such things. They are too significant to ignore, but it seems like it should be unnecessary to make a statement condemning injustice, violence, and hatred. Of course we condemn the brutal attack on an elderly Asian woman. We would condemn it regardless of the race of the victim. But it is useful to condemn racial hatred itself. Most people who promote racial hatred do not commit violence, but their ideas motivate those who do. As Christians we look forward to the day when people from every tribe and tongue gather around the throne in heaven worshipping our Lord. God created and loves all people and calls every color and culture to follow Jesus. In Christ all the dividing walls are broken down between Jew, Greek, Roman, barbarian, and whatever categories we use today. Racial hatred is directly opposed to Christian love. That should be so obvious that it hardly needs saying, but our headlines suggest otherwise.

Christianity is about love, and it is also about honesty and confession. We are broken people living in a fallen world. Although we are being transformed by the love of Christ, the job is not yet complete. We all harbor attitudes and prejudices that are not like the love of Jesus. We all have been influenced by our own culture, and have a tendency to view the differences of other cultures as "wrong." Until we can be honest about our own biases and prejudices we are likely to be too defensive to do the careful listening that is required to bring about needed change. May we be humble enough to see what needs changing in our own hearts, and courageous enough to work toward changing what needs changing in our society. We continue to pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Administrative Council Highlights – April 6, 2021

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The New Canaan and Nazarene Churches have been helping a lot with Manna. We might need a new leader if Amanda and her family can't find suitable housing in Los Banos. Remote Bible studies are still going strong, and remote visitations are being held by phone. Preparations have started for VBS, which is scheduled for the week of June 21-25. We hope it can be in-person, but attendance might need to be limited.

Because we couldn't have a traditional Easter egg hunt, the NOW group decided to make Easter baskets for the kids. We also bought Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary. We have been livestreaming Sunday morning services using Shannan's iPhone, but will want to buy a better camera and a dedicated laptop, once we determine what would be best for our needs. The District has some grant money available for this type of equipment.

With Jean Willis not able to run the prayer chain lately, Jim has taken the lead on sending email notices as needed.

The flower-decorated cross on the front lawn on Easter morning was praised, as were the very nice Easter baskets put together mainly by Kerri and Shannan. It was also noted that we had about 50 people in attendance.

Trustees. We have made two major purchases recently: a riding mower and a washing machine for the parsonage. The mower was used for the first time during the week, and the washer was to be delivered soon. We have changed the wiring on the north side of the Fellowship Hall, eliminating the timer on the outdoor light switch, so a security camera is now always on at the corner of the building closest to Iowa Avenue. Also, the light above the door to the kitchen is set to burn from dusk to dawn; and the middle light bulb has been unscrewed. All five security cameras are now working very well.

Jim has chopped away a lot of ivy to prepare for the fence replacement at the parsonage.

Genesis Painting was told that we want to fully sand and rehab the church pews, and apply two coats of shellac. They gave us a revised quote of \$13,000, and it has been agreed to give them the go-ahead to proceed.

The piano tuner has half-tuned the small grand piano in the Fellowship Hall, explaining that it is best not to make too large an adjustment all at once. The job will be finished up later. He feels it is a good piano, and could be worth about \$1,000. Since it is not used, we will look at options for selling it.

- **UMW.** The UMW was not going to meet in April, but planned to have another Zoom meeting on May 11. The rummage sale is set for June 17 through 19.
- **Financial Report.** The church's finances were still in good shape. Collections for March were \$12,735.88, paid expenses were \$14,398.14, and the checkbook balance was \$9,415.82 as of March 31. All regular bills were paid, but there was still a problem with the billings for 2021 pension plan contributions.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC met by Zoom on April 14. Susan and Kevin Ferreira, representing the Trustees, conducted a walk-through of the parsonage with Jim and Kathy, and jointly made a list of items needing attention. The list was to be reviewed at the next Trustee meeting.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Phil Latronica, a resident from across the street from the church; SanDee Rooney; Jean Willis; Susan Ramsey; Wilma Ditter; George Mitchell; the family of Jaime Gonzalez; and Amanda in her search for new housing.
- **Pastor's Report.** Jim said that a virtual fundraising event would be held for Redwood Christian Park on April 10, which narrowly escaped last year's wildfires. He stated that the Dos Palos Church had resumed in-person services starting on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Vine Monthly Events for May

Church services are back in-person at 9:30am Sunday mornings!

Some meetings are being done on Zoom conferencing until we are out of the **Red tier** in COVID-19 restriction levels. Thank you for your patience and communication during this time.

