



**PALM LEAF**

# Palm United Methodist Church January 2018



**First Word**

Post Office Box 565    Dinuba, California 93618    559-591-0746    [www.palmumc.org](http://www.palmumc.org)    [info@palmumc.org](mailto:info@palmumc.org)

## CRAIG'S CORNER—State of the Church 2017

Things at Palm UMC are indeed looking up! We have had more people in worship, more kids involved in Sunday School, did more community outreach, and have been willing to try new things. We didn't achieve our church goals from last year, so we still have a ways to go, but I see signs of growth in our church that seem hopeful and exciting!

I love that we have new families coming to worship, new things to celebrate, and for the first time in years, new professions of faith. Our worship attendance only went up a fraction, but considering we lost four wonderful people this year and others who haven't been able to come due to illness and injury, I'm encouraged. Keep up the good work and continue to invite family and friends (and even strangers) to join us in worship.

Our small group numbers went up drastically! Part of that is because I hadn't been including our Sunday School kids as part of that group, but what's been most encouraging is watching those Sunday School numbers rise dramatically over the past year. You have been bringing your kids, your grandkids, your neighborhood kids, and it has made a difference. We now have a blessed problem with needing more people to help Susan so I hope you'll step up and volunteer as we head into the New Year. Don't wait for me to ask – go and ask Susan how you can help. Our other small groups haven't been growing, but then Aiko felt God's call to start a new one that she's looking to begin next year. And then Katherine came up and felt God put it on her heart to begin an addiction support group also beginning some time next year. If you'd like to help either of these efforts (and I hope at least one of you will for each group), please do not wait for me to encourage you! Go and talk to Aiko and Katherine about how you can help. Experts not needed – just people who want to help.

Giving has gone up! You have all been so charitable and loving, not only to one another, but to missions, UMCOR, Open Gate, Youth for Christ, disaster relief, and so many other organizations that need help to make the world a better place. Our charitable giving went up by nearly 75%! Our overall giving is up by nearly \$13,000 compared to last year. Some of that giving is due to some very generous gifts on behalf of those who have passed away, but our congregation's giving spirit overall is encouraging and much needed. We are still losing money every month and the question of whether or not we can afford to stay a full-time congregation is something we really have to consider. But thank you to all of you who were able to give more!

**Continued on Reverse**

Pastor Craig    (559) 840-5091 (cell)    [www.facebook.com/umcpastorcraig](http://www.facebook.com/umcpastorcraig)    [www.craigyoshihara.wordpress.com](http://www.craigyoshihara.wordpress.com)

## JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Jacob dela Montanya, Josh Crampton, Matt Sakaguchi, Danny and Kay Armijo (Pat's cousins), Miyoko Cabello (Diane's mother), and Gerard Laquerriere (friend of John and Pat).

Please keep Irene Burkart, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield, Mas Konatsu, Marcia Williams, Kenji Tashiro, Lee Bulosan (Janice's father), Oliver and Winnie Cadiente, Terry and Nancy McKittrick, Iris Yamakawa, Yoshiko Yamagata (Iris' mother), Ken and Cathie Metz, Mike Yada, Jerry Munson, Ken Yoshihara (Craig's father), Martha Onishi (Kathy Onishi's mother-in-law), Marianne Couch (Janice's cousin), Wilma Conner, Sandy Hansen, Stephen Sandoval (Youth for Christ mentor at Dinuba Lincoln School), first responders, the Yoshihara family, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Congratulations to Sebastian Garza, winner of the annual Jon Lamb Most Inspirational Basketball Player (DHS) Award!

Congratulations to Alan and Kristen (Yoshimura) Floresca on the birth December 1 of baby Theodore! Proud grandparents are Susan and Lindy Yoshimura.

**DIRECTORY CHANGE : Ruben and Beverly (Cadiente) Aleman  
1516 Caminito Santiago # 1 ; Chula Vista, California 91913**

## NEWS BITS

Sermon Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 1:00, except January 2 and 16 (no office hours the week of January 15). Old Testament Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 11:00. Prayer Group meets Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Ikebana Class will meet Saturday, January 20, at 1:30. Administrative Board will meet on Sunday, January 7, following worship.

**Following 10:00 worship on Sunday, December 31, Rodney and Marian Clifton will host New Year's Eve Coffee Hour—please stay for lunch!**

**Following 10:00 worship on Sunday, January 14, we will celebrate the new year with our annual Ozoni (rice dumpling soup) brunch, hosted by the January toban team.**

**During worship on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 4, we will "Appreciate Andy Clifton", followed by a missions donation lunch—proceeds to benefit Open Gate Ministries of Dinuba.**

**Don't miss the annual Open Gate Soup, Salad, and Pie Lunch at Palm Church on Wednesday, February 7, 11:00—1:00 ! Let Marian know if you can bring a pie or a cobbler, and let Aiko know if you can help with the Boutique!**

**On Wednesday, February 14, everyone is encouraged to meet at the church at 10:00 to hand out candy in the community! (Let Craig know if you can help.)**

## 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

## Craig's Corner Continued From Page One

Although the number of people involved in mission outreach is about the same, our overall engagement has really gone up. We gave out meals for the Soup and Pie Lunch, visited our community during the candy holidays passing out over 800 treats to people in our local businesses and invited them to worship. We sent out postcards to our neighbors inviting them to worship on Easter and again this Christmas. Our social media presence has grown with our Facebook page having over 100 followers and our daily devotions, events, and sermons are reaching about 50-75 people on average – more than we have in worship! And we get about 120 page views per month for our sermons. That's an average of about 20-30 extra people in worship every week (interestingly, they don't all read the current series but read different sermons we've shared over the past 5 years).

