

# 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)

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

## FIRST PRESS

May 2021

### Greatest Qualities of a Life Dedicated to Christ?

What would you say are the greatest qualities of a life dedicated to Christ? Does faith, hope and love come to mind? 1 Cor. 13:13 lists these three attributes as supremely important.

Scripture describes faith as assurance of the unseen realm, which is infinitely more real than what is seen (Heb. 11:1). Indeed, without faith, it is impossible to be right with God (Heb. 11:6).

Hope and faith are flip sides of the same coin. Hope is confidence in what God has promised. The hope spoken of in the Bible is real, as opposed to wishful thinking which is all this world can offer.

Finally, there is love, which God extends to anyone willing to entrust their life to Christ. It is not conditional or transactional. It is pure, noble and deeply soul satisfying. We are to then be conduits of this love to a deeply broken and flawed world.

1 Cor. 13:13 tells us that love is the greatest of these three qualities. Why? It is because in eternity, when we come face to face with Jesus, our faith and hope will be fulfilled, though still a reality. Love endures as we experience the fullness of resurrection life.

So, dear Christian, be of good cheer! Faith, hope and love remain. But the greatest of these is love.

Keep the Faith

Pastor Tony

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*1 Corinthians 13:13* "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

*Hebrews 11:1* "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

*Hebrews 11:6* "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."

# Church DEACONS

Now that tax day has come and gone, hope everyone can breathe a sigh of relief.

We would like to Thank everyone who donated to our Military men and women. We were able to send 40 bags of goodies (not all candy) to our servicemen and women. Thanks again for all your support.

Wasn't it wonderful to hear the organ again, and especially on Easter! The sounds filled the sanctuary and brought Blessings to our ears and hearts.

As a reminder from the Deacons, please bring clothing and non-perishable food items to help those in our community who are in need. The collection baskets are available every Sunday morning during worship service.

~ Fran Bettencourt

**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring clothing and nonperishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available every Sunday morning during worship service.



## JOIN OUR TEAM



FPC is accepting resumes for

**Director of Children  
& Youth Ministries**

as well as

**Church Bookkeeper**

You can see job descriptions on our website:

[www.fpchanford.org/open-positions.html](http://www.fpchanford.org/open-positions.html)

**Email resumes to:**

[fpcHanfordApply@gmail.com](mailto:fpcHanfordApply@gmail.com)



## Finding “True Freedom” Through Jesus

Caleb and Sarah’s marriage was at a braking point. “At one point I thought, ‘I’m done. This can’t go on like this. Something has to give,’” Sarah recalled.

Army Specialist Caleb Toppen endured multiple blasts while fighting in Afghanistan, and he witnessed horrific scenes that imprinted themselves in his memory. Then came the final blast from an improvised explosive device that caused a traumatic brain injury. He was awarded a Purple Heart and received an early honorable discharge for combat-related disability.

“I wasn’t the same person,” Caleb said. He suffered from post-traumatic stress – mental and emotional pain that he tried to numb in whatever way he could. For years, Sarah prayed for Caleb’s healing, which she knew could only come through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Caleb heard the Gospel at the “Decision America Tarheel State Tour”, held by Franklin Graham in cities throughout North Carolina. When he learned about the eternal life offered in Jesus, Caleb repented and trusted in Him as Savior.

But the specter of war still haunted him, and Caleb and Sarah continued to struggle in their relationship. When the couple arrived at “Samaritan Lodge Alaska” for a week with **Operation Heal Our Patriots**, their marriage was in crisis. But, during the week in Alaska, Caleb and Sarah experienced God’s love for them in new ways. And as he learned about God’s plan for him, Caleb realized he needed to let go of the shame and regret for the things he had experienced in combat.

So, on Thursday evening, he sat in his cabin and wrote those burdens down on a sheet of paper, praying as he thought about each horrific memory. Then, Caleb attached the list to a piece of wood, dropped it into the bonfire at the lodge, and watched with Sarah as it turned to ash. “When I threw that thing in the fire and watched it burn, those thoughts no longer had the same effect on me that they once had,” he recalled.

The next morning, Caleb was baptized in the icy waters of Lake Clark. “The most eye-opening thing for me was that no matter what you’ve done, you’re forgiven,” he said.

**Operation Heal Our Patriots**, is a mission supported by First Presbyterian Church and it is a lifelong ministry to the veterans who have sacrificed their lives for our country. This ministry does not end when military couples return home from Samaritan’s Lodge Alaska. It is only the **BEGINNING** of a life-long journey with God and of healing. As God continues to work in the lives of these veterans, Regional Chaplains walk beside them, staying in touch by phone and text, and making visits to minister in person to offer ongoing opportunities for marriage enrichment and fellowship with other military couples at reunions. Please pray for our veterans and for Samaritan’s Purse Heal Our Patriots!!!



## Summary of April 20, 2021 Session Meeting

### Deacons:

- Reported 37 took Communion on Maundy Thursday
- Reported 95 took Communion on at Easter
- \$50 given to Salvation Army & Kings Gospel Mission

### Moderator's Report

- Jen Kapanka gave her testimony and was approved for membership
- Debra Revious & Annette Rajskep were selected as representatives for General Assembly (June 22-25) & Presbytery (May 14)
- Annie Wrigley, Kelly Voyles, Michael Ginn, Rowena Curiel, Chuck Kinney and Annette Rajskep were selected as nominees for the Pastor Search Committee, to be presented to the congregation
- Congregational Meeting was set for May 16, 2021

### Buildings & Grounds

- Approved purchase of window blinds for church office

### Church Growth

- Approved purchasing equipment for online streaming

### Missions:

- Approved participation in Crossroad's "Changing Babies" fundraiser campaign

### Worship

- Suggested a team be put together to pray with people after worship service
- Suggested an evening meeting to allow people to pray and talk about the trials the church as faced.

### Personnel:

- Approved increase to Bookkeeper and Office Administrator work hours
- Approved parting gifts for Jaime & Gail
- Suggested revising job description for "Youth Director"

### Pastor's Report

- Memorial for Joyce Roper May 8th
- Approved waiving fee to Jacob Keast wedding May 15th

# UP COMING



- May 2** Communion Sunday, Guys Bible Study @ 7:30pm
- May 3** \*Worship Meeting @ 6pm
- May 4** \*Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- May 5** Staff Meeting @ 10am, \*Psalms Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- May 6** National Day of Prayer, \*Christian Ed Meeting @ 7:30pm
- May 8** Memorial for Joyce Roper
- May 9** Mother's Day, \*Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm
- May 11** \*Missions Meeting @ 5pm, \*Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 7pm, \*Finance Meeting @ 7pm
- May 12** Staff Meeting @ 10am, \*Psalms Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- May 13** Session Reports Due
- May 14** \*Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
- May 15** First Press Articles Due
- May 16** Guys Bible Study @ 7:30pm
- May 18** \*Session Meeting @ 6pm
- May 19** Staff Meeting @ 10am, \*Psalms Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- May 23** Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm
- May 26** Staff Meeting @ 10am, (TBD—Prayer Meeting)
- May 31** Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)
- Jun 1** \*Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Jun 2** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Jun 3** \*Christian Ed Meeting @ 7:30pm
- Jun 6** Communion Sunday & Promotion Sunday
- Jun 7** \*Worship Meeting @ 6pm
- Jun 8** \*Missions Meeting @ 5pm, \*Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 7pm, \*Finance Meeting @ 7pm
- Jun 9** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Jun 10** Session Reports Due
- Jun 13** \*Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm
- Jun 15** Session Meeting @ 6pm, 1st Press Articles Due
- Jun 16** Staff Meeting @ 10am

\* Zoom Meeting



The Community Enhancement Fund was originally set up by a donation for the enrichment of non-profit groups in our area. These non-profits must include a member or regular attender of First Pres in their membership/board to be eligible. **Applications are offered online at [www.fpchanford.org](http://www.fpchanford.org). Go to 'Events' tab, pull down to find App guidelines and application. Or, you may pick up an application at the church office. Call Annette (M-F – 8:00am to 1:00pm).** Once a year, these applications are reviewed by the CE committee, the non-profits are interviewed, and a discussion and awarding of funds is granted from the funds approved by the Finance Committee.

These funds vary year by year, based on the performance of the fund from the stock market.

A stipulation made by the donor was that the funds be used for non-profits outside of the church, to the community non-profits that are supported by First Pres members or regular attenders. These funds may not be used for First Pres facilities or programs within our church.

If you know of a worthy non-profit organization that you as a member or regular attendee supports, please alert the head of that non-profit to this opportunity.

Prior Year recipients were:

- China Alley Preservation Society – funds to help restore the Kings Hand Laundry
- Kings Gospel Mission – funds to help purchase a mobile food cart to provide meals to those in need
- Kings Art Center – funds to provide a new main circuit box and provide enhanced exhibit lighting
- Friends of the Kings Co Library – funds to provide free books to children for the Winter Open House
- Kings Co Commission on Aging – funds for State and Federal match for services to seniors-in-need
- God's Bread Box – funds to help provide food boxes for needy families
- Foundation for Cal Retired Teachers Assn – funds to help provide mini-grants for local teachers

CE funds have been distributed to non-profits since at least 1994, and with God's grace, will continue to be given to worthy groups in the future.

