



**First Word**

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<https://palmumc.org>

### **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—GOING THROUGH TO RESURRECTION**

This March our Church season is Lent, right up until the end, and then Easter season will begin on March 31.

We celebrate our central faith story again: Jesus' road to crucifixion including betrayal, abandonment, injustice, torture and death, and then resurrection. We remembering again that while we often want to skip to the happy ending, there is no way to get there but through. Maybe you know the children's song that involves community noise making, "We're going on a bear hunt?" I remember first hearing it I was actually appalled at the concept, I didn't want to go kill any bears! And then the story involved obstacle after obstacle and the refrain is, you can't go under it, can't go over it, you have to go through it. I was further dismayed, thinking "Are you sure? Did you try going around?"

But this is a lesson that we all have to learn. We want to take a shortcut, we want to skip the hard part, but in life as in pretend bear hunts, we have to go through.

There are struggles many of us are going through these days, as individuals and as a community. Struggling with illness or relationships; worrying about finances or facing deep grief; the ongoing struggles of hastening climate change and the political divisions that threaten our present and future sense of well-being.

In these struggles, we have to go through. We have to take up our work as faithful followers of Jesus. We have to wait on God and trust. There's no way around it.

But this too is the central story of our faith- when we least expect it, God brings resurrection. New life where all we expected was death. We see the small miracles of unexpected laughter, recovery from illness, we hear from an old friend. Suddenly the forgiveness that seemed like it was never going to happen is real.

As we journey through Lent and all of life, may we hold fast to Jesus' way, and may we pay attention to the small miracles of resurrection all around us.

--Pastor Michelle

*P. S. Please take note of the special times and places of our Combined Holy Week and Easter services:*

Palm Sunday at Reedley First UMC, 1461 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Reedley, March 24 at 10:00 AM.

Good Friday at Palm UMC, 438 West Tulare Street, Dinuba, March 29 at 12:00 PM.

Easter Sunday at Palm UMC, 438 West Tulare Street, Dinuba, March 31 at 10:00 AM.

Pastor Michelle Magee

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

## **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), Jim Bulls, Robert's co-worker Isaac, Brent Sadahiro's friend Alicia, Liz's cousin Grace Arifuku, Jon Clifton, Jennifer (Clifton) Washington, Chase Glosier, Reggie (Conway) McLean, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Norma and Romeo Lozano, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Ramon Oyervidez, Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto; Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young and her sisters Denise and Connie, Marcia Williams' neighbor Rick Patterson, Dianne's mother-in-law MaryJane Young, Joe and Ruby Takeda, Melissa Rodriguez, Sandy Hansen, Lupe Gonzales; firefighters; health care workers; teachers, refugees, Ukraine, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Israel and Palestine, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

**Average Sunday Worship attendance for February 2024 was 35 !!**

**Sincere sympathy and love are extended to family and friends of 14-year-old Lexi Rodriguez, who died on Sunday, January 28, in Carson City, Nevada. Memorial service will be held at Palm Church on March 9 at 2:00 PM; lunch to follow.**

## **PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024**

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

**Reedley FUMC is located at 1461 East Eleventh Street, corner "E" Street.**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@reedleyfirstumc4393/videos>

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

Grace Groups meet on Thursday 3:30 PM every other week via ZOOM, young adults on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM, and Spanish Grace Group on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 5:30 PM via conference call; in-person Grace Group meets every other Wednesday, 10:00 AM, at 780 Harvard in Dinuba. Old Testament Bible Study convenes on Wednesdays at 11:00 via conference call. Ad Council will meet Thursday, March 21, at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

**Daylight Saving Time begins on March 10; be sure to set your clocks FORWARD.**

**Join us for "Messy Church" monthly inter-active inter-generational creative worship experience on Saturday, April 20, at 4:30 PM. Co-leaders are Dianne Young & Melanie Mizuno.**

**Liz Sasaki will serve as Worship Leader on March 3 and 10; Ruth Fujinaga will serve on March 17. Philip Martzen will serve on March 24, Palm Sunday combined worship at Reedley FUMC at 10:00. Patti Stone-Remick will serve as Worship Leader for the March 31 combined Easter Worship at Palm Church at 10:00 AM. Everyone is asked to bring two dozen filled plastic eggs, and fresh flowers for the "Flowering of the Cross" ceremony. Traditional group photo, Holy Communion, Easter egg hunt, and Coffee Hour lunch will also be celebrated. Contact Amanda Bulls-Stephens (672-4574) if you are interested in the choral or chimes choir.**

