



**First Word**

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<https://palmumc.org>

### PASTOR'S PONDERINGS— LENT

We are almost at the end of Lent, but we still have time to pause, look inward, and let Jesus do His work in us. Lent is a season that invites us to slow down and be honest about what is going on inside our hearts. Life can be busy and loud, and it is easy to ignore the deeper parts of our lives. But when we take a moment to be still, we may notice that some things inside of us don't feel alive anymore. Maybe our faith feels weak. Maybe we are holding onto hurt, fear, or guilt. Maybe we feel distant from God. Instead of avoiding these places, Lent calls us to face them with honesty and hope.

One of the most important truths we are reminded of during this season is this: resurrection is not just something Jesus does, it is Who He is. When Jesus spoke to Martha, He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." He did not say, "I will bring resurrection" or "I can fix this." He said, "I am." That changes how we see everything. Now the question is not, "Can this part of my life be made new again?" The real question is, "Do I trust Jesus?"

So often, we focus only on what feels broken. We think about our struggles, our failures, and the things that seem too far gone. But Lent invites us to shift our focus. Instead of looking only at the problem, we are called to look at Jesus. Faith begins to grow again when we trust the Person, not just the outcome.

Jesus meets us right where we are. He is not waiting for us to fix ourselves first. He comes to the tired places, the hurting places, and even the places that feel dead inside of us. And He speaks life. During these final days of Lent, we still have time to open our hearts to Him. Through prayer, quiet moments, and honest reflection, we can make space for Jesus to enter those hidden areas of our lives.

What in you needs new life? Maybe it is a relationship that needs healing. Maybe it is forgiveness you have been holding back. Maybe it is your faith that feels small or distant. Whatever it is, Jesus is not far away. He stands ready to bring life again. But we must be willing to trust Him.

Lent is not about being perfect. It is about being open. It is about letting Jesus into every part of our lives, even the parts we try to hide.

As we move closer to Easter, let us remember that resurrection is already at work. Jesus is still bringing life, still restoring hearts, still making things new. And it can begin in you, even now.

Blessings, Pastor Vicky Flores

Pastor Vicky Flores

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<https://www.facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba>

## JOYS AND CONCERNS AMONG PALM CHURCH FAMILY

Please continue to pray for cancer warriors Linda Treadaway, Linda Gourley (!), Liz's sister Dianne and mother Joyce, Judy Yoshimoto, Jerry Hopkins, Gary Ishida (!), Joe Takeda, Irene Pasillas(!), Tammy Barber (Cat House on the Kings), Joan Lozano Pritchett (!), Lynda's friend, Maria Lichtenwaldt, Mike and Laurel Ridgway (Selma FUMC) (!), Reggie (Conway) McLean (!), and Tammy Campbell.

Please keep Ramon Oyervidez, Yvonne Hanson, Carol Rossi-Christianson, Jamie Campbell, Rosalinda Vasquez and her family; Dr. Liz Sasaki's family; Marcia Williams, Carolyn Cordova's great-niece Guinevere and cousin Alisha; Romeo and Norma Lozano; Dianne Young's cousin James, sisters Denise and Connie, and mother-in-law MaryJane; Ruben and Lisa Delgado; Ruth Kurihara, Aiko Takeda; Pastor Vicky's cousin Rosa Duarte and her family; Dr. Richard Piel, Lupe Gonzales; police and firefighters, veterans, Federal employees, health care workers, SNAP recipients, farmers / farm workers, teachers, refugees and immigrants, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Congo, Haiti / Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Taiwan, the Middle East / Gaza Strip, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

**Congratulations to Jacob Flores and Randy Barba who were baptized on February 8 !!  
Congratulations to Randy, Valerie, and Valentina Barba on the birth March 6 of baby Roman Jeremiah Barba !!**

**Deepest sympathy is offered to family and friends of Carol Conway who died on March 16 in Reedley. Graveside service will be held on April 6, 11:00 AM, at Smith Mountain Cemetery.**

**Palm Church average Sunday attendance in March was 36 .**

## PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 10:00 AM at 780 Harvard in Dinuba. Old Testament Bible Study convenes on Wednesdays at 10:30 via conference call. Ad Council will meet at 5:00 on April 23, 2026, via ZOOM.

