



First Word

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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—
MAUNDY THURSDAY (APRIL 1), GOOD FRIDAY (APRIL 2), AND EASTER (APRIL 4)

Reflecting on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus feels a little different to me this year. We have been through an entire year of pandemic, and all the losses that entails--losses of loved ones and losses of life as it used to be: togetherness, celebrations, financial losses, and more. As I write this we have also experienced our second mass shooting in the nation in less than a week. Losses of life even more senseless and violent than those taken by COVID 19. And even if the worst has not hit close to home, we are all affected by these things in some way. We have been through a lot, and this Easter will be our second in a row to celebrate from home.

Perhaps because of all of this, the message of Easter, that life that comes through death, has a deeper meaning to us this year.

Because this story tells us that God doesn't skip over the hard parts. God goes deep into human suffering. All the gospels tell the story with slightly different details, but they all include enough to show us that it was truly painful, truly awful, how Jesus was betrayed, abandoned, and killed. God in Jesus goes deep into death. Jesus is not dead for a minute, or a few hours, but for three days.

And yet. Somehow, after all of that, He lives again.

Somehow, after all that, He is breathing and eating with his scars but alive and present with them, his disciples, his friends, and that changes everything.

The story of Jesus' death and resurrection reveals the deep truth that through death life can come and through hurts healing can come. That no matter how very terribly awful what we go through may be, God will be patiently there through it all, and bring new life before the story is over.

This is our story. We will go through it again. Maundy Thursday, a feast of love marred by betrayal, Good Friday, suffering and death, Holy Saturday of waiting, and then Easter. Resurrection. Life new and whole and healed.

As far as the pandemic goes, we may feel with vaccines that we are getting closer, but we are not there yet. As far as human suffering goes, well for sure we are not there yet. But the beautiful thing is that we don't have to wait for it all to be done to celebrate, because we already know what God can do, what God does. We can rejoice in all the small resurrections along the way. Flowers blooming again. Hearing a loved one's voice. An answer to prayer. Let us hold fast to the promise of Resurrection and may we celebrate wholeheartedly even now that Christ is Risen! Happy Easter!

--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 Ministries), and Chase Glosier (Steve and Kathy Botkin's nephew).

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Alan and April Langstraat (Marian's friends), Lisa Delgado and her family, John and Pat dela Montanya, Miyeko Cabello (Diane's mother), Romeo and Norma Lozano, the Porras family, Kay Hayakawa, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield, Marcia Williams, Terry and Nancy McKittrick; Nancy's in-laws Joy, Lee, and Kay; Fred Esmay (Pastor Michelle's step-dad), Cherry Cadiente, Wilma Conner, Bette Crawford, Sandy Hansen, Bill Allen, 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 in your prayers.

Congratulations to Anthony Espino who expects to become a big brother in July !!
John and Pat dela Montanya send greetings to their Dinuba Palm Church friends !!

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021

Pastor Michelle will live-stream her Sunday sermons on Facebook at 10:30 AM (more information enclosed), and she will be leading three English "Grace Groups" via ZOOM and Spanish Grace Group via conference call. Old Testament Bible Study will gather every Wednesday at 11:00 via conference call. Prayer Group will convene on Thursdays. Ad Council will meet Wednesday, April 21, at 2:00 PM via ZOOM. **In-person fellowship will be Wednesday, April 28, 3:00 PM, Palm Church parking lot. Wear a mask !!**

Virtual Coffee Hour will be held following Facebook live-stream and Zoom worship service every Sunday, and following Holy Communion on April 4, Easter Sunday !! (Please have bread and juice ready for virtual Communion.) Facebook Livestream Maundy Thursday service (April 1) and Good Friday service (April 2) will both be held at 12:00 noon. No masks required !!

