

# First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.

Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.

Hanford, CA 93230 (559) 582-0283

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

## FIRST PRESS

January 2023

Dear FPC Hanford Family –

This is the year that your new pastor will be installed! Think about how wonderful that will be – moving from a time of interim (on hold) ministry to new and creative vision for the future ministry. You are at the center of this change. It is only with congregation members like you that the body of Christ lives and breathes and reaches out through First Presbyterian Church of Hanford. Do you have a vision for this next year?



Are you the kind of person that can see a great new children's ministry growing at FPC Hanford? Maybe a special outreach to the families involved in the FPC Vacation Bible School would be the way to go. Or what if we figured some way to really make a presence in the neighborhood for children? We've talked in the past about a reading program for local children, could that be a way to vision the future at FPC Hanford? What if we just teamed up with the children we already have and had them be the outreach to friends and fellow students? 2023 Could be the year.

It could be the year that we spend in fellowship. Lots of dinners and luncheons – with lots of deliberate and directed conversations to share our faith and build our love for one another as the body of Christ. I know this group can do a good job of eating together, maybe this year will be filled with fellowship and building the faith with a new pastor.

When you think about building the faith, you have to think about really good Bible study. 2023 Could be the year of great Bible study groups. All focused around one book or theme from scripture; the whole body might grow and share in faith's foundation, the Word of God. The Word of God alive in each and every household connected with First Presbyterian Church could be a life changing; church changing, year.

Maybe you are more the visual type of person. Are you ready to come up with a new vision for the physical plant? What about monthly workdays at the church? We could brighten up and sparkle up every corner of this facility. People who come by for a visit or a memorial service would be overwhelmed by a church that called to them because of clean facilities with signs that gave direction and guidance and a bright cheery atmosphere. People would know that the people of this congregation love being part of the body of Christ and appreciate the blessings God has bestowed upon them.

There is lots of opportunity coming in 2023. The odd thing is that a new pastor will only be a part of the equation. The balance of the equation will be in the hearts and minds of the body of Christ; the body known as First Presbyterian Church of Hanford - You.

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

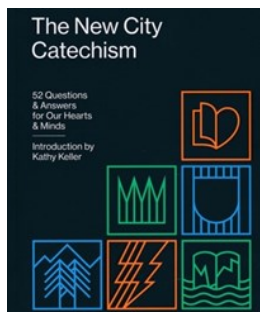


**A Note From:**  
**Children's and Youth Director**

I am pleased to announce that in this month of January, 2023 our church will embark on a new journey of learning. **The New City Catechism** is a treasure that was introduced to me last year and I am so excited about learning it together as a church. Catechism means “a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.” I grew up in a church that did not teach these principles in the form of catechism and I discovered it as an adult. I encourage you to download the app New City Catechism by Crossway and check it out. There are 50 questions and answers to help learn and understand who God is, why we were created and what our purpose is. The questions are broken up into three color coded parts: 1) God, Creation & Fall, Law, 2) Christ, Redemption, Grace and 3) Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace.



For each question and answer, there are scriptures, songs, symbols and commentary from Bible teachers both from antiquity and the present. Especially in these times of great moral confusion, I hope you will agree with us that it is a worthy endeavor to spend time memorizing these. In Powerhouse and Youth Sunday School, we will be learning one catechism question per month...which means it will take us a while to get through all 50 but the goal is memorization not just a light overview.



In addition to the app, there is a book: *The New City Catechism: 52 Questions & Answers for Our Hearts & Minds* By: [Kathy Keller](#).

The Christian Education Team is buying and making these books available to you for a donation of \$6. The book has everything that is in the free app, it is just in book format. Please turn your \$6 in to the offering, along with a note saying that you want one of these books and I will make sure you get one. There is also a devotional based on this catechism that looks fantastic. We have one copy of the devotional if you are interested in seeing it.

Mary Kinney will be teaching these questions and answers, scriptures and songs to our youth during Sunday School and your Powerhouse Team will be teaching the same thing to our children during Children's Church. I encourage and challenge you to memorize these questions and answers as well, and to put in the effort to learn and grow in the area of understanding our great God through his word and this excellent tool!!

Toward the goal of helping families grow in our faith in Christ, our Christian Education Team provided a **Family Prayer Calendar** to all of our families with children and youth. This is a wonderful resource that can be a blessing to your family as it gives daily prayer suggestions as well as monthly family adventure suggestions. Enjoy marking off each day as you grow in your prayer life as a family!

~ Sheri Winterowd





*He said to them,  
 “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.  
 Mark 16:15*

As we begin the 2023 New Year, let us celebrate Missionaries everywhere for their steadfast faith in the Lord! Whether they serve world-wide or locally, they are examples to all of us displaying “*Hope*” that God is always with us and we can achieve anything if we depend upon HIM, “*Peace*” knowing that God will see us through all troubled times, “*Joy*” in sharing the Word to the unreached bringing salvation through Jesus Christ to them, and “*Love*” the ultimate love of God that HE sent HIS only Son for all of us so that we will have eternal Life!

It is through the generous donations from, you, our congregation that our First Presbyterian Church will be supporting the following Missionaries and Organizations this 2023 – Thank You for helping to spread God’s Word through Mission Outreach!

**Living Water World Missions:** Provides/installs sustainable water purification systems for communities in need - particularly in Guatemala and Cuba at this time.

**Samaritan’s Purse Operation Heal Our Patriots:** “Operation” *Heal Our Patriots* gives wounded veterans and their spouses the opportunity for spiritual refreshment, physical renewal, and marriage enrichment.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth through a “Shoebbox” to open the door to Jesus Christ and salvation for eternal life!

**Mercy Ships:** Provides free surgeries to children with deformities that have no access to medical care.

**The Refuge House (Armona):** Refuge House Armona provides a safe place for kids to go after school where God is ever present and there are resources for help to the children and their families.

**The Timothy Initiative:** Disciple making & church planting world-wide and locally in the United States.

**Ryan & Amy C.:** Building discipleship teams to bring God and church back to the people in European countries.

**Crossroads Pregnancy Center:** Sharing the love of Christ in word and deed with anyone experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, post abortion syndrome or lifestyle distress.

**Kings Gospel Mission:** A rescue shelter in Hanford dedicated to helping and restoring the homeless and helpless by bringing them to God so that they know they are valued and loved.

**Wishing You A Blessed New Year!**

From your  
**Mission Ministry Team**



## Summary of Dec. 20, 2022 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 71 and 5 homebound took communion in Dec.
- Reported donations of \$75 to 5 organizations

### Clerk's Report

- EPC has received and reviewed our session minutes 10/21 through 9/22
- Reported unanimous approval to hire Athena Smith as bookkeeper
- Approved membership roll updates

### Pastor's Report

- Reported he has completed the Staff Reviews
- Reported he has been working with a contact to assist Buildings & Grounds in getting the lights in the Fellowship Hall replaced

### Christian Education

- Approved offering the New City Catechism for sale at \$6 per book
- Reported with all the responsibilities of CE, the committee prefers not to be responsible for organizing the Volunteer Lunch Appreciation in the future

### Finance

- Approved moving \$200/ea into four "sinking funds accounts"
- Approved \$125/ea staff bonuses
- Approved moving balance of remaining 2022 budget into Economic Uncertainty Fund #2104
- Approved the 2023 Budget (\$304,454.53)

### Other Business

- BodyLife approved to begin Feb. 1, 2023
- Approved parting gift of \$100 to Gwen Smith
- Approved updates made to the Interim Pastor contract
- Approved recommendations made by the Nominating Committee
- Annual Reports Due Jan. 6, 2023

