



PALM LEAF



Palm UMC



March 2026

First Word

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<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS— LENT

Beloved Church--

Each year, Lent invites us into a slower, quieter season of faith. It is a time when the church gently calls us to pause, reflect, and return to what matters most. In a world that constantly pushes us forward, Lent pulls us inward. It reminds us that our faith is not only something we celebrate on Sundays, but something we live deeply in our hearts every day.

At its core, Lent is about remembering sacrifice...God's sacrifice for us. We often talk about giving things up during Lent. Some fast from certain foods. Others step away from distractions like social media or entertainment. These practices can be meaningful, but they are not the center of Lent. They are only signposts pointing us to something far greater: the incredible love of God, who gave His Son for the redemption of humanity.

Before we ever give anything up, God gave first. Lent invites us to sit with that truth. The story we journey toward is not one of human effort, but divine love. God did not send Jesus because humanity had earned it. God sent Jesus because humanity needed it. Where there was brokenness, God brought healing. Where there was sin, God brought mercy. Where there was death, God brought life.

This is the heart of Lent. It is easy to rush ahead to Easter joy, but Lent teaches us the importance of staying with the story. It gives us space to remember that redemption came at a cost. The cross was not an accident. It was an act of love. Jesus walked willingly toward suffering, not because pain had value in itself, but because people had value to God.

You and I have value to God. Lent asks us to reflect on that deeply personal truth. We are not distant observers of this story. We are the reason it happened. The sacrifice of Christ was not just for the world in general—it was for each of us. For our failures. For our fears. For the parts of our lives we would rather hide. The cross tells us that nothing is beyond the reach of God's love.

This season also reshapes how we understand sacrifice in our own lives. When we give something up during Lent, it is not meant to be a spiritual transaction. We are not trying to earn God's approval. Instead, our small sacrifices become reminders. They point us back to the One Who gave everything. They create space in our lives to pray more honestly, love more freely, and trust more deeply.

Lent ultimately leads us to gratitude. When we take time to remember what God has done, our hearts begin to soften. We become more aware of grace. More patient with others. More willing to forgive. More open to transformation. The journey of Lent is not about guilt; it is about awakening. It is about rediscovering the depth of God's love and allowing that love to shape us.

As we walk through this Lenten season together, may we resist the urge to hurry past it. Let us slow down. Let us remember. Let us stand in awe of the God who gave His Son so that we might know redemption and new life. And as we do, may gratitude lead us, not only to Easter celebration, but to lives marked by love, humility, and hope.

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 (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, 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 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; Pastor Vicky's cousin Rosa Duarte and her family; Dr. Richard Piel, 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 condolences are extended to family and friends of Cherry Cadiente, who passed away on November 25, 2025, in Hanford.

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in February was 33 .

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 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 March 19, 2026.

Spare Change Offering will be taken on Communion Sunday, March 1, for the Wilson Elementary School Fund.

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8 !!

Lynda Wilcox will serve as Worship Leader on March 1; Tina Mizuno will serve on March 8; Phil Martzen will serve as Worship Leader on March 15; Patti Stone-Remick will serve on March 22; Liz Sasaki will serve on March 29, Palm Sunday.

March Tobans are Kathy Bell, Norma Lozano, Cathy Yada, Taye Abe, Lynda Wilcox, and Patti Stone-Remick. Birthdays will be celebrated on Sunday, March 15.

Spring Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

MARCH 29 PALM SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR WILL BE A POTLUCK; PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE !! GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, APRIL 3, WILL BE AT 12:00 NOON AT PALM CHURCH. TRADITIONAL EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION ON APRIL 5 WILL INCLUDE COMMUNION, GROUP PHOTO, "FLOWERING OF THE CROSS," AND EGG HUNT. EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING TWO DOZEN FILLED PLASTIC EASTER EGGS !!

Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, 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.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1--Pattie Kurihara
2—Letty Lamb, Mary Esmay
3—Victoria Din
4—Jureli Canchola
8—Steven Bulosan
12—Jason Kurihara
14—Esther (Gray) Kirkpatrick
20—Peter Mesias
21—Aiko Takeda, Walter Martzen
31—Maggie Fern, Craig Yoshihara



Open Gate Soup, Sandwich & Dessert Lunch Crew February 4, 2026:

Rodney & Marian, Donna & Sandy, Dianne Y, Diane D, Diana B, Liz, Stan, Susan, Ruth, Taye; Kathleen Kelley, Donna Musson, Donna Ethridge, Naoko Kozina, Jean Gerstenberg, Toni Gerbrandt, Jim & Becky Brown, Carol Harland



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
21st 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 97th Birthday









