



**First Word**

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### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The liturgical calendar is a great faith practice to deep our discipleship. I didn't always appreciate liturgy or the liturgical calendar, but learning and practicing faith with it over a few decades have given me greater appreciation for it. If you don't know what I'm referring to, a generalized description would be following a pattern that repeats, structure that we can also get really creative with, for our worship and faith development. You know that every year we celebrate Christmas and Easter, but before each of those celebrations (both of which are longer than one day for the liturgical calendar!) we have a time of preparation and reflection- Advent and Lent. And there are other church seasons that a non-liturgical person probably doesn't know much about, like Epiphany and Pentecost.

And there are some hidden gems in our liturgical calendar which has been put together over centuries-and yes different churches observe some dates differently but many such as Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics observe many of the same themes, and even read the same Bible passages in worship, if they are following the lectionary, which are Scriptures chosen for every Sunday in the liturgical calendar.

Over the next couple of months we have some of these gems-World Communion Sunday (October 6) , All Saints' Sunday (November 3) , and Christ the King Sunday (November 24). Each of these three has a different focus and different purpose. But a common theme of these three that is good for us to think about in this election season, is how our faith in Jesus supersedes any national or political allegiance. Having Jesus as Lord means we never trust first in the human made structures, but look for God to work in and through and in spite of all our human efforts. (On Sunday, November 3, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday, which includes naming all those of our congregation and our congregation's loved ones who have passed away since the previous All Saints' Sunday. Please give to Pastor Michelle the names of any loved ones you would like to include by October 27.)

Our task is to share Christ with all the world, and worship Christ as over all the world, in fact to acknowledge that Jesus Christ reigns over all time and space, even beyond this life (Ephesians 1:21-22). This doesn't mean that we ignore political activity or refused to be "tainted" by it- on the contrary as followers of Jesus we should all be very engaged with everything we can be to help form this world and this life into how we know God wants it to be. We should pray for and work for the dignity of every human being, the care of all creation, and true peace for the whole world.

But while we start right where we are, we never lose sight of the hugeness of God's project. We know God so loved the world (John 3:16) so there is no nation that God prefers over any other. So we are to equally love all those people in all those other nations, many of whom are our siblings in faith in the same Jesus Christ. We should also love and care for the foreigner in our midst (Numbers 19:33-34).

Repeating the liturgical calendar and really celebrating these festivals, as well as coming back again and again to the centers of our faith, helps keep us from being drawn away from Jesus' true way. This spiritual practice helps us guard our hearts against evils like fear of others who are different or trusting human politicians too much. So join our liturgical celebrations and let God work in you to deepen discipleship. Sunday, October 6 we will celebrate World Communion Sunday with Holy Communion and special music, and afterwards enjoy a donation lunch that will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their ongoing mission of helping people in need all over the world that God loves. A Town Hall style meeting to discuss the upcoming merger of Palm and Reedley First and any other questions you have about what's going on with our church and our ministries will follow lunch.

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, Jimmy Dickey, Judy Yoshimoto, Liz's friend Ron, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Phyllis Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Fred Esmay, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family; Jan Franke (Hanford FUMC member), Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto and mother Joyce Sasaki; Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young and her sisters Denise and Connie; Bette and Jim Crawford; 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.

**Average Sunday attendance for September was 37.**

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

**ALL PALM CHURCH SUNDAY 10:30 am WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED VIA FACEBOOK. REEDLEY FUMC WILL JOIN PALM FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY.**  
<https://www.facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba/videos/>

As we worship in-person at Palm Church, masks will be encouraged out of consideration for the safety of all; if you feel ill, please stay home. 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 Tuesday, October 29 at 5:30 PM on ZOOM.

**Tina Mizuno will serve as Worship Leader on World Communion Sunday, October 6; Mission Committee will serve an Asian menu donation lunch, proceeds to benefit UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Philip Martzen will serve as Worship Leader on October 13; Sean Stephens will serve on October 20; Liz Sasaki will serve on October 27.**

**October Tobans are Marian Clifton, Susan Yoshimura, Ruth Fujinaga, Janice Serios, Tina Mizuno, and Diana Bulls. Birthdays will be celebrated on October 27.**

**Ikebana Class will meet on Saturday, October 26, at 1:30 PM.**

**Next Messy Church will be on Saturday, October 19, at 4:30 PM with the theme of "Light Up the Darkness." Join us for games crafts, celebration, and meal !!**

Please bring your donations of non-perishable canned goods; and dried beans, fruit, rice, cereal, and pasta for the Little Free Pantry 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. Ask Susan, Marian, or Dianne Y. how you can help, and start working on your handcrafts and homemade goodies today !! Tickets will be distributed the end of September.**

**If you have email and are not already receiving the newsletter electronically and are willing to save Palm Church paper, ink, time, and postage, PLEASE LET ME KNOW !! THANKS !!**  
[marianclifton@verizon.net](mailto:marianclifton@verizon.net) ( 559-834-5135 )

**Diana Bulls is collecting the following items for homeless veterans' Christmas ditty bags: socks, gloves, fleece scarves and lap blankets, Chapstick, toiletries, hand sanitizer, nail clippers, blank stationery and greeting cards. Winter-wear can also be donated. Deadline is December 8.**

**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 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



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2—Frank Leibert    7—Bette Crawford    8—Quincy Yada
- 9—Marcia Williams    13—Sean Stephens, Julianna Cerna
- 15—Alice Yamamoto    18—Karen Jacob
- 23—Philip Martzen, Phyllis Martzen
- 24—Rosalinda Vasquez, Trinity Róvere,  
Nancy Bellin, Rosio Canchola
- 29—Bruce Ishida
- 31—Ginger Munson, Gianna Viloría



**September 7, 2024--  
Jerry and Ginger Munson's  
70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
celebration at Palm Church.**

**Speakers and performers  
included family and friends.  
A slideshow of their life  
was presented. The food and  
decorations were awesome.**

**Congratulations !!**



#### 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) Text 559-257-1170 **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 will re-start the Wilson Reading Partners program, offering extra reading support to selected first graders one hour a week. We would love to have more volunteers !! **Contact Pastor Michelle.** 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. We have gathered some extra school supplies as a "Messy Church Mission" and delivered them to the school for teachers to access.

#### 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, Reedley FUMC lay Leader

# 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