Our first in-person outdoor worship October 8, 2020, at Romeo and Norma Lozano's backyard 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; our fourth in-person worship on January 10, 2021, was attended by 38 people, including 14 in person and 24 people online !! Palm Church Ad Council has scheduled the next in-person outdoor worship service for Mothers Day, Sunday, May 9 !! We will be allowed to sing if we strictly follow the health and safety protocols, even those who are vaccinated: Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, and remain six feet away from people you aren't related to !! Facebook livestream and Zoom service will continue to be offered. RSVP Marian Clifton, 834-5135 or marianclifton@verizon.net Remember, the sooner we are all fully vaccinated against COVID, the sooner we can resume worshipping together in our building !!

Remember, April 4 is Easter, and April 22 is Earth Day !! Coincidence? I think not !!



Ad Council has invited the entire congregation to stop whatever you are doing and spend a moment in prayer every day at 11:24 AM (Mark 11:24 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 government authorities to have wisdom in providing for wellbeing of all people, for safety for healthcare workers and other essential workers. Set your alarm to remind you, and we will join together in prayer every day at 11:24 AM !!

--Pastor Michelle Magee 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.) 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 10:30 AM :

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

Email is great too: michelle.magee@cnmc.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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1—Jeff Fukushima 2—Desiree Domingo 5—Patricia Martzen
9—Miles Yada 11—Chin Cheak Yu Martzen 12—Cherry Cadiente
13—Pablo Róvere 14—Linda Thomas 17—Amy Kiritani, Valeria Rodriguez
19—Duane Abe, Frances Leibert 24—Nancy McKittrick, Barbara Miller
26—Isaac Godinez 28—Chelley McKittrick Gary
30—James Hanada, Scott Shaver



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

If you have email and you aren't already receiving the Palm Church newsletter electronically, please consider sharing your email address with us. We want to keep you informed of what is going on with Palm Church; we also want to be responsible citizens of the earth. Please be aware that it costs approximately \$.95 to print and mail every paper copy. THANK YOU !! marianclifton@verizon.net

**HOW TO LISTEN TO PALM CHURCH 10:30 am SUNDAY SERVICES
WITH PASTOR MICHELLE
“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

ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, ZOOM AUDIO AND VIDEO WILL BE AVAILABLE – PLEASE KEEP YOURSELF MUTED UNLESS YOU ARE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE.

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

**LISTEN AND VIEW PASTOR MICHELLE’S
PALM CHURCH 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY SERMON every week
on FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM (and VIRTUAL COMMUNION on EASTER SUNDAY, April 4)
(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) or leave a message on the Palm Church phone (559-591-0746) for the purpose of attendance record . Thank you !

Please have juice and bread ready for virtual Communion on Easter Sunday, April 4.

**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

APRIL 2021
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Communion Steward

Greeters / Ushers

7
14
21
28

April Tobans

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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

April Birthdays

1—Jeff Fukushima
2—Desiree Domingo
5—Patricia Martzen
9—Miles Yada
11—Chin Cheak Yu Martzen
12—Cherry Cadiente
13—Pablo Róvere
14—Linda Thomas
17—Amy Kiritani, Valeria Rodriguez
19—Duane Abe, Frances Leibert
24—Nancy McKittrick,
Barbara Miller
26—Isaac Godinez
28—Chelley McKittrick Gary
30—James Hanada,
Scott Shaver

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 !!

The next in-person outdoor worship is scheduled for Sunday, May 9, Mothers Day.

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

For those who feel comfortable being in person for a short while outdoors, we will have an in-person fellowship time once a month; the next one will be Wednesday,

April 28, at 3:00 PM, in the church parking lot. Masks will be required, and we will stay six feet apart. Please RSVP to Pastor Michelle by phone, text, or email so she is ready for you. 1-805 233-5796

michelle.magee@cnumc.org

Rain date May 5.

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 ADMINISRTATIVE 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
Philip Martzen—Trustees Chair
Sandy Hansen—Webmaster
Pastor Michelle Magee—Nominations Chair
Norma Lozano—Worship Chair

