



Palm UMC

January 2021

First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—OUR DREAMS FOR 2021

Beloved, what a year 2020 has been. I am sure you join me in hoping that 2021 will be a better year. Yet we know that merely changing the numbers does not enact any magic restart button. It is by God's grace that we can dream and work for change, for improvement, for more healing and more justice and more peace and more joy. These are some words that come to my mind (healing, justice, peace, joy), but what are your dreams for 2021?

I am not a big believer in New Year's resolutions. But I do believe in the power of repenting of sin, being forgiven, and trying to reorient ourselves to God's ways. If we dream for a better 2021, in other words, what are we going to do differently to work with God? In what ways does God call us forward?

Take a moment and think, talk with a friend, or write down some thoughts about what you would like to see change, and what your role in helping that change happen could be. We can gather these hopes and plans as a congregation and work together, with God, for them to become reality. (For example: if your dream is for people to be kinder to one another, what will you do to be an example of that kindness? Think of one concrete thing you can start right away.)

In Ephesians 1:11-14, one of the readings for the second Sunday of Christmas it says, "In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people."

We have all been through a lot this year, but because Jesus has come to dwell among us, we can always have hope, we can dream and trust God is caring for us and wanting the best for us. Because of all God has done for us, we know we belong to God and have the Holy Spirit in us. So much has been taken away this year but these are promises we can trust.

With that assurance, let us dream, let us plan, let us work together and with God for the purpose of God to be accomplished in and among us, for 2021 and beyond.

And because of God's grace, even with all we have been through we can say, Happy New Year!

--Pastor Michelle

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), Linda Gourley (friend of Pastor Michelle's mother), Irene Pasillas (Open Gate), and Chase Glosier (Steve and Kathy Botkin's nephew).

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Lisa Delgado, John and Pat dela Montanya, Miyeko Cabello (Diane's mother), Brenda Godinez, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield, Marcia Williams, Terry and Nancy McKittrick, Molly Osato, Cherry Cadiente, Nanay Serios (Robert's mother), Beverly (Cadiente) Aleman, Wilma Conner, Sandy Hansen, Antonio Saldana (father of Derek's friend Jose), 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.

Congratulations to Kelly and Michelle Kagayama on their August 28 Zoom wedding in San Jose !

Congratulations to Camille, David, Nathaniel, and Robin Joseph on the birth on November 29 of baby Lucine Vivian Nichelle!

Deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of Sharlene Hayakawa, who passed away on Tuesday, November 24, in Modesto; Sharlene was a life-long member of Palm Church. Sincere condolences are offered to friends and family of Mary Wake who died on November 16 in Dinuba. Deepest condolences are extended to family of Amandina Nañez—Katherine Rodriguez, Louisa Valenzuela, and April Bulosan's grandmother--who passed away on December 22 in Visalia.

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021

Pastor Michelle will live-stream her Sunday sermons on Facebook at 10:30 AM (more information enclosed), and she will be leading four "Grace Groups" via ZOOM. Old Testament Bible Study will gather every Wednesday at 11:00 via conference call, EXCEPT December 23 and 30. Prayer Group will convene on Thursdays. Ad Council will meet via ZOOM on January 20 at 9:30 AM.

Virtual Coffee Hour will be held following Facebook live-stream and Zoom worship service every Sunday (except January 10), and following Holy Communion on Sunday, January 3 !! (Please have bread and juice ready for virtual Communion.)

Our first in-person outdoor worship October 8 was attended by 29 people; our second in-person service on November 15 was attended by 43 people; and our third in-person service on December 20 was attended by 36 people, including 16 in-person and 20 online !! Our next in-person outdoor worship will be at 2:00 PM on Sunday, January 10, (or January 17, depending on the weather) at Norma and Romeo Lozano's back yard (844 West Nebraska Avenue, SE corner Viscaya Parkway)—please try to arrive by 1:50 PM. Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, and bring a lap blanket, if possible ! (Some lap blankets and disposable masks will be available.) Facebook livestream and Zoom service will also be offered. **RSVP Marian Clifton, 834-5135 or marianclifton@verizon.net There will be no Coffee Hour, no singing, NO PHYSICAL GREETINGS.**

Annual Ozoni Brunch and Soup & Pie Lunch will not be held this year due to COVID.

