



Palm UMC

# PALM LEAF November 2024 First Word

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<https://palmumc.org>

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—LETTING GO AND GIVING THANKS

Each autumn the trees remind us how lovely it is to let go. This is a popular quote online that no one knows the author to and I have changed it a little. It speaks of the amazing reds and golds, oranges and maroons many trees display before their leaves fall to the ground. Except around here, many of the trees hold on to leaves and do not display the amazing colors of fall that I took for granted growing up in northern Indiana. But eventually they must fall because if the trees don't let go of the old leaves, the new ones won't be able to grow.

This first Sunday of November we will again celebrate All Saints' Sunday. We will name the ones who have died in this last year before God, ring a bell and light a candle to honor their memory. This will be the first time Palm and Reedley have celebrated this special Sunday together, and it will be the last one we have as two separate congregations. If God permits and all continues well, we will be one congregation at the time of our vote on December 14 (mark your calendar for the All-Church Conferences that afternoon!) There is inevitable grief with death. It is good and right for us to take a moment to honor that grief, honor the beauty of the lives of those who have been and are no longer with us, even as we trust they are in God's care.

There is also inevitable grief with change. When there is a big change such as two churches merging, we can honor our sadness at what will not be the same anymore. It is right and good for us to acknowledge that grief within also. There is a letting go of "how we thought things would always be" that can be very hard for some, but if we are able to also place that in God's hands, it can be very lovely.

At the same time we have much to celebrate! I am very encouraged by the new ministries happening like the Food Distribution we have begun and the Toys for Tots outreach we will be participating in, and the volunteers who show up joyfully to help. It was a different sort of joy and pride for me to sit in the pews this last Sunday after my week of Continuing Education and let the work God has done through others be a blessing to me. We have so many wonderful, gifted, loving people in our church and I have deep gratitude for all of you. Of course November is also the month for Giving Thanks as we see God's goodness throughout the year and share that sense of gratitude with one another.

So another great quote for this time comes from Francis Weller: "The work of the mature person is to carry grief in one hand and gratitude in the other and to be stretched large by them." I hear an echo of Ecclesiastes 3: "there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven". Or as Paul charges the Thessalonians, to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess 5:18). We mourn, we rejoice, we give thanks, and we trust that God through Christ and the Holy Spirit is at work through it all as we grow in our faith. Which includes seasons of change, of death, and of letting go, as well as seasons of birth and new life. We can give thanks for the whole journey, and marvel together at the beauty of it all!

-- 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 Barbara Miller and Susan Prado, Phyllis Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family; Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto; Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young and her sisters Denise and Connie; Romeo and Norma Lozano; Wilson School Principal Maria Lichtenwaldt; 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 family and friends of James Dickey, who passed away October 22, 2024, in Dinuba.**

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

## PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 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 are feeling 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—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 in-person and 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, November 21, at 4:00 PM on ZOOM.

**Pattie Stone-Remick will serve as Worship Leader on November 3; Phil Martzen will serve on November 10; Liz Sasaki will serve on November 17; a volunteer is needed serve November 24.**

**Norma or Romeo Lozano will serve as Worship Leader on December 1, when we will celebrate Holy Communion, the beginning of Advent, "Hanging of the Greens," special music, and pizza lunch !!**

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR ON NOVEMBER 3 !!**

**November Tobans are Cathy Yada, Norma Lozano, Taye Abe, Marcia Williams, and Patti Remick. Birthdays will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 24.**

**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 !! Please return your ticket money and unsold tickets to Marian by November 8.**

**Ikebana Class will meet on Saturday, November 16, at 1:30 PM.**

**Food Distribution will be held at Palm Church on Saturday, November 23 at 9:00 AM.**

**Next Messy Church will be on Saturday, December 7, at 3:30 PM with the theme of "Christmas around the World." Join us for games crafts, celebration, and a meal !!**

**All-Church Charge Conference 2024 will be Saturday, December 14, at 3:00 to vote on the merge. District Superintendent Mary Maaga will preach on Sunday, December 15.**

**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 !!**

**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



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1—Eloy Hernandez 2—Phyllis Hernandez  
6—Monte Alvis 9—Skye Martzen  
10—Melanie (Hirahara) Mizuno 14—Trinidad Rodriguez  
15—Cathy Yada, David Clifton, Eileen Abe-Mesias,  
Kathy Garrison 18—Carol (Rossi) Christianson  
19—Diana Bulls 21—Beverly (Cadiente) Aleman  
24—Robin Joseph 29—Rodney Clifton, Lucine Joseph  
30—Laura Clifton, Andres Canchola, Sr.



**PALM CHURCH 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL TAKE-OUT**  
**TERIYAKI CHICKEN DINNER,**  
**BOUVIQUE AND BAKE SALE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 3:00-5:00 PM** **\$ 20.00 / DINNER**

**Tickets available at the door or from church members**

**MENU: Grilled Hawaiian Teriyaki Chicken, Chow Mein,**  
**Steamed rice or Sushi Rice, Cucumber Salad, Cookies**

**Proceeds to benefit various mission projects, including**  
**Open Gate Ministries, Youth for Christ, Wilson School**

**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 !!**

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION -- OCTOBER 26, 2024**

Thank you to the team of Pastor Michelle, Patti Remick, Rosio and Andres Canchola (Jr. & Sr.); Anthony Espino, Robert, Janice, Jessica, and London Serios; Nelly Gonzalez; Steven Bulosan, Dianne Young, Buffy Ruiz, Linda Treadaway, and Melanie Mizuno who filled and gave out 50 bags of groceries from Open Gate at our first food distribution on Saturday, October 26 !!



**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
- \*\*Diana Bulls---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*