Note: Boy Scouts - Meeting Thursday evening on UMCLB front lawn!

Welcome back! Their May service project will be a family project done on April 30th or May 1st. It is Worldwide Scouts Trash the Trash Day. Pack 85 will participate in this event by filling bags of trash from collecting garbage in their neighborhoods and parks. They are also making plans for their derby.

Important dates:

May 4th - Admin. Council meeting- on Zoom @ 7PM

May 5th - Outreach meeting with DA - 10am in Fireside room

May 6th - National Day of Prayer (Jim in Dos Palos for prayer time)

May 9th - UMCLB turn to host Manna Ministries

May 9th - Happy Mother's Day !

May 11th - UMW Meeting in Fireside Rm. @ 10am

May 16th - UMCLB turn to host Manna Ministries

May 17th - N.O.W. meeting @ 7pm on Zoom

May 25th - VBS meeting at 7pm

May 31st - Memorial Day (Office Closed)

UMW Rummage Sale is on! June 17th thru the 19th! Set up June 14-17th.

Items for the rummage sale can now be brought to the church during office hours (M-Th 8:30am to 11:30am). Thank you!

UMW will be having a meeting this month - May 11th @ 10am in person in the fireside room.

VBS meeting May 25th at 7pm for planning.

June 21st - 25th - VBS! Outdoor fun, Sun and the Lord!

Set these dates aside and plan to come and help!

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!

National Day of Prayer: May 6th There will be a ceremony at Bethel Community Church for the National Day of Prayer. It will be held from noon to 1pm with lunch provided following the event. This will be a time for community leaders to pray for our city, state and Los Banos Families. **Please** join in the prayer time wherever you are.





Congratulations Graduates! UMCLB would like to send out our prayers for continued success and our Hurrahs to all the graduates:

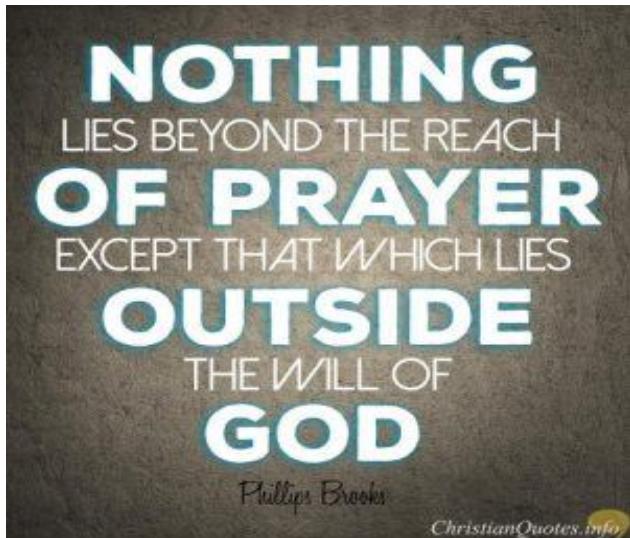
Allen Battle (graduating from High School)
Brook Barton (graduating Elementary School)
Rex Betschart (graduating Elementary School)
Noah Cardenas (graduating Jr. High School)
Mason Ferreira (graduating Jr. High School)
Danny Foxworthy (graduating Jr. High School)
Audrey Hepworth (graduating Elementary)



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Prayer Chain: We want you to know that we have a prayer chain that sends out alerts when people need prayer so if you are feeling you need prayer for comfort, healing, connection, hope or anything that is weighing heavy on your heart, please feel free to email the church (umclb@att.net) or call the church office (209-826-4181). We will make sure your request gets on the chain and prayers are lifted up for you.

Our coordinator for this chain is stepping down so we are looking for someone who can email others when needed. If you pray on this and feel this is your area to help others and the church please contact Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto (209-826-4181) or (209-829-0396 after office hours). Thank you!



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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.

May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Happy Mother's Day May 9th</i>						1
2 9:30am In-person Service 5pm Manna—Nazarene	3	4 Ad Council Meeting on Zoom 7pm	5 DA Outreach Meeting 10am In the Fireside Room	6 National Day Of Prayer	7	8
9 9:30am In-person Service 5pm Manna—UMCLB	10	11 UMW Meeting 10am in the Fireside Rm.	12	13	14	15
16 9:30am In-person Service 5pm Manna—UMCLB	17 NOW Meeting On Zoom 7pm	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30am In-person Service 5pm Manna—New Canaan 30 Manna—St. Alban's Church	24	25 VBS Meeting 7PM	26	27	28	29
		31 Memorial Day				