



First Word

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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—A MOTHER'S LOVE

"Mothering God, You Gave me Birth" is a hymn in our The Faith We Sing hymnal. It was based on the writings of Julian of Norwich, a 15th century mystic who was an anchoress, a sort of secluded nun. She had visions of Christ and received messages from God while she was ill, and went on to write them down. Her writings are the oldest known English book written by a woman, and are still cherished by many. Some churches remember her in May, either the 8th or 13th.

In her writings she reveals a Christ with deep compassion, God encouraging her to trust that all things will be well, and that God is both father and mother. Hence the hymn's title and content.

Every year we celebrate Mother's day in May and Father's day in June. They are special days to recognize the people who had a part in bringing us into the world, raising us and caring for us. Like any special celebration they can bring up complicated emotions because mothers and fathers are human and less than perfect, so we might have complicated relationships with them, or perhaps they have passed on so we have an ache of grief in their absence.

But what we celebrate on these special days is the best of the love we experience in our family, as well as in our family of faith- for as siblings in Christ we have many opportunities to show motherly and fatherly love to one another. And most importantly what we celebrate is that love of God that we know so well through Jesus Christ. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1, NIV

So as we celebrate mothers, we celebrate the mothering spirit that comes from God and can be present in many different forms. And with all the many troubles in our world today, violence and pandemic and hatred of so many kinds- it is a mothering spirit the world needs. Let us continue to soak in God's nurturing, compassionate love and find ways to let it spill out of us to nurture others.

"Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain my wind my sun.

"Mothering Christ you took my form, offering me your food of light, grain of life and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

"Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close, so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know." – The Faith We Sing #2050, words by Jean Janzen.

Love, peace and blessings to you all on Mothers Day and always,

--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 Mary Esmay), Irene Pasillas (Open Gate Ministries), Isaac (Robert Serios' co-worker), John Lown (Andy's father-in-law), and Chase Glosier.

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Lisa Delgado and her family, John and Pat dela Montanya, Romeo and Norma Lozano, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Kay Hayakawa, Florence Brayfield and her family, Porras family, Marcia Williams, Katherine Rodriguez and her family, Miles Yada, Walter Cadiente, 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, Open Gate Ministries; and all those affected during the COVID-19 pandemic in your prayers.

Sincere sympathy is extended to family and friends of Tim Hofer, who passed away March 25. Deepest condolences are offered to family of Alice Yoshimura, who died April 22 in Fresno.

Congratulations to our 8th Grade graduates Trinity Róvere and Quincy Yada !! Our Foreign exchange student Myriline Dogba sends greetings to her Palm Church friends from Liberia, West Africa !!

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 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, May 19, at 2:00 PM via ZOOM.

Virtual Coffee Hour will be held following Facebook live-stream and Zoom worship service every Sunday, except May 9; and following Holy Communion on May 2 !! (Please have bread and juice ready for virtual Communion.) May 6 is National Day of Prayer !! May 4 is Star Wars Day !!

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; our fifth in-person worship service on April 25 was attended by 30 people, 15 in person and 15 online.

The next in-person outdoor worship service will be on 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 will be offered; dial-in Zoom will be available at 5:00 PM. RSVP Marian Clifton 834-5135 or marianclifton@verizon.net Remember, the sooner we are all fully vaccinated against COVID, the sooner we can resume safely worshipping together in our building !!

Huge thanks to the many hands that helped make the virtual Easter service April 4 so uplifting: Pastor Michelle, Susan Yoshimura, Rodney Clifton, Philip Martzen, Winnie Cadiente, Miles Yada, Carmencita Balderama, Aiko Takeda, Kathy Lamb, Taye Abe, Ruth Kurihara, Pat Martzen, and Marian Clifton. Hope you all enjoyed the prelude "Via Dolorosa" with Keri Jorn and Andy Clifton (2004 Easter) and the hymns from the 2019 Palm Church Easter service with Daniel Toews accompanying !!

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

7—Bob Pipkin 9—Helen Ishida (100 !!)
18—Romeo Lozano, Sr.
19—Adelaide Clifton 20—Rose Abe
22—Derek Fujinaga, Gracie Suastegui
23—Lupe Gonzales 24—Caleb Eliosa
31—Cheryl Lamb



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 each paper copy. Thank you for your help !! 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
(Zoom dial-in recorded service will be at 5:00 PM on May 9)**

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

<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 Sunday, May 2)
(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 Sunday, May 2 .

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

MAY 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

May Birthdays

7—Bob Pipkin

9—Helen Ishida (100 !!)

18—Romeo Lozano, Sr.

19—Adelaide Clifton

20—Rose Abe

22—Derek Fujinaga,

Gracie Suastegui

23—Lupe Gonzales

24—Caleb Eliosa

31—Cheryl Lamb

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, at Norma and Romeo Lozano's backyard. 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

If you would like to volunteer to participate in the online service virtual choir, please RSVP to Marian.

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--Assistant Treasurer
Susan Yoshimura--Education Chair, SPRC co-Chair, Ad Board 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

