



PALM LEAF

Palm United Methodist Church

May 2017



First Word

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

CRAIG'S CORNER—ARE YOU A PRACTICAL ATHEIST?

Do you ever live life like God doesn't exist? If not, then please tell the rest of us the secret. Most of us at times drift away from God. We get wrapped up in our own concerns and in our own desires, and at least temporarily we push God to the side. Few of us live lives like we are on fire for Jesus. Most of the time, we're tepid at best. "Lukewarm for Christ," doesn't make nearly as appealing a slogan. But isn't that true? Aren't there times we put aside God for our own convenience?

It's what Craig Groeschel called being a practical atheist. **A practical atheist is someone who says they believe God exists, but lives as if they do not.** I was at a conference once where Craig told a story to illustrate what he meant.¹ There was a preacher. A real radical, hard-line, fundamentalist-type who opposed an adult video store opening up in town. He rallied the congregation. He preached on the sins that would come from this place. He even led a prayer group to ask God to strike down this place before it could be built. And lo and behold, about two weeks before it was about to open, lightning struck the store and it burned to the ground. The pastor and the whole church were pretty pleased with themselves until they were served with a notice that they were being sued by the owner of the video store on grounds that the church was responsible either directly or indirectly for the demolition of the building. The church denied all responsibility or any connection to its destruction and as the case made its way into court, the judge had a real puzzled look on his face. He looked up at the two groups and said, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this case. From the paperwork, it looks like I've got a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer and an entire church that does not."

When it suits us, we believe in God. But when it impacts our lives, we act as if he doesn't exist. We need to do a better job of reconciling the two if we hope to reach people with the love of Jesus Christ. Challenge yourself to grow this month – even if it's just a little bit. Try to include God more in your day-to-day living. Pray more often. Be intentional about your relationships with others and try to be even more kind and loving. Do purposeful acts of kindness. Read your Bible. Whatever you choose to do, try to live each day with more of God in it!

Peace and Blessings, Craig craig@palmumc.org

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Jacob dela Montanya, Josh Crampton, Sumi Okuma (Aiko's sister-in-law), Matt Sakaguchi, and Gerard Laquerriere (friend of John and Pat).

Please keep Irene Burkart, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield, Mas Konatsu, Marcia Williams, Maryanne Couch (Janice Serios's cousin), Oliver Cadiente, Terry and Nancy McKittrick, Ken and Cathie Metz, Frank Abe, Wilma Conner, Janelle Cochran, Sandy Hansen, Mike Yada, Alice Yoshimura (Lindy's mother), first responders, the Yoshihara family, Smith Mountain Cemetery District, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Congratulations to Chelsea and Alex Hudson on the birth April 12 of baby Marlo Ray Hudson at UCSF Hospital! Proud great-grandmother is Marcia Williams.

Congratulations to David Clifton and Laura Gomez who have announced their engagement! Also to Ethan McBride and Jillian Payne!

Condolences are extended to family and friends of Edwin Yamamoto, who passed away on February 28; memorial service will be Saturday, May 13, at 10:00 AM, at Palm Church. Meal to follow.

Sincere sympathy is offered to friends and family of Ethel Tashiro, who died on March 31 at Sierra View Home in Reedley.

Prayers for comfort, guidance, and strength to family, friends, and co-workers of Gloria Gaona, Operations Manager at Open Gate Ministries for over two decades, who passed away suddenly at home on March 19.

Condolences are offered to family and friends of Narumi Sadahiro, who died on March 18.

NEWS BITS

Sermon Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 1:00. Old Testament Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, except may 3. Prayer Group meets Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Ikebana Class will not meet in May. **Ad Council will meet Sunday, April 30, following worship. PPRC Committee will meet at 1:00 on Monday, May 1.**

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, May 21.** **Don't miss our annual Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 14!**

Open Gate Ministries Annual Spring Salad Bar Lunch will be held Wednesday, May 3, 11:00-1:00, at the First Assembly of God, corner South "L" and Mono Streets. All-you-can-eat salad is \$5.00; cake slice is \$1.00. Beautiful floral arrangements will also be available for purchase. Take-out option.

