



First Word

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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—WESLEY'S QUADRILATERAL

John Wesley was so passionate about Scripture that he debated with his critics who ultimately accused him of heresy, to which he responded, “*If I am a heretic, I became such by reading the Bible.*”¹ His critics believed the Bible is infallible and free of material error. According to John Wesley Scripture is inspired by God and requires careful interpretation.

Our Methodist heritage which is largely due to the movement John Wesley began (with his brother Charles and others also) outlines three tools to engage the Bible with careful interpretation. They are: tradition, experience, and reason. Tradition refers to the whole history of the Christian faith as it has spread over the whole earth. The Book of Discipline says: “Tradition is the history of that continuing environment of grace in and by which all Christians live, God’s self-giving love in Jesus Christ.”¹ We don’t re-invent our interpretation of Scripture from zero, but have an immense treasure of witness from all over the world of how disciples of Jesus have understood Scripture, including our creeds. At the same time, we continue to learn and apply insight from studies of the history of where each piece of Scripture comes from, what it was meant to say in its time and place, and how each piece contributes to the whole.

Our experience of God as individuals and as a collective was also primary to John Wesley. It speaks to the new life in Christ that we have after receiving the grace of God through the Holy Spirit. Our experience will always be interwoven with how we read Scripture, and Scripture will inform our experience of God.

Finally, Wesley was open in acknowledging the role of our God-given intellect to interpret Scripture. We take the content of Scripture and use sound reasoning along with it for interpretation. We are encouraged as Methodists to ask questions and seek to understand more deeply. At the same time, faith is never only an endeavor of our mind, but of our heart and life as well.

Scripture is very important to us but it is good to recognize what tools we use as we interpret it and make meaning for our lives and go deeper in our faith. These four things, with the Bible being primary and the other three as shorter sides that work together, are known as Wesley’s Quadrilateral. His passion for Scripture meant going beyond a literal interpretation.

--Pastor Michelle

¹ Robert E. Chiles, *Theological Transition in American Methodism* (Lanham: University Press of America, 1983), 76.

¹ *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 2012, 83.

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, John and Pat dela Montanya, Romeo and Norma Lozano, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Caroline Cadiente, Kay Hayakawa, Florence Brayfield, Porrás family, Marcia Williams, Katherine Rodriguez and her family, Lupe Gonzales, Patty Gonzales (Avila), Terry and Nancy McKittrick; Nancy's in-laws Kay and Lee; 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.

Congratulations to John Vloria, who graduated from El Monte Middle School in Orosi !!
Congratulations to Christine Cadiente who received her Masters Degree in Public Health June 27 !!
Congratulations to Beverly Cadiente who has received her Associate of Science Degree online in Business / Human Resources Management from Coastline College !!

Congratulations to Bob and Jackie Pipkin, who celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 2 !!

Sincere sympathy is extended to family of Elena Bulosan (Lee's mother and Janice's grandmother) who passed away on Saturday, June 5, at home in Dinuba.

NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2021

Pastor Michelle will live-stream her Sunday sermons on Facebook at 10:00 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 convenes on Wednesdays at 11:00 via conference call. Prayer Group meets on Thursdays. Ad Council will meet Wednesday, July 21, at 1:30 PM via ZOOM.

Virtual Coffee Hour will not be held following Facebook Live-stream worship service on Sunday, July 4 (see Link page); nor on July 11; nor on July 18 when we will meet in person at 10:00 AM at Palm Church !! (Masks & social distancing will be maintained. No singing.)
July 25 worship plans are to be announced.

Don't miss the Dinuba First Assembly of God Salad Bar & Dagwood Sandwich Lunch to benefit Open Gate Ministries on Thursday, July 8, 11:00 AM—1:00 PM !! Salad Bar--\$ 5.00, Dagwood Sandwich--\$ 5.00. MASKS REQUIRED—TAKE-OUT ONLY. The church is located at 412 South "L" Street, between Mono and College.

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to Palm Church's first annual Neighborhood Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 17, 5:00—7:00 PM in the parking lot !! Food !! Games !! Prizes !!

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; 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; our sixth in-person outdoor worship service on May 9 was attended by 25 people; our seventh in-person outdoor worship service on May 23 was attended by 26 people; our eighth in-person outdoor worship service on June 6 was attended by 29 people; our ninth in-person outdoor worship service on June 20 was attended by 15 people; our tenth in-person outdoor worship service on June 27 was attended by 30 people.

