



First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—HAPPY ALDERSGATE DAY !!

The root of politics and political is *polis* Greek for city-state, citadel or hilltop. So “political” means having to do with the *polis*. We know the ancient world’s first peoples were nomadic peoples wandering place to place, then agrarian societies planting crops, then eventually we lived in cities. And when all those different people were smashed in the same place with all their differences, they had to work some stuff out. When we are establishing ground rules of how we’re going to live together in shared space, that is politics.

In that sense, the Bible is political. The Ten Commandments, the stories of faith that guide us, the gospel of Jesus Christ are all political. It all has to do with how we treat one another. Our faith in God is reflected in our values and our life choices.

John Wesley had his famous “heart strangely warmed” experience on May 24, 1738 in Aldersgate, a conversion experience he had after he was already a priest, and on a questioning journey he had already begun about what faith in Jesus Christ really means. That day he knew without a doubt that Jesus saved him but his theology (now our Methodist theology) is known for the principle of social holiness- that how we live out being holy, is about our whole society, all levels of interaction. John Wesley went out of his way to help people with less resources. John Wesley got involved in public decision-making; he was political. Faith in Jesus is expressed in love for God and neighbor.

In our society today, politics is almost a dirty word, and owning that your faith is political can be harshly criticized or overly lauded, depending on the context. Yet our ongoing work is to continue to discern together as a faith community, what does our faith in Jesus and all we know about him, lead us to do in this *polis*? What stands and actions do we boldly take because we love God and our neighbor?

I am grateful to our leadership, your administrative council, for their discussion and discernment that led to us adopting our modified mission statement: “Sharing Christ and Standing with our Neighbors.” Our geographic area includes many people with less resources and possible reasons to fear unfair consequences from the current administration. The way Jesus lived his life shows us he would stand with people in these risk categories. As a church we have concrete ways we are being a support to our community (food distribution, Little Pantry and Library, our prayers, our partnership with Wilson School); but making this statement helps us remember and be accountable to our community. There are some things that are out of our control, but we have defined for ourselves that our faith in God will be lived out in a way that honors all sorts of people. In this way we stay true to our Methodist roots, social holiness and love for God and neighbor.

Happy Aldersgate day on May 24th!

PS My last Sunday at Palm will be June 15th! I hope to get a chance to say goodbye to many of you on or before that day! I have been very blessed to be your pastor and I give thanks to God for all of you!

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), 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, Tammy Barber (Cat House on the Kings), Joan Lozano Pritchett, Wilson School Principal Maria Lichtenwaldt, 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; Dianne's mother-in-law MaryJane Young; Melissa Prado, Ruth Kurihara, Aiko Takeda, Bill Yebisu, Dr. Richard Piel, 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.

Congratulations to Desiree Domingo and Eduardo Espino on the birth of baby Liam March 30, 2025, in Fresno.

Sincere condolences are extended to family and friends of Vickie Serios (Robert's mother) who died March 12, 2025, in Fresno. Deepest sympathy is offered to friends and family of Tom Fritz, who passed away on April 7, 2025, at home in Visalia. Sincere condolences are extended to family and friends of Naoko Noji, who died April 13, 2025.

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in April was 35.

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 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, May 22, at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

Pastor Michelle will serve as Worship Leader on May 4; our guest speaker will be Buffy Ruiz. Philip Martzen will serve on May 11 (Mothers Day) and 25; Patti Remick will serve on May 18. Don't miss the Mothers Day breakfast at 9:30 AM !! (Donations welcome.)

On June 15 (Fathers Day), we will honor Pastor Michelle, who will be moving to Walnut Creek. Our guest speaker on June 22 and 29 will be Amanda Bulls-Stephens. June 8 is Pentecost Sunday.

Spare Change Offering for Local Benevolence Fund will be taken on Sunday, May 4 and June 1.

May Tobans are Dianne Young, Diane Domingo, Stan Davis, Rosalinda Vasquez, Melanie Mizuno, Liz Sasaki, Amanda and Sean Stephens. May birthdays will be celebrated on May 18.

We will honor our graduates during Worship on June 1: London Serios and Anthony Espino, Washington Middle School, Dinuba; Lucas Róvere, Pioneer Middle School, Hanford; Trinity Róvere, Hanford High School, West; Quincy Yada, Reedley High School.

Messy Church will be Saturday, May 17, at 4:30 PM with the theme of "Rejoice In The Lord Always." Join us for games crafts, music, and taco truck !!

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 !!

Food Distribution will be held on May 24 at 9:00 AM.

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 7--Bob Pipkin
- 11--Daniel Toews
- 18--Romeo Lozano
- 19--Adelaide Clifton, Jennifer Washington
- 22--Derek Fujinaga, Gracie (Suastegui) Zaragoza
- 23--Lupe Gonzales
- 31--Natashya and Kinarii Martzen, Cheryl Lamb



IKEBANA CLASS 2025

Ikebana Flower Show and Boutique on April 5 combined raised over \$1600 !! Members of the class: (back row) Linda Cuellar, Donna Chiamori, Glenita Prince, Dianne Young, Heather Chiamori-Din; (front row) Blanca Katsura, Priscilla Winden, Dr. Liz Sasaki, Norma Lozano, Susan Yoshimura. (Julie Ishimaru and Mary Beth Janzen)



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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 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.

Cardiobaile Fundraiser at Wilson School, April 24, raised almost \$ 400.00 !! Local dance exercise instructors led an intense and fun workout, while kids had their own activities. Tickets cost \$10 and proceeds went into our Wilson School scholarship fund.

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.

Dear Church Family--

I just want to thank you for the beautiful floral cross at Jim's memorial service. It was a lovely tribute to him. But, I also want to thank ALL of you for your love, support and prayers during the last year, as we transitioned from life as we knew it to whatever God has in store for us now. Jim and I have always known that we were supported by the "everlasting arms" of Jesus, but all of you were right there as well. You welcomed us, loved us and blessed us. I really don't have the words to say how much we appreciate you. Thank you will have to say it all.

Love and Blessings from the Bulls Family--Diana, Rebecca, Amanda and Sean

MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS





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





Aiko Takeda 97th Birthday





