



# *The Vine*

## *January 2026*

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>



8 Charlene Martin	26 Melissa Jones
19 Donna Morris	29 Gideon Moffitt
21 Sue Hulse	31 Mackenzie Ferreira
21 Noah Cardenas	



19	Robert & Rhonda Cardenas
26	Gerald & Melinda Wall

December contributions total: \$ 11,015.62  
In-Person Services for December 7<sup>th</sup> (31) 14<sup>th</sup> (40) 21<sup>st</sup> (50) 24<sup>th</sup> (42) 28<sup>th</sup> (44)

# *Vine Monthly Events for January*

JANUARY



## **Important dates:**

**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** - 📞 Ad Council Zoom 7PM

**Wednesday January 7<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**

**Wednesday January 7<sup>th</sup>** -Centering Prayer 6 PM Zoom, ID 841 8056 5606 Passcode 876156

**Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup>** -Bible reading 2PM ID 841 8056 5606 Passcode 876156

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** -United Women of Faith 1PM at Round Table Pizza (by Save Mart)

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** - 5 PM, **Youth Winter Party** 5PM. All are welcome, invite your friends  
**Please RSVP to Susan Younce**

**Sunday January 11<sup>th</sup>** – Making lunch for the encampment after Church

**Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** -Trustee meeting 7 PM Zoom

**Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>** SPRC 6PM Fireside room

**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** -Winter Open House at the parsonage. Ivoni invites you to come and stop in for a while or stay the whole time. (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) Join her in Celebrating the New Year

**Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** Craft Night 6PM in the Fireside room. We will make cards

**Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup>** – Making lunch for the encampment after Church

**Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** -Finance Committee 7 PM Zoom.

**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**

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Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> we had the annual United Women of Faith

Christmas party in the Fireside Room there was a nice turnout and fun had by all.

January 10<sup>th</sup> we will be having the annual retreat and pizza party at Round Table Pizza 1:00 PM  
All Women are welcome.



Dear Congregation, you may have noticed that we have put together a small pantry next to the office for anyone in need. If anyone would like to contribute non-perishable foods or basic hygiene items, it would be greatly appreciated. If everyone contributes one can food or item each week, we believe we can make a difference. Prayerfully, Olivia & The Hew Family

This has been out there for about a month now and it seems to be working out well. If you would like to drop off items in office, I check it and refill it several times a week.

Thank you to all who have donated to make this work.

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**Youth Party Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Food, fun and games.  
Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to Susan Younce by Tuesday, January 6, 2026

To My Los Banos United Methodist Family:

Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Praise be to God for all things in life. It is a joy to experience the new beginnings of 2026. As we stand at the threshold of another year, circumstances may shift and change, yet one truth remains constant. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Amid rapid changes, it is reassuring to know that God remains unchanging. God does not adapt to the times, and the Word is not altered by cultural pressures. God does not seek political office, for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As we begin our journey into 2026, I offer my prayers for each of you. May this year bring smooth progress for us all. Let us keep faith, trust that God is with us, and place God at the center of our families, plans, and vision. I encourage everyone to make Jesus the foundation of our lives and to pray for a wonderful, blessed, and prosperous year.

Please refer to the scriptures listed below and identify the verse corresponding to the day of your birthday. Incorporate these scriptures into your plans and vision for the year. Read and pray with these verses daily and observe the changes in your life as you give thanks to God. May God richly bless each of you.

Blessings,

Pastor 'Ivoni Maama

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|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Isaiah 43:18-19      | 13. Isaiah 41:10       | 25. Jeremiah 17:14   |
| 2. Philippians 3:13-14  | 14. Psalm 31:24        | 26. Psalm 91:1-2     |
| 3. Proverbs 16:3        | 15. Deuteronomy 31:8   | 27. Matthew 11:28-30 |
| 4. Lamentations 3:22-23 | 16. Psalm 27:1         | 28. Jeremiah 33:3    |
| 5. Isaiah 43:18-19      | 17. 2 Corinthians 4:17 | 29. John 13:34-35    |
| 6. Philippians 3:13-14  | 18. Roman 8:37-39      | 30. Psalm 28:7       |
| 7. Proverbs 16:3        | 19. Jeremiah 29:11     | 31. Hosea 10:12      |
| 8. Matthew 6:33         | 20. Isaiah 41:13       |                      |
| 9. Ephesians 2:10       | 21. Psalm 54:4         |                      |
| 10. 2 Timothy 1:7       | 22. Hebrews 13:6       |                      |
| 11. Psalm 28:7          | 23. Psalm 121:1-2      |                      |
| 12. John 16:3           | 24. James 1:2-4        |                      |

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**December 2, 2025**

The Ad Council met by Zoom on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, with five people present.

**United Women in Faith.** All women of the church were encouraged to attend the annual Christmas party in the Fireside Room at 6:00 p.m. on December 17, featuring a potluck meal and a gift exchange. Also announced the annual retreat and pizza party at 1:00 p.m. on January 10, at Round Table Pizza.

**Vacation Bible School.** VBS recently received a cash refund of about \$977 for unused 2025 curriculum materials that were returned to the vendor

**Christian Education / Sunday School.** That the children's Christmas program has been recorded, and will be presented at church on Sunday, December 21. The list of Christmas songs and their lyrics will be displayed on the screen in the sanctuary.

**Trustees.** The electrician began work on the wiring fixups the previous week, and he will return and hopefully complete the job later this week. The big air conditioning unit outside the Fireside Room was vandalized, and copper wire was stolen, so we are working with the Police Department and our insurance agent. We are due for a fire inspection in February.

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee.** Bonnie Kraynick will take over as SPRC Chair in January, and Susan Ramsey will become chair of the Worship Committee.

**Financial Report.** The church's finances were in much better shape. November's General Fund collections totaled \$15,412, while paid expenses were just \$11,238, resulting in a balance of \$16,930, with no unpaid bills. The Fall Festival netted \$6,251: \$4,000 from the Disney raffle; \$1,745 from the BBQ chicken dinner; and \$506 from the craft raffle. We have been approved for another grant for Pastor's salary support for 2026. The amount will be \$9,924, which is 80% of our 2025 grant of \$12,400. With a number of people now having their own individual scrip accounts, there has been a big jump in earnings lately, and we will likely net \$3,000 this year.

**Upcoming Events.** The council reviewed a list of planned upcoming events:

- Wednesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. – weekly prayer and Upper Room conference call
- Wednesday, December 3, 6:00 p.m. – weekly Centering Prayer by Zoom
- Thursday, December 4, 2:00 p.m. – weekly Bible reading group meeting by Zoom
- Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. – Trustees meeting by Zoom
- Wednesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m. – Women's Christmas party in the Fireside Room
- Sunday, December 21 – Children's Christmas program during morning worship service
- Wednesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve candlelight service
- Tuesday, January 6, 7:00 p.m. – next meeting of Administrative Council
- Saturday, January 10, 1:00 p.m. – Women's retreat at Round Table Pizza

**Parish Care; People in Need of Prayer.** Prayers were requested for the family of Guadalupe Martinez, who passed away the previous evening; Kimery Knight; and Monique Mowad