



# First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.

Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.

Hanford, CA 93230 (559) 582-0283

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

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

*A fellowship brought together through God's prevenient grace to grow closer to God*

## FIRST PRESS

February 2023

Do you know what will not be happening on the second Tuesday of this month? No committee meetings, no special church functions. Now why would anyone do that? Because everybody believes in love, and February is the love month. February 14th, Valentine's Day, falls on the second Tuesday this year, and we are going to make way for love.



Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8) God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like God. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love (1 John 4:16-18).

So really our challenge is to give perfect love and to love perfectly. Wow, now that is quite a concept. Asking me to be perfect! Thank goodness I have a savior who leads me in these paths. I have a savior who was able to love perfectly; a savior who faced life's greatest trials and had no fear for his love was perfect.

Seems like I have moved far away from the love of Saint Valentine's Day. This month we will be inundated with information to tell us that love is about chocolates, or flowers, or diamonds. All nice symbols, but not necessarily fear inhibiting. This is not the kind of love that God shows, and gives, and places in us. Can we be givers and bringers of love that sets people free from their fears? We can if we bring them the love of Christ – unconditional, sacrificial, everlasting.

Without any conditions about what is in it for me, I can bring love to the world around me. I can do it with my words. I can do it with my actions. I can invite Christ to flow through me, or I can get in the way and block Christ from pouring out of me. I can accept the person on my block as God's creation and choose to love them through difficult times and even hostile actions. I can be patient and kind like love is, or I can be impatient and nasty. Perfect love?

I can sacrifice when necessary to help others see the perfect love of Christ. I can sacrifice my time, my talents, my treasures to give witness to what love is all about. It is easy to sacrifice for those whom I love. It seems a little harder to sacrifice for people not quite as close to my heart. Maybe the way for me to perfect my love is through sacrificing those feelings and reaching out one circle farther to those who need love.

Can I do it forever? I can try to love all the days of my life. I can try to be like Christ for the entire journey I have on earth. My love will be as eternal as God has made me. In Christ, my love will live abundantly and eternally. What a great thought!

February is a great month. In our end of the country, life springs back into blossom. May I encourage you to allow Christ's Spirit to flow through you this month with perfect love. Share your love on Valentine's day, but share it all month, all year and throughout eternity as God's perfect love through you – dispel the fear.

In Christ, Rev. Louis R. Paradise (Interim Pastor)



## A Note From:

### *Children's and Youth Director*

We are off and running with the New City Catechism.

This month's question is:

### **What is our only hope in life and death?**

Answer:

### **We are not our own but belong to God.**



This question and answer is so foundational to each of our understanding of where we fit in this world. Have you downloaded the New City Catechism app yet? It is such a rich resource!!

Please memorize the questions and answers along with our children; There are scripture verses that go along with each question, perhaps you would like to memorize those too?

Have you found yourself enjoying the Family Prayer Calendar? Ours is on the refrigerator and I see it and read it daily but need to improve in the area of actually praying as it suggests. Dinner time is a good time to do this. I think I'll move it to the dining room table and have more success. Where do you keep yours?

What a blessing the rain has been. We lift up grateful hearts for the answered prayers for water to replenish the aquifers and refresh the dry landscape of our valley.

Are you interested in going camping with friends from church? We are considering a doing both a Spring and Fall Campout in 2023. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with the plans for these! It's so special to get out and enjoy nature with our church family!

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Feb. 10** - Service project opportunity - Some of our youth are volunteering to help serve on one of the teams that helps put on a prom for people with special needs. ***Visalia First Assembly's Night to Shine*** is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and older. Every guest of Night to Shine enters this complimentary event on a red carpet to a cheering crowd and friendly paparazzi. Once inside, guests receive the royal treatment including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, corsages and boutonnieres, a karaoke room and, of course, dancing! The highlight of the night comes when every one of the Night to Shine guests is crowned as a king or queen of the prom ***Date: Friday, February 10th, 2023 (5:30PM – 9PM)*** ***Location: Visalia First Assembly, 3737 S. Akers St., Visalia.***
- **Feb 12** - Youth Group @ church, 5:00—8:30pm
- **Feb. 18** -Youth Girls Watercolor Workshop in the 220 bldg., from 10-12. Cost is \$5 to offset the cost. Sign up in advance is required
- **Feb 20** - The Confession Musical. If anyone has read the books series by Beverly Lewis, this is a film of a musical theatre production made about the story told in the books. If anyone thinks it sounds fun, we buy the tickets in advance. This is a one day only opportunity, at Galaxy Theatre in Tulare. There are 2 showtimes, 3:00 and 7:00 pm. Here's the link. <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/The-Confession-Musical>
- **Feb 26** - Youth Group
- **March 5** - Tri Tip Fundraiser to earn money for summer camp! We will offer tri-tip dinners after church to eat in or pick up. We presell the tickets in advance so we know how much to make.
- **March 12** - Youth Group
- **March 24 or 25** - Service Project: Camp FPC event for children
- **March 26** - Youth Group

~ Sheri Winterowd



**February 12, 2023**

This year our recipients of your offerings will be Refuge Armona – Providing hope for Armona's youth.

Educators, Alyssa & Aaron Hailey, led by God's calling, recognized a need in Armona to provide a safe place for Armona's youth to spend time after school, receive homework help, eat a meal, have fun and gain mentorship through caring adult volunteers.

Serving over 100 youth, Refuge Armona's vision is to provide hope and transform a generation of young men and women to recognize their God given purpose, and to become leaders in their community and beyond.

*"If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to." Corrie Ten Boom*

## UP COMING



- Feb 1** BodyLife begins @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- Feb 5** Communion Sunday
- Feb 6** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm
- Feb 7** Deacons mtg @ 6:30pm
- Feb 8** C.E. mtg @ 9:30am, Body Life @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- Feb 12** Souper Bowl Sunday, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Feb 13** \*Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Feb 15** Body Life @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm, \*Finance mtg @ 7pm
- Feb 18** Marjorie Willson Memorial @ 11am, Youth Girls Watercolor Workshop @ 10am
- Feb 20** President's Day (office closed)
- Feb 21** Session mtg @ 6pm
- Feb 22** Ash Wednesday, Body Life @ 5:30pm, Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30pm
- Feb 26** Youth Group @ 5pm

\* Zoom Meeting



Matthew 25:35,37,40 says "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat and something to drink..., then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ....., the King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

First Pres Hanford is blessed to have a loving & caring congregation who supports our food pantry. Currently, our food donations are given to the Kings Gospel Mission (KGM) a local Christian organization that shares the gospel with everyone involved.

As we encounter inflation at the grocery store & elsewhere, we have all noticed the squeeze in finances. We have also noted that giving to the food pantry at church has really declined. Kings Gospel Mission & other charities are encountering a decline in donations as we all face difficult times.

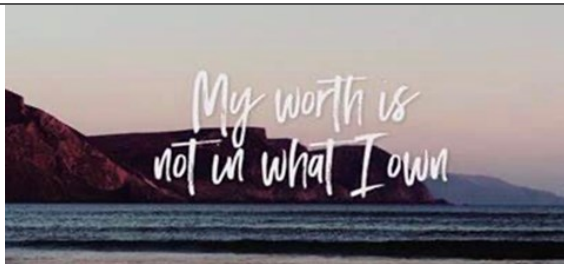
The Deacons would like to Challenge our Congregation: Consider giving to the least of these by bringing 1 can of food or boxed food (nonperishable) to church each month to help others in need. Wouldn't it be exciting to see a pyramid of 60 cans of food or more that can then be delivered to those who have so little each month.

I've always been inspired by Mother Teresa's quote "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Consider if you have children at home getting them involved to choose the item to bring each month. This is a great teaching moment about God calling us to generosity and helping those in need.

God loves us, gives to us and inspires us to live with generosity and goodness. Thank you for being a blessing to others and helping to relieve their challenges.

~ Julie Baker, Deacon





Moving into February, the Finance/Stewardship Committee would like to give you an update. First Presbyterian Church ended 2022 with a surplus supporting the ministries financially that we know and love. The tithes and offerings received covered those ministries and current staff with a nice sum left over at the end of the year due to the generosity of several gifts. We continue planning to pay moving expenses at such time as we have a new pastor coming and have set aside a good amount for that. The balance of our surplus from 2022 was designated to go towards the Economic Uncertainty Fund, with Session approval, for any other expenses that might arise with a new pastor.

We persevere and remain steadfast in our hope that the expenses noted in our 2023 general fund budget of \$304,454.53, – *Staff (including our new pastor), Missions, and Ministry Programs* – **WILL BE** covered through our routinely given tithes & offerings. This “could” allow FPC to use the funds that were cautiously set aside, during 2020, 2021, & 2022, to be used in 2023 for other areas of ministry and needs of our church! The Finance Committee commends all our committees and staff for diligently watching costs as they run our church and ministries. God has been incredibly faithful to lead us and move the hearts of members of our congregation who have given this past year!

