



PALM LEAF

**Palm United
Methodist Church
December 2019**



First Word

Post Office Box 565 Dinuba, California 93618 559-591-0746 <https://palmumc.org> info@palmumc.org

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love” --
Ephesians 3:17

We transition now in the holiday season from giving thanks to God for all we have received, to making room in our hearts and lives for the Christ-child to come dwell with us. We take some time in this season of Advent to prepare our hearts so we can receive him well. Sometimes that means extra time of prayer or Bible study, sometimes it is looking for ways to serve the community. We think about the spirit of Christmas that so many celebrate through the giving of gifts.

As I write this we are preparing at the church to celebrate the holiday meal with families we are just meeting through the generosity of Cruisin' for Jesus. I chatted with Buffy Ruiz this afternoon just briefly and I could sense the joy it brings him to be able to give away so much. He said it wasn't that he was bragging but he was proud of all that his group makes possible for this Thanksgiving meal. And then they follow up with some of the families for Christmas as well. I said, I bet my church could join in on that, gather donations to bless some families along with them. Because I know you are generous and God's blessings flow through you, too. So without even asking the council, I am proposing having an extra fund-drive to bless four of the families that came to the Thanksgiving celebration with a Christmas dinner and gifts. Designate your gifts to Palm UMC to "Cruisin' for Jesus Christmas Blessing."

And may you find ways to open your heart to Christ being born in us anew this Christmas.

Blessings! --Pastor Michelle

P.S. Update--The Thanksgiving Dinner was a great success! We are so thankful to Buffy and his volunteers, and the Palm volunteers as well! Thanks be to God for all of you!

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Myles Chute, Michael dela Montanya, Jacob dela Montanya, Matt Sakaguchi, Lori Cox (friend of Pastor Michelle), Kay Armijo, Gerard Laquerriere, and Alan Langstraat.

Please keep Ruth Kurihara, Carol (Rossi) Christianson, Hankus Nagata, Irene Burkart, Aiko Takeda, Pat Kurihara, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield and her daughter Carla, Alicia Oyervidez, Marcia Williams, Terry and Nancy McKittrick, Betty Barsotti, Hilda dela Montanya, Molly Osato, Judy Hernandez, Ken Metz, Don McDowell (Jerry Munson's nephew), Marianne Couch (Janice's cousin), Steven Bulosan, Wilma Conner, Sandy Hansen, first responders, Dinuba Youth for Christ, Cruising for Jesus, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Sincere sympathy is extended to family and friends of Mary Kubo, who passed away October 29 in Clovis. Deepest condolences are offered to friends and family of Cathie Metz (long-time missionary to Peru and Guatemala with her husband Ken), who passed away from ALS complications on October 19 in Georgia.

Memorial Service for Tosh Sadahiro will be Friday, December 6, 10:30, at Palm Church.

NEWS BITS

Pastor Michelle will be leading "Grace Groups" on Tuesday, December 3 & 17, at 10:30 AM, at the church; Thursday, December 5 & 19, at 5:00 PM, at Nancy McKittrick's house; and Sunday, December 8, at 8:15 AM, at the church. Old Testament Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 11:00 AM, except December 25. Prayer Group meets Thursdays at 10:30 at Ginger Munson's house. Bible Study at Aiko Takeda's house meets on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM except December 25. NA meeting led by Katherine Rodriguez is held every Tuesday, 12:00 noon, at the church. Ikebana Class will not meet in December. Ad Council will meet December 15 following worship. Rodney and Marian Clifton will host Coffee Hour lunch following worship on Sunday, December 29. The church office will be closed December 24—January 2.

Annual "Hanging of the Greens" will be celebrated on Sunday, December 1, following worship, with pizza and crafts; we will also light the first Advent candle and decorate the Sanctuary Christmas tree, and hang the wreaths and Yuletide banners!

The Sunday School kids will perform and Tobans will serve Coffee Hour on Christmas Sunday, December 22.

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held at 5:30 PM on December 24. Choir will meet to rehearse at 5:00.

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!

GROWING YOUNG

Susan Yoshimura, Janice and Jessica Serios, and Pastor Michelle attended the first Growing Young Summit in Sacramento on October 17-18. The Summit was the first of 2 and part of the year-long cohort we are in. There was a lot of information to take in at the first summit, but it was very inspirational! Some things we find we could do better in as a congregation are taking time to truly listen and empathize with young people, giving more authority and responsibility to younger generations, and making youth / young people a priority in our midst. We will be working over the year--and beyond!--on ways to increase inter-generational conversations and understanding, and we look forward to hearing from you about your thoughts!

MURAL FUND-RAISER CLOSED !!

In June our church council approved Discipleship Goals for the 2019-2020 appointment year. One project we have now completed is a new mural on the south wall of our building with our circular Palm UMC logo, complete with LED lights. The sign looks really great and will help our neighborhood identify us as a church. The council had determined the mural fund-raiser would go through the end of October and we have raised over \$1800, the estimated cost. Way to go and thank you to everyone who helped make this possible! Let's keep Sharing Christ in the holiday season and into 2020!



