



First Word

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<https://palmumc.org>

### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—WHAT IS RADICAL HOSPITALITY ??

In a recent sermon I invited our congregations (we are 2 congregations, Reedley First and Palm UMCs, on a path to merging but not yet “one” so I am still using the plural) to enter into a season of radical hospitality. Hospitality is an intentional focus on serving the needs of others. When a guest is coming over, you might clean a little bit so they will be more comfortable, you prepare some food, you make sure the bathroom is stocked with toilet paper so they don’t have to encounter any embarrassing situations. And when there are other needs, you take those into consideration. Is my friend a vegetarian? Is she coming in a wheelchair? Or allergic to cats? You do your best to think ahead, and even might go so far as to ask your friend what would make him more comfortable, and make the proper modifications.

Some people might say, well if my friend is coming over, fine; but this is my house, so why would I change anything? And there is a certain logic there. But thinking that way cannot be called radical hospitality, perhaps a lukewarm hospitality.

But as Christians we are called to a higher standard. God has gone to ultimate lengths to reveal divine love in Jesus Christ. When humanity again and again rebelled against God’s ways, God said if you don’t want to enter my story, I will enter yours, and put on human flesh, as we believe, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. And that same person lived a life of radical hospitality, providing feasts in the wilderness, sitting down to eat with people who certain limiting ideas said he should not eat with, and even providing abundant, amazingly good wine for a wedding party.

And then, as our story goes, Jesus gave himself for us to eat, not in a literal but beautiful, mystic, ritual way, to have a tangible experience of taking Christ within us, becoming our spiritual food. Jesus is the embodiment of radical hospitality.

So following his example, we try to do this in everything. We have handicapped-accessible facilities; when someone sits in a pew we used to think of ours we smile and focus on how we are glad they are here; we wear a nametag so others can start to learn who we are. Through faithful servants and giving we are enjoying lunch together after worship each Sunday and often vegetarian and lactose free options are available. As we do ministry with Wilson school we try to accommodate their needs, and how we can best walk with them. We invite the community to take food and books from the little library and little pantry as they need, with no requirements. There are small sacrifices in radical hospitality, and each one is worth it. But can our hospitality expand? Of course!

If you know of a hospitality need we are not meeting, let us know! And let us all continue to offer grace to one another as life is often messier than we would like! We can’t know what we are missing until it comes to our attention. So let’s ask, and not only within ourselves, but in the community as well: what do you need? We may not be able to be everything for everyone, but let us by God’s grace, continue to grow in radical hospitality.

Peace be with you, Pastor Michelle

P.S. We could use some help restocking our little pantry-- for the month of August you are invited to bring non-perishable items every Sunday in addition to your regular giving, to keep this hospitality ministry going !!



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, Jennifer Washington, Chase Glosier, Judy Yoshimoto, Liz's friend Ron, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family, Ruben and Lisa Delgado and family; Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto; Norma and Romeo Lozano, Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young and her sisters Denise and Connie, and her great-nephew Frankie; Dianne's mother-in-law MaryJane Young, Joe and Ruby Takeda, Ruth Kurihara, Lupe Gonzales; firefighters; health care workers; teachers, refugees, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Israel and Palestine, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

**Sincere sympathy is extended to Lindy Yoshimura and family with the passing of his sister Geraldine Brady on July 19, 2024, in Richmond, Virginia.**

**Average Sunday attendance for July was 34.**

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

**ALL PALM CHURCH SUNDAY 10:30 am WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED VIA FACEBOOK. REEDLEY FUMC WILL JOIN PALM FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY; REEDLEY WORSHIP IS BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE LATER.**

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

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

As we worship in-person at Palm Church, masks will be encouraged out of consideration for the safety of all. Facebook Livestream will be available; see Page Four. Following indoor, in-person services, lunch will be served in the Social Hall, donations gladly accepted. (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 last Wednesday of each month at 5:00 PM, and Spanish Grace Group (*Grupo de Gracia*) on alternate Tuesdays at 10:30 AM via conference call; in-person Grace Group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 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, July 25 at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

**Show for Gracie Suastegui and Alex Zaragoza will be held Sunday, August 11, during Coffee Hour. Join us in celebrating this young couple !!**

**Norma and Romeo Lozano will serve as Worship Leaders on August 4 & 25. Philip Martzen will serve on August 11 & 18.**

**August Tobans are Cathy Yada, Kathy Lamb; Norma Lozano, Taye Abe, Marcia Williams, Sean Stephens, and Amanda Bulls-Stephens. Birthdays will be celebrated on August 4.**

The family of Jerry and Ginger Munson would like to invite everyone to join them in celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary at Palm Church on Saturday, September 7, 2:00—5:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. We would love to see you all there !! If you can attend, please call or text Peggy Munson Entz at 559-731-3649. If you cannot attend but would like to send a card: Jerry and Ginger Munson; 780 Harvard Avenue; Dinuba, CA 93618

**Palm Church Ad Council is accepting donations of individually packaged snacks for two back-to-school gift baskets for Wilson School Teachers & Staff. Deadline is Sunday, August 4 !!**

**The Little Free Pantry needs re-stocking !! Please bring your donations of canned goods and dried beans, fruit, rice and pasta to Palm Church any Sunday. Thank you !!**

**71<sup>st</sup> Annual Oriental Dinner, Boutique and Bake Sale Fund-Raiser is scheduled for Saturday, November 9. Let Susan know how you can help, and start working on your handcrafts and homemade goodies !!**

**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 !! 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



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 3—Jon Clifton, Remi Pipkin    5—Lindy Yoshimura  
8—Justin Lopez-Lamb    9—Keith Lamb  
14—April Bulosan    15—Amanda Bulls-Stephens  
16—Anissa Avila    19—Rosie Moreno  
21—Sarah Clifton    26—Jim & Jeff Lamb, Erik Gonzales  
29—Eric Cerna    30—Susan Yoshimura  
31—Doug Millhorn, Zechariah Bulosan  
31—Miyeko Cabello



**Kitchen crew for the Picnic Lunch Fund-Raiser, Saturday, June 29, L-R: Rosalinda Vasquez, Patti Remick, Susan Yoshimura, Sandy Sadahiro, Marian Clifton; not pictured Dianne Young, Stan Davis, Donna Sadahiro, Taye Abe, Diane Domingo, Rodney Clifton, Pastor Michelle, Ruth Fujinaga, and Buffy Ruiz**



**P.4.**

LISTEN AND VIEW PALM CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES  
AT 10:30 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, at the teacher's discretion; Fifth and Sixth Grades receive \$300, as chapter books are more expensive. 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 have re-started the Wilson Reading Partners program, 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.

Back-to-School gift baskets for the teachers and staff will be assembled and delivered in August. Deadline for donations is August 4.

**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 and Melanie Mizuno---Messy Church co-Leaders

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





**Troop 282 cordially invites  
you to the Eagle Scout**



*Court of Honor*  
**Quincy & Rudy**

July | **13** | 2024

12:00-3:00PM

*First United Methodist Church*  
1461 11th St, Reedley, CA. 93654  
RSVP to Ofelia at (559)737-2601