First Presbyterian Church has a 2023 Faith Commitment goal of \$285,000. As of December 18, 2022, our pledge total is \$113,060 or 39.67% of our goal. We have not received any new pledges since December 18<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to turn in your Faith Commitment form. If God is nudging you to take this step for the first time or to consider making a sacrifice to pledge or increase your pledge, we hope you will submit and obey His command.

For those of you who choose not to pledge but **DO** give regularly, we thank you! We saw an increase in such offering last year. We thank everyone, pledgers and non-pledgers, who gives as they feel God is leading them! God is faithful and continues to guide us on the mission He has planned for us.

***“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 9: 23-24***



## Summary of Jan. 17, 2023 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 52 and 7 homebound took communion in Jan.
- Reported donations of \$75 each to 5 organizations

### Clerk's Report

- Michael Ginn approved as an Elder candidate for class of 2025. Will be presented to congregation on Jan 29th

### Christian Education

- Approved Tri-Tip fundraiser & Bake Sale on Mar. 5th
- Approved Yard Sale fundraiser on April 1 (7-11am)
- Approved FPC Camp event either Mar. 24 or 25

### Church Growth

- Approved Bring-a-Friend Sunday on Mar. 19th

### Finance

- Reported moving Finance meeting from Feb. 14 to the 15th

### Missions

- Approved Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser on Feb. 12th to benefit Armona Refuge

### Worship

- Reported desire to schedule musical concerts throughout the year

### Other Business

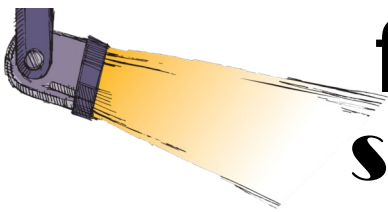
- Created Subcommittee to review and update FPC By-Laws (persons interested in helping, please contact the office)

### Pastor Search Committee

- Reported speaking with candidates and is going well, requested continued prayers



The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.



## fpc Family Spotlight



### The Winterowd Family

Who are we: There are 5 of us – Tony and Sheri, Bryce, Braden and Brooke. Bryce is a senior Political Science major at the University of Southern California, set to graduate in May of this year. Bryce is applying to different law schools in hopes to start on his law degree next fall. Braden is a freshman Communication Sciences and Disorders major at Biola University. He hopes to become a speech therapist and was drawn to Biola's program because he can get his bachelors and masters degree in 5 years through their accelerated program. Brooke is a junior at Central Valley Christian High School in Visalia. She enjoys basketball and choir as some of her extracurricular activities.

Things we love: Travelling together on vacation, especially to the beach or the mountains. We try to get to the coast and the Sequoias several times during the year and Hawaii is a favorite destination. We love to swim and snorkel, eat tasty food and enjoy nature.

We all really enjoy music and you can often hear us singing along to favorite songs across all different genres of music. Tony plays the guitar, Sheri and Brooke play the piano and everyone has a nice singing voice, though Braden is less willing to get in front of a mic and sing.

Food: We really enjoy great food. We like to cook together and enjoy homemade food, but we love to eat out as well. Our favorite homemade meals are: Beef or Chicken enchiladas, Greek tacos, Beef Stew and Thai lettuce wraps. Braden is famous for his homemade cinnamon rolls.

Winterowd Family cont.

Page 7

Fun facts: We all have O- blood and blue eyes. And we are all considered tall or very tall. Tony and the boys are all avid tennis players who really enjoy the game. We promise we didn't set out to give all 3 of the kids names starting with the letters "Br." Braden was originally named Carson but after several hours, Sheri said she couldn't stand the name and Braden was all they could agree on. The woman at the records department of the hospital told Tony he was breaking her heart when he called to change his name, but gratefully he didn't tell Sheri that at the time!

How long have you been attending FPC? Since 2004 when we moved to this area for Tony to become the new Sr. pastor. We enjoyed many years of ministry together until Tony had his heart attack and stroke in 2019 which forced him to resign due to permanent disability from the damage done to his heart, kidneys and lungs. He volunteers at a different church in town and the boys usually go with him on Sundays when they are in town.

