



Palm UMC

PALM LEAF September 2025 **First Word**

Post Office Box 565

Dinuba, California 93618

559-591-0746

<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS: COMMUNITY

During the month of August we have been learning from the Apostle Paul through the Book of Galatians about what it means to be a community of believers guided by the Holy Spirit. Galatians is a letter written to a group of believers who were struggling to understand what it truly means to live by grace, not based on the law, tradition, or human effort, but a living faith that works through love, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit helps us form a new kind of community, where human divisions are broken down, and love binds us together. In Christ, we are no longer defined by our past, our background, or our social status, we are defined by our relationship with Him and with one another. When we walk in the Spirit, we become more compassionate and patient with each other. The Spirit doesn't just change our hearts, He also changes how we live together.

As your pastor, my prayer is that each of us, no matter our age or stage of life, will embrace the freedom Christ offers. That we will stop striving to earn what has already been given, and instead, rest in the assurance of God's grace. Let us walk in the Spirit, allowing His presence to guide our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

To those of you reading this from rest homes or places where mobility may be limited, remember this, your worth is not measured by what you can do, but by who you are in Christ. You are deeply loved! Whether you're able to attend church in person, on Facebook or you can not attend right now, you are a vital and cherished part of our church family.

Let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to shape us into the church God desires, one marked by love, joy, and unity. In a divided world, may we shine as a new community, bearing witness to the power of God among us.

Blessings, Pastor Vicky Flores

****Pastor Vicky will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG PALM CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Linda Gourley (friend of Mary Esmay), Brent Sadahiro's friend Alicia, Liz's mother Joyce Sasaki, Judy Yoshimoto, Joe Takeda, Irene Pasillas, Tammy Barber (Cat House on the Kings), Joan Lozano Pritchett, Maria Lichtenwaldt, Reggie (Conway) McLean, and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Yvonne Hanson, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family; Liz's cousin Wayne Morimoto; Marcia Williams, Romeo and Norma Lozano, Miyeko Cabello (Palm Village rehab); Dianne Young's cousin James, sisters Denise and Connie, and mother-in-law MaryJane; Ruben, Lisa, and Vanessa Delgado; Ruth Kurihara, Aiko Takeda, Cherry Cadiente, Bill Yebisu, Dr. Richard Piel, Jerry & Ginger Munson, Lupe Gonzales; federal workers, firefighters, health care workers, teachers, refugees and immigrants, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Congo, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, the Middle East / Gaza Strip, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers. In fact, pray for our whole world.

Deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of Jennifer (Clifton) Washington, who passed away early Thursday, August 7, 2025, after a long battle with cancer.

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in August was 35.

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 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 is 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, August 21, at 5:00 PM on ZOOM.

Romeo Lozano will serve as Worship Leader on August 31; Patti Stone-Remick will serve on September 7 & 21, Norma Lozano will serve on September 14, and Liz Sasaki will serve on September 28.

Spare Change Offering for our Local Benevolence Fund will be taken on Communion Sunday, September 7. Spare Change Offering on October 5, World Communion Sunday, will bless UMCOR.

September Tobans are Susan Yoshimura, Marian Clifton, Ruth Fujinaga, Janice Serios, Diana Bulls, and Tina Mizuno. Patriot Day will be honored on Sunday, September 14; birthdays will be celebrated on September 21.

Ikebana class will resume on Saturday, September 13, at 1:30 PM.

Next Messy Church will be on October 4 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 Saturday, September 27 and October 25 at 9:00 AM. Bagging volunteers are welcome to meet at the church at 3:30 PM Friday or 8:00 AM Saturday.

Mark your calendar for the 72nd annual Oriental Dinner, Bake Sale and Boutique, scheduled for Saturday, November 8, at Palm Church !!

Palm Church Tamale Fund-raiser will be held Saturday, September 20 (pick-up at 5:00 PM). (Helpers please be at the church at 9:00 AM Friday and Saturday.)



WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR VICKY

cell 559-772-5104 (preferred)

vicky.flores@cnumc.org

palmumc.org

[facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba](https://www.facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba)



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2— Jerry Munson
3— Yuriko Ito
11—Tommy Kurihara
15—Yvonne Hanson
17—Lindsay Takeda
18—Randy Ide
21—Robert “Babe” Pipkin
23—Johnny Leibert
26—Greg Mizuno
27—London Serios, Joey Galvan
28—Janice Serios
29—Tina Mizuno



PALM CHURCH

KATHY CLUB !!

L-R: Cathy Yada

Kathy Onishi

Kathy Lamb

Kathy Bell



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 559-834-5135 **THIS IS IMPORTANT !!**

GOD AT WORK IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Our church is supplying scholarship funds for books for students at Wilson School for a fifth 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.

We will see with the new principal, Adrian Gutierrez, 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.

We assembled and delivered two Welcome-Back-To-School goody baskets for Wilson School Teachers and Staff on August 27 !! Thank you for your generosity !!

CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
POTLUCK
(water and fried chicken provided)

Wesley United Methodist Church
1343 East Barstow Avenue, Fresno

Saturday, September 6, 2025 12:00 noon – 2:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:
Amanda Bulls-Stephens 559-672-4574
bighatbulls@hotmail.com



FRESH HOME-MADE TAMALES!!

Palm Methodist Church

438 West Tulare Street, Dinuba

Cheese or Pork

\$ 20.00 / dozen

Order from church members OR

call 559-591-0746

Pick up Saturday,

September 20, 2025, 5:00 PM

PALM CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL 2025 ** voting members

- ** Susan Yoshimura—Ad Council Chair, Education Chair
- **Patti Stone-Remick— Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair
- **Philip Martzen—Trustees Chair, Annual Conference Lay Representative
- **Diana Bulls—Finance Chair / Financial Secretary, Worship Committee Chair, AC Alternate
- **Amanda Bulls-Stephens--Certified Lay Speaker
- **Marian Clifton—Recording Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Archives, Missions co-Chair
- **Dianne Young—Missions co-Chair, Messy Church co-Leader
- Melanie Mizuno—Messy Church co-Leader
- Rod Clifton—Audio / Visual Tech
- Sean Stephens—Webmaster
- Daniel Toews—Pianist
- **Vicky Flores--Pastor



MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS







Aiko Takeda 97th Birthday







