



First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—BELOVED, IT'S BEEN A YEAR

Or it will have been, in just a couple of weeks. It was Mid March, 2020 when we suspended in-person worship, for what we thought would be a couple of weeks.

A year of disrupted life. A year without hugs, a year without seeing loved ones who aren't close by for many, a year of crying out to God for this pandemic to end. A year of seeing the death toll rise and the weekly and monthly numbers rise and fall and rise again- and wonder when it would all be over already. A year of trying to grieve and mourn without the usual helps of hugs or taps on the shoulder, without gathering with all who would be there, without this virus.

A year of trying to make the best decisions in such awful circumstances. Still I struggle over how much risk is worth it for some human interaction. Finally my family and I are making some long-term travel plans but still feeling in the back of my head that disquiet- will it be safe by then?

A year of putting too much strain on so many of our healthcare and other essential workers. A year of discovering how much we have taken for granted, a year of reevaluating priorities and values. A year in which we have found still, God does not let go of us.

A vaccine is slowly making its way to more and more of us, for that we are grateful. There is hope on the horizon, even if we are not quite sure when that horizon will be close enough to see clearly.

It's been a year.

It's been a full year and an empty year. Time has both rushed by and stood still. There is much to grieve over; there is much to give thanks to God for.

I am grateful for each and every one of you, for your patience and support, your prayers and your asking for prayer, for how you've called one another and written notes, for the Zoom meetings, for your faithfulness in giving even when there's not much "getting;" these relationships we call our church family.

Most of all I am grateful to God for these words from Paul's letter to the Romans are still true: "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35-39)

In all circumstances, even in the year of the Coronavirus pandemic, the love of God in Christ Jesus has been with us, and that is still where we find our comfort, our hope and our reason to continue on.

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Peace be with you all. -- 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, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Florence Brayfield, Marcia Williams, Terry and Nancy McKittrick; Nancy's in-laws Joy, Lee, and Kay; 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 and lock-down, and those affected by the recent snowstorms in your prayers.

Sincere sympathy is extended to family and friends of Mollie (Abe) Osato, who passed away on Monday, February 22, at her home in Orosi. Deep condolences are offered to friends and family of Ellen (Kurihara) Laines, who died January 17 in Fresno. Congratulations to Beverly (Cadiente) Aleman who has received her Associates in Science Degree at Coastline Community College !! Ricky and Sharon Pipkin, and Peter and Augi Fern send greetings to their Palm Church friends !!

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 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 March 16 at 10:00 AM via ZOOM for Charge Conference to elect Philip Martzen as Trustee—all church members are invited. (Regular Ad Board meeting follows.) In-person fellowship will be Wednesday, March 24, 3:00 PM, Palm Church parking lot.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14—Remember to turn your clocks forward !!

Virtual Coffee Hour will be held following Facebook live-stream and Zoom worship service every Sunday, and following Holy Communion on March 7 !! (Please have bread and juice ready for virtual Communion.)

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.

When we are able to meet together again, please continue to observe the health and safety protocols, even if you are vaccinated: Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, no physical greetings, no eating, no singing, and please 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

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.) 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 10:30 AM :

<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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1—Pattie Kurihara 2—Letty lamb 3—Hankus Nagata
8--Steven Bulosan 12—Jason Kurihara 14—Esther Kirkpatrick
20—Peter Mesias 21—Aiko Takeda, Walter Martzen
28—Summer Burkart 31—Maggie Fern, Craig Yoshihara

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 March 7)
“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, March 7)
(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 March 7.

**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

MARCH 2021
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Communion Steward

Greeters / Ushers

7
14
21
28

March 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

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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

March Birthdays

1—Patty Kurihara
2—Letty Lamb
3—Hankus Nagata
8—Steven Bulosan
12—Jason Kurihara
14—Esther Kirkpatrick
20—Peter Mesias
21—Aiko Takeda,
Walter Martzen
28—Summer Burkart
31—Maggie Fern,
Craig Yoshihara

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,

March 24, 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. (805 233-5796 michelle.magee@cnumc.org) Rain date will be the following Wednesday, March 3.

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
Philip Martzen—Trustees Chair to-be-elected
Sandy Hansen—Webmaster
Pastor Michelle Magee—Nominations Chair
Norma Lozano—Worship Tasks Coordinator





Palm UMC

