



The Vine

April 2022

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

Infant and Pre-school Care 9:30 AM

Sunday School: 9:40 AM

(Following Children's Moment in Worship Service)

Church Office Hours: Mon - Thurs. 8:30 AM-11:30 AM

Pastor: Henry Pablo III

Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

8 th	Jolanda Phillips	22 nd	Kimery Knight
22 nd	Jean Willis	24 th	Dan Martin
27 th	June Sloan	27 th	Lorrie Dybas
28 th	Diego Patrick	30 th	Liam Walsh

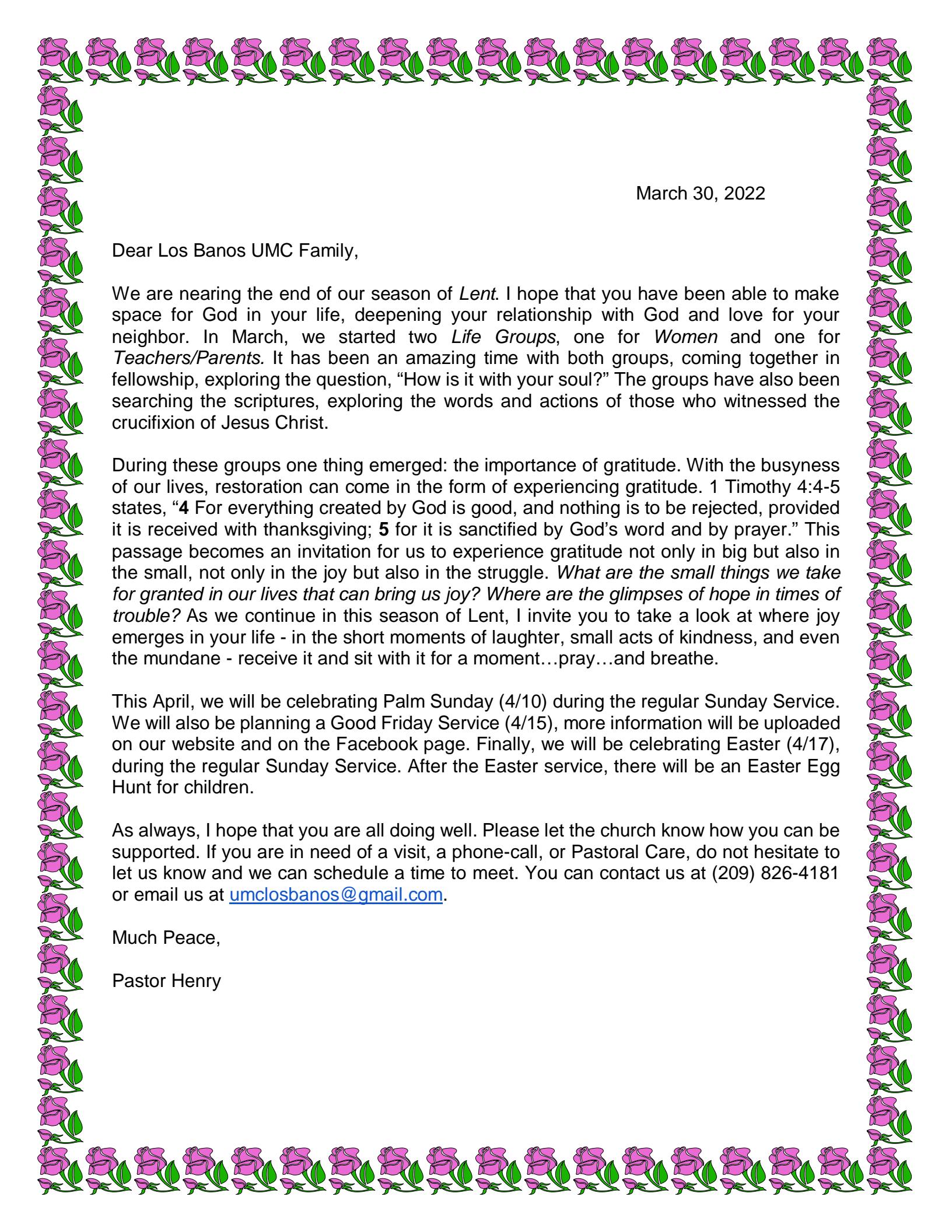
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

12th Tony & Kerri Michel

26th Kristofer & Roxanne Hew

March contributions total: \$ 8,793.00

Attendance for March 6th (33) 13th (48) 20th (49) 27th (32)



