



*The Vine*  
*February 2025*

United Methodist Church  
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635  
E-MAIL Address: [umclosbanos@gmail.com](mailto:umclosbanos@gmail.com)  
Phone (209) 826-4181

**Worship Service In-person 10:00AM Sundays**  
Service is also online Website: [www.umclb.net](http://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	11	Brooke Barton
7	Dan Bonillas	14	Jim Jones
7	Chris Foxworthy	18	Larry Wiley



11	Dennis & Donna Morris
14	Bud & Susan Ramsey
25	Robert & Shannan Doubek

January contributions total: \$ 9,345.12  
In-Person Services for December 5<sup>th</sup> (42) 12<sup>th</sup> (42) 19<sup>th</sup> (46) 26<sup>th</sup> (43))

# *Vine Monthly Events for January*



## **Important dates:**

**Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** -Centering Prayer 6 PM Zoom, contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

**Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** . 📞 Ad Council meeting, Zoom 7:00PM

**Wednesday February 5<sup>th</sup>** - 📞 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**

**Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** -Bible reading in the church office starting at 6 PM every week for 6 weeks

**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** – New Membership Class begins 11:30 to 12

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**- Trustee Meeting 6 PM Zoom

**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>** – SPRC Meeting 7PM Zoom

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>** -Women in Faith 1 PM we will be doing a crafting project, please bring scissors

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>** -New Year Fasting and Reading the Bible. Contact Pastor Ivoni for more info

**Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** -NOW Meeting 6 PM Zoom

**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>** -Craft Night 6 PM Fireside room

**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – Worship Committee Zoom 7 PM

**Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** – Finance Committee 7 PM Zoom

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** – Cupcakes and Conversation. Women in Faith Retreat 10Am to 1 PM

**Bell Choir** is every Thursday at 4:30 PM

**If you need visitation** for yourself or someone else please contact Karen Bonillas, Melissa Jones, Susan Younce or Ivoni Maama

**At 12:00 noon please take a moment to pray for your pastor and church**

---

We are going to start up our outreach program (Manna with some changes) and would love to have volunteers. We are going to begin with feeding the homeless on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. We will prepare the meals here and deliver them to the homeless encampment. If you would like to help please contact the office.

---

The- United Women of Faith monthly meeting February 13<sup>th</sup> ,1 PM in the fireside room. We will be making a card for our craft project.

All Women are welcome

- 
- Centering Prayer has been moved to Monday evening at 6PM - contact Pastor Ivoni for details.

---

After many, many years as Chairman of the Trustees, Tom Kaljian stepped down officially at the January 8 meeting. Tom will stay on as a Trustee to provide continuity and to share his wealth of knowledge and experience, and we should all gratefully acknowledge Tom's contributions to our church over the years. Kevin Ferreira was elected at that same meeting to step in as the Trustees' new chairman, and we welcome him to this new position.

Church Planning Meeting  
January 19, 2025  
Suggestions Survey Results

Suggestion	Votes
Praise Team/Music	15
Bingo and Burger Night	11
150 Year Celebration	10
Pie Night with Singing	9
Family Movie Night	6
Small Groups	6
Shopping and Sandwiches (presale Thursday before Rummage for church family)	6
Youth Event every 2 months	5
Baked Potato Lunch	5
BBQ with Neighbors	4
Luau	3
Ping Pong Fellowship (family fun night)	2
Nursery Care	2
Bring a Friend Sunday	1
Confirmation Class in May	1

---

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASSES  
Discovery Class Schedule & Agenda

Session 1: Feb 9, 2025

Topic: Who (or What) are United Methodists? (History, Polity) Getting Acquainted - Exploring the Past

Session 2: Feb 23, 2025

Topic: What do United Methodists Believe? Getting Acquainted - The Present

Session 3: Mar 2, 2025

Topic: Mission and Membership Expectations Getting Acquainted - The Future

Session 4: March 16, 2025

Topic: Spiritual Gifts Sharing Spiritual Autobiographies

Session 5: Mar 30, 2025

Topic: Task Preference, Leadership Interaction Style Sharing Spiritual Autobiographies

Session 6: April 6, 2025

Topic: Spiritual Types, Preparing for Ministry Sharing Spiritual Autobiographies, Closure



## **United Methodist Church of Los Banos**

**1031 Iowa Ave. ♦ Los Banos, CA 93635-3451 ♦ 209-826-4181**

**♦ e-mail: [umclosbanos@gmail.com](mailto:umclosbanos@gmail.com)**

**Pastor - Rev. Ivoni Maama, (510-552-7240) [ivoni.maama@cnumc.org](mailto:ivoni.maama@cnumc.org)**

**“To love God and to share His love; to know Christ and to make Christ known”**

**To All Los Banos United Methodist Family:**

**Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope this message finds you well and encourages you in your walk with the Lord at the beginning of the year. This year's theme is a year of HOPE. What are we hoping for? There must be something that we have been longing for, a dream that we were hoping would someday come true. We will journey this year with HOPE and believe that God is our only HOPE. Never give up, HOPE; allow God to lead and guide our journey.

