



PALM LEAF

Palm UMC
February 2026

First Word

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS— FEAR

As a Pastor one of my responsibilities is to have the next sermon ready but this time I want to spend a little bit more time on last Sunday's sermon (1/26/26). I invite you to go back to Psalm 27 and read it not like any other text but instead read it as a prayer. We are not meant to read it as someone else's story only. We are invited to make it our own. When we pray, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" we are not saying that fear is gone. We are bringing our fear to God. This psalm gives us words for times when life feels uncertain, heavy, or overwhelming. It teaches us how to pray even when we feel unsure.

The confidence in Psalm 27 does not come from strength or positive thinking. David does not say, "I am strong, so I will not fear." He says the Lord is his light and his salvation. The world gives us many reasons to be afraid. We see division, violence, loss, and uncertainty all around us. Fear shapes how people react and protect themselves. But fear is not meant to guide God's people. Our trust is not in what we see, but in who God is. This prayer also makes room for faith and doubt. Doubt is not the opposite of faith. Fear is. In the Bible, faith and doubt often exist together. Many of us know the prayer, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief." Doubt can keep us humble. It reminds us that we need God. When we think we have all the answers, we close ourselves off. When we trust God with humility, grace has room to grow.

The Bible tells us again and again not to fear. But fear does not disappear just because we tell it to leave. Fear is healed through love, presence, and relationship. Scripture says, "Perfect love casts out fear." That love is shown to us in Jesus Christ. When we rest in Christ's love, fear begins to loosen its hold. Life may still be hard, but we do not face it alone. We also live in a time of constant news and noise. Headlines, opinions, and breaking stories are always in front of us. While it is good to stay informed, too much focus on the news can fill our hearts with fear. Our faith was not meant to be shaped by the news cycle. Psalm 27 calls us to turn our attention back to God. When we spend more time in prayer, Scripture, and worship than in the news, our hearts find peace again. God is still at work, even when the headlines say otherwise.

Psalm 27 reminds us that God is our shelter. God lifts us up and places us on steady ground. From that place, we worship with joy. Today, our offering to God is not a sacrifice of blood, but of self. We offer our pride, our stubbornness, and our need to protect ourselves. As we seek God each day, we begin to notice grace in simple places, for example: in neighbors, kindness, beauty, and moments of joy. When our lives are filled with seeking God, fear loses its power.

The Lord is our light and our salvation. When we seek God's face, we learn how to live without fear. We carry God's light into the world by how we live, love, and trust. In that light, we walk forward, together and unafraid.

Blessings, Pastor Vicky

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 (friend of Mary Esmay), Brent Sadahiro's friend Alicia, 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, 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 cousin Alicia, 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, Cherry Cadiente; Pastor Vicky's cousin Rosa Duarte and her family; Dr. Richard Piel, Jerry & Ginger Munson, Lupe Gonzales; police and firefighters, health care workers, SNAP recipients, farmers / farm workers, teachers, refugees and immigrants, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Congo, Haiti / Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, the Middle East / Gaza Strip, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of Reverend Kenneth Crabtree, former Fellowship UMC pastor, who died on December 13, 2025, in Visalia.

Sincere condolences are extended to friends and family of Mary Martinez Orduño, who passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at home in Dinuba.

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in January was 33 .

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 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 1st and 3rd 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 February 26, 2026.

Spare Change Offering will be taken on Communion Sunday, February 1.

Phil Martzen will serve as Worship Leader on February 1; Tina Mizuno will serve on February 8; Patti Stone-Remick will serve on February 15; Liz Sasaki will serve on February 22.

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

Ikebana class will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 1:30 PM.

MESSY CHURCH WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14 AT 3:30 PM. JOIN US FOR GAMES CRAFTS, MUSIC, AND A MEAL !!

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL SOUP, SANDWICH, AND DESSERT LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, AT PALM CHURCH, TO BENEFIT OPEN GATE MINISTRIES OF DINUBA !! (SEE FLYER ON PAGE FIVE.)

Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, February 28 and March 28 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)

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



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1—Elisenda Espitia 3—Donna Sadahiro
4—Michael Kurihara, Ted Aivazian
5—Andy Fern 6—Andy Clifton, Tracy Kiritani
8—Iris Yamagata 9—Winnie Cadiente
10—John Vilorio, Matt Shaver
11—Diane Domingo 12—Ricky Pipkin
14—Mark Shaver 15—Esperanza Burks
17—Joe Takeda 18—Judy Hernandez Perry
25—Colleen Gray
27—Jessica Serios, Karen Tucker Sullivan



OZONI SOUP CREW January 18

“GOOD LUCK FOR 2026”

Dianne Young

Dr. Liz Sasaki-Yebisu

Susan Yoshimura

Diane Domingo

Carolyn Cordova



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 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 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 !!

Baby Shower for Melanie and Greg Mizuno !!

Baby Girl Mizuno is due in April, so we are throwing a shower for the family on Sunday, March 8, following worship !! Lunch provided !!

Here is gift registry information :

<https://my.babylist.com/melanie-mizuno>

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/melanie-mizuno-april-2026-reedley/24M1KOO69ZS8L>

PALM METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL SOUP, SANDWICH, AND DESSERT LUNCH
TO BENEFIT OPEN GATE MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026 11:00 AM—1:00 PM
\$ 10.00 INCLUDES

DAGWOOD SANDWICH:
Ham, Turkey, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle, Avocado



SOUPS:

**Albondigas (Meatball), Clam Chowder,
Chicken Noodle, or Hearty Vegetable**



DESSERTS:

Muffin or Fruit Cobbler

JOIN US FOR MESSY CHURCH !!

Saturday, February 14, 2026

3:30--5:30 pm

Palm Methodist Church
corner Tulare and "P" Streets, Dinuba
Crafts, Games, Celebration, Meal !!

Theme: Love Your Neighbor

MESSY CHURCH PHOTOS



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







Aiko Takeda 97th Birthday