The next in-person outdoor worship service will be at 10:00 AM on Sunday, July 11, when we will partake of Holy Communion and Coffee Hour together at Norma Lozano's back yard !! We will worship together in the Palm Church building at 10:00 AM on July 18 . Please maintain health and safety protocols: Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, and remain six feet away from people you aren't related to !! No Zoom, which includes dial-in, on July 4 or 18. RSVP Marian Clifton 834-5135 or marianclifton@verizon.net

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

(805) 233-5796 - michelle.magee@numc.org

I would like to apologize for any calls or texts I may have missed between May 18 and 19 as I had some trouble with my phone. I have lost some contact information and am working on getting it put back in. But my cell phone continues to be the best way to reach me, and please know that you can call me; I would love to hear from you !! Let me know how I can pray for you and if you would like a visit !! (I will continue to wear a mask indoors for the foreseeable future, and I have received the Covid Vaccine.)

For pastoral care while I am on vacation between June 14 and July 9, you may reach out to Pastor Neal Harris of Reedley UMC (559) 393-2260.

Other than that, Mondays continue to be my day off. If you have not yet checked out our website and Facebook page, please do so !!

palmumc.org

facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba

Due to COVID, the postponed graveside service for Jack Conway, who died April 20, 2020, will be held on Friday, July 30, 2021, 10:00 AM, Smith Mountain Cemetery. Celebration of Life Service 11:30 AM, Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church, with luncheon to follow.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1—James Lamb, Jackie Pipkin, Jim Crawford

2—John dela Montanya, Lucia Galvan, George Martzen

7—Cassie Yoshihara 9—Pat dela Montanya 17—Don Fujinaga

20—Lucas Róvere 21—Kathy Munson-Botkin 29—Mas Konatsu 30—Augi Fern

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 SUNDAY SERVICES

JULY 11 (No Zoom on July 4)

“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

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

LISTEN AND VIEW PALM CHURCH 10:00 A.M.

SUNDAY SERVICES July 11 and 18 on FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM (not on July 4)

(even if you aren't a member of Facebook !!)

or you can watch a previously recorded Sunday service.

If Facebook Livestream is not working, try Zoom Dial-in or the Zoom Meeting Link above.

<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 or click on an "Emoji Bubble," or send Pastor Michelle a text (805-233-5796), OR send Marian an email (marianclifton@verizon.net) .

Optional services you can log onto July 4—

Reverend Steve Creel, Visalia UMC (9:15 AM)

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Methodist-Church-104692397916790>

Reverend Neal Harris, Reedley First UMC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3AuoRVslJA>

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>

(Possibly available on July 25)

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

JULY 2021
WORSHIP TASKS

Worship Leader

Nancy McKittrick

Communion Steward

Marian Clifton

Greeters / Ushers

4 ONLINE WORSHIP
11 OUTSIDE WORSHIP
18 Taye Abe, Winnie Cadiente
25 TBA

July 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

July Birthdays

1—Jackie Pipkin, Jim Crawford,
James Lamb

2—John dela Montanya, Lucia Galvan,
George Martzen

7—Cassie Yoshihara

9—Pat dela Montanya

17—Don Fujinaga

20—Lucas Róvere

21—Kathy Munson-Botkin

29—Mas Konatsu

30—Augi Fern



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 will finally be able to worship in our Sanctuary again !! I know many of you have been longing for this day, which will be July 18. As cases of COVID-19 continue to decline and more people are vaccinated, our relaunch team feels we can safely join indoors with some modifications to our worship space. While it seems like nearly all of our congregation's adults have been vaccinated (hurray !!) we want to continue to care for the most vulnerable among us such as children who can't be vaccinated yet, or those with an auto-immune disease.

We are planning on using some fans in certain windows to increase airflow from outside, and we will mark alternate pews to assure we remain six feet apart from others not in our household.

All will be expected to wear a mask, to stay home if you feel ill, and to please only seat one household per pew.

Hand sanitizing stations will be easily accessible and bathroom sanitizing practices will be posted.

In our survey, we found that more people are wanting to continue outside or rotate between indoor and outdoor worship, so that will be our plan for now. Indoors we will not have congregational singing; at outdoor services we will be able to sing together.

Please pay careful attention to the newsletter and weekly messages Marian sends out to know where to come to worship the Lord together !! We will also return to 10:00 AM as our worship time whether indoors, outdoors, or online, beginning July 11.

--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

