



Palm UMC

PALM LEAF September 2020 **First Word**

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

PASTOR’S PONDERINGS—MY BELOVED FELLOW DISCIPLES OF CHRIST :

I pray that you are all well, and any way that I can pray specifically for you, please let me know! Our re-launch team has been working on fulfilling the protocols our Annual Conference has put in place for us in order to gather in-person again. For our application to re-launch in person worship, we included the following:

“Vision: The mission of Palm UMC is “Sharing Christ.” We have sought to continue to share Christ in many ways throughout the pandemic and are working hard to prepare for the component of in person worship that still keeps everyone safe in the time of COVID 19. We will seek to live out our Wesleyan identity of “Doing no harm, doing good, and staying in love with God.”

“Values: The values we hold fast to are to love God and to love our neighbor. We want to care for others as Christ has cared for us. This will include seeking to reduce the risk as much as possible for in person worship. It will also include staying connected to our online and call-in worshippers as best we can. We also recognize the importance of being present with others and that is an element of caring for one another and inspiring one another to faith and love of God.”

We are currently finalizing this application and then we will soon turn it into our Superintendent Debra Brady. **IF** we are approved, we will have our first outdoor in-person worship service **on Sunday September 27 at 9:30 AM, in Norma and Romeo Lozano’s backyard, 844 West Nebraska Avenue (corner Viscaya Parkway),** and then continue to do so once a month. I know many of you are missing your church family and looking forward to being in person with one another again- I am too! But things will not be *quite* the same. In order to gather, we all have to agree to abide by the rules so to speak, so that no one is put more at risk than they are prepared to be. We want to care for one another’s physical as well as spiritual and emotional health. So if you choose to come, please be prepared to do the following:

- Screen yourself for symptoms before leaving your house and if you are at all ill or know you have been exposed to the coronavirus, stay home. .
- RSVP ahead of time with your current phone number for contact-tracing purposes to Marian Clifton marianclifton@verizon.net or (559) 834-5135 (if no answer, leave a message) .
- Agree to have your temperature scanned when you arrive; those with temps over 100° F will be asked to return home.
- Wear your mask or face covering that completely covers nose to chin for the whole time we are together.
- Stay 6 feet apart from all those who are not from your household. I know this will be particularly challenging for some of us who hug or touch easily, again I miss that too, but in order to look one another in the eye we must agree to wave or bow from that 6 foot distance, to keep our risk of contagion as low as possible.
- Children stay with their families; clipboard activities will be provided.
- We will not sing or do any group responses .
- We will be providing surgical masks for those who don’t already have their own face covering as well as a hand-washing / sanitizing station and protocol for using the restroom.

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE or PAGE 6)

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Michael dela Montanya, Jacob dela Montanya, Gerard Laquerriere and Rick Kanderian (friends of John and Pat), Ron Gerstenberg, Irene Pasillas (Open Gate), and Chase Glosier (Steve and Kathy Botkin's nephew).

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Lisa Delgado, John and Pat dela Montanya, Carol (Rossi) Christianson, Linda and Joe Gourley (friends of Mary Esmay), Louisa Valenzuela, Hankus Nagata, Brenda Godinez, Aiko Takeda, Pat Kurihara, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Richard Meffley (friend of John and Pat), Florence Brayfield, Marcia Williams, Terry and Nancy McKittrick, Katherine Rodriguez and her family, Betty Barsotti, Mel Imai (Ruth Fujinaga's cousin), Molly Osato, Don McDowell (Jerry Munson's nephew), Cherry Cadiente (Winnie's sister-in-law), Steven Bulosan, Lee Bulosan (Janice's father), Wilma Conner, Sandy Hansen, Dinuba Youth for Christ, Cruising for Jesus, domestic violence ministries, first responders, health-care workers, Open Gate Ministries and all those affected during the COVID-19 pandemic and lock-down in your prayers.