#### **DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS**

**TO BE RECEIVED AT CHURCH OFFICE OR E-MAIL IS JUNE 1, 2021.**

Committee members include:

Sally Gordon  
TBD

Janice Mills  
TBD

Doug Porter  
Bill Baker, Chair

# Faith & Fellowship

*Adult Bible Study*  
**PSALMS**  
 Wednesdays Nights @ 6:30pm  
 With Pastor Tony



**fpc** Making Disciples of Jesus  
 Hanford, California



**2nd & 4th Sundays of the month  
 6:30pm at the Jones' home**

**Media Team**



**WE ARE UPGRADING OUR LIVESTREAM!**

The Media Team and Church Growth are working to improve and enhance our ability to record and live-stream the FPC worship experience. We are in search of volunteers. If you are interested in sharing your skills in videography, sound mixing, computer projection, social media, etc. Please consider serving, and join our team. Training will be provided and all are welcome!

**Call or text:**

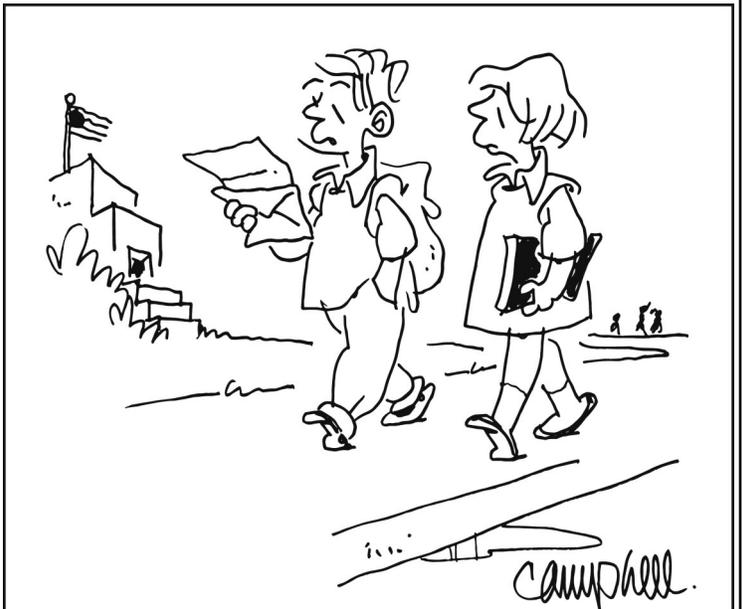
**Janice Mills - 559-362-2567**

**Chuck Kinney - 559-707-9699**



Promotion Sunday is scheduled for June 6th. Please inform the office if you have an FPC youth who will be promoting into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade or graduating from either Junior High, High School or College.

Please email the information (name, school and promotion level) to [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org).



**"Can you say 'try the patience of a saint' in a public school?"**



# Session Committees

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

zoom **Worship**  
Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month  
@ 6pm

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

zoom **Church**  
**DEACONS**

1st Tuesday of each month  
@ 6:30 pm

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

zoom **Christian**  
**Education**

Committee Meeting

1st Thursday of each month @ 7:30pm



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

zoom **MISSIONS**  
*Ministry*

2nd Tuesday each month @ 5:00pm



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

zoom **Buildings &**  
**Grounds**

Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm



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

zoom **Finance**  
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month  
@ 7:00 pm



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

zoom **Church**  
**Growth**

Committee Meeting



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

zoom **Session**

3rd Tuesday of each Month @ 6pm



# MAY

## Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 1 Rowena Curiel
- 2 Julie Baker, Jeff Crass
- 3 Tess Hernandez
- 6 \*Tim & Debra Revious
- 7 Ginnie Herleman
- 10 Dustin Cuzzort
- 13 Ron Herleman
- 14 \*Jeff & Joanna Jones
- 15 Michael Rodriguez, \*Nick Elvena & Jeanne Rich
- 20 Bryce Winterowd
- 23 Michele King
- 25 Joanna Jones, Tim Revious, \*Paul & Abby Dixon
- 26 Kevin McCarty
- 27 Charles Feaver
- 28 Evelyn Dixon
- 29 Seidy Garcia
- 30 Rhett Torrez, \*Ron & Ginnie Herleman

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Label Here

### First Presbyterian Church

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(559) 582-0283—FAX (559) 582-0336  
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#### STAFF:

**Mark Nazarian**

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

**Interim Pastor**

**Jaime Christoph**

[jaime.christoph@gmail.com](mailto:jaime.christoph@gmail.com)

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

**Annette Rajskup**

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

**Office Administrator**

**Gail Forsythe**

[gail@fpchanford.org](mailto:gail@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 [hanfordfpceprayer@gmail.com](mailto:hanfordfpceprayer@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.