



**First Word**

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### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—RESURRECTION LIFE

In the time of Lent at Palm and Reedley I've been doing a sermon series about knowing ourselves, defining ourselves and our values. It is related to the continuing education I've done with Bowen Family Systems. One newsletter article is not enough to really explain it all but what I've been taken with has to do with the basic concept of it, and the observation (from the early 80s) that our society has been in a downward spiral of letting our emotions take over and failing to act from a place of thinking and not only feeling, which has led to some pretty tragic consequences.

And the simple antidote to that downward spiral is for individuals to do some work on themselves and do better at not being sucked into only emotional reactions. And every time one person does this, and is able to be more aware of what they're feeling and why, and react not with increased rage or anxiety or out of fear in different situations, it helps other people to do the same. Each person that does this can have an exponential effect on those around them.

Now you might be saying why is a pastor spending so much time on psychological babble... but the more I study and think about these things, the more I see the same patterns that Jesus was teaching us. How can we love our enemies, let alone our neighbors, as Jesus has taught, if all we ever do is react with emotions to what they do? How can we have that inner spiritual calm, that trust in God, unless we have a discipline of self-reflection? Which is the Bible study, prayer, small group time and worship that Christians know help us to grow in faith. The same Jesus who instructed us to love our enemies assumed we would pray, fast and give; the same Jesus who showed us how to love our enemies said, consider the lilies of the field.

There are a lot of forces and voices around us these days, urging us to just get angry at someone else, blame someone else, take everything out on someone- in other words, go with the purely emotional reaction. That is not the path of Jesus, who did not even fight back when he was wrongly arrested, found guilty at a sham trial and put to death as an innocent person. He is the One we are following as disciples, and as Christians we say *his way* is the way that opens to resurrection and life without end. Among the very first instructions Jesus gives his disciples in John 20 after the resurrection, are about forgiveness. Not holding on to past hurts. That is no coincidence! The forgiveness and reconciliation he makes possible are the only way out of these many human messes we make, and those are not possible with pure emotional reactions.

So even if you weren't able to listen to the sermon series (you can find them on our facebook page), you too can join in, consider for yourself- what guiding principles do I live by, and how could I do better at holding on to those even in tense or anxious times? Each of us just working some on growing in this way and wanting to imitate Jesus a little more, can have a huge effect. And yes it is the work of God in us and among us, to bring new life. Happy Easter!

--Pastor Michelle

*P. S. Please take note of the special times and places of our Combined Holy Week and Easter services:*  
All-Church Work Day at Palm UMC, corner "P" and West Tulare Streets, Dinuba; March 23 at 9:00 AM  
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 Noon  
Easter Sunday at Palm UMC, 438 West Tulare Street, Dinuba; March 31 at 10:00 AM

Pastor Michelle Magee

(805) 233-5796

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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, Judy Yoshimoto, 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.

**Please let Marian know of any H.S. or college grads !! 834-5135 [marianclifton@verizon.net](mailto:marianclifton@verizon.net)**

## PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 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, April 18, at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

**Join us for "Messy Church" bi-monthly inter-active inter-generational creative worship experience on Saturday, May 18, at 4:30 PM. Theme is "What Is Heaven." Co-leaders are Dianne Young and Melanie Mizuno.**

**Liz Sasaki will serve as Worship Leader on April 7, 21, and 28; Philip Martzen will serve on March 24, Palm Sunday combined worship at Reedley FUMC at 10:00; and April 14. Patti Stone-Remick will serve as Worship Leader for the March 31 combined Easter Worship at Palm Church at 10:00. 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 Easter Sunday, March 31 !!**

**April Tobans—Marian Clifton, Susan Yoshimura, Ruth Fujinaga, Iris Yamagata, and Janice Serios—will serve Coffee Hour on Birthday Sunday, April 21.**

**ANNUAL IKEBANA FLOWER SHOW AND BOUTIQUE WILL BE SATURDAY, APRIL 27 !!**

**WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE**

**(805) 233-5796**

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[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



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 1—Jeff Fukushima 2—Desiree' Domingo 5—Patricia Martzen
- 6—Analia Olvia Avila 9—Miles Yada
- 11—Chin Cheak Yu Martzen 13—Pablo Róvere
- 14—Linda Thomas 15—Paige Mesias
- 17—Amy Kiritani, Valeria Rodriguez
- 19—Duane Abe, Frances Leibert 24—Barbara Miller
- 26—Isaac Godinez 28—Chelley McKittrick Gary
- 30—James Hanada, Scott Shaver



**PALM METHODIST CHURCH**  
**18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL IKEBANA**  
**FLOWER SHOW AND BOUTIQUE**  
**Saturday April 27, 2024**  
**2:30—4:00 PM \$ 5.00 Admission**  
**Free Refreshments !!**



Proceeds benefit Reedley Youth Ministries and Tulare-Kings Youth for Christ

Pictured right: Ikebana Class of 2017



## 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









**Palm Methodist Church  
Ikebana Flower Show  
and Boutique**

**Saturday, April 27, 2024  
2:00--4:30 PM**

**\$5.00 admission**

West Tulare and "P" Streets, Dinuba

**Free Refreshments**

proceeds benefit

Tulare-Kings Counties Youth for Christ  
and Reedley Youth Ministries