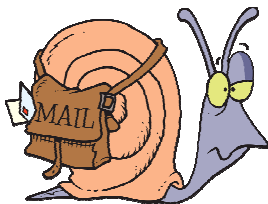
We've introduced different styles of worship, different ways of doing communion, and for the first time doing our Administrative Board differently, too. Fewer people, fewer meetings, equal commitment.

We still have work to do. Even with all of the forward progress, we still are short financially every month by nearly \$2,000. We'll have to have serious discussions about whether or not we can afford to have a full-time pastor. But things are really encouraging. And even if we don't have a full-time pastor, by working hard and diligently we can continue to grow the church for God as we are called to do. In the five years I've been here, this year has been our year of greatest growth and I feel so blessed to be your pastor. I wonder what God will do with us in 2018!

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Craig

### Directory Changes & Additions

**Carmencita Balderama**  
P.O. Box 382  
Dinuba, Ca 93618



**Eve LaBelle**  
4947 Woodland Way NW  
Acworth, GA 30102



**Junior and April Bulosan:**  
Isaiah, Zachariah, Ace, Sirena  
601 North Lindsay Way  
Dinuba. CA 93618



(L to R, Top to Bottom): Pastor Craig and Kathy giving out ice cream in our Beat the Heat in the Community; One of the beautiful displays at the Ikebana Show and Boutique; Aiko Takeda receiving the Bishop's Award for her dedication and service; Our Annual Chicken Dinner crew putting together plates; Easter treats for giveaway; Ice cream treats for giveaway; Open Gate Soup and Pie Lunch hosted by our church; Andy and Sarah; Melanie and Greg; Our Easter in the Community crew ready to give away treats; Trying something different for communion; The ladies of our Ikebana Class; New shirts for community service; Faith and Family Trip






## Special Activities

- Sunday, December 31, New Years Eve Coffee Hour hosted by the Cliftons
- Friday, January 6, Epiphany or Three Kings Day
- Sunday, January 14, 11:00 Annual Ozoni Brunch
- Sunday, February 4, 11:00 "Souper Bowl of Caring" donation lunch
- Wednesday, February 7, 11:00--1:00, Open Gate Soup, Salad & Pie Lunch
- Wednesday, February 14, 10:00 "Spreading Love in the Community"
- Saturday, February 17, Disneyland Faith and Family Trip

# January



# 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>  Office closed 	<b>2</b> Office closed	<b>3</b> 9-12 Office Open  11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	<b>4</b> 9-12 Office Open  10:00 Prayer Group	<b>5</b> Office closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00 Worship and Sunday School ; Church Board meeting follows	<b>8</b> Office closed	<b>9</b> 9-12 Office Open  1:00 Sermon Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9-12 Office Open  11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	<b>11</b> 9-12 Office Open  10:00 Prayer Group	<b>12</b> Office closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:00 Worship and Sunday School ; Ozoni Brunch follows 	<b>15</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</b>  Office closed	<b>16</b> Office closed	<b>17</b> Office closed  11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	<b>18</b> Office closed  10:00 Prayer Group	<b>19</b> Office closed	<b>20</b> 1:30 Ikebana Class 
<b>21</b> 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	<b>22</b> Office closed	<b>23</b> 9-12 Office Open  1:00 Sermon Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9-12 Office Open  11:00 Old Testament Bible Study	<b>25</b> 9-12 Office Open  10:00 Prayer Group	<b>26</b> Office closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	<b>29</b> Office closed	<b>30</b> 9-12 Office Open  1:00 Sermon Bible Study	<b>31</b> 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](http://www.opengate-ministries.org)

Personal Hygiene Items / Pads / 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@palmumc.org)

Website: [palmumc.org](http://palmumc.org)

Church Location:

Palm UMC—Tulare and "P" Streets

Sunday Service:

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

### JANUARY WORSHIP TASKS

#### Worship Leader

Kathy Lamb

#### Communion Steward

Norma Lozano

#### Greeters / Ushers

7 Ruth Kurihara, Taya Abe

14 Norma Lozano, Marian Clifton

21 Jerry and Ginger Munson

28 John and Pat dela Montanya

#### January Tobans

\* Marian Clifton

Susan Yoshimura

Nancy McKittrick

Ruth Fujinaga

Janice Serios

Carmencita Balderama

April Bulosan

### January Birthdays

1—Carmencita Balderama

2--Eve LaBelle

3—Florence Brayfield, Peter Fern

5—Jimmy Yamakawa

10—Anthony Espino

13—Jerry Yada,

Nathaniel Joseph

16—Christine Cadiente,

Karen Shaver

20—Eileen Tashiro

21—Sirena Bulosan

29—Sandy Hansen

31—Ruth Fujinaga,

Camille Joseph,

Marian Clifton

**PALM UMC CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2018**

**Church Administrative Council**

Chairman: Nancy McKittrick

Lay Leader: Kathy Lamb

PPRC Chair: Susan Yoshimura

Finance Chair: Jerry Munson

Trustees Chair: Aiko Takeda

Treasurer: Arthur Anderson

Financial Secretary: Jerry Munson

Recording Secretary: Cathy Yada

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Derek Fujinaga

Worship Chair: Norma Lozano

UMW President: Janice Serious

Missions Co-Chairs: Aiko Takeda, Marian Clifton

Education Chair: Susan Yoshimura

Nominations Chair: Pastor Craig Yoshihara