March 30, 2022

Dear Los Banos UMC Family,

We are nearing the end of our season of *Lent*. I hope that you have been able to make space for God in your life, deepening your relationship with God and love for your neighbor. In March, we started two *Life Groups*, one for *Women* and one for *Teachers/Parents*. It has been an amazing time with both groups, coming together in fellowship, exploring the question, "How is it with your soul?" The groups have also been searching the scriptures, exploring the words and actions of those who witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

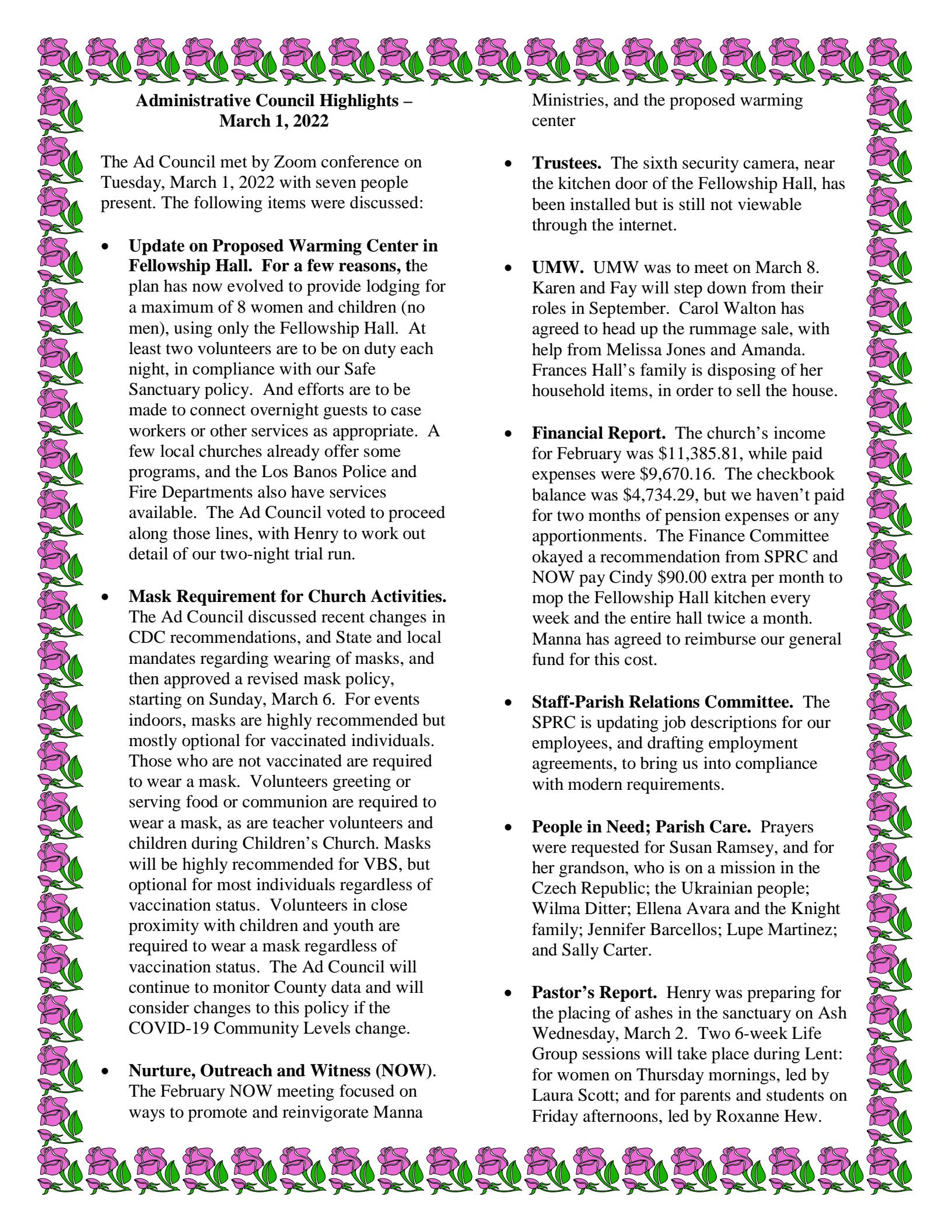
During these groups one thing emerged: the importance of gratitude. With the busyness of our lives, restoration can come in the form of experiencing gratitude. 1 Timothy 4:4-5 states, "**4** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; **5** for it is sanctified by God's word and by prayer." This passage becomes an invitation for us to experience gratitude not only in big but also in the small, not only in the joy but also in the struggle. *What are the small things we take for granted in our lives that can bring us joy? Where are the glimpses of hope in times of trouble?* As we continue in this season of Lent, I invite you to take a look at where joy emerges in your life - in the short moments of laughter, small acts of kindness, and even the mundane - receive it and sit with it for a moment...pray...and breathe.

