



First Word

Post Office Box 565

Dinuba, California 93618

559-591-0746

<https://palmumc.org>

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS—A NEW SEASON

Dear Dinuba Palm UMC,

As we enter the month of July, our congregation will begin an important new chapter together as we move our Sunday worship service to 11:00 a.m. Change is a natural part of life, yet it is not always easy. We become attached to familiar schedules, routines, and traditions because they provide comfort and stability. Even positive changes can bring uncertainty as we adjust to new rhythms and expectations.

The people of God have always been a people on the move. Throughout scripture we see God leading God's people into new seasons, new places, and new opportunities for ministry. Abraham was called to leave his homeland and trust God's promises. The disciples left their nets to follow Jesus into an unknown future. The early church adapted and changed as the Holy Spirit opened doors to new communities and new ways of sharing the gospel. Time and again, God reminds us that faith often means trusting God enough to take the next step, even when the path ahead is unfamiliar.

As your pastor, I invite you to embrace this change with hopeful hearts and open minds. While the hour on the clock may be different, the heart of who we are remains unchanged. We gather to worship God, to grow in faith, to care for one another, and to serve our community in the name of Christ. My prayer is that this new worship time will provide renewed energy and opportunities for our congregation as we continue living out our mission together.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the generosity, flexibility, and grace you have shown in allowing me to devote a quarter of my pastoral appointment to serving the congregation in Selma. Your willingness to share your pastor reflects the very best of our Methodist connectional tradition. It is a reminder that ministry is never about one church standing alone but about communities of faith working together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Serving both congregations will be a blessing to me personally and spiritually. We have witnessed faithful discipleship, generosity, and love for Christ in both communities. Although we worship in different places, we share the same mission and the same calling to make disciples and serve our neighbors.

My hope and prayer is that the ties between our two congregations will grow stronger in the months and years ahead. Perhaps God is creating opportunities for shared fellowship, mission projects, outreach ministries, and mutual encouragement that we have not yet imagined. I believe there is great strength and beauty when churches support and learn from one another.

As we move into this new season together, may we do so with confidence and faith, trusting that God goes before us and walks beside us every step of the way. The God who has been faithful in the past will continue to be faithful in the future. Let us embrace the changes before us with hope, gratitude, and expectation for all that God still has in store for our congregation and our shared ministry.

Blessings, Pastor Vicky Flores

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, Tammy Barber (Cat House on the Kings), Carolyn Cordova, Marian Clifton, Marylyn Glover, 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; Marcia Williams; Emma Yoshihara, Norma Lozano and daughter Joan Lozano Pritchett; Dianne Young and cousin James, sisters Denise and Connie, and mother-in-law MaryJane; Ruben and Lisa Delgado; Ruth Kurihara, Aiko Takeda; Shizuki Kunishige (home hospice); Pastor Vicky's father Roberto Duarte; Dr. Richard Piel, Lupe Gonzales; police and firefighters, veterans, Federal health care workers, SNAP recipients, farmers / farm workers, teachers, refugees and immigrants, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Congo, Haiti / Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Taiwan, the Middle East / Gaza Strip, Lebanon, our country, and Open Gate Ministries in your prayers.

Deepest sympathy is extended to family and friends of Irene (Mason) Pasillas, long-time Case Manager at Open Gate Shelter, who passed away June 19, 2026, at home in Dinuba.

Congratulations to four more graduates: Mark Shaver, Master's Degree in Education, Teachers' College of the San Joaquin, Stockton; Isabella Pipkin, Science Entrepreneur Technology High School, San Diego; Malaiyah Fujinaga-Starks, Kennedy High School, Sacramento; Jason Bane, Bullard High School, Fresno. We are so proud of you !!

Palm Church average Sunday attendance in June was 35 !!

PALM CHURCH NEWS BITS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026

PALM CHURCH SUNDAY 11:00 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—438 W. 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 July 23, 2026, via ZOOM.

Spare Change Offering for the Wilson School Book Scholarship Fund will be taken on Communion Sunday, July 5 and August 2, 2026. Back-to-School Goody Baskets for Wilson School staff will be assembled in August; donations are welcome !!

Dr. Liz Sasaki-Yebisu will serve as Worship Leader on June 28 , when Buffy Ruiz will be our guest speaker. Phil Martzen will serve on July 5, when our guest speaker will be Pastor Eric Brown from Hanford. Patti Remick will serve as Worship Leader on July 12, Tina Mizuno will serve on July 19, and Lynda Wilcox will serve on July 26.

July Tobans are Diane Domingo, Stan Davis, Dianne Young, Rosalinda Vasquez, Melanie Mizuno, Dr. Liz Sasaki, and Sean and Amanda ; birthdays will be celebrated on July 12.