**Palm All-Church Work Day will be Saturday, March 23, 9:00 AM .**

**Good Friday service will be held at Palm Church on March 29, 12:00 noon.**

**March Tobans—Melanie Mizuno, Liz Sasaki, Ginger Munson, Rosalinda Vasquez, Diane Domingo, Dianne Young, and Stan Davis -- will serve Coffee Hour on Birthday Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, March 17, and Easter Sunday, March 31 !!**

**Check out the Reedley First United Methodist Church "Resurrected Books" used book store, open Thursdays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM—4:00 PM !! Book and puzzle donations welcome !!**

## WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

(805) 233-5796

[michelle.magee@cnumc.org](mailto:michelle.magee@cnumc.org)

[palmumc.org](http://palmumc.org)

[facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba](https://facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba)

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 !!

I have received reports of text messages and emails going out in my name asking people to purchase gift cards on my behalf for others. This is a scam. Please know that I would not ask you to do that. We have many official funds to help our neighbors that you can give to; not through gift cards !! Please check the cell number or email of anything suspicious to see if it lines up with my contact information.

--Pastor Michelle



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Pattie Kurihara
- 2—Mary Esmay, Letty Lamb
- 3—Hankus Nagata
- 4—Jureli Canchola
- 8—Steven Bulosan
- 12—Jason Kurihara
- 14—Esther Kirkpatrick
- 20—Peter Mesias
- 21—Aiko Takeda, Walter Martzen
- 31—Maggie Fern, Craig Yoshihara



Huge thanks to all who volunteered, donated, attended, or otherwise supported the annual Soup, Sandwich & Dessert Lunch on February 7 at Palm Church to benefit Open Gate Ministries of Dinuba. Over \$ 1400 was raised !!

I hope I am remembering everybody: Pastor Michelle, Abe-EI Produce, Dinuba Grocery Outlet, Dinuba You-Be's Pizza, Dianne Young, Diane Domingo, Sandy and Donna Sadahiro, Stan Davis, Rosalinda Vasquez, Susan Yoshimura, Norma Lozano, Daniel Toews, Elaine Isaak, Toni Gerbrandt, Cheryl Jackson, Jean Gerstenberg, Jim and Becky Brown, Rod and Marian Clifton, Naoko Cozina, Kathleen Kelley, Chuck Wilsey, and Donna Musson. **Good job !!**



**P.4.**

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](mailto:marianclifton@verizon.net) 834-5135 THIS IS IMPORTANT !!

**GOD AT WORK IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Our church is supplying scholarship funds for books for students at Wilson School for a third school year !! Your generous giving has made it possible; the students, staff and teachers greatly appreciate it. Every grade level receives \$250 for books for students to have (Sixth Grade receives \$300), 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. We would love to be able to increase the amount for upper grades as the chapter books are more expensive.

We have re-started the Wilson Reading Partners program this semester, offering extra reading support to selected first graders one hour a week. We would love to have more volunteers join !! (Contact Pastor Michelle or the Wilson school office for a volunteer packet.) Palm Church also "adopted" a Wilson School family with three children, mother and grandmother, for Christmas. We want to bless our neighborhood by partnering with the school, and we ask that you continue to pray for Wilson's staff, students and families.

**2024 PALM CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL\*\***

\*\*Susan Yoshimura---Education Chair, SPRC Chair, Ad Board Chair,  
Annual Conference Alternate Lay Delegate  
\*\*Jerry Munson---Finance Chair and Financial Secretary  
\*\*Dianne Young---Missions co-Chair  
\*\*Arthur Anderson---Treasurer  
\*\*Marian Clifton---Missions co-Chair, Recording Secretary, Palm Leaf / First Word Editor  
\*\*Philip Martzen---Trustees Chair, Annual Conference Lay Delegate  
\*\*Pastor Michelle Magee---Nominations Chair  
\*\*Norma Lozano---Worship Chair  
Dianne Young---Messy Church co-Leader  
Melanie Mizuno---Messy Church co-Leader  
Sean Stephens---Webmaster

**“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”  
Colossians 3: 23-24, NKJV**

# MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS







