



PALM LEAF

Palm UMC

November 2020

First Word

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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—STATE OF THE CONGREGATION

My beloved fellow disciples in Christ: So much has changed in a year. Do you remember last fall? The projects our church had begun, the ways we have been seeking to fulfill our discipleship goals, our mission of sharing Christ? We had plans, we had dreams, and I think we were on a great path towards growing both inwardly as disciples and outwardly in acts of love and building relationships. We were starting to really focus our energies on outreach and meeting new people, dreaming of changes and working with the Growing Young program, we were listening to young people and making changes to incorporate their ideas.

Then the pandemic hit. Remember when we thought it would be just a couple of weeks that we had to suspend worship in our building? I don't need to tell you, this has been hard on all of us a variety of ways.

Yet even in the midst of uncertainty, grief, and appropriate fear, Palm UMC has responded with grace and courage to continue to grow as disciples and share Christ.

Many made the transition to online worship accessing through Facebook live and Zoom calls. The Council adapted to using Zoom for meetings. Rod stepped up to provide technical guidance and equipment to increase access to more people to worship despite their technical capabilities, and Marian has been working hard to get the information out to everyone every week. Pat got us enrolled in online giving, and helped Arthur get us a loan in the Paycheck Protection Program. Sandy integrated that into the website and has been keeping it updated.

We received donated backpacks from Cruising for Jesus and we passed them on at the beginning of the school year plus a few more, full of school supplies, to kids "from" our congregation and some others we had just met a couple of months before the pandemic hit.

Susan, Janice and Marian have worked on getting gift bags to our seniors, encouragement baskets to teachers, and some treats for kids, too. Kathy made Cross and Flame magnets and winter hats to pass out.

Our giving has continued steady, only slightly down from "normal" times. We have collected over \$1000 in additional giving for the COVID Relief Fund, going to help some of the most vulnerable of our area through hard times.

Our Grace Groups have continued via Zoom.

Our Re-opening Team labored through the protocols and worked to get all the different elements prepared for outdoor worship.

Even in the midst of a pandemic, we are growing as disciples, we are Sharing Christ. I haven't even gone into any personal stories you have shared for how you have shared Christ during these times- those count, too. As I write this we have upcoming projects for Trunk -or-Treat, a letter in the works to encourage and bless the residents of Dinuba Health Care, and the upcoming confirmation of Jessica Serios and Quincy Yada on November 8. We will be adding a Grace Group in Spanish. Beloved, the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst, even as we are mostly separated, God is with us and brings us together, and is at work through Palm UMC. I may not have named each one of you, but so many have given SO MUCH in terms of time, talent and treasure during this season and I am profoundly grateful. We are, even in this time, on a path towards growth as disciples of Jesus and that is worth celebrating. Blessings to you all.

-- Pastor Michelle

Pastor Michelle Magee (805) 233-5796 michelle.magee@cnumc.org <https://www.facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba>

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Michael dela Montanya, Jacob dela Montanya, Gerard Laquerrier (friend of John and Pat), 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 Gourley (friend of Mary Esmay), Jean Gerstenberg, Louisa Valenzuela, 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, 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; teachers and students; and all those affected during the COVID-19 pandemic and lock-down in your prayers.

Sincere sympathy is extended to friends and family of Ron Gerstenberg, who passed away at home in Dinuba on September 27 after a battle with stomach cancer. Deepest condolences are offered to family and friends of Barbara Mohler, who died recently in Fresno.

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 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 on Thursdays. Ad Council will meet via ZOOM on November 17 at 10:30 AM. Virtual Charge Conference will be Saturday, November 7, at 2:00.

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1 !!

Virtual Coffee Hour will be held following Facebook live-stream and Zoom worship service Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22, and every Sunday (except November 8), and following Holy Communion on Sunday, November 1 !! (Please have bread and juice ready for virtual Communion, and a candle ready for remembering on All Saints Day those we have lost in the past year.)

Our first in-person outdoor worship October 8 was attended by over twenty people, plus nine on Zoom and Facebook Livestream !! Our next in-person outdoor worship will be 10:30 AM November 8 at Norma and Romeo Lozano's back yard (844 West Nebraska Avenue, SE corner Viscaya Parkway)—please try to arrive by 10:20 AM. This will also be the occasion of Jessica Serios' and Miles Yada's confirmation. Wear a mask and bring a chair, if possible ! (Some chairs and disposable masks will be available.) RSVP Marian Clifton. Facebook livestream and Zoom service will also be offered. There will be no Coffee Hour, no singing, and no audible responses.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ANY FORM OF PHYSICAL GREETING !! THIS MEANS NO HUGS, NO HANDSHAKES, NO PATS, NO FIST-BUMPS, AND NO ELBOW-BUMPS !!

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

Halloween "Trunk or Treat" at Palm Church
Saturday, October 31, 5:30—7:00 PM

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS :

7—Katie and Gracie Paden (Millhorn) 10—Melanie (Hirahara) Mizuno
13—Kelly Thomas 14—Trinidad Rodriguez
15—Cathy Yada, Kathy Garrison, David Clifton, Eileen Abe-Mesias
18—Carol (Rossi) Christianson 21—Beverly (Cadiante) Aleman
24—Robin Joseph 29—Rodney Clifton 30—Laura Clifton

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 expenses: utilities, insurance, salaries, outreach, 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

On Sunday, November 1, All Saints' Day we will have a remembrance of all the saints that have passed in the last year (including your friends and family members). Please find a simple self-standing candle for that day (or battery operated candle) to light during that part of the service. Please also pass on to Pastor Michelle before the service any names you would like to have included of those who have passed since All Saints' Day last year. You can reach her at 805 233-5796 or michelle.magee@cnumc.org (Names will also be received during the Facebook Live service but communicating previously will help ensure your loved one is included.)

**HOW TO LISTEN TO PALM CHURCH 10:30 am SUNDAY SERVICES
WITH PASTOR MICHELLE (and virtual Communion on November 1)
"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, November 1)
(even if you aren't a member of Facebook !!) or you can watch a previous Sunday service.**

<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 an "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 November 1.

**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—Facebook
Livestream and Zoom Worship

NOVEMBER
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Communion Steward

Greeters / Ushers

2

9

16

23

30

September Tobans

*

November Birthdays

7—Katie and Gracie Paden (Millhorn)
10—Melanie (Hirahara) Mizuno
13—Kelly Thomas
14—Trinidad Rodriguez
15—Cathy Yada, Eileen Abe-Mesias,
David Clifton, Kathy Garrison
18—Carol Rossi-Christianson
21—Beverly (Cadiante) Aleman
24—Robin Joseph
29—Rodney Clifton
30—Laura Clifton

Dear Members and Friends of Palm UMC--

Our first outdoor in-person worship service was a great success !! Thanks to everyone for maintaining distance, wearing masks, and observing all the health and safety protocols !! We will have our next outdoor in-person worship service on November 8.

Please continue to consider your own health and safety before attending an outdoor in-person worship service.

If you plan to attend the next in-person outdoor service, please RSVP Marian Clifton at 843-5135 or marianclifton@verizon.net

We will continue with online worship via Facebook Livestream and Zoom at the regular time 10:30 AM in the meantime every Sunday, and the Zoom coffee hour. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in sharing Christ wherever you are.

In Christ's Love and Peace,
Pastor Michelle



2020
Palm Church Ad Council

Susan Yoshimura--Administrative Board Chair, Education Chair,
SPRC co-Chair (2021)

Jerry Munson—Finance Chair, Financial Secretary

Derek Fujinaga —Interim 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,
co-Recording Secretary (2021)

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



Palm UMC

