



Palm UMC

PALM LEAF September 2023 **First Word**

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<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—RESOLVING CONFLICT

In Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus instructs his disciples how they should resolve conflicts in the time he would not bodily be with them, but the church would be established. Of all the Bible verses we choose to take literally, these most definitely should be: "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together." Just the first line of these instructions could make huge changes in our relationships, our society and yes our church. For what is our human tendency? When we feel slighted, offended, upset- to go find someone else to comfort us. A third party we can influence to our side, to comfort us, heal our wounded pride. But this involvement of a third party is what is known as "triangulation" and it is not a healthy relationship pattern. It is also known as gossiping, which we are warned against as well (see 2 Corinthians 12:30 for example). I can observe these patterns all over the place, from my children's school friends' drama to the cable news networks. Yes, it happens at church, too. One action is perceived as a slight, maybe even due to a misunderstanding, but others are told just how awful *that one* is, insults elevate, the situation gets out of control.

But what if we were to live out these instructions to the letter? Every time we have a situation where we feel we have been wronged, we calmly tell the other person- not to vent our feelings, but help them understand our reaction, and with the goal of repentance, forgiveness, and restoring full relationship? To be able to do that we also need to be capable of self-reflection, humility, and yes, repentance ourselves.

Try to imagine it- if only for a moment. Instead of entrenching ourselves in just "how wrong" *they* are- if we sought to understand and be understood? But that kind of mature interaction just isn't exciting, it doesn't make for a lot of ratings and clicks and so it seems that a lot of our society is built on enhancing the knee- jerk reaction, amplifying the most contentious voices, building up the divisions between us and them.

Church should be a different kind of place. The church that Jesus envisioned would be one where we all recognized that we can mess up, where help each other see the sins, not to gloat or humiliate, but to actually help each other. To learn and grow in relationship with each other. To honor that relationship above our own ego.

I recently felt challenged in my devotional time to take a step in this direction. Every time I prayed, "forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us," one person from my past popped into my mind. But this person did not know how they had hurt me. I had not forgiven because no fault had been admitted. So I wrote a letter, and they called me, and we had a good conversation. I admit, it was kind of hard, it felt awkward, but it also felt healing. Being together in community is not always easy- really it rarely is- but when we do try to follow Jesus' instructions, the results are really worth it! Let us continue to really be church together- authentically and lovingly.

--Pastor Michelle

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG PALM CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Rosa Elias (friend of Lisa Delgado), Linda Gourley (friend of Mary Esmay), Phil Martzen, Isaac (Robert's co-worker), Joe Takeda, Alicia (Brent Sadahiro's friend), Liz's cousin Grace Arifuku, Jon Clifton, Jennifer (Clifton) Washington, Chase Glosier, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, George Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell; Rosalinda Vasquez; Winnie Cadiente; Wayne Morimoto (Liz's cousin); Brenda Godinez, Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young's sisters Denise and Connie, Terry McKittrick, Sandy Hansen, Lupe Gonzales; firefighters; health care workers; teachers, Dinuba Youth for Christ, refugees, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Puerto Rico, Sudan, Taiwan, Hawaii, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Remember to honor first responders and military personnel on September 11, Patriot Day.

Deepest sympathy is offered to family of Bonnie Morimoto (Liz Sasaki's cousin), who passed away on August 3 in Orange, California.

Sincere condolences are extended to family and friends of Sally Nagata (Ruth Kurihara's sister), who died August 11, 2023, in Fresno.

New address for Winnie Cadiente, and Beverly and Ruben Aleman:
2118 Stillwell Court; Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37130

New address for Ruth Kurihara : Grace Kare Home, 3232 Everglade Ave; Clovis, CA 93619

New address for Karen Jacob: 300 Bradley Drive; Vacaville, CA 95687

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2023

ALL PALM CHURCH SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED VIA FACEBOOK; PALM CHURCH SUNDAY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:45 am. (REEDLEY FUMC SUNDAY WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:00 am, AND IS BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE LATER.)

As we worship in-person, masks and social distancing will be encouraged out of consideration for the safety of all. Facebook Livestream will be available; see Page Four. Following indoor, in-person services, Coffee Hour refreshments will be served in the Social Hall.

(Church location—438 West Tulare Street; corner Tulare & "P" Streets, Dinuba)

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

Grace Groups meet on Thursday 3:30 PM every other week via ZOOM, young adults on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM, and Spanish Grace Group on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 PM via conference call; in-person Grace Group meets once month. OT Bible Study convenes on Wednesdays at 11:00 via conference call. Ad Council will meet Thursday, September 21, at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

Missions Committee will serve a donation lunch following Sunday worship on September 3 to benefit the Hanford Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen Ministry !!

Fritz Meier from Gleanings for the Hungry will speak on Sunday, September 17.

Join us for "Messy Church" monthly inter-active inter-generational creative worship experience on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 4:30 PM. Theme is "Harvest." Co-leaders are Dianne Young & Melanie Mizuno.

Communion and Spare Change Offering will be celebrated on Sunday, September 3.

Norma Lozano will serve as Worship Leader on September 3; Quincy Yada will serve on September 10; Liz Sasaki on September 17; and Philip Martzen on September 24. September Tobans Dianne Young, Diane Domingo, Stan Davis, Melanie Mizuno, Liz Sasaki, Ginger Munson, and Rosalinda Vasquez will serve Coffee Hour on Birthday Sunday, September 17.

Check out the Reedley First United Methodist Church "Resurrected Books" used book store, open Thursdays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM !! Church is located at 1461 East Eleventh Street, corner "E" Street. Book and puzzle donations welcome !! Palm Church will also be collecting winter-wear for the Reedley FUMC Little Free Coat Closet ministry !!

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

(805) 233-5796

michelle.magee@cnumc.org

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.) Mondays continue to be my day off. Please check out our Website, giving portal, and Facebook page !!



palmumc.org

facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2—Jerry Munson
11—Tommy Kurihara
17—Lindsay Takeda
18—Randy Ide
21—Robert "Babe" Pipkin
23—Johnny Leibert
26—Greg Mizuno
27—London Serios, Joey Galvan
28—Janice Serios



The Little Free Pantry and Little Free Library which Quincy Yada and his fellow Scouts constructed, will be dedicated on September 10 !! Please bring a can of food or general interest book to help start our inventory !!
September 3 Spare Change Offering will go to support this new Ministry. Donations of general interest books OR canned, bagged, or boxed non-perishable food items may be brought to Palm Church any Sunday.



LISTEN AND VIEW PALM CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES
AT 10:45 am ON FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM

or you can watch a previously recorded 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 or an "Emoji," or a "Like," for attendance purposes
marianclifton@verizon.net 834-5135 THIS IS IMPORTANT !!

GOD AT WORK IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Our church has supplied scholarship funds for books for students at Wilson School for a second school year !! Your generous giving has made it possible; the students, staff and teachers greatly appreciate it. Every grade level has received \$250 for books for students to have, at the teacher's discretion. If you would like to give for the next school year to be able to continue, donations should be designated as Wilson School support.

For the last several weeks of the school year, Dianne Young and Pastor Michelle offered extra reading support to selected first graders one hour a week. We plan to continue in the fall and would love to have more volunteers join! Continue to pray for Wilson's staff, students and families! In September we will put together a Thank You gift basket of goodies for the teachers and support staff.

For more info on any of this, contact Pastor Michelle.

2023 PALM CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

**Susan Yoshimura---Education Chair, SPRC Chair, Ad Board Chair,
Annual Conference Lay Delegate Alternate

**Jerry Munson—Finance Chair

**Dianne Young—Financial Secretary, Missions co-Chair

**Arthur Anderson—Treasurer

**Marian Clifton—Missions co-Chair, Recording Secretary, Palm Leaf / First Word Editor

**Philip Martzen—Trustees Chair

**Pastor Michelle Magee—Nominations Chair

**Norma Lozano—Worship Chair

Dianne Young—Messy Church co-Leader

Melanie Mizuno—Messy Church co-Leader

Sandy Hansen—Webmaster (Until October 1 !! Any volunteers ?)

“Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something we do in our spare time.”

--Marian Wright Edelman

MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS







