



# First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.

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Website: [www.fpchanford.org](http://www.fpchanford.org)

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*Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go to make disciples of others.*

## FIRST PRESS

January 2021



### Summary of December 15, 2020 Session Meeting

#### Deacons:

- Reported 53 took Communion in November
- Reported the Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, Kings Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army were each given \$90 in November

#### Finance:

- Approved 2021 Budget
- Approved moving surplus of 2020 budget into designated account for 2021 expenses
- Approved transfer of \$500 into account that funds sponsored Compassion Child Carlla
- Reported Faith Commitment pledges are at about 48%

#### Church Growth:

- Facemasks with the FPC logo are available. Contact the church office if interested (\$3.50 donation is appreciated)

#### Missions:

- Reported the success of the "OCC Packing Party", FPC packed over 225 boxes and donated 24 pairs of "Shoes that Grow" this year

#### Pastor's Report

- Pastor Tim thanked the Elders of the Class of 2020 for their service to the church and Our Lord
- Sunday worship will continue to be held outside through December, but Session is closely monitoring recent court cases in preparation for moving back indoors.

#### Other Session Business:

- Annual Meeting will be January 31, 2021

## Not exactly a Christmas Miracle



There is certainly no shortage of Christmas movies both old and new for us to watch. As if the Hallmark Channel wasn't enough, now streaming services are producing Christmas movies too. We all know how the story in these movies goes. There is a person (we will call this person "bad person") with some sort of power or authority that no one really likes. Often times, because of their personal ambitions, they nearly always put themselves above the welfare of others. There is another person (we will call this person "good person") who is full of love. They always put others ahead of their own needs. Usually, they could be far more successful if they would just leave their old life behind them, but their heart knows it belongs to their situation in their current world. Usually, this person is having some financial issue and all problems can be solved if they simply turn off their moral compass, just this one time. There is always a group of secondary characters connecting with the main characters to move the story along.

So, the story goes like this. Bad person needs something. The good person is either in possession of said item or has the ability to influence the, "powers that be." Bad person steps out of his/her "world" and moves into the "world" of the good person. We see this as the, "world of real people." Good person and the people around them influence bad person in such a way they have a change of heart. They turn away from all the things that kept them mired in the bad person's "world" and become a good person.

Now, before I get too high and mighty about how my taste in Holiday movies is so much more refined, this is the same plot device in, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," where Chris Kringle melts the heart of the Winter Warlock. "Elf," where Buddy melts the heart of his father and all of New York City. "Christmas Vacation," where Clark melts the heart of his boss. The Grinch, Miracle on 34th Street, all of the "Santa Claus," movies, Polar Express, Fred Claus, and yes, even, "A Christmas Carol." By the way, this plot model in a movie is so good, it doesn't have to be Christmas. Sandra Bullock made a ton of money using this plot device in, "Two Weeks' Notice" and "The Proposal." In one of the movies, she played the good person and the other, the bad person.

Do you want to know why we are all such big suckers for this very simple plot device? Because in its most simple form, it is the story of us and our relationship with God. In our story, we are the bad people. Our own personal ambition continues to make us put ourselves first. Even the best of us, those who always serve others, the Mother Theresa's of the world. Even those people, fall short of giving God the love and commitment His glory so deserves. But God loves a good plot device, so he decided to leave His world and come into ours.

He came to our world as an infant, poor and born in a stable. It is the kind of story that would begin to melt the heart of even the most jaded person. He grew up in what we would call today, a "blue collar" family. Worked with his hands at physical labor. The kind of, "Salt of the earth" upbringing everyone can appreciate. When that infant grew into a man, he started his ministry of changing the hearts of the bad people. But here's where the story takes a crazy turn. The hearts of the "bad people" didn't turn to good. Certainly, there were quite a few among those who followed Him, but not the kind of numbers the plot line demands. No, for that, God had to take the story one step further. For that to happen, He had to be willing to let his own Son die.

You see, we don't live in a movie script. A cute little baby, the appreciation of a hard day's work, or even the wisest teachings are never going to be enough to change our hearts. For that to happen, we need God to step in and do something. No Christmas movie expects a not happy ending. The miracle of Christmas didn't come at Christmas, it came at Easter when Christ chose to take on the sins of all the bad people so that God would see them through the goodness of his Son. The Christmas Miracle also came at Pentecost when God sent the helper of the Holy Spirit to be our guide in this broken world. By breaking the script, our hope was truly found. We could stop relying on ourselves and start relying on God. Our Christmas movie is not a story about our redemption, it's a story about the power of God's love.

Merry Christmas, God's love to all,

Pastor Tim



## FPC Missionaries . . . 2021 New Horizons Ahead

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 19-20*

As the New Year begins, new horizons and opportunities also emerge and there is much to look forward to for our missionaries who are serving the Lord through their mission work to share and spread the Gospel to the unreached.

Missionary Dan Smythe, after 14 years in his ministry work with the Global Training Network – “Training the Untrained to Reach the Unreached” is leaving the Global Training Network in a leap of faith and will be volunteering as an Ambassador with The Timothy Initiative. First Presbyterian Church Missions Ministry Team will work with Dan as a partner account and he is assigned as our Ambassador to connect with us throughout the year with regard to our partnership in the ministry of The Timothy Initiative. The Timothy Initiative expands his mission work in the process of training new church planters Internationally in the unreached countries of the world who lack access to the Gospel.

Missionaries, Ryan and Amy are following God’s lead and have moved to another country in Europe where there are many, many more opportunities and freedoms for them to use their gifts to build up churches and help in the work of outreach. The move has been difficult in settling in and transitioning in their new country and COVID has made it even harder than it normally would be. But, their personal belongings have finally arrived from being held in storage because of COVID and they are unpacking and were able to have Christmas in their new home! Ryan thinks this move will prove to be a very strategic home base for their mission work in serving the Lord.

With Laundry Love suspended because of COVID, our partnering church in the Laundry Love program, the United Methodist Church of Hanford, has started a local Cleaning Supply Bucket Outreach Project and First Presbyterian Missions Ministry Team was able to make a donation to support this local outreach effort from unused 2020 Laundry Love budget funds. The cleaning supply buckets are distributed to families in need to ensure that they have critical cleaning supplies. Packed with special care, each container holds supplies that help prevent the spread of COVID and include items such as hand sanitizer, bar soap, gloves, laundry detergent, all-purpose spray, sponges, liquid dish soap, powdered cleanser, as well as other essentials.

Let us welcome the New Year with thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for bringing us through 2020 and giving us a fresh start in 2021. Please remember to pray for all missionaries whether overseas or on our own home field, for their safety, needed resources in their mission ministry, and that doors will be opened for them to continue to share the Word of God!

*Happy New Year from FPC Missions Ministry Team!*

# Church DEACONS

Happy New Year! Our Deacons look forward to serving you. We wish to give heartfelt thanks to the class of 2020 who have completed their three year term...Liz Garcia, Janet Harader, Darlene Keast and Martin Keast. Your commitment and faithful service to our church and local community has been greatly appreciated.

This month the Deacons will be reassessing programs and filling positions so we can be of assistance to you in a variety of ways. Our current Deacons are Sally Gordon, Rowena Curiel, Laurie Essepian, Ginnie Herleman, Fran Bettencourt and Susan Feaver.

Joining the class of 2023. Please welcome Julie Baker, Marj Forberg, and Martin Keast. Also Sheri Winterowd has agreed to finish Diane Sharp's term within the class of 2022.

Looking forward to 2021!

~ Susan Feaver

## UP COMING



- Jan 1** News Year Day (*Office Closed*)
  - Jan 3** *Communion Sunday*  
Ordination and Installation of new Elders & Deacons
  - Jan 4** \*Worship Meeting @ 6pm
  - Jan 5** Staff Meeting @ 10am  
\*Deacons Meeting @ 6:30
  - Jan 6** *Epiphany*
  - Jan 8** Annual Reports Due
  - Jan 10** \*Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm  
\*Youth Ladies Bible Study @ 8pm
  - Jan 12** Staff Meeting @ 10am  
\*Mission Meeting @ 5pm  
Finance @ 5:30pm  
Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 7pm
  - Jan 13** Finance Investment Interviews
  - Jan 14** Session Reports Due
  - Jan 15** 1st Press Articles Due
  - Jan 18** Martin Luther King Jr. Day (*Office Closed*)
  - Jan 19** Staff Meeting @ 10am  
\*Session Meeting @ 7pm
  - Jan 20** \*Psalms Study begins @ 6:30pm
  - Jan 22** \*Presbytery Meeting @ 9am-3pm  
Session Retreat @ 6pm—9pm
  - Jan 23** Session Retreat cont. @9am—noon
  - Jan 24** \*Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm  
\*Youth Ladies Bible Study @ 8pm
  - Jan 26** Staff Meeting @ 10am
  - Jan 27** \*Psalms Study
  - Jan 31** Annual Meeting
  - Feb 1** \*Worship Meeting @ 6pm
  - Feb 2** Staff Meeting @ 10am  
\*Deacons Meeting @ 6:30
  - Feb 7** *Communion Sunday*
  - Feb 9** Staff Meeting @ 10am  
\*Mission Meeting @ 5pm  
Finance @ 5:30pm  
Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 7pm
- \* Zoom Meeting

Welcome,  
2021!