Food Distribution will be held on Saturday, July 25, and August 22 at 9:00 AM. Bagging volunteers are welcome to meet at the church at 3:00 PM Friday or 8:00 AM Saturday.

Palm Church 2026-2027 directories are available for pickup at church. Let Marian know if you would like to have a copy mailed to you.

Marian, Dianne, and Lynda are collecting zucchini recipes—thank you for offering your favorites by email or hard-copy only, please !! A picture would also be great !!

WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASTOR VICKY

cell 559-772-5104 (preferred)

vicky.flores@cnumc.org

palmumc.org

facebook.com/PalmUMCDinuba



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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1—James Lamb, Jackie Pipkin, Jim Crawford
2—Lucia Galvan, Niekorri Martzen
7—Jacob Espino, Cassie Yoshihara
9—Pat dela Montanya
11—Lee Bulosan 14—Lewis Verne Clifton
16—Ramon Oyervidez 17—Don Fujinaga
19—Sandy Sadahiro, Norma Lozano
20—Valerie (Flores) Barba
21—Kathy Munson-Botkin
30—Augi Fern



RUTH KURIHARA'S 100TH BIRTHDAY JUNE 5, 2026

**Front Row-- Syndey
(Kurihara) Furtado,
Ruth, Rick Kurihara
Back Row-- Steve
Furtado; Leah (Mrs.
Rick), Kyle, "Miko,"
and Kristen Kurihara;
Julia, Andrew, and
Sarah Furtado**



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 seventh 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 also be filling Welcome-Back-to-School goody baskets for Wilson School teachers and staff in August; donations are welcome !! 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
**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 Minister
Sean Stephens---Webmaster
Rod Clifton---Audio / Visual Tech



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

4th Saturday 9:00 AM

July 25, Aug. 22

Line forms at 8:30 AM.

**Palm Methodist Church
West Tulare & "P" Streets
Dinuba**

In conjunction with Open Gate Ministries



United
Women
in Faith

— Central Valley District —

Summer General Meeting

July 18th, 2026
10-12pm, Zoom

Join us for:
fellowship, conversation, District updates
mission & social action highlights

All women are welcome



Scan to register and
recieve Zoom link

Questions?
Contact Amanda Bulls Stephens
bighatbulls@hotmail.com
559 672 4574

Central Valley Rally!

Saturday, July 11

Madera UMC

500 Sunset Avenue • Madera, CA

Rally ~ 1-3 pm

Rally will include

MUSIC

SINGING

PRAYER

• PLUS •

A story (or two) from DS Mary
about the State of the District

• PLUS •

Celebration of those newly
serving in the Central Valley District

• PLUS •

Giving Thanks for those retiring
from our District or leaving
to serve elsewhere.

Potluck
3-4 pm
will include
WHATEVER
YOU BRING!





February 2025 Baptism
Kathy Glover Bell
Melanie Hirahara Mizuno
with Pastor Michelle Magee
and Dianne Young, Sponsor



Christmas 2025 -- Social Hall and Sanctuary



Melanie and Greg Mizuno
Baby Shower
March 2026

TAMALE FUND-RAISER
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025



MOTHERS DAY
BRUNCH CREW
2026

Miles Yada
Jerry Yada
Jacob Flores
Salvador Flores
Philip Martzen





Open Gate Ministries
Soup, Sandwich, and Dessert Fund-Raiser
February 2025, February 2026



Alex Zaragoza and Gracie Suastegui



Wilson School Staff Goody Baskets



Aiko Takeda 97th Birthday
March 2025

Annual Take-Out Teriyaki Chicken Dinner
and Boutique – 2024, 2025





Pastor Vicky Flores and family -- 2025



DIANE CLUB: Diane Domingo, Diana Bulls, Dianne Young



Quincy Yada 2023 Eagle Scout project – Little Free Library & Little Free Pantry



Graduates June 2025: London Serios, Anthony Espino, Lucas Róvere, Trinity Róvere, Quincy Yada



Mothers Day Brunch 2025
Lindy Yoshimura, PJ Yebisu, Romeo Lozano, Quincy Yada, Jerry Yada, Severino "Mark" Lozano, Philip Martzen



IKEBANA CLASS –
2024, 2025, 2026

Donna Chiamori
Heather Chiamori-Din
Linda Cuellar
Amy Denison
Julie Ishimaru
Mary Beth Janzen
Blanca Katsura
Norma Lozano
Tina Mizuno
Glenita Prince
Priscilla (Hatai) Winden
Dr. Liz Sasaki-Yebisu
Aiko Takeda
Susan Yoshimura
Dianne Young