## February 22<sup>nd</sup>



Adults— \$8

Kids under 5yrs—free

Kids under 10yrs—\$5

Family max—\$20

## BodyLife Dinner

at 5:30pm

# ASH

Wednesday

Service at 6:30pm





# Session Committees

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



zoom

**Worship**  
Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month @ 11:15am



**Church**  
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm



**Christian**  
**Education**

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am



zoom



2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month @ 7pm



**Buildings &**  
**Grounds**

Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month @ 11:10 am



zoom

**Finance**  
Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 7pm



**Church**  
**Growth**



Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm



**Session**

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

# Faith & Fellowship

## You're Invited to Join a Committee



**Buildings & Grounds:** Seeks to maintain and enhance the church facilities. Stewardship of the facilities and grounds are accomplished with the experiences and talents of our team to repair, replace, and maintain the building and grounds. Chair, Jeff Jones [jeff@jude2.net](mailto:jeff@jude2.net)

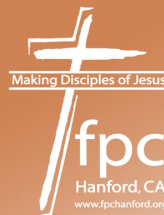
**Christian Education:** Responsible for the planning, execution, and supervision of the biblical and spiritual education of the congregation. From the infants in the nursery to the most senior adults, the CE team is dedicated to providing quality learning opportunities that are grounded in biblical teaching and relevant to all ages while remaining authentic and true to our faith, our church, and our Lord. Chair, Ken Tazelaar [kptazelaar@gmail.com](mailto:kptazelaar@gmail.com)

**Church Growth:** Works to spread God's love in the community and invite others to be part of our church family. Chair, Annette Rajskup [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)

**Finance & Stewardship:** Oversees budgets, spending and good stewardship of the giving of our congregation. Chair, Debra Revious [dkrevious@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkrevious@sbcglobal.net)

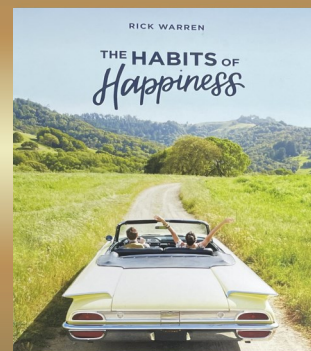
**Missions:** Believes that Missions Outreach is an integral step in spreading God's word to the unreached. God says to go into all the world and preach the gospel. That is the reason we support missions and missionaries who are involved in the task of bringing the gospel and support to both global and local missionary organizations. Chair, Gail Forsythe [glf9201@gmail.com](mailto:glf9201@gmail.com)

**Worship:** Strives to make our worship services more meaningful, enjoyable and informative by enhancing our worship events with music and visual accents. Chair, Janice Mills [jdmills@unwiredbb.com](mailto:jdmills@unwiredbb.com)



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

## Adult Bible Study



**Thursday Nights  
@ 7:00pm**



## Exercise class

The FPC exercise class M, W & F mornings @ 9am in the FPC Outreach Building (220 Dewey

**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring clothing and nonperishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available in the church hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.





# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6     \*Michael & Laurel Montoya  
8     JuHyeon Rishel  
12    Martin Keast  
15    Jacob Dixon  
      Elliot Walls  
      Samantha Walls  
19    Lindsay Caparuolo

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Label Here

### First Presbyterian Church

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.  
Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.  
Mail: P. O. Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232  
(559) 582-0283—FAX (559) 582-0336  
[www.fpchanford.org](http://www.fpchanford.org)

#### STAFF:

**Lou Paradise**

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

**Interim Pastor**

**Sheri Winterowd**

[fpchanford.youth@gmail.com](mailto:fpchanford.youth@gmail.com)

**Director of Youth &  
Children's Ministries**

**Annette Rajskup**

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

**Office Administrator**

**Athena Smith**

[bookkeeper@fpchanford.org](mailto:bookkeeper@fpchanford.org)

**Bookkeeper**

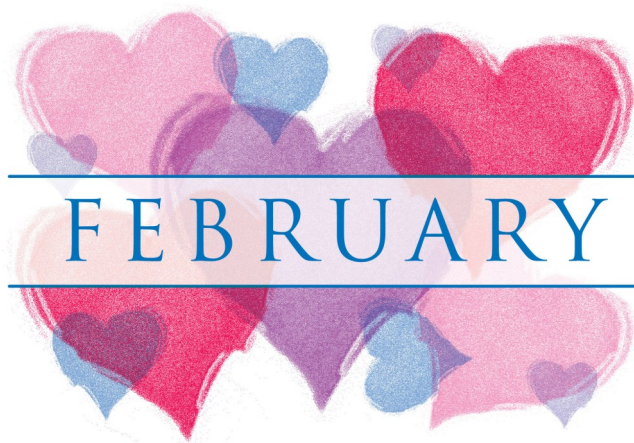
**Nancy Roller**

[nancyroller8@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com)

**Custodian**

Church Office Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm (Mon—Fri)

Send prayer requests to [hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com)  
other information to [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)



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