

First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

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

FIRST PRESS

February 2021



Grounds in my coffee cup

I can sit for hours at night tending a campfire in camping chairs wearing insulated coveralls, insulated boots, wool socks, gloves and a stocking hat. Even better if there is a pot of coffee percolating close by. It doesn't have to be a big fire, just big enough to take the edge off the cold, maybe lets me unzip my coat. It doesn't have to be a good pot of coffee, in fact if I have to pick some coffee grounds off my tongue, even better. I know that sounds crazy, if I went to Starbucks and got a mouth full of grounds in my last drink, I would be furious. But, somehow those grounds in my coffee cup in front of that fire, to me that is a little bit of heaven on earth.

The world we live in is different from the one we lived in even ten years ago and it seems almost unrecognizable from the world of my teenage years in the 80's. It isn't just cell phones, the internet, the 24 hours news cycle, and the breakneck pace we have set for ourselves. It is something different. It feels to me something in the DNA of our culture has changed. I know we all like to idolize the past a little. We know that 20/20 hindsight also comes with blinders that tend to block out things we don't want to include in our reminiscing about the "good old days." Like the time a friend and I slept in a tent in my yard two nights in a row because his mom and step dad were fighting again. And the fight was never fair. Or when another friend broke her back in a car accident, no one mentioned that the route home from the basketball game had been via a party. Our world has never been a safe place to live, maybe not even always a very nice place to live. But it used to be a calmer place to live.

Certainly, it wasn't calm all the time; there have always been periods of crazy. We can't be naive and pretend that isn't true. However, in the last four to five years and even more so in the last twelve to eighteen months. In this amount of time, we have become a world of fear, a world of constant panic and Red Alert threats. This is bad on a whole bunch of levels, not the least of which was taught to us by Jedi Master Yoda; "Fear leads to Anger, Anger leads to hate and hate leads to suffering." Fear, anger, hate are a constant churn of emotions that feed on themselves and on any darkness within us they can find. So how do we find ways to block the fear, to keep the darkness at bay? For me, I like to think about the grounds in my coffee cup.

Nearly every week prior to the reading of scripture you are going to hear me ask the Holy Spirit to create in us calm. To silence the noise of life so we can open our hearts to the light that is God's holy word. Calming our hearts so we can listen to God. Psalm 46:10 tells us, "Be still and know that I am God." I know it can be hard, and I know you may be saying "But Tim, sometimes I don't even know what being still looks like." Sure you do. Take a minute and imagine, if you were to take the last drink from a cup of coffee and with the coffee came coffee grounds but you don't care. What you are doing at that moment is being still.

Cont. on page 2

Grounds in my coffee cup cont.

If you can't imagine any time when coffee grounds in your coffee wouldn't upset you, then I would ask you to look at Mark 4:35-41.

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The Disciples are in a state of panic and fear. Can you also hear the anger in their voice when they wake Jesus up? So Jesus rebukes the wind and then says to the water, "Peace! Be still!" and everything was calm. Our God is the God who controls even the wind and the water. Who are we to think he can't also see the raging sea in our own heart and make it be still as well? Being still is not about finding some relaxation exercise. It is about opening yourself up to the Holy Spirit and allowing him to call the storm.

I'm not writing this as some sort of lecture about fueling the flames of panic in our culture. And I'm not saying we don't live in a world where there are legitimate concerns. But what I am saying is we won't ever address these concerns constructively if we don't address them from a place of calm. If we aren't able to step back for a moment, to be still and to listen to Christ calling us, guiding us, and teaching us. Without finding calm we are letting the panic, fear and darkness continue to have control and it simply doesn't have to be that way. It may not be possible right now for me to go out to tend a campfire, but I don't really need the fire or the coffee to know what calm is. Calm is when I let the peace of Christ flow through me in such a way that my perspective on life becomes more like Christ.

God Bless,
Pastor Tim

Church DEACONS

Santa Seniors and Santa Helpers

Now that we are well past Christmas and New Year's, I thought it might be a good time to review one of the programs that the Deacons support every year. Santa Seniors and Santa Helpers are two endeavors where we provide Christmas gifts to some poor and neglected people in our community. For some, this may be the only gift they receive.

The Deacons truly appreciate you, the FPC membership, for your continued support with these programs. Our coordinator expressed some concerns about committing to 32 gifts with our current Covid-church situation. But with your help, we were able to give gifts to 10 children through the Salvation Army (Santa Helpers) and 22 to elderly shut-ins at the Diamond Terrace rest home (Santa Seniors).

Deacons use opportunities like these to spread the Gospel through serving the needs of our church and the community. Thank you again for your ongoing support of our activities.

~ Martin Keast



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



Mission Impossible – Accomplished!



It would seem to many that for First Presbyterian Church choir robes to be used in Cameroon Africa would definitely be a Mission Impossible! But, that is exactly what happened and through God’s grace, it all came about because of one man – Paul Yves Elansa!

Paul was born and raised in Cameroon in West Coast Africa by the Guinea Gulf area. He is one of seven children in his family and still has brothers and sisters living in Cameroon. Paul is married and has one son.

Paul has quite a background on how he came to the United States. He was working as a civil servant and an Elder in the Cameroon Presbyterian Church in Efulan before his departure to the United States at age 32 in 2012. He was able to come through the American Green Card Lottery Program and went to Amarillo, Texas. From there, he joined the US Navy under the Dallas Military Entrance Process and became a logistic specialist Seaman. He was transferred to San Diego and enrolled in the Naval Special Warfare to support the Seal Team as a Linguist and Cultural Advisor; he was the middle person to bridge the cultural gap. In 2019, he was transferred to Lemoore Naval Air Station to support the F-35 Aviation Supply Program as a Petty Officer Logistics Specialist 3rd Class.

Through all his years in the United States, Paul has faithfully found a church where he was living and last summer Paul found our church and has been attending worship services ever since. Because of COVID, Paul noticed that our choir could not perform and he asked if our church had choir robes that we were not using? The question was brought to Session for approval and thus, before Christmas, Paul flew home with choir robes in hand to be distributed to choir members in his home church in Cameroon.

Our First Presbyterian Church is happy to know that our brothers and sisters in Christ are able to use our choir robes and pictures from Paul’s trip are below. Please keep the Presbyterian Church and its members in Cameroon in prayer!

Paul says: “I praise God for my life and for letting me meet new brothers and sisters in faith around the world and I wish we will proclaim his name all over the world”.





Summary of January 19, 2021 Session Meeting

Deacons:

- Reported 56 took Communion in January
- Reported the Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, Kings Gospel Mission and the Salvation Army were each given \$85 in December
- Approved Deacons to conduct fundraiser to finance a memorial tree and plaque for Naomi Tagawa

Finance:

- Approved updates to rollover amounts to Economic Uncertainty Fund
- Approved revised 2021 budget
- Approved team's selection of an Investment Advisor

Missions:

- Approved "Special Offering" for Souper Bowl Sunday Feb. 7th

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Tim reported he would like to work with Darlene to restart making mid-week meals for those interested
- Pastor Tim asked the Session to pray and prepared to discuss options for moving services back indoors.

Other Session Business:

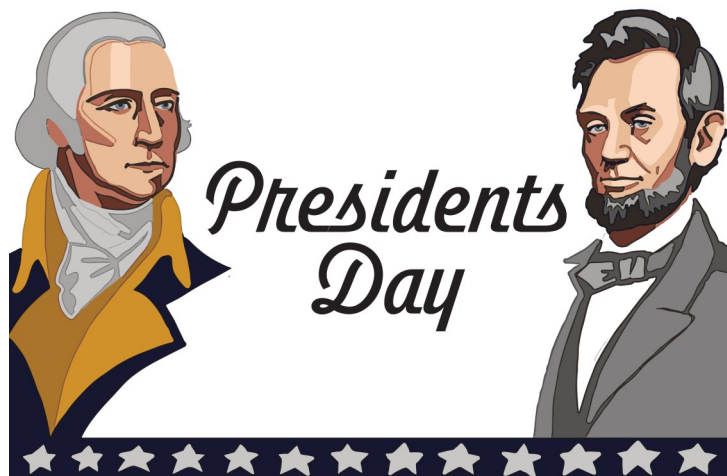
- Greg Connelly was installed as Elder
- Approved Debra Revious, Annette Rajskup and Martin Keast to attend Presbytery on Jan. 22, 2021

UP COMING



- Feb 1** *Worship Meeting @ 6pm
- Feb 2** Staff Meeting @ 10am
*Deacons Meeting @ 6:30
- Feb 3** Church Growth
*Pastor's Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Feb 4** *CE Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Feb 7** *Communion Sunday*
*Guys Bible Study @ 7:30pm
- Feb 9** Staff Meeting @ 10am
*Mission Meeting @ 5pm
*Finance @ 7pm
*Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 7pm
- Feb 10** *Pastor's Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Feb 11** Session Reports Due
- Feb 14** *Valentine's Day*
*Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm
*Youth Ladies Bible Study @ 8pm
- Feb 15** *President's Day (Office Closed)*
- Feb 16** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Feb 17** Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30pm
- Feb 21** *Guys Bible Study @ 7:30pm
- Feb 23** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Feb 24** *Pastor's Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Feb 28** *Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm
*Youth Ladies Bible Study @ 8pm
- Mar 1** *Worship Meeting @ 6pm
- Mar 2** Staff Meeting @ 10am
*Deacons Meeting @ 6:30
- Mar 3** Church Growth
*Pastor's Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Mar 7** *Communion Sunday*
*Guys Bible Study @ 7:30pm
- Mar 9** Staff Meeting @ 10am
*Mission Meeting @ 5pm
*Finance @ 7pm
*Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 7pm
- Mar 10** *Pastor's Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Mar 11** Session Reports Due
- Mar 14** *Not-So-Small Group @ 6:30pm
*Youth Ladies Bible Study @ 8pm

* Zoom Meeting



Monday, February 15th
Church Office Closed



Hello First Pres Family!

We would like to do something special for our Children's ministry to bring a smile to their faces. Usually we would have an Easter celebration here at the church. This year, we will bring the celebration door to door.

What I could use some help with is donations of filled plastic eggs. We need a total of 360 to make sure we are able to get everyone. If you would like to help us out please let Jaime know how many filled plastic eggs you can donate. Please have all eggs to the church office by Sunday, March 21. You can drop them off during the week or bring them on Sunday morning.

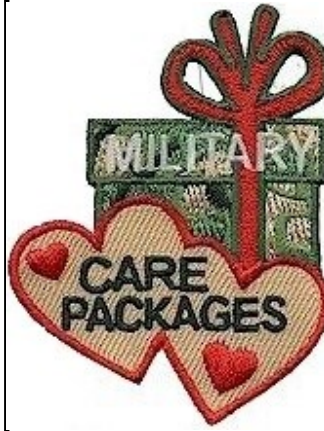
Thank you for helping bring joy and love to the children of our church.

Blessings,
Jaime

He Is Risen!



MILITARY MINISTRY



We are looking to fill "Military Care Packages" and are asking for your help. A table will be set-up during Sunday worship where you can sign-up to contribute items for this special ministry. Please stop by February, 7th, 14th or 21st and select the items you would like to contribute.

February 7th



Please remember Missions will be having a "Special Offering on Sunday, Feb. 7th to help support "Carlla", our FPC Compassion International Child.



**February 17th
Service @ 6:30pm**

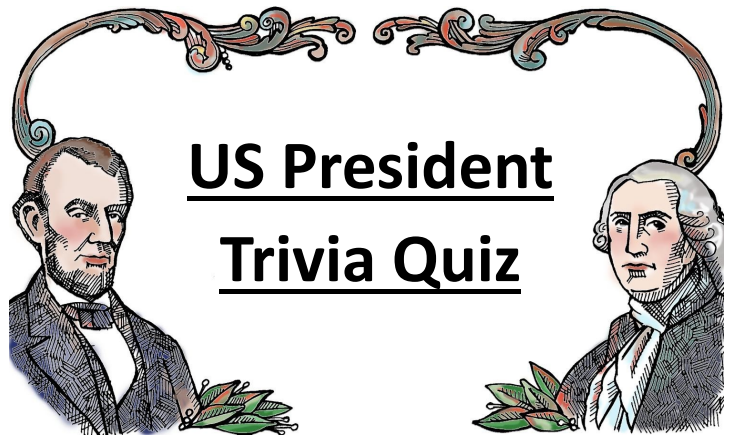


Fellow Members and Attendees of FPC Hanford,

We want to thank those of you who have made your commitment to our Faith Commitment Drive! During the announcements a few Sundays ago, we shared that we were already at 50.71% of our projected budget. What you might not realize is that this is further along than where we were at this time during last year's pledge drive! With all of the uncertainties and difficulties of these last several months, this is an amazing statement of our faithfulness as a church! Giving is an act of worship, a way to show our gratefulness for God's provisions, and a form of submission to God's authority. Please prayerfully consider filling out a pledge card if you haven't yet, and know that your Stewardship team is looking for ways to further celebrate and encourage an attitude of cheerful giving to His church!

Attendance at our parking lot services continue to be another source of encouragement for the life and vitality of our congregation! Our average attendance continues to be 75-80 people gathering together with another 18-20 watching live at the same time! Following worship we are able to safely distance conversations to chat with each other! And we are meeting new families who found out we are worshipping together and are starting to attend.


"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." -2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

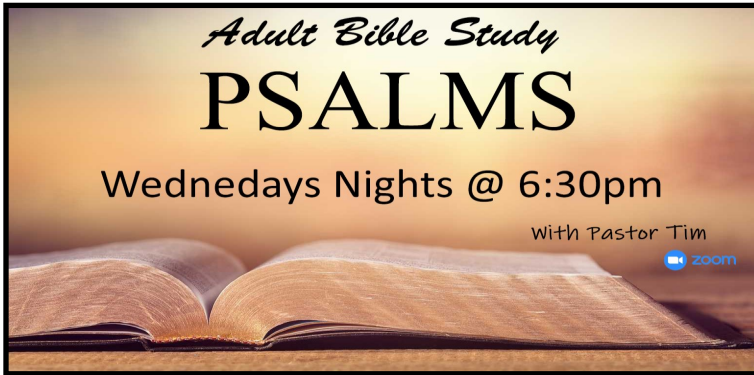


1. Who ran for President with the campaign slogan "Vote Yourself a Farm?"
2. How many future Presidents signed the Declaration of Independence?
3. Who was the only US President to also serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
4. Who was the first US President to be married in the White House?
5. What US President had a pet mockingbird named "Dick"?
6. What US President had a nervous breakdown at the age of 24 and spent time in a sanitarium?
7. Who was the first US President to be born an American citizen?
8. Walt Whitman's poem "Oh Captain, My Captain" was written about which President?
9. How many Presidents have died on the Forth of July?
10. Who was the first President to have a state car custom built to Secret Service standards.

1. Abraham Lincoln 2. Two 3. William Taft 4. Grover Cleveland 5. Thomas Jefferson 6. Warren Harding 7. Martin Van Buren 8. Abraham Lincoln 9. Three (John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe) 10. Franklin Roosevelt

Faith & Fellowship

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



fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
 Hanford, California

 **zoom** **Worship**
 Committee Meeting
 1st Monday of each month
 @ 6pm


Jolly
1's & 2's

Praying for COVID restrictions to lift so we can resume planning activities.

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
 Hanford, California

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

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
 Hanford, California

 **zoom** 
Net-So-Small-Group
 2nd and 4th Sunday
 of each month @ 6:30pm

agapè

Agape presently has no planned events due to COVID restrictions.

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
 Hanford, California

 **zoom** 
MISSIONS
 Ministry
 Second Tuesday each month
 @ 5:00pm

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6 Tim Bowers
- 12 Martin Keast
- 15 Jacob Dixon, Miriam Webb
- 17 Davena Clemente
- 24 Madison Kapanka
- 25 Jacob Keast
- 28 Melanie Karwowski

P O Box 1185
Hanford, CA 93232

Place
Stamp
Here

Label Here

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STAFF:

Tim Hoins pastor@fpchanford.org	Pastor
Jaime Christoph jaime.christoph@gmail.com	Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
Annette Rajskup office@fpchanford.org	Office Administrator
Gail Forsythe gail@fpchanford.org	Bookkeeper
Nancy Roller nancyroller8@yahoo.com	Custodian

Church Office Hours: 9am—noon (Mon), 9am—4pm (Tue-Fri)

Send prayer requests to hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com
other information to 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.