



PALM LEAF

Palm United Methodist Church March 2017



First Word

Post Office Box 565 Dinuba, California 93618 559-591-0746 www.palmumc.org info@palmumc.org

CRAIG'S CORNER—WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE CHURCH TODAY ?

I think at some point or another we become so focused on what WE want and what WE need from the church that at times we forget what our purpose is. We forget some of our goals. We forget why we are striving to achieve them. When churches get small we become defensive. "It's not the size of the church that matters!" Were we saying that when we were growing?

I don't think a church needs to be BIG to be effective. And I don't think size is an indicator necessarily of health. Some very big churches are struggling while churches our size are doing great things for their community and the world. At the same time, if we are not growing in important ways I think that says something, too. We may not be dead but are we VITAL!

The Conference asks us to measure "vital signs" including attendance, new members (including baptisms), giving, small group activity, and community outreach. The reason it does is because those are indicators of vitality. Not because those things alone mean a church is vital, but when those numbers are stagnant or shrinking, growing or exploding, those tell a lot about what's going on in the church.

Our numbers in 2016 were:

- o Attendance – 38.46 per week
- o Mission Outreach – 7.02 per week
- o Small Group Participation – 7.08 per week
- o Offering Received - \$1282.54 per week

So far in January we look like this: Attendance – 32.6 / Mission Outreach – 3 / Small Group – 5.2 / Offering - \$2013.80
Last January: Attendance – 32.4 / Mission Outreach – 6.8 / Small Group – 6 / Offering - \$1195.60

All of our numbers are down this year except for offering – which looks good except we had late giving from Christmas that didn't get filed until January which inflated our January numbers by a lot. Without that boost, our offering would have been \$1236.80, about the same as last year. That's not a bad thing. It just means we have some work to do. Join me on this journey. We will talk about why these things are important in the coming weeks and hopefully both of us will be inspired to do great things for Christ!

Peace and Blessings, Craig craig@palmumc.org

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Gary Miyakawa (Cassie's friend), Joe Kelly (Cassie's uncle), Jacob dela Montanya, Josh Crampton (Cassie's cousin), Sumi Okuma (Aiko's sister-in-law), Matt Sakaguchi; Gloria Chavez (Open Gate volunteer), and Gerard Laquerriere (friend of John and Pat).

Please keep Irene Burkart, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield, Marcia Williams, Maryanne Couch (Janice Serios's cousin), Edwin Yamamoto, Terry and Nancy McKittrick, Ken and Cathie Metz, Gloria Gaona, Frank Abe, Wilma Conner, Janelle Cochran, Sandy Hansen, Mike Yada, Alice Yoshimura, first responders, the Yoshihara family, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

(Irene Burkart is temporarily staying at the Linwood Meadows Care Center, 4444 West Meadows # 5-A, Visalia 93277, phone 735-9067. Calls and prayers are appreciated!)

Thank you to all who helped in small ways and big with Open Gate Ministries annual Soup, & Pie Luncheon on February 1—nearly \$2500 was raised!

Diane and Desiree Domingo, and Eduardo and Anthony Espino invite everybody to an open house at their new home, 759 Bergenia Circle (corner Viscaya Parkway, south of Saginaw Avenue, Dinuba) on Saturday, March 25, 4:00 PM. Card basket will be available. Please RSVP Diane at 643-6008.

Sincere sympathy is offered to family and friends of Ruth Hayakawa, who passed away February 4 in Visalia. Graveside service will be held March 11.

Congratulations to Andy Clifton and Sarah Lown who have announced their engagement!

NEWS BITS

Sermon Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 1:00. Old Testament Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, except March 1 and March 8. Prayer Group meets Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Ikebana Class will meet on Saturday, March 25, at 1:30 PM. **Ash Wednesday is March 1. Finance committee will meet Sunday, February 26, following worship. Trustees will meet Sunday, March 5, following worship. Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 12—clocks SPRING FORWARD one hour.**

Ikebana Flower Show and UMW Boutique is scheduled for Saturday, April 8; Boutique workshops will be held following worship on Sunday, March 12 and Sunday, April 2.