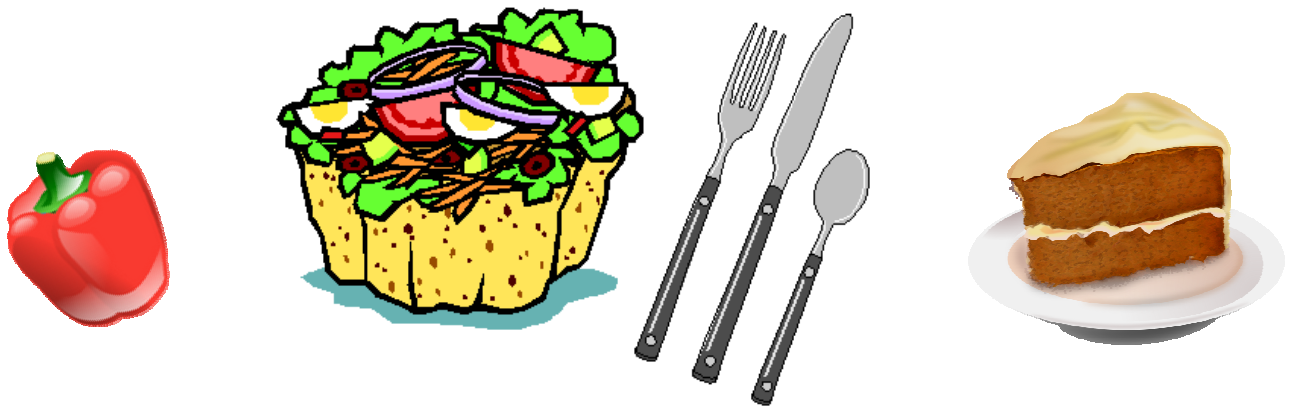
Open Gate Ministries will be holding its annual Rummage Sale on May 12-13 at the Shelter, 511 North "K" Street, Dinuba (corner Alta Avenue).

Palm Church United Methodist Women (that's YOU!) will meet Sunday, May 21, to decide how to spend the \$ 1000 raised at the Boutique April 8!

PLEASE TELL MARIAN IF YOU KNOW OF ANYBODY WHO IS GRADUATING!

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



Open Gate Ministries

Salad Bar Luncheon

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

11:00 AM—1:00 PM

Dinuba First Assembly of God
(South "L" & Mono Streets)

Salad \$5.00 Cake slice \$1.00

Take-out Available!



May



2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office closed 1:00 PPRC meeting	2 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	3 9-12 Office Open 11:00-1:00 OPEN GATE SALAD LUNCH, FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD	4 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group WORLD DAY OF PRAYER STAR WARS DAY	5 Office closed	6
7 10:00 Worship & Sunday School ; Special Offering for Africa University	8 Office closed	9 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	10 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	11 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	12 Office closed	13 10:00 Ed Yamamoto funeral--meal follows
14 MOTHERS DAY 9:00 BRUNCH 10:00 Worship & Sunday School 	15 Office closed	16 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	17 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	18 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	19 Office closed	20
21 10:00 Worship & Sunday School ; UMW meeting follows	22 Office closed	23 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	24 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	25 9-12 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	26 Office closed	27
28 10:00 Worship & Sunday School-- Coffee Hour follows	29 Office closed MEMORIAL DAY 	30 9-12 Office Open 1:00 Sermon Bible Study	31 9-12 Office Open 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study			

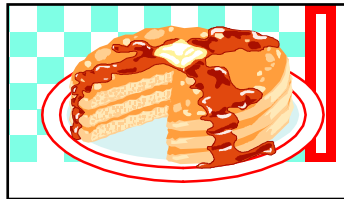
OPEN GATE SHELTER NEEDS

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

MAY
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Norma Lozano

Communion Steward

Cathy Yada

Greeters / Ushers

- 7 Oliver and Winnie Cadiente
- 14 Diane Domingo, Taye Abe
- 21 John dela Montanya, Herb Abe
- 28 Ruth Kurihara, Kathy Lamb

May Tobans

- * Kathy Lamb
- Norma Lozano
- Ruth Kurihara
- Marcia Williams
- Rosalinda Vasquez
- Taye Abe
- Helen Ishida

May Birthdays

- 2—Ed Nagata (102!)
- 7—Bob Pipkin
- 9—Helen Ishida (96!)
- 18—Romeo Lozano, Sr.
- 20—Rose Abe
- 22—Derek Fujinaga,
MaKenzie Lamb, Gracie Suastegui
- 23—Lupe Gonzales
- 24—Caleb Eliosa
- 31—Cheryl Lamb



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: Janice Serios
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