



Palm UMC

PALM LEAF September 2024 First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—A SHARED VISION

Over the past few weeks I have preached a sermon series inspired by the one by Rev. Samuel Yun that you can find on the conference website (<https://www.cnumc.org/sermon-series>) in turn inspired by our California-Nevada Annual Conference's vision statement: Following Jesus, Thriving in Community, Healing the World. You can also listen to my sermons on our Facebook page if you missed them.

All in all, it is a pretty good vision statement- short enough to be memorable, but with enough content to inspire dreams for what our Annual Conference and the churches within the Annual Conference, should be about. We can share a vision, and then live it out each specifically in ways that are impactful in our local contexts.

At Palm we adopted a mission statement a few years ago- "Sharing Christ." Even shorter and more memorable! But at times people have asked me, but what does that mean exactly?

I have answered that question, hopefully satisfactorily, but I wonder if maybe just a little more wording like the Annual Conference's Vision Statement might be helpful, to help us flesh out a shared vision. I think Sharing Christ can be fleshed out in these ways: we are Christ-centered and we **follow Jesus**- as disciples this is our role, to learn from Jesus' teachings and imitate what we know about him from the gospels. There is a whole lot in there to learn and imitate (such as, living out forgiveness, compassion, justice, generosity) but in whatever situation we might find ourselves, that is the first direction to look- at Jesus. However, we do it not on our own, but together. **Sharing** our lives together, being in **community**, letting others know how we are giving thanks to God, what sorrows are on our hearts, to bear all of this together, is a huge part of what Jesus did that we can imitate. And as we do that, we bring **healing** to one another and can be inspired to bring that same healing with us wherever we go. Knowing the hope that comes from following Jesus in community together makes us want to **share** that with more and more people-yes beyond those already in our church.

Why do we come to church? What is church for? For many in our society today, the answers to these questions are a shrug; "I don't know, that's why I don't bother."

Keeping our mission and vision clear are an important part of being church together. Sometimes we can get distracted by getting all the words just right. I think the Conference Core Team have done a pretty good job with this wording- what do you think?

It is even more important as two churches coming together into one, to keep clear our purpose. When changes happen, some people can become upset, because change can be hard. Yet we have such great riches of God's love to share through Jesus Christ, if we can keep our focus on following him, sharing our lives together well and always thinking of those who still are without a Shepherd, everything else can fade to its appropriate place.

So, beloved: what do you think of us adopting the Conference's Vision statement for Palm, as Reedley First becomes a part of Palm? Is this the right Vision statement for us? How might we adjust it? I really would like to hear your thoughts! (see my contact info on p. 3)

Your fellow servant of the Gospel, Pastor Michelle

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 Linda Gourley (friend of Mary Esmay), Jim Bulls, Robert's co-worker Isaac, Brent Sadahiro's friend Alicia, Liz's cousin Grace Arifuku and mother Joyce Sasaki, 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; Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto and mother Joy Sasaki; Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young and her sisters Denise and Connie; Romeo and Norma Lozano, 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. **Remember our First Responders on September 11, Patriot Day.**

Congratulations to Alex and Gracie Zaragoza, who were married August 24 in Visalia, and to Bryce and Sandy Yoshimura, who were married July 29 in San Francisco !!

Sincere sympathy is extended to Lisa Delgado and family with the passing of Rosa Elias on August 1, 2024, at home in Selma.

Average Sunday attendance for August was 40.

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 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 1st and 3rd 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, September 19 at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

Liz Sasaki will serve as Worship Leader on September 1 & 29; Philip Martzen will serve on September 8 & 15; Patti Stone-Remick will serve on September 22; Tina Mizuno will serve as Worship Leader on World Communion Sunday, October 6. Thank you !!

September Tobans are Dianne Young, Diane Domingo, Stan Davis, Melanie Mizuno, Liz Sasaki, Ginger Munson, and Rosalinda Vasquez. Birthdays will be celebrated on September 29.

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

Ikebana Class will resume meeting on Saturday, September 14, at 1:30 PM.

Next Messy Church will be on Saturday, September 21, at 4:30 PM with the theme of "A New Beginning." Join us for games crafts, celebration, and a taco truck meal !! (Thanks, Buffy !!)

Please bring your donations of dried beans, fruit, rice, cereal, and pasta; and canned goods for the Little Free Pantry to Palm Church any Sunday. Thank you !!

71st 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

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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 !! Mondays continue to be my Sabbath; I do not respond to non-emergency calls or messages on that day. Just a reminder, pastors are not mind-readers so if you would like to get together and chat about something please let me know !! My preferred way to be addressed is as "Pastor Michelle" and I appreciate you calling me that !!

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2—Jerry Munson 11—Tommy Kurihara
- 15—Yvonne Hanson 17—Lindsay Takeda
- 18—Randy Ide, Julian Din 21-- Robert "Babe" Pipkin
- 23—Johnny Leibert 26—Greg Mizuno
- 27—London Serios, Joey Galvan
- 28—Janice Serios, Rosalea Galvan
- 29—Tina Mizuno



Here are the back-to-school appreciation baskets from Palm Church for teachers and staff at Wilson School, which were assembled and delivered on August 6 !! Thanks to everybody who helped, especially Janice Serios and Dianne Young !!



Congratulation to Alex and Gracie (Suastegui) Zaragoza, who were married on August 24, 2024 !!

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 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.

Thank you letter from Principal Lichtenwaldt was read in church on August 4. Back-to-School gift baskets for the teachers and staff were assembled and delivered August 6.

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

2024 REEDLEY FUMC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

- **Patti Stone-Remick---Administrative Board Chair
- **Diana Bulls--SPRC Chair, Treasurer, Finance Chair
- **Sean Stephens---Trustees Chair
- ** Amanda Bulls-Stephens---Annual Conference Lay Delegate

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*