This April, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday (4/10) during the regular Sunday Service. We will also be planning a Good Friday Service (4/15), more information will be uploaded on our website and on the Facebook page. Finally, we will be celebrating Easter (4/17), during the regular Sunday Service. After the Easter service, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children.

As always, I hope that you are all doing well. Please let the church know how you can be supported. If you are in need of a visit, a phone-call, or Pastoral Care, do not hesitate to let us know and we can schedule a time to meet. You can contact us at (209) 826-4181 or email us at umclosbanos@gmail.com.

Much Peace,

Pastor Henry



Administrative Council Highlights – March 1, 2022

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Update on Proposed Warming Center in Fellowship Hall.** For a few reasons, the plan has now evolved to provide lodging for a maximum of 8 women and children (no men), using only the Fellowship Hall. At least two volunteers are to be on duty each night, in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary policy. And efforts are to be made to connect overnight guests to case workers or other services as appropriate. A few local churches already offer some programs, and the Los Banos Police and Fire Departments also have services available. The Ad Council voted to proceed along those lines, with Henry to work out detail of our two-night trial run.
- **Mask Requirement for Church Activities.** The Ad Council discussed recent changes in CDC recommendations, and State and local mandates regarding wearing of masks, and then approved a revised mask policy, starting on Sunday, March 6. For events indoors, masks are highly recommended but mostly optional for vaccinated individuals. Those who are not vaccinated are required to wear a mask. Volunteers greeting or serving food or communion are required to wear a mask, as are teacher volunteers and children during Children's Church. Masks will be highly recommended for VBS, but optional for most individuals regardless of vaccination status. Volunteers in close proximity with children and youth are required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. The Ad Council will continue to monitor County data and will consider changes to this policy if the COVID-19 Community Levels change.
- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The February NOW meeting focused on ways to promote and reinvigorate Manna

Ministries, and the proposed warming center

- **Trustees.** The sixth security camera, near the kitchen door of the Fellowship Hall, has been installed but is still not viewable through the internet.
- **UMW.** UMW was to meet on March 8. Karen and Fay will step down from their roles in September. Carol Walton has agreed to head up the rummage sale, with help from Melissa Jones and Amanda. Frances Hall's family is disposing of her household items, in order to sell the house.
- **Financial Report.** The church's income for February was \$11,385.81, while paid expenses were \$9,670.16. The checkbook balance was \$4,734.29, but we haven't paid for two months of pension expenses or any apportionments. The Finance Committee okayed a recommendation from SPRC and NOW pay Cindy \$90.00 extra per month to mop the Fellowship Hall kitchen every week and the entire hall twice a month. Manna has agreed to reimburse our general fund for this cost.
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** The SPRC is updating job descriptions for our employees, and drafting employment agreements, to bring us into compliance with modern requirements.
- **People in Need; Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Susan Ramsey, and for her grandson, who is on a mission in the Czech Republic; the Ukrainian people; Wilma Ditter; Ellena Avara and the Knight family; Jennifer Barcellos; Lupe Martinez; and Sally Carter.
- **Pastor's Report.** Henry was preparing for the placing of ashes in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Two 6-week Life Group sessions will take place during Lent: for women on Thursday mornings, led by Laura Scott; and for parents and students on Friday afternoons, led by Roxanne Hew.

Vine Monthly Events for April

Important dates:

April 4th - Finance Meeting 3:30pm by Zoom

April 5th - Admin. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

April 10th - Palm Sunday

April 15th - Good Friday Service

April 17th - **Easter Sunday!** Easter Egg hunt after service.