*Adult Bible Study*

# PSALMS

Wednesdays Nights @ 6:30pm

With Pastor Tim



## Adult Bible Study

Billy Graham once wrote, "The Bible is old; yet it is ever new. It is the most modern book in the world today." In the life of the Christian, there is no more important book to study if we wish to grow in our understanding of God's will, his love, and our place in his world. With that in mind, I am excited to invite you all to embark with me on a study of the Psalms. Together we will discover how this book covers the full range of human emotion, shows us the wisdom of God's word, and invites us to not only praise our God but invite others to join us.

Because we can't meet in person, we will have our study on Zoom Wednesday evenings at 6:30. Our first meeting will be on January 20th and we will plan to wrap up on May 19th. Be looking for more information in the bulletins and on emails in the next couple of weeks. For questions, send an email to [pastor@fpchanford.org](mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org), or feel free to talk to me after church.

I am looking forward to sitting down with all of you and opening God's word together.

Pastor Tim Hoins



# EPC

*A Global Movement of  
Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

## Invitation to Attend Presbytery

The Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest has confirmed that the **January Presbytery Meeting will be held virtually on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm via Zoom.**

The goal of the EPC governance is to have a parity ratio of 2 ruling elders to every 1 teaching elder in the church courts. First Presbyterian Church of Hanford is allowed 1 teaching elder (Pastor Tim) and 4 ruling elders because of the current size of our membership. If you are interested in participating in the virtual meeting, please contacted Pastor Tim or Annette in the church office prior to January 14th.

Church Office: (559) 582-0283

Pastor Tim: [pastor@fpchanford.org](mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org)

Annette: [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)

## A Quiz on Psalms

1. The book of Psalms is divided into how many sections?
2. How many verses does the shortest Psalm 117 contain?
3. Which Psalm Jesus used while he was dying on the cross to express his anguish?
4. Which is the longest Psalm?
5. What is the first word of the book of Psalms ?
6. How many types of musical instruments are mentioned in Psalm 150?
7. Psalm 91 verses 11 and 12 are quoted in which New Testament incident?
8. Jesus was a high priest after the order of which ancient king, mentioned in Psalm 110?
9. What is the "chorus" in Psalm 136 which is repeated in every verse?
10. Which Psalm is entitled "A Prayer of Moses"?
11. Which is the last phrase of the book of Psalms?
12. Which is the middle verse of the Bible?
13. Name the two Psalms where we find the words, "Fools say to themselves, there is no God."?
14. In which Psalm we find these words, "I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life."
15. Which Psalm did David write after he committed the double sins of adultery and murder?

# Faith & Fellowship

## Jolly 1's & 2's

We will not have our planning meeting in January since we do not know when and what will be open. Also, we have no place to meet as many places are closed down.

~ Janet Harader

fpc<sup>t</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

 zoom **Worship**  
Committee Meeting

**1st Monday of each month**  
**@ 6pm**

fpc<sup>t</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

 zoom **Church**  
**DEACONS**

**1st Tuesday of each month**  
**@ 6:30 pm**



Agape will not meet in January due to COVID restrictions. ~ Janet Harader

fpc<sup>t</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

 zoom 

**2nd and 4th Sunday**  
**of each month @ 6:30pm**

*Net-So-Small-Group*

fpc<sup>t</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

 zoom 

**MISIONS**  
*Ministry*

**Second Tuesday each month**  
**@ 5:00pm**

# JANUARY

## Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 8** Wellman Jue
- 11** Annie Jackson, Paula Murray
- 15** Don Mills
- 16** Grace Kinney
- 17** \*Charles & Susan Feaver
- 18** Meg Connelly
- 19** Michael Christoph, Alysha Rajskup
- 22** Steve Wartman
- 24** Carley Watson
- 26** \*Kelly & Teresa Voyles



Please contact the office with any updates, additions or corrections. We don't want to miss anyone or list your special date incorrectly.

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93230

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Label Here

### First Presbyterian Church

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STAFF:

- |  |  |
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| <a href="mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org">pastor@fpchanford.org</a>         |  |
| <b>Jaime Christoph</b>   | <b>Director of Youth &amp; Children's Ministries</b> |
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Send prayer requests to [hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com)  
other information to [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)