



PALM LEAF



Palm UMC

January 2026



First Word

Post Office Box 565

Dinuba, California 93618

559-591-0746

<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—END OF YEAR

Dear Palm UMC,

Today I pause to thank God for this new church and for the fresh beginning we share together. I am grateful for how God has brought us to this moment. This church is more than a building or a plan—it is a gift from God and a sign of God's care and faithfulness. We trust that God has been with us every step of the way and will continue to guide us as we grow.

I also give thanks for this community my family and I are getting to know. Each conversation, each welcome, and each shared moment helps us learn what it means to live and serve here. We are grateful for this community and for the chance to listen, learn, and build relationships. God was already at work in this place before we arrived, and it is a blessing to join in what God is doing.

We thank God for one another. For every act of kindness, every prayer, every helping hand, and every quiet moment of faithfulness. Some work is seen and some is unseen, but all of it matters. Each person plays an important part in the life of this church. Together, we are becoming a community shaped by love, care, and hope.

As we look toward a new year, we do so with trust and hope. We know there will be challenges, but we also believe God will give us strength and wisdom for what lies ahead. We look forward to a year of meaningful ministry—growing in faith, worshiping together, serving our neighbors, and sharing God's love in simple and real ways.

May we enter this new year with thankful hearts and open hands. May we stay focused on God, care deeply for one another, and serve with joy. We place this church, this community, and the work ahead into God's loving care. Thanks be to God for all that has been and all that is still to come. Amen

--Pastor Vicky

Pastor Vicky Flores

559-772-5104

vicky.flores@cnumc.org

<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, Norma's sister Pat, 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.

Congratulations to Melanie and Greg Mizuno, who are expecting a bundle of joy in April of 2026 !!

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in December was 33 .

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 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 11:00 via conference call. Ad Council will meet at 5:00 on January 22, 2026.

Spare Change Offering for the Local Benevolence Fund will be taken on Communion Sunday, January 4.

Philip Martzen will serve as Worship Leader on December 28 and January 11; Tina Mizuno will serve on January 4 & 18; Lynda Wilcox will serve on January 25.

January Tobans are Dianne Young, Stan Davis, Diane Domingo, Rosalinda Vasquez, Liz Sasaki, Melanie Mizuno, and Sean & Amanda. Birthdays will be celebrated on Sunday, January 18.

Ikebana class will be held on Saturday, January 10, 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 !!

Please bring your donations of dried beans, dried fruit, rice, cereal, and pasta; and canned goods for the Little Free Pantry to Palm Church any Sunday. Thank you !! Diana Bulls is also collecting blank stationery and greeting cards for homeless veterans in the Fresno area.

Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, December 27 and January 24 at 9:00 AM. Bagging volunteers are welcome to meet at the church at 3:00 PM Friday or 8:00 AM Saturday.

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. In December Palm Church sponsored an "Angel Tree" family of eight at Wilson School with gift cards totaling \$250. 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 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 !! Be safe !!

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
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