April 18th - N.O.W. Meeting 7pm on Zoom

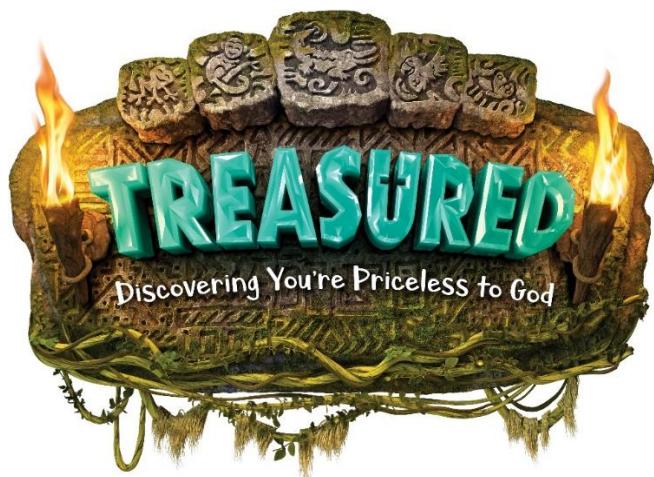
April 25th - Finance Meeting 3:30pm by Zoom

Note: Rummage Sale Will be in May! The dates are set! May 19th to the 21st . With set up May 16th to the 18th. Lots of good stuff! Set up times: 8am to when done. Clean up - May 21st noon.

Mark your calendar!

VBS – The dates are in! Mark your calendar! June 20 – 24th.

Next meeting for preparing is April 25th. **Theme is Treasured.**



Confirmation Classes are continuing Youth are encouraged to attend.
Pastor Henry does the class from 2pm to 3pm on Sundays.

Want to know more come and see!

Manna Ministries is organized and ready of volunteers. All positions and times are listed on the information board in the Fireside room.

In order for Manna to run smoothly each Sunday evening 5 to 6 volunteers are needed. But you do not need to stay the whole time. Please see the information board if you can help. **Our church is responsible for the third and fourth Sundays every month.** This is an excellent way to serve the Lord and the community.

Thank you.

New Women's Life Group is meeting on Thursdays at 11am in the Fireside Room. This is a good time with church women and this is on going.

Visitations

Ellena Avara is in the rehab place just around the corner from the church. If you wish to visit her, and she loves visits, you need to call two days in advance. The number is (209) 826-0790 ext. 332. You also need your COVID vaccination card when you go.

Wilma Ditter is in Pacifica Senior Living: 3420 R St. Rm. #226 Merced, CA 95348 You just have to sign in and show Vaccination card if you have one when you get there and there are no exact hours so stop by when you are in Merced.

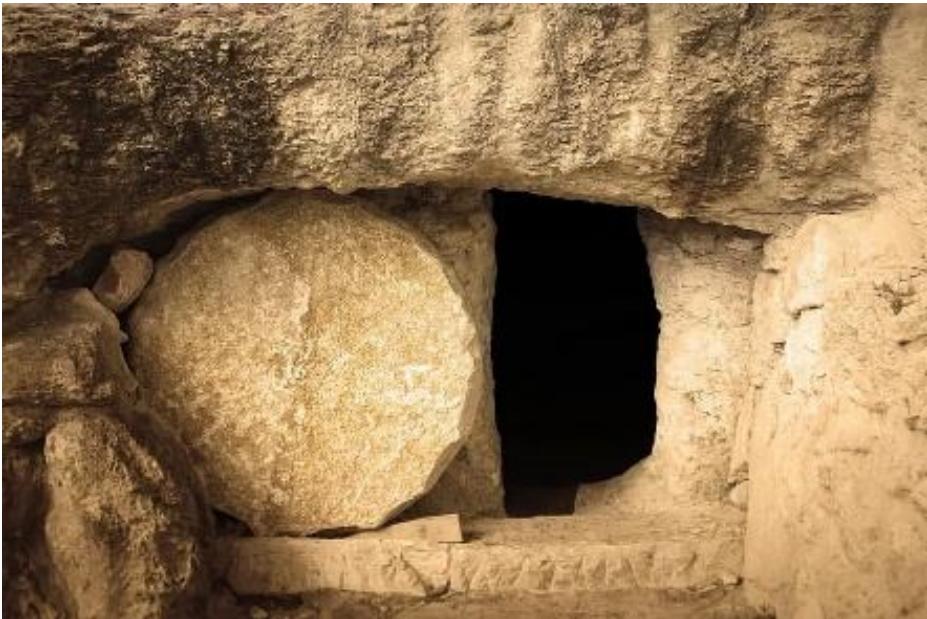
Jean Bright is in New Bethany Memory Care: 1441 Berkeley Rm# C102

All of these church members like visits!

New Young Married Adult Life Group is meeting on Friday evenings at 5pm in classroom 2. This group is ongoing as well.



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 using the numbers provided in your church directory.



He is not here, He has Risen!

Rejoice!