We begin this year with a Bible reading program, the living words of God. Please see the Bible schedule, follow through daily, and join us on Thursday at 6 p.m. for weekly sharing. You may join us in person at the church office. We also have a chat page where you can share what you learn and what God speaks to you. Contact me to add you to the chat page.

On February 15th, we are scheduled to have a seven-day prayer and fasting program, with **(7 Days fasting Challenge that will change your life forever by Pius Joseph)**. Please sign up on the sign up sheet, so we will get enough books. For the first three signups, you will have a free book.

On March 5th, we will begin a small group for the 40-day journey with **(The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren)**. Please contact me if you can lead one of the small groups at your home or church. I hope to have three or four groups and pray to have many of our church members involved. Let's pray and ask God to help us with our busy schedules so we can have time for Daily Bible Reading, Prayer and Fasting, and Small group journeys with God. Please sign up for this 40-day journey, so we will get enough books. The 40 Days Journey's first three signups will have a free book.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Let's continue praying for our church families and our journey this year of HOPE.

Blessings,

Pastor Ivoni

## Administrative Council Highlights – January 7, 2025

The Ad Council met by Zoom conference on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 with five people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW).** The women will meet for lunch on January 11 at Espana’s Restaurant. The VBS dates will be June 23 through 27. A planning meeting will be held right after church and lunch on January 19, and everyone in the church is invited.
- **Trustees.** There is a group that wants to rent a classroom three days a week, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:00PM to 6:30PM, and the Trustees are determining the price. Russ has replaced the irrigation lines outside of the hall. Ivoni reported that there was a problem with one of the sprinkler lines running non-stop, but Kevin was taking care of it during the meeting. Pastor Ivoni mentioned that all was good at the parsonage. The Trustees will meet in person on January 14 at 6:00PM to elect their officers.
- **United Women in Faith.** Laura Scott reported that the women helped a family in need at Christmas. Melissa was in charge of the women providing about 50 blankets to the rest home. All women are invited to the January 11 lunch at Espana’s starting at 1:00PM. Lori will be leading a Valentines Card making craft at the February meeting
- **Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Susan encouraged all, including youth, to attend the planning meeting on January 19 after church. Lunch will be provided.

- **Financial Report.** Gregg gave a breakdown of total income for 2024, stating that the categories of income used to compute our 10% tithe/apportionment obligation totaled \$148,262, so our 10% goal was \$14,826. Our usual sources for apportionments are special offerings for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, scrip proceeds, and the Fall Festival. Those were about \$3,000 than was needed, so we were able to pay our Apportionments in full, and \$3,000 was transferred into the General Fund.

The two checking accounts ended the year with healthy balances, mainly due to a generous one-time payment from the Wilma Ditter estate, and \$25,000 from two grants from the District and Conference. The giving from our congregation was \$22,000 less than in 2023, and the number of giving families dropped to 36.

- **Upcoming Events.** Brief mention was made of the following upcoming events:
  - a. Youth Scavenger Hunt – January 11
  - b. 2025 all-church planning meeting – January 19 after church
  - c. VBS – June 23-27, 2025
  - d. Fireworks booth at Target parking lot – June 28 - July 4, 2025
  - e. Date TBD – Church rummage sale, again headed up by Melissa Jones
- **Parish Care.** Prayers were requested for Don and Carley, Kimery, Guadalupe, Gregg, Donna Morris, and Karen and Dan.
- **Pastor’s Report.** Pastor Ivoni mentioned that she wants to hold a “Bring a Friend Sunday” and start a Bible Study and/or Bible Reading classes in 2025.

## *New Year Fasting and Reading the Bible.*

### **FEBRUARY**

■	1	Ex. 27-28; Mt. 21:1-22
■	2	Ex. 29-30; Mt. 21:23-46
■	3	Ex. 31-33; Mt. 22:1-22
■	4	Ex. 34-35; Mt. 22:23-46
■	5	Ex. 36-38; Mt. 23:1-22
■	6	Ex. 39-40; Mt. 23:23-39
■	7	Lev. 1-3; Mt. 24:1-28
■	8	Lev. 4-5; Mt. 24:29-51
■	9	Lev. 6-7; Mt. 25:1-30
■	10	Lev. 8-10; Mt. 25:31-46
■	11	Lev. 11-12; Mt. 26:1-25
■	12	Lev. 13; Mt. 26:26-50
■	13	Lev. 14; Mt. 26:51-75
■	14	Lev. 15-16; Mt. 27:1-26

■	15	Lev. 17-18; Mt. 27:27-50
■	16	Lev. 19-20; Mt. 27:51-66
■	17	Lev. 21-22; Mt. 28
■	18	Lev. 23-24; Mk. 1:1-22
■	19	Lev. 25; Mk. 1:23-45
■	20	Lev. 26-27; Mk. 2
■	21	Num. 1-3; Mk. 3
■	22	Num. 4-6; Mk. 4:1-20
■	23	Num. 7-8; Mk. 4:21-41
■	24	Num. 9-11; Mk. 5:1-20
■	25	Num. 12-14; Mk. 5:21-43
■	26	Num. 15-16; Mk. 6:1-29
■	27	Num. 17-19; Mk. 6:30-56
■	28	Num. 20-22; Mk. 7:1-13