



First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—I'M LOOKING AHEAD

Easter will come in the month of April, but not until the 20th. First we have the last couple of weeks of Lent, then Holy Week; first we continue with Jesus as he journeys toward Jerusalem. The resurrection will come, but not until first the suffering, the abandonment, the death of Jesus.

I'm looking ahead.

It was announced as part of the worship on March 23rd that my time as your pastor will draw to a close. My husband has been appointed to Walnut Creek First UMC as of July 1, 2025, and our family will be moving up that way by then. We enter now into a season of goodbyes, packing, thinking about what comes next, supporting our kids through a time of transition.

I'm trying to live in the moment, not get ahead of myself, not fear the what-ifs of the unknown.

But I am also looking ahead, to the resurrection. Believing as we do in resurrection, means we believe death is not the end. That God will work in secret and total mystery to do what we cannot, bring life where life shouldn't be expected. Life will come beyond what we can see with our own eyes.

And saying we believe, as we do, in the resurrection of the dead, means we should act like we believe God will do things beyond what we can see.

I'm looking ahead, too, to what God will do at Palm UMC in the time after I'm gone. I have full trust that the loving community, now having heartily welcomed Reedley First friends, will continue to grow those friendships, will continue to reach out in love to our neighbors, will continue to share Christ and live out the love of God, will welcome your next pastor and love them well as you have loved me.

Looking ahead helps us trust God so we can live each moment. We know the end of the story, so even through the rough times, we do not fear. I look forward to proclaiming with you on April 20 the refrain that echoes through the ages and will continue beyond my time on this earth: "Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!"

Your fellow servant of Christ--Pastor Michelle

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13 10:30 AM worship service at Palm Church

Maundy Thursday, April 17 worship service--at Christ Lutheran in Reedley, 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 18 worship service--at Palm UMC, 12:00 noon

Easter Sunday April 20 worship service 10:30 AM at Palm Church with "Flowering of the Cross,"

--congregational photo, special music, Easter egg hunt, Communion, and special lunch

Pastor Michelle Magee

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JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG PALM CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Linda Gourley (friend of Mary Esmay), Robert's co-worker Isaac, Brent Sadahiro's friend Alicia, Liz's cousin Grace Arifuku and mother Joyce Sasaki, Jennifer Washington, Judy Yoshimoto, Joe Takeda, Irene Pasillas, Joan (Lozano) Pritchett, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Julian Din, Sr; Phyllis Martzen, Yvonne Hanson, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez; Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto; Marcia Williams, Romeo and Norma Lozano, Miyeko Cabello, Dianne Young's sisters Denise and Connie; Wilson School Principal Maria Lichtenwaldt; Dianne's mother-in-law MaryJane Young; Melissa Prado, Tom Fritz, Ruth Kurihara, Aiko Takeda, Kim Maham, Lupe Gonzales; federal workers, firefighters, health care workers, teachers, refugees, Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Israel and Palestine, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

NEW ADDRESS : Marcia Williams, Park Visalia Assisted Living Community, 3939 West Walnut Avenue, Visalia 93277 ; cell 559-725-5428.

Deepest sympathy is offered to family and friends of Jim Bulls, who passed away February 24 in Reedley. Memorial service will be held at Palm Church on Saturday, April 12, at 2:00 PM.

Sincere condolences are extended to family and friends of Vickie Serios (Robert's mother) who died March 12, 2025, in Fresno.

Memorial service for Nancy Bellin will be held March 29, 11:30 AM, at Gateway Church in Visalia. Donations may be made to Valley Oak SPCA in her memory, in lieu of flowers.

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in March was 33.

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

All Palm Church Sunday 10:30 AM worship services are live-streamed via Facebook.

<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 4:00 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, March 20, at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

Philip Martzen will serve as Worship Leader on March 30 and on April 13 & 27; Liz Sasaki will serve on April 6 and on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Special Offering for UMCOR will be taken on Sunday, March 30.