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 Nancy McKittrick, 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 most Sundays 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

Sunday, January 10, 2:00 PM (rain date January 17), in-person worship will be held at Norma & Romeo Lozano's back yard, 844 West Nebraska Avenue, Dinuba . Please try to arrive by 1:50; wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, and bring a lap blanket if possible (some lap blankets and disposable masks will be available).

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1—Arthur Anderson, Carmencita Balderama
3—Florence Brayfield, Peter Fern, Chris McKittrick 5—Jimmy Yamakawa
7—Syndey (Kurihara) Furtado 10—Anthony Espino 11—Janis Imoto
13—Jerry Yada, Nathaniel Joseph 16—Christine Cadiente, Karen Shaver
20—Eileen Tashiro 29—Sandy Hansen, Iris Róvere
31—Camille (Simmons) Joseph, Marian Clifton, Ruth Fujinaga

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

**HOW TO LISTEN TO PALM CHURCH 10:30 am SUNDAY SERVICES
WITH PASTOR MICHELLE (and virtual Communion on January 3)
“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 (2:00 on January 10)
on FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM (and VIRTUAL COMMUNION on SUNDAY, January 3)
(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 January 3.

**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—

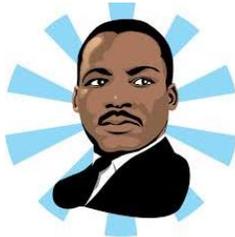
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9012203185?pwd=ZEVhOFUrVjZTZlhGVUkzWTI5d3JCQT09>



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

<https://opengatedinuba.com>

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—10:30 AM—Facebook
Livestream and Zoom Worship

JANUARY 2021
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Derek Fujinaga

Communion Steward

Norma Lozano

Greeters / Ushers

3 Taye Abe, Norma Lozano
10 Rodney and Marian Clifton
17 Jerry and Ginger Munson
24 Kathy Lamb
31 Ruth Kurihara

January Tobans

* Cathy Yada
Melanie Mizuno
Winnie Cadiente
Iris Yamagata
Rose Abe
Stan Davis

January Birthdays

1—Arthur Anderson,
Carmencita Balderama
3—Florence Brayfield,
Peter Fern, Chris McKittrick
5—Jimmy Yamakawa
7—Syndey Furtado
10—Anthony Espino
11—Janis Imoto
13—Jerry Yada,
Nathaniel Joseph
16—Christine Cadiente,
Karen Shaver
20—Eileen Tashiro
29—Sandy Hansen, Iris Róvere
31—Camille (Simmons) Joseph,
Ruth Fujinaga, Marian Clifton

Dear Members and Friends of Palm UMC--

It has been good to be with you for outdoor worship. Thanks to everyone for maintaining distance, wearing masks, and observing all the health and safety protocols so we can care well for one another !! We are scheduling our next outdoor in-person worship service on January 10 at 2:00 PM, with a rain date of January 17.

It is important to RSVP so we can let you know if the date is changed !! If you plan to attend the next in-person outdoor service, please RSVP Marian Clifton at 843-5135 or marianclifton@verizon.net

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

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



2021
Palm Church Administrative Council

Nancy McKittrick--Ad Board Chair, Assistant Treasurer
Susan Yoshimura--Education Chair, SPRC co-Chair
Jerry Munson—Finance Chair, Financial Secretary
Janice Serios—UMW President, Youth co-Chair, SPRC co-Chair
Arthur Anderson—Treasurer
Marian Clifton—Missions co-Chair, co-Recording Secretary
Aiko Takeda—Missions co-Chair
Katherine Rodriguez—Outreach Chair, Youth co-Chair
Cathy Yada—co-Recording Secretary
Derek Fujinaga—Lay Leader, Annual Conference Delegate,
Interim Trustee Chair
Sandy Hansen—Webmaster
Pastor Michelle Magee—Nominations Chair
Aiko Takeda—Missions co-Chair
Norma Lozano—Worship Tasks Coordinator



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