



**First Word**

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<https://palmumc.org>

**PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—"THE CHURCH HAS BEEN PLANTED AS A PARADISE ON THIS WORLD."**

This was a quote that was part of my devotions for this morning, it comes from Irenaeus of Lyon, a bishop from the second century. I have to tell you, my first reaction to this quote was a little bit cynical. Really? The church, a paradise? With all of our problems, all our warts? All the ways we sin and hurt each other, all the ways we mess up?

But as the Scripture that Amanda Bulls-Stephens chose and preached about this past Sunday (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) reminds us, we are not only made up of ourselves, as the church. We are filled with and led by the Holy Spirit. We are together, the body of Christ. So even with all of our differences and the ways we find to mess it all up- that is not all we are. We are one body, we drink of one Spirit, so even though we may be as different from one another as a hand is from an eye, God binds us together into one.

Amanda spoke to us about her experience at General Conference in April and some of the changes that were voted upon by that body. To learn more about all of it- because it's a lot- go to <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/general-conference-legislative-recap>

But her words and this Scripture are also very pertinent to us at Palm, for we are stepping into another new chapter of our history. Since July 1, 2023, I have been pastoring both Reedley First UMC and Palm, and we have begun sharing worship services and helping in one another's ministries. Reedley members have discerned that they are ready to begin the process of merging into Palm and Palm's administrative council has voted to welcome them. All of this needs to have details worked out, there will be meetings and discussions along the way, and a vote will be held at a charge conference at some point before things are finalized.

But we are already on a path of coming together and we will continue on that path. I have great faith that the gifts of Reedley First will complement and enhance the ministry at Palm, and that Palm will continue to be a welcoming place where we seek to grow in our faith-together. Reedley First members of course have sadness and grief at the close of one chapter, as well as faith and hope in God as we are in this process. 1 Cor 12:23-26 reminds us that sometime we need to treat some of our members with extra care and we might consider this to be one of those times.

But we can also rejoice that in this change there can also be a strengthening, a building up in mutual love. Which I think is what Bishop Irenaeus was speaking of- the way the church is a group of people where we all intentionally work on loving one another, truly. May this latest challenge be a chance for us to keep our focus on God's grace and love and our opportunities to join in with what God wants to do here and now- nothing less than experience paradise. Not by our efforts, but by the One Spirit at work in us.

--Pastor Michelle

P.S. Related to the above, please mark the following in your calendar: June 22- Conflict Transformation workshop- we will all work on some great tools to help us in times of disagreement which are inevitable as humans! Please come! June 30- special combined worship AT REEDLEY FIRST 10:00 AM !! And starting in July, all Sunday worship at Palm at 10:30 AM.

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, Liz's friends Concha and Ron, Marcia's doctor 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, and her great-nephew Frankie; Marcia Williams' neighbor Rick Patterson, Dianne's mother-in-law MaryJane Young, Joe and Ruby Takeda, Ruth Kurihara, 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 attendance for May was 34.**

**Deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of Amy Midori (Shiba) Kiritani, who passed away May 5, 2024, in Fresno. Graveside service will be held Friday, May 31, 10:00 AM, at Smith Mountain Cemetery.**

## PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2024

**ALL PALM CHURCH SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED VIA FACEBOOK AT 10:45 am. REEDLEY FUMC WILL WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY IN JUNE EXCEPT JUNE 30; REEDLEY FUMC WORSHIP IS BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE LATER.**

<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 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, June 20, at 5:30 PM on ZOOM.

**Patti Remick will serve as Worship Leader on June 2; Romeo Lozano will serve on June 9. Philip Martzen will serve on Fathers Day, June 16. Liz Sasaki will serve as Worship Leader on June 23. June Tobans are Dianne Young, Diane Domingo, Stan Davis, Ginger Munson, Rosalinda Vasquez, Melanie Mizuno, and Liz Sasaki. Graduates will be honored on June 2.**

**Sylvia Garza from Selma FUMC Christian Café will be our guest speaker on June 9, donation lunch to follow. Ramon Oyervidez will be our guest speaker on July 21.**

**We will have combined Worship at Reedley First Methodist Church at 10:00 AM on June 30, followed by lunch and video presentation of the history of the Reedley Methodist Churches. Reedley FUMC is located at 1461 East Eleventh Street, corner "E" Street.**

**Diana Bulls is collecting the following items for homeless veterans' Christmas ditty bags: socks and gloves, fleece scarves and lap blankets, chapstick and toiletries, hand sanitizer, nail clippers, blank stationery and greeting cards. There is a tub in the Storeroom for these items. Deadline is in November. Winter-wear can also be donated at any time.**

**Palm Church will be holding a Take-Out Picnic Lunch Fund-Raiser on Saturday, June 29. Menu includes two skewers, one meatball and one veggie; coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, roll and muffin. Price is \$ 10.00. For delivery, call Diane Domingo 643-6008. See flyer.**

**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 !! Mondays continue to be my day off. My preferred way to be addressed is as "Pastor Michelle" and I appreciate you calling me that !! I also appreciate talking about many things, but receiving comments about the shape of my body is not something I enjoy.

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 check the cell number or email of anything suspicious to see if it lines up with my contact information.

Please check out our Website, giving portal, and Facebook page !!

--Pastor Michelle



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 5--Ruth Kurihara, Stan Davis
- 7--Bryce Yoshimura
- 8--Patty Gonzales (Avila)
- 15--Robert Serios
- 19--Jerry Nagata, Rachel (Simmons) Clark
- 21--Naoko Noji
- 25--Liz Sasaki
- 26--Kathy Lamb



**PASTOR  
MICHELLE  
PREACHING  
AT REEDLEY  
FIRST  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
APRIL 7, 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](mailto: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 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  
Take-Out Picnic Lunch



Corner Tulare & "P" Streets, Dinuba

Saturday, June 29, 2024

11:00 AM—1:00 PM

MENU: Two Skewers—One Veggie  
and one Meatball; Coleslaw, Potato  
Salad, Baked Beans, Roll, Muffin

\$ 10.00

Delivery 643-6008

Information 834-5135 591-0746