**Spare Change Offering will be taken on Easter Sunday for the Local Benevolence Fund.**

**Liz Sasaki will serve as Worship Leader on March 29, Palm Sunday; Coffee Hour will be potluck; please bring your favorite dish to share !! Amanda Bulls-Stephens will serve as Worship leader for the Good Friday service on April 3 at 12:00 noon; all are encouraged to wear black. . Liz Sasaki will serve as Worship Leader on Easter Sunday, April 5; Philip Martzen will serve on April 12; Tina Mizuno will serve on April 19, Birthday Sunday; Lynda Wilcox will serve on April 26.**

**April Tobans are Dianne Young, Rosalinda Vasquez, Stan Davis, Liz Sasaki, Diane Domingo, and Sean & Amanda. Birthdays will be celebrated on April 19.**

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, APRIL 3, WILL BE HELD AT 12:00 NOON AT PALM CHURCH. TRADITIONAL EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION ON APRIL 5 WILL INCLUDE COMMUNION, GROUP PHOTO, "FLOWERING OF THE CROSS," EGG HUNT, AND LUNCH. EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING TWO DOZEN FILLED PLASTIC EASTER EGGS !!**

**DINUBA COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT ROSE ANN VUICH PARK BANDSHELL AT 6:30 am ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026.**

**Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, March 28 and April 25 at 9:00 AM. Bagging volunteers are welcome to meet at the church at 3:00 PM Friday or 8:00 AM Saturday.**

## WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR VICKY

cell 559-772-5104 (preferred)

[vicky.flores@cnumc.org](mailto:vicky.flores@cnumc.org)

[palmumc.org](http://palmumc.org)

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



Pastor Vicky will be in the Palm Church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**THANK YOU TO SEAN STEPHENS FOR UPGRADING THE PALM CHURCH WEBSITE !! TAKE A LOOK !!** [palmumc.org](http://palmumc.org)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1—Jeff Fukushima 2—Desiree Domingo  
4—Pastor Vicky Flores 5—Patricia Martzen  
9—Miles Yada 11—Chin Cheak Yu Martzen  
14—Salvador Flores 15—Paige Mesias  
17—Kenneth Flores, Chuck Burks  
19—Duane Abe, Frances Leibert  
23—Patti Stone-Remick  
26—Isaac Godinez  
30—James Hanada, Scott Shaver



**March 8, 2026**

**“Winnie the Pooh”  
themed shower  
for Greg and  
Melanie and Baby  
Girl Mizuno !!**



**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](mailto: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 sixth 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 also filled and delivered three baskets of snacks for Wilson School staff. 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.

**"GRANNY SCAM " WARNING !!**

**There are recent reports of text messages, phone calls, and emails going out asking for personal information for DMV, the bank, or health care or asking people to purchase gift cards on Palm Church's behalf for others. These may sound legitimate, but they are a scam. Please check the phone number or email of anything suspicious, or call a friend to verify !! Please do not answer an unfamiliar number or reply to anything that feels "weird !!" Never give out personal information over the phone !!**

**2026 DINUBA PALM CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL\*\***  
**(voting members)**

- \*\*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 Vicky Flores—Nominations Chair
- \*\*Diana Bulls—Worship Committee Chair, Finance Chair / Financial Secretary
- \*\*Patti Remick—SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) Chair
- \*\* Amanda Bulls-Stephens— Annual Conference Alternate, Certified Lay Speaker
- Melanie Mizuno—Messy Church co-Leader
- Sean Stephens—Webmaster
- Rod Clifton—Audio / Visual Tech



**Palm Methodist Church  
21<sup>st</sup> Ikebana Flower Show  
and Boutique / Bake Sale**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**

**2:00—4:30 PM**

**\$ 5.00 Admission**

West Tulare and "P" Streets, Dinuba

**Free Refreshments**

proceeds benefit

Tulare-Kings County Youth for Christ  
and Reedley Community Youth Ministries

MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS-2022





**TAMALE FUND-RAISER  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**







Aiko Takeda 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday









