



First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—A LOVING COMMUNITY

"Vamos todos al banquete, a la mesa de la creación. Cada cual con su taburete, tiene un puesto y una misión." –Guillermo Cuellar, Mis popular salvadoreño

"Let's go now to the banquet, to the table of Creation. Each one with their stool has a place and a mission."- *translation mine*
As I sang this refrain for my devotions today I was reminded of our human need for belonging and purpose. These are things that all of us need. These are things that churches can offer.

Our society is suffering from loneliness and anxiety, many mental health concerns piled up and while we may not talk about it much anymore, the pandemic we went through was traumatic for many and we are still dealing with those after effects. Finding a loving supportive community can mean the difference between struggling and thriving, and even for some, between life and death. I know there are people in our community who could greatly benefit from belonging to our faith family or one like it, offering listening, love, and support, and a message that you are important, you have something to give, too.

I do worry sometimes how long this project of a loving faith family will last, as the news tells us more and more people are simply saying "no thank you" to being a part of a church. Some parts of that I can understand, people who have been hurt by church leaders or don't see the point of sitting in a pew for an hour a week. More and more people want to decide what to believe for themselves and not have someone tell them what to think.

Which in our Methodist way is very encouraged! (Look up Wesley's quadrilateral and find the importance of using our brains in discovering meaning.) And in our congregation we have a lot of outlets for us to share the faith journey together, not merely absorb a message. That's what we do when we share joys and concerns. That's what we do in small groups and Messy Church. We share each of us our own faith experience and hear from others what theirs is. This is a huge part of our mission of Sharing Christ.

And while we exist to share Christ, we do need certain funds in order to do that. The giving from our church members decreased in 2023 from 2022 by about \$9000. I'm still trying to understand the "why" to that big drop. I know many of you give very generously to Palm UMC and I am grateful. Many of you have found here your place and your mission, a sense of belonging and purpose. I am hopeful even now that God will continue to bless us and allow Palm to continue for a long time because there are many who need a place of safe belonging and purpose all around us.

If you like me believe that Palm is a great place to belong and find purpose, I encourage you to support our ministry with prayers, presence, service, witness and yes gifts. May we continue to live out God's love that says "yes there is a place for you here, yes you have something to offer, too" to all for many years to come !!

--Pastor Michelle Magee



Pastor Michelle Magee

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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, Jennifer Washington, Chase Glosier, Judy Yoshimoto, Raman Verma, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Ruben and Lisa Delgado, 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, Lupe Gonzales; firefighters; health care workers; teachers, refugees, Ukraine, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Israel and Palestine, our country, General Conference, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Congratulations to our graduates : Miles Yada, UCLA; Joey Fern, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; Jessica Serios, Dinuba High School; Andy Fern, Berkeley High School; Jaden Washington, Justin-Sienna High School, Napa, CA !!

Congratulations to RJ and Yadira Delgado, who were married April 6 at the Selma FUMC !!
Average Sunday attendance for March was 40 !!

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 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 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 twice a month at 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, May 23, 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 "Be The Person You Were Meant to Be / Make A Difference." Co-leaders are Dianne Young and Melanie Mizuno. Cece Olea from ENOC ("Equipping Neighbors in Our Community") will bring a bounce house.

Phil Martzen will serve as Worship Leader on May 5 & 19, and Liz Sasaki will serve on May 12 & 26. Birthday Sunday and Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on May 19.

Ladies, don't miss the annual Mothers Day breakfast at Palm Church on May 12, 9:00 AM !!

May Tobans—Cathy Yada, Kathy Lamb, Taye Abe, and Norma Lozano—will serve Coffee Hour on Birthday / Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

ANNUAL IKEBANA FLOWER SHOW AND BOUTIQUE / BAKE SALE WILL BE SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2:30—4:00 pm !! FREE REFRESHMENTS !! ADMISSION \$5.00.

Let Marian know if you would like to order a copy of the Easter group photo, full sheet—8 ½ x 11" or half sheet—8 ½ x 5 ½" (marianclifton@verizon.net), or sign up at church.

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

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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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 7—Bob Pipkin
- 11—Daniel Toews
- 18—Romeo Lozano
- 19—Adelaide Clifton
- 22—Gracie Suastegui, Derek Fujinaga
- 23—Lupe Gonzales
- 31—Cheryl Lamb



**Dinuba Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Palm UMC
Wednesday, April 10, 2024**



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 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 !! 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