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

Pastor Michelle will live-stream her Sunday sermons on Facebook at 10:30 AM (more information enclosed), and she will be leading "Grace Groups" via ZOOM. Old Testament Bible Study will gather every Wednesday at 11:00 AM via conference call. Prayer Group will convene Thursdays at 10:30 over the phone. Louisa Valenzuela will be leading the NA group every Thursday at 5:00 PM via ZOOM. Ad Council will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, September 23, at 2:30 PM.

Virtual Coffee Hour will be held following Facebook live-stream and Zoom worship service every Sunday and Holy Communion on Sunday, September 6 !! (Please have bread and juice ready for virtual Communion.) Coffee Hour on September 6 will be in honor of John and Pat dela Montanya, who are moving to Nipomo. We will miss them !!

September / October UPPER ROOM Daily Devotional Guides will be available to be picked up outside the front door of Palm Church on Monday, August 31, 11:00 AM—5:00 PM.

Our re-opening team of Pastor Michelle, Susan Yoshimura, Derek Fujinaga, and Rod Clifton has been meeting and planning for in-person worship (probably outdoors) that may be coming soon !!

We will be looking for volunteers for tasks such as greeting, offering a disposable mask to those who don't have one, reminding people to stay six feet apart, reading a Scripture passage, wiping down surfaces before and after service, collecting and sharing electronic prayer requests, creative music ideas that don't involve live singing, loan of pop-up canopies and / or outdoor sound equipment. If you are interested in helping in any of these ways please contact michelle.magee@cnumc.org or Susan Yoshimura 559-679-8074.

Tentative date for return to in-person worship is September 27, 9:30 AM, at Norma and Romeo Lozano's back yard (844 West Nebraska Avenue, SE corner Viscaya Parkway). Please wear a mask and bring a chair, if possible ! (Some chairs and disposable masks will be available.)

Our Ad Council during the meeting on May 20 decided to invite our entire congregation to spend a moment in prayer every day at 11:24 am, relating to Mark 11:24 where Jesus told his disciples, "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." Let us join together and ask for: God's healing and protection for our church family and our neighbors; for us to take good care of one another; for our governmental authorities to have wisdom in providing for wellbeing of all people; for healthcare workers and other essential workers; and for help in finding a vaccine and ending this time of pandemic, as soon as God's will allows. So set your phone alarms or alarm clocks to remind you, and we will join together in prayer every day at 11:24 AM !

--Pastor Michelle, and Susan Yoshimura, Ad Board Chairman

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

I pray that you are all staying safe and well! These times of pandemic can bring extra pastoral care concerns. Please, if you would like a phone call or visit, let me know! Reaching me on my cell phone is probably the best way, 805-233- 5796. We can also set up a Zoom to "see" one another if you like. (I just ask that unless it's urgent, to not call on Monday, my day off.) For now according to the Conference protocol, if you would like a visit I can stand outside of your house and talk to you from 10 feet away, looking at you through a window, and talking "live" or on the phone if we can't hear each other. If you are on Facebook and would like to be "friends" there please send a friend request to Pastor Michelle Magee. Out of respect for your privacy I won't request you, but I would be pleased to be friends on that account if you like! Please also like our church Facebook page to see updates there, and you can see the livestreamed worship every Sunday at 10:30am: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PalmUMCDinuba/videos/> .

Email is great too: michelle.magee@cnumc.org . You should also be getting a weekly guide to an at-home devotional to do, and you can catch the sermon in print form on my blog on the website too: palmumc.org under the worship tab. Blessings!

--Pastor Michelle

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS :

2—Jerry Munson 11—Tommy Kurihara, Irene Burkart 14—Greg Millhorn 15—Mollie Osato
17—Lindsay Takeda 20—Buddy Thomas 21—Robert Pipkin, Ethan Millhorn
23—Johnny Leibert 25—Nick Millhorn 26—Greg Mizuno
27—London Serios, Joey Galvan 28—Janice Serios, Rosalea Galvan

DIRECTORY CHANGE (as of September 12) :

John and Pat dela Montanya
674 Woodgreen Way
Nipomo, California 93444
559-280-8632

God continues to call us to thankfully be good stewards of all we have received. Please remember, even though we aren't presently using our facility, we still have bills to pay: utilities, insurance, salaries, etc. Your tithes and offerings are VERY important !! Snail-mail (USPS) still works, and now we have the convenient option of online giving through our website or Facebook !!
Thank you !!

Jerry Munson, Finance Secretary

**HOW TO LISTEN TO PALM CHURCH 10:30 am SUNDAY SERVICES
WITH PASTOR MICHELLE (and virtual Communion on September 6)
“LIVE” through Zoom using a phone for audio only**

1. Dial **1-669-900-6833** OR **1-346-248-7799**
2. After prompt, enter **Meeting I.D. 901-220-3185**, and hit **#**
3. After prompt, hit **#** again
Option—Try Speaker Phone

**LISTEN AND VIEW PASTOR MICHELLE'S
PALM CHURCH 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SERMON every week on
FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM (and VIRTUAL COMMUNION on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6)
(even if you aren't a member of Facebook !!)**

<https://www.facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba/videos/>

If you get the Log-in Window, Click on “Not Now.”

- ▶ When the Live Video appears, click on the red **LIVE** button.

Please leave a Facebook comment (If using a computer, click on video to open the Comments field) or click on "Care Emoji Bubble," or send Pastor Michelle a text (805-233-5796), OR send Marian an email (marianclifton@verizon.net) for the purpose of attendance record . Thank you !

Please have juice and bread ready for virtual Communion on September 6.

**TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY SERVICE
“LIVE” through Zoom using computer or smart phone
(or audio only—see instructions above for dial-in, hit *6 to un-mute yourself)**

Join Zoom Meeting—

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9012203185?pwd=ZEVhOFUrVjZTZlhGVUkzWTI5d3JCQT09>



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
Socks and Pajamas—all sizes



Pastor: Michelle Magee
michelle.magee@cnumc.org
cell 805-233-5796
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

SEPTEMBER
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Communion Steward

Greeters / Ushers

2

9

16

23

30

September Tobans

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September Birthdays

2—Jerry Munson
11—Tommy Kurihara,
Irene Burkart
14—Greg Millhorn
15—Mollie Osato
17—Lindsay Takeda
20—Buddy Thomas
21—Robert Pipkin,
Ethan Millhorn
23—Johnny Leibert
25—Nick Millhorn
26—Greg Mizuno
27—London Serios,
Joey Galvan
28—Janice Serios,
Rosalea Galvan

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Because we will be outside, if you can please bring your own chair--again we will have some for those who don't, and consider bringing your own water bottle as well. We will not have any paper bulletins. It will be a simplified and shorter service so we will all go with the flow. Offerings can be deposited near the exit so we will not pass anything to one another, and we will also mark off distances on the ground to be sure to be 6 feet apart from one another.

If you prefer not to gather with others at this time that is very understandable and we don't want anyone to feel pressured to come- you can continue to worship God from your home also.

We will also continue livestreaming on Facebook live and Zoom (as we are able and with God's help!)

Once we hear that our application is approved (or not) we will announce that on palmumc.org and [Facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba](https://www.facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba) and those who responded to the survey will also get an invitation to RSVP.

This virus is a tricky and terrible bug, so I appreciate everyone's agreement to treat it as the danger it is and abide by all of this so that we may gather as safely as possible and "do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God." May God bless you all in abundance!

2020-2021
Palm Church Ad Council

Susan Yoshimura--Administrative Board Chair, Education Chair

Jerry Munson—Finance Chair, Financial Secretary

—Trustee Chair

Janice Serios—UMW President, Youth co-Chair, SPRC co-Chair

Arthur Anderson—Treasurer

Nancy McKittrick—Assistant Treasurer

Marian Clifton—SPRC co-Chair, Missions co-Chair

Aiko Takeda—Missions co-Chair

Katherine Rodriguez—Missions (Outreach), Youth co-Chair

Cathy Yada—Recording Secretary

Derek Fujinaga—Lay Leader, Annual Conference Delegate

Sandy Hansen—Webmaster

Pastor Michelle Magee—Nominations Chair

Aiko Takeda—Worship



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