April Tobans are Cathy Yada, Kathy Bell, Norma Lozano, Taye Abe, and Patti Remick. April birthdays will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Make plans now to attend the annual Ikebana Flower Show and Boutique on Saturday, April 5, 2:00—4:30. Proceeds from ticket sales go to support Dinuba Youth for Christ and Reedley Community Youth Services. Admission is \$5.00, and includes free refreshments.

Food Distribution will be held on April 26 at 9:00 AM.

Messy Church will be Saturday, March 29, at 4:30 PM with the theme of "Make a Joyful Noise." Join us for games crafts, music, and pizza !!

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 !!

CHOOSE YOUR CHURCH CLEAN-UP TASK FROM THE LIST ON PAGE THREE, AND PLEASE LET SUSAN KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING !! THANKS VERY MUCH !!

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

LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:30 AM, at Palm Methodist Church

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM, at Christ Lutheran Church, Reedley

Good Friday, April 18, 12:00 Noon, at Palm Methodist Church

Easter Sunday, April 20, 10:30 AM, at Palm Methodist Church— Lunch,

Annual Group Photo, "Flowering of the Cross," (please bring fresh flowers),

Communion, Children's Egg Hunt (please bring filled plastic eggs), Birthdays



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1—Jeff Fukushima 2—Desiree Domingo 5—Patricia Martzen
9—Miles Yada 11—Chin Cheak Yu Martzen
12—Cherry Cadiente 13—Pablo Róvere 15—Paige Mesias
17—Chuck Burks 19—Duane Abe, Frances Leibert
23—Patti Stone-Remick 26—Isaac Godinez
30—James Hanada



PALM CHURCH EASTER CLEAN-UP TASKS (Saturday, April 19, 2025)

(Let Susan know if you are willing to do any of these tasks before April 13, 559-679-8074 or 559-622-9009)

1. Dust pew cushions—shake outside.
2. Polish / wax pews.
3. Wipe windowsills (Rodney and Marian)
4. Clean stove, including oven.
5. Spider webs; re-seal kitchen granite (Lindy and Susan)
6. Shampoo Social Hall carpet (Angel Pedregon)
7. Dust ceiling fans. Run dishwasher.
8. Clean kitchen refrigerator.
9. Straighten kitchen drawers / cupboards.
10. Wash windows.



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.

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834-5135

THIS IS IMPORTANT !!

GOD AT WORK IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Our church is supplying scholarship funds for books for students at Wilson School for a fourth 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 (Fifth and Sixth Grades receive \$300), at the teacher's discretion. If you would like to give for the next school year to be able to continue, donations should be designated as Wilson School support.

Coming up-- *Cardiobaile* Fundraiser at Wilson School, April 24 at 6:00 PM !! Local dance exercise instructors will lead an intense and fun workout, while kids have their own physical activities. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds will go to our Wilson School scholarship fund. See Pastor Michelle for more details.

We will be blessing teaching staff at Wilson School with some extra treats this semester. Contact Marian and Dianne Y. for suggestions on ways to contribute to this encouragement for teachers !! 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.

2025 DINUBA PALM CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL **

- **Susan Yoshimura---Education Chair, Ad Board Chair, Lay Leader
- **Dianne Young—Missions co-Chair, Messy Church co-Leader
- **Kathy Glover-Bell— Treasurer
- **Marian Clifton—Missions co-Chair; Recording & Membership Secretary; History & Archives
- **Philip Martzen—Trustees Chair, Annual Conference Lay Representative
- **Pastor Michelle Magee—Nominations Chair
- **Diana Bulls—Worship Committee Chair, Finance Chair / Financial Secretary
- **Patti Remick—SPRC Chair
- ** Amanda Bulls-Stephens—Annual Conference Lay Representative, Certified Lay Speaker

Melanie Mizuno—Messy Church co-Leader
Sean Stephens—Webmaster
Rod Clifton—Audio / Visual Tech



Aiko Takeda 97th Birthday

MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS





Kathy Glover-Bell, Pastor Michelle Magee,
Melanie (Hirahara) Mizuno, Dianne Young
Baptism February 2025



**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