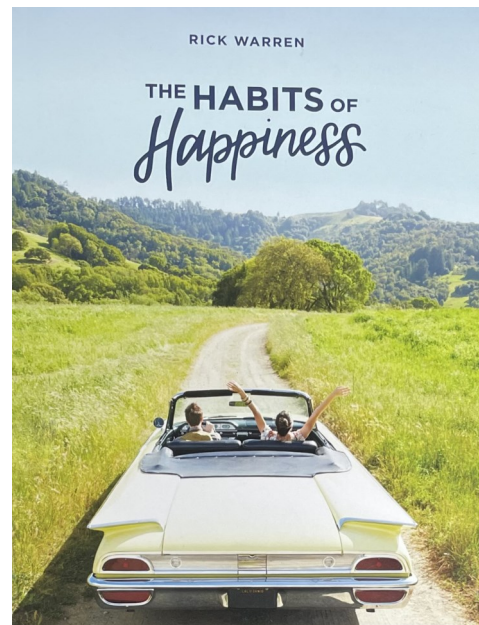
# UP COMING



- Jan 1** *New Year's Day communion service*
- Jan 2** Church Growth @ 1pm, \*Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Jan 3** Deacons mtg @ 6:30pm
- Jan 6** *Annual Reports Due*
- Jan 8** Buildings & Grounds mtg @ 11:10am, worship mtg @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm
- Jan 9** \*Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Jan 10** \*Finance mtg @ 7pm
- Jan 11** Christian Education meeting @ 9:30am
- Jan 12** \*New Bible Study class begins @ 7pm
- Jan 13** Elder/Deacons Training
- Jan 14** Training cont.
- Jan 15** *Ordination of New Elders & Deacons*
- Jan 16** *Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed)*
- Jan 17** Session mtg @ 6pm
- Jan 19** \*Bible Study @ 7pm
- Jan 22** Youth Group @ 5pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm
- Jan 27—28** Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
- Jan 29** *5th Sunday & Annual Meeting of the Corporation*  
\* Zoom Meeting

## New Bible Study Class Begins

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm (via Zoom)



Contact Sheri Winterowd or Mary Kinney for more info.  
Sheri (559-281-4163) Mary (559-707-7787)

# Church DEACONS

Happy New Year! Our Deacons look forward to serving you. It is that time once again to welcome new Deacons. We are please that Georgina Snyder and Laurie Tazelaar, the class of 2025 will be installed in January. They will be joining our current Deacons; Julie Baker, Laurie Essepien, Marj Froberg, Janet Harader, Martin Keast and Carley Watson.

Our Deacons are busy preparing for communion, memorial receptions, visiting shut-in, sending cards or plants, making calls and being involved in many local community outreach programs.

We wish to give heartfelt thanks to the class of 2022 who have completed their three year terms; Susan Feaver, Kelly Voyles and Sheri Winterowd. We appreciate all the time and effort you have given. Our Board of Deacons and their duties are listed on the back of the 1st Press monthly calendar. Please let us know how we can assist you!

## Santa for Seniors

On behalf of the deacons we would like to thank all those who participated in purchasing gifts for children and seniors. Ten children in the Santa's Angels program sponsored by the Salvation Army will receive gifts because of your generosity. Twenty-four seniors from Diamond Terrace will receive gifts this Christmas. The staff thanked me more than once when the gifts were delivered. Your thoughtfulness and generosity were sincerely appreciated.

Julie Baker & Janet Harader, Deacons



Church Family,

We are excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to RightNow Media—the world’s largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (it’s been called the “Netflix of video Bible studies”). This extensive library has more than 20,000 videos from leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include free discussion guides and handouts.

Our church believes that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith in every area of your life—at home, at work, and in your community. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There’s even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos. RightNow Media has a free app that’s available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime.

To get started, simply scan the QR code, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!





# Session Committees



fpc Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

zoom **Worship**  
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of each month @ 11:15am

**Church**  
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm

**Christian**  
**Education**  
Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am

zoom **MISSIONS**  
Ministry

1<sup>st</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

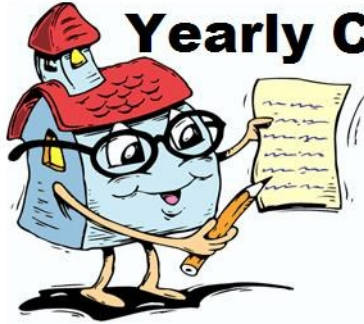
**Church**  
**Growth**  
Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm

**Session**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

# Faith & Fellowship



**Yearly Celebration  
&  
Annual  
Church  
Meeting**

**January 29th**

**as part of morning worship**



**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 Street)

## Jolly 1's & 2's

*Watch your bulletin and future First Press for  
events planned for Jolly 1's & 2's*



"All right, Ms Henley, we'll turn up the heat."

# JANUARY

## Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 8 Wellman Jue
- 11 Annie Jackson
- 15 Don Mills
- 16 Grace Kinney
- 17 \*Charles & Susan Feaver
- 18 Meg Connelly, Ken Tazelaar
- 19 Alysha Rajskup, Michael Christoph
- 22 Steve Wartman
- 24 Owen Walsh, 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 93232

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### First Presbyterian Church

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

<b>Lou Paradise</b> <a href="mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org">pastor@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Interim Pastor</b>
<b>Sheri Winterowd</b> <a href="mailto:fpchanford.youth@gmail.com">fpchanford.youth@gmail.com</a>	<b>Director of Youth &amp; Children's Ministries</b>
<b>Annette Rajskup</b> <a href="mailto:office@fpchanford.org">office@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<b>Athena Smith</b> <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@fpchanford.org">bookkeeper@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>
<b>Nancy Roller</b> <a href="mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com">nancyroller8@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Custodian</b>

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)