Open Gate Ministries Seventh Annual Live Christmas Tree Auction, Boutique, and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 30, 2:00—4:00 PM

(Live Auction starts at 3:00)

**Dinuba First Baptist Church
corner Nebraska Avenue & Eaton Avenue**

Free Admission !! Free Refreshments !!

See you there !!






All proceeds to benefit Open Gate Ministries

(Let Marian, Janice, or Diane know if you wish to help.)

December



2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ADVENT BEGINS 10:00 Worship and Sunday School-- Pizza Lunch, Crafts, and "Hanging of the Greens" 	2	3 10:30-4:00 Office Open 10:30 Grace Group 12:00 NA meeting	4 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study 1:30 Aiko's Bible Study	5 10:30-4:00 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group 5:00 Grace Group	6 10:30 Memorial Service for Tosh Sadahiro	7
8 8:15 Grace Group 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	9	10 10:30-4:00 Office Open 12:00 NA meeting	11 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study 1:30 Aiko's Bible Study	12 10:30-4:00 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group	13	14
15 10:00 Worship and Sunday School ; Ad Council	16	17 10:30-4:00 Office Open 10:30 Grace Group 12:00 NA meeting	18 11:00 Old Testament Bible Study 1:30 Aiko's Bible Study	19 10:30-4:00 Office Open 10:00 Prayer Group 5:00 Grace Group	20	21
22 10:00 Worship and Sunday School ; Coffee Hour follows 	23	24 5:00 CHOIR 5:30 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE 	25 CHRIST IS BORN !! 	26 Office closed	27	28
29 10:00 Worship and Sunday School ; Coffee Hour lunch 	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE 				

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

December 1-- Following 10:00 Worship & Sunday School—
Pizza, Crafts, and “Hanging of the Greens”

December 22-- The Sunday School kids will perform and
Tobans will serve Coffee Hour on
Christmas Sunday, December 22.

December 24—5:00 Choir Practice,
5:30 Christmas Eve Candle-Light Service

December 29—Lunch follows 10:00 Worship.
Guest speaker.



OPEN GATE MINISTRIES
ON-GOING NEEDS
(511 North "K" Street, Dinuba)
591-1241

Bathroom and Facial Tissue
Paper Towels
Feminine Products and Diapers
Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
Lotion, Shampoo, and Hairbrushes
Coffee and Creamer
Cooking Oil and Sugar
Juice and Children's Snacks
Ziplock Bags (quart and gallon size)
Aluminum Foil / Plastic Grocery Bags
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Canned Meat



Pastor: Michelle Magee
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Newsletter Editor: Marian Clifton
Worship Bulletin Editor: Kathy Lamb
Webmaster: Sandy Hansen
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30–4:00
Thursday 10:30–4:00
Office Location: 438 West Tulare Street
Office Phone: 559-591-0746
Listen to Pastor Michelle's sermons at--
Website: <https://palmumc.org>
Church Location:
Palm UMC—Tulare and "P" Streets
Sunday Service:
Palm UMC—10:00 AM—Worship and
Sunday School

DECEMBER
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Nancy McKittrick

Communion Steward

Kathy Lamb

Greeters / Ushers

1 Jerry and Ginger Munson
8 Norma Lozano, Kathy Lamb
15 Taya Abe, Diane Domingo
22 Winnie Cadiente, Iris Yamagata
29 Norma Lozano, Cathy Yada

December Tobans

* Marian Clifton
Ruth Fujinaga
Susan Yoshimura
Nancy McKittrick
Janice Serios
Stan Davis

December Birthdays

2—Jackie Muzzy
4—Jose Erenas,
Junior Bulosan
10—Taya Abe
12—Kristen (Yoshimura) Floresca,
Katsumi Noji
14—Jaclyn Hernandez
16—Wilma Conner (100!)
17—Katherine Rodriguez
18—Marie Tribble (109!)
19—Pastor Michelle Magee,
Lance Fujinaga
21—Eduardo Espino

PALM UMC CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2020

Church Administrative Council

Chairman: Susan Yoshimura

Lay Leader: Derek Fujinaga

PPRC Co-Chairs: Marian Clifton, Janice Serios

Finance Chair: Jerry Munson

Board of Trustees: Pat dela Montanya (Chair), Derek Fujinaga, Jerry Munson

Treasurer: Arthur Anderson

Financial Secretary: Jerry Munson

Recording Secretary: Cathy Yada

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Derek Fujinaga

Worship Chair: Kathy Lamb

Pianists: Aiko Takeda, Daniel Toews, Andy Clifton, Kathy Lockwood

UMW President: Janice Serios

Missions Co-Chairs: Aiko Takeda, Marian Clifton

Education Chair: Susan Yoshimura

Nominations Chair: Pastor Michelle Magee

Youth Group co-Leaders: Janice Serios, Katherine Rodriguez