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UPS : If you are Head Toban for any month, or if you wish to host Coffee Hour on a special Sunday during the year, please indicate on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The monthly newsletter will serve to remind you. **Tobans will serve Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 19.**

COMMUNION STEWARD DUTIES

Chalice, chalice cover, paten, and white napkin are kept in the Communion cabinet in the kitchen. Bring 100% juice and a round loaf of bread to church on Communion Sunday; place the bread on the paten, and cover with napkin. Pour the juice into the chalice (not too full). Cover the chalice, and place it and the paten on the Communion table on the Chancel. After church, please remember to wash, dry, and replace supplies in the kitchen cabinet. Thank you! --Norma

March



2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 9-12 Office Open no Old Testament Bible Study	2 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	3 Office closed	4
5 10:00 Worship & Sunday School Trustees meet following worship	6 Office closed	7 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	8 9-12 Office Open no Old Testament Bible Study	9 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	10 Office closed	11
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 10:00 Worship & Sunday School--Boutique Workshop 	13 Office closed	14 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	15 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	16 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	17 Office closed ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18
19 10:00 Worship & Sunday School--Coffee Hour follows 	20 Office closed	21 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	22 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	23 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	24 Office closed	25 1:30 Ikebana 
26 10:00 Worship & Sunday School	27 Office closed	28 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	29 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	30 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	31 Office closed	SUNDAY, APRIL 2 BOUTIQUE WORKSHOP FOLLOWS WORSHIP

CRAIG'S CORNER—CONTINUED

OPEN GATE SHELTER NEEDS

511 North "K" Street, Dinuba 93618

559-591-1241

www.opengate-ministries.org

Personal Hygiene Items / Diapers

Paper Towels / Toilet Paper / Kleenex

Shampoo / Hairbrushes

Rice / Beans / Pasta / Spaghetti Sauce

Powdered Milk / Mayonnaise

Flour / Sugar / Oil / Salt / Pancake Mix

Coffee and Creamer

Canned Fruit, Juice, Vegetables, & Meat

Sliced American Cheese

Snacks for Children / Peanut Butter

Mixing Bowls

Children's Videos

Bath, Dish, and Hand Towels

Blankets / Sheets / Pillowcases

Pajamas—all sizes

Volunteers, especially at the Thrift Store



Pastor: Craig Yoshihara

craig@palmumc.org cell 559-840-5091

Newsletter Editor: Marian Clifton

Worship Bulletin Editor: Kathy Lamb

Webmaster: Sandy Hansen

Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 9:00-12:00

Mon. & Fri. Office Closed

Office Location: 438 West Tulare Street

Office Phone: 559-591-0746

e-mail: info@palmumc.org

Website: palmumc.org

Church Location:

Palm UMC—Tulare and "P" Streets

Sunday Service:

Palm UMC—10:00 AM—Worship and
Sunday School

**MARCH
WORSHIP TASKS**

Worship Leader

Norma Lozano

Communion Steward

Susan Yoshimura

Greeters / Ushers

5 Oliver & Winnie Cadiente

12 Jerry & Ginger Munson

19 Diane Domingo, Janice Serios

26 Kathy Lamb, Ruth Kurihara

March Tobans

* Ginger Munson

Aiko Takeda

Diane Domingo

Cassie Yoshihara

Desiree Domingo

Mary Zuniga

Amy Yamakawa

March Birthdays

1—Pattie Kurihara

2—Letty Lamb

3—Hankus Nagata

4—Robyn Ide

8—Steven Bulosan

12—Jason Kurihara

13—Josephine Garcia

14—Esther Kirkpatrick

20—Peter Mesias

21—Aiko Takeda,

Walter Martzen

28—Summer Burkart

31—Maggie Fern,

Craig Yoshihara

PALM UMC CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2017

Church Administrative Council

Chairman: Nancy McKittrick
Vice-Chairman: Jerry Munson
Lay Leader: Kathy Lamb
PPRC Co-Chairs: Susan Yoshimura, Ginger Munson
Finance Chair: Pat Kurihara
Trustees Chair: Jerry Yada
Treasurer: Andy Clifton
Financial Secretary: Jerry Munson
Recording Secretary: Cathy Yada
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Andy Clifton
Worship Chair: Norma Lozano
UMW President: Cathy Yada
Missions Co-Chairs: Aiko Takeda, Marian Clifton
Education Chair: Susan Yoshimura
Pastor: Craig Yoshihara

Nominations Committee

Chair: Craig Yoshihara
Lay Leader: Kathy Lamb
2019: Jerry Munson
2017: Marian Clifton
2018: Susan Yoshimura

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Co-Chairs: Susan Yoshimura, Ginger Munson
Lay Leader: Kathy Lamb
Lay Member to AC: Andy Clifton
2019: Aiko Takeda
2017: Janice Serios
2018: Cathy Yada

Board of Trustees

Chair: Jerry Yada
2019: Ruth Kurihara
2018: Frank Abe
2017: Pat dela Montanya

Finance Committee

Chair: Pat Kurihara
SPRC Co-Chairs: Susan Yoshimura, Ginger Munson
Lay Member to AC: Andy Clifton
Ad Board Vice-Chairman / Financial Secretary : Jerry Munson
Trustees Chair: Jerry Yada
Lay Leader: Kathy Lamb
Ad Board Chairman: Nancy McKittrick
Treasurer : Andy Clifton