



First Word

Post Office Box 565

Dinuba, California 93618

559-591-0746

<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—TRANSITIONS AND GOOD-BYES

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven Ecclesiastes 3:1

I am in a season of goodbyes.

I am so grateful to God for my (almost) seven years as pastor of Palm UMC, overlapping one- ish at Reedley First and this last stretch of merging the two. I am grateful for getting to know you, for the ministries we have developed and implemented together, how we have shared God's love within our congregation and beyond.

I am looking back and remembering our first times together, support from the leadership from the beginning to develop more small groups and the growth of the Grace Groups; our Visioning Day and the ministries of Youth Activity Nights and GriefShare; developing a partnership with Wilson School; walking with one another through the difficult times of early Covid pandemic and switching everything to online; coming back together and working to implement Messy Church, the little free library and pantry, and a monthly food distribution, Open Gate annual Soup Lunch--not to mention celebrating 100 years! --the journey of merging, and more.

Our church is full of people with big hearts and genuine care for others. That is a wonderful gift. I have experienced your love and care firsthand. Comments on my sermons, Christmas cards and gifts, thank-you notes, a genuine interest, how are you, really? - are some of the ways I have experienced your thoughtfulness and care. Thank you is not enough- but it is what we do- I thank you all, and we thank God together.

If I can ask more of you, it is this: be ready to offer that support, love and care to Pastor Vicky as she transitions to being your pastor (and I know that you will!). She comes with her own unique gifts and perspectives; be ready to listen as well as teach her about this church and community. I am confident that under her leadership Palm will continue to "Share Christ and stand with our neighbors," will continue to be a place of genuine care, generosity of spirit, and overflowing love.

Meanwhile, I will not be available to you as your pastor after June 30, and no direct contact is encouraged for one year. After one year it will be appropriate for an occasional card, email, or other check-in, as a sibling in Christ. See more details further down. It might be a hard rule to follow but the intentions are for you to make space in your lives for Pastor Vicky. So let us say goodbye to one another well in this month.

It is a new season; we are still in the palm of God's hand. May God bless you now and always !!

--Pastor Michelle

P.S. My last Sunday at Palm will be June 15 !! 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 !!



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 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 and mother-in-law MaryJane Young; Melissa Prado, Ruth Kurihara, Aiko Takeda, Cherry Cadiente, Bill Yebisu, Dr. Richard Piel, Jerry & Ginger Munson, 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 ADDRESSES : Marcia Williams, Park Visalia Assisted Living Community, 3939 West Walnut Avenue, Visalia 93277 ; cell 559-725-5428.

Sincere condolences are extended to family and friends of Haruye "Hankus" (Nakamura) Nagata who died May 3, 2025, in Fresno, at the age of 102. Memorial service for Hankus will be held at the United Japanese Christian Church in Clovis on June 8, 2:00 PM.

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in May was 37.

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 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 and nametags will be encouraged out of consideration for the comfort and 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.

Romeo Lozano will serve as Worship Leader / Liturgist on June 1, Promotion Sunday; somebody will serve on June 15, Fathers Day; Philip Martzen will serve on June 8, Pentecost Sunday; Lynda Wilcox will serve on June 22; Liz Sasaki will serve on June 29.

On June 15 (Fathers Day), we will honor Pastor Michelle, who will be moving to Walnut Creek; Holy Communion will also be observed. Our guest speaker on June 22 will be Amanda Bulls-Stephens, and our guest speaker on June 29 will be Ramon Oyervidez.

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

June Tobans are Susan Yoshimura, Ruth Fujinaga, Marian Clifton, Diana Bulls, Tina Mizuno, and Janice Serios. June birthdays will be celebrated on June 22.

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.

Next Messy Church will be in September at 4:30 PM. Join us for games crafts, music, and food!!

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 June 28 at 9:00 AM.

Let Marian know if you wish to order an Easter 2025 group photo, full-page or half-page. marianclifton@verizon.net or call 559-834-5135

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR MICHELLE

(805) 233-5796

michelle.magee@cnumc.org

palmumc.org

facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba

As I finish my time at Palm, I thank you for all your love and support over the last seven years. I am grateful to God for Pastor Vicky Flores' appointment to Palm UMC and look forward to hearing how God continues to work in, among, and through you all, but from a distance. I will be observing the recommended personal distancing as you transition to getting to know her as your pastor, especially for the first year. And as the Discipline says, "All pastoral functions, for example preaching, baptisms, weddings, and funerals are the responsibility and privilege of the pastor under appointment to the specific (congregation)..." It is not personal, but the best policy for having the appointed pastor, truly be the pastor to the congregation. I am confident she will serve you well and that you will support and uplift her at the same time.

Because of the Communion of Saints and our hope in the Resurrection, we know that we are united in faith even through distance, and we will see each other again one day, one way or another! Peace be with you through our Lord Jesus Christ !!

--Pastor Michelle

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

5—Ruth Kurihara, Stan Davis
6—Lynda (Reis) Wilcox
7—Bryce Yoshimura 8—Patty Gonzales
9—Phyllis Hernandez
15—Robert Serios
19—Jerry Nagata, Rachel (Simmons) Clark
25—Dr. Liz Sasaki
26—Kathy Lamb



MOTHERS DAY 2025

BRUNCH CREW

Lindy Yoshimura, PJ Yebisu,
Romeo Lozano, Quincy Yada,
Jerry Yada, Severino Lozano,
Philip Martzen
(Dianne Young)



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 !!**

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 over \$ 400.00 !! Local dance exercise instructors led an intense and fun workout, while kids had their own activities. Proceeds went into our Wilson School scholarship fund.

We have been blessing teaching staff at Wilson School with some extra treats this semester. Thanks to Marian and Dianne Y. for coordinating this effort !! We will see in the fall with the new principal how we can best be support and encouragement. 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.

**ALL ARE INVITED TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT
RALLY AND POTLUCK ON SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1:00—4:00 pm,
AT THE MADERA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
500 SUNSET BOULEVARD, FOR AN AFTERNOON OF
SINGING, PRAYING, AND CELEBRATING !!**

MISSION u 2025

**LADIES ARE INVITED TO A UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RETREAT,
FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 25-27, AT THE
EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER OAKHURST (ECCO) !!
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS
kalesitafaasisila@yahoo.com**

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







