



Palm UMC
PALM LEAF December 2024 First Word

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<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—WORRY ?

I try not to, but sometimes I worry about the future. What could happen, hard and sad things that could occur, difficulties that might arise and what steps could be taken to intervene, mitigate consequences or assist whomever might be affected. I worry about all kinds of things: my family, our country, the world; the long-term sustainability of our congregation, too.

The first time I became pregnant I worried about losing the pregnancy, especially after I read that it happens in about 15% of all pregnancies. Then, as first-time parents, we worried about all kinds of things. Phthalates and germs, pollution and school shootings. The world is a dangerous place!

This newsletter article is coming out a little early so I have not worked on my sermon for Thanksgiving Sunday yet (November 24). But in the gospel reading we'll hear that day Jesus says, "Don't worry about your life...who among you can add a single moment to your life?... instead desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:25-33)

The same Jesus who said that, first entered this world through the womb of Mary as a poor and defenseless babe in the midst of a time of migration- a very dangerous world. I have thought a lot about Mary, how she took that news that she was going to become a mother before she was married, on top of that, she would bear the very Son of God. Surely she had her moments of worry about how this would all turn out. But still, she came to pronounce her beautiful song of God's faithfulness from Luke 1, what is often called the Magnificat. It is a song of praise and wonder and also a testimony of what God does. In the moment of that song Mary let go of worry and what was up to her, and remembered God's faithful action to help, to save, to come into our world.

Trusting in God, giving thanks and praising God, and then taking the steps we are able to take toward God's reign and God's values, are still the antidotes to our worries.

May we take time in this holiday season to truly thank God and reflect not on what we do or our own worries, but on God's faithfulness. May we take time to celebrate this central piece of our faith- that with all the dangers and hardships, God chose to come and be with us. Even as a defenseless babe in a dangerous world, who would grow to teach us to not worry but to reflect on God's goodness and how we can testify to that goodness with our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving, Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas to you all!

--Pastor Michelle

P.S. We are so grateful for **your** support of Palm Church and our ministries with your prayers, presence, and yes financial gifts! Please remember Palm UMC on Giving Tuesday and for other year-end gifts! [Palmumc.org/give](https://palmumc.org/give)

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

Please keep Susan Prado, Ishida family, Phyllis Martzen, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family; Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto; Marcia Williams, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young's sisters Denise and Connie; Wilson School Principal Maria Lichtenwaldt; Dianne's mother-in-law MaryJane Young; Joe and Ruby Takeda, Melissa Prado, 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 Barbara Miller, who passed away November 1, 2024, in Yorba Linda, CA. Graveside service will be held December 6 at 12:00 noon, Smith Mountain Cemetery, followed by luncheon reception at Palm Church (~1:00 PM).

Deepest condolences are offered to family and friends of Bruce Ishida, who died November 16 of COVID / sepsis. Arrangements to be announced.

Average Sunday attendance for November was 40.

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 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 at 3:30 PM every other week via ZOOM, young adults on the first 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 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, November 21, at 4:00 PM on ZOOM.

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 !! Philip Martzen will serve on December 8; Melanie Mizuno on December 22; and Liz Sasaki on December 24 & 29.

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

December Tobans are Dianne Young, Diane Domingo, Stan Davis, Rosalinda Vasquez, Melanie Mizuno, Dr. Liz, and Sean and Amanda. Birthdays will be celebrated on December 15.

Christmas Eve Candle-Light Service will be held at 5:30 on December 24 .

Food Distribution will be held at on Saturday, November 23 and December 28 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 2:30 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 !!

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

palmumc.org

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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3— Dianne Young
- 4— Jose Erenas, Junior Bulosan, Autumn Galvan
- 10—Taye Abe 11—Michael Canchola
- 12—Katsumi Noji, Kristen (Yoshimura) Floresca
- 13—Brent Sadahiro 14—Jackie Hernandez
- 17—Katherine Rodriguez
- 19—Michelle Magee, Lance Fujinaga
- 21—Eduardo Espino
- 27—Elijah Gonzales



HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED IN SO MANY WAYS TO MAKE THE PALM CHURCH 71ST ANNUAL TAKE-OUT TERIYAKI CHICKEN DINNER, BOUTIQUE, AND BAKE SALE ON NOVEMBER 9 A BLESSING AND A HUGE SUCCESS !! Over \$ 6000 was raised !! Thanks to our workers, servers, ticket sellers, cooks and bakers, those who donated food and crafts, and especially the clean-up crew !! (More photos on Page Four)



(Grill Crew: Jack Mori, Robert Serios, and Lindy Yoshimura)

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 !!**

ORIENTAL DINNER 2024 PHOTOS



Meat Slicers Brent Burwell and Karen Jacob; Rice Crew Lance Fujinaga and Pattie Kurihara; Boutique Workers
Carolyn Cordova, Dianne Young, Gary Ishida, and Dr. Liz Sasaki (And many more not pictured !!)

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 pro-tem
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





