

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

Email: office@fpchanford.org

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

FIRST PRESS

March 2022

Who Are We?

At the January planning meeting with the Session, it became evident that a large number of this congregation is unaware of the structure, duties, and responsibilities for boards and organizations at First Presbyterian Church of Hanford. I am going to try and address this lack of knowledge so that all may become aware of Who We Are.

We are a church within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Our, "Presbytery" within that denomination is POPS (Presbytery Of the Pacific Southwest). That means we are tied together from the San Diego Boarder, to the Northern Boarder of California (almost), all of Nevada and a very thin slice on the Western Edge of Arizona and, of course, Hawaii, with thirty other churches that make up POPS. Along with 13 other Presbyteries we make up the EPC with about 145,000 members across the United States. Founded in 1981, we are a denomination united under the rule of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and as head of this church, holding fast to the confessional standards laid out in the Westminster Confession of Faith (1640s England).

In our local congregation we elect leadership to help direct and implement the mission of Jesus Christ. A Nominating Committee, which is elected by the Congregation at large, is tasked with getting representatives to serve in our church offices. We elect Elders to serve on our Session. We elect Deacons to the Board of Deacons. Outside of our ecclesiastical function, we incorporate as a 501c(3) non-profit and elect Trustees to fulfill corporate law.

There are nine elders on the Session. Three classes (currently 2022, 2023, 2024) of three elders in each class, make it so the session receives three new members each year. These nine members carry the responsibility for all ministry and mission that takes place in this congregation. Two members of session may be called upon to represent your congregation within the work of the Presbytery.



Continued on next page

“Who Are We” continued

Now, just imagine: Nine of your friends and colleagues, brothers and sisters in Christ, elected to build the Body of Christ in our local congregation as we join with 145,000 other believers. Do you think they need your help and support? Do you think they need your prayers? Do you think they need God’s Holy Spirit to lift them when they are tired, and energize them with vision for their work? These are rhetorical questions of course.

In future articles we may need to talk about the workload and breakdown of committee structure for the Session. We may need to explore the work of the Deacons. We may examine other support groups in the life of FPC Hanford. All of this **so that you might be better informed and appraised of how you can be and become the Church of Jesus Christ to this community and this world.** My hope is that you will discover, who are we, so that you might define who we are becoming – with you and Christ in the center.

May your walk with Christ lead you to deep waters, to cast out your nets for an abundant catch.

In Christ,

Rev. Louis R. Paradise



Church

DEACONS

We are privileged to have many active duty members and their families stationed at Lemore Naval Station who attend First Presbyterian Church. As military life presents unique challenges, we wish to take every opportunity to support them. One way to do this is sending care packages to military personnel deployed on ships around the world. Since 2018 our active duty members have received “Love in a Box” care packages full of nonperishable personal hygiene products, various food items, and encouraging notes and cards. Donations needed and names of those deployed are located on the Deacon bulletin board in the hallway. These will be updated regularly. Monetary donations will help defray shipping cost (a box is approximately \$17). Thank you for your generous and continued support of this vital ministry.



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.



Operation Christmas Child Special Report 2021

"Declare His Glory Among the Nations"
Psalm 96:3



God did remarkable things around the world through Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child in 2021 and our First Presbyterian Church of Hanford is proud to be a part of what God is doing through this wonderful discipleship Program!

In 2021, Samaritan's Purse continued to declare God's glory through the Operation Christmas Child Program in more than 100 countries and territories including among many unreached people groups at the very ends of the earth. We praise God that more than 9.1 million shoebox gifts were distributed to children in need at over 81,000 outreach events!

*"Every shoebox represents an opportunity
to reach one more child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*
—Franklin Graham

Jeff & Dottie Crass, our local Operation Christmas Child Regional Representatives reported that shoeboxes from Kings and Tulare Counties were up this 2021 from 7,781 boxes in 2020 to 11,085 boxes in 2021 and "total" shoeboxes from our area were up 23%. Additionally, through the new "Build A Box" online program, Tulare-Kings (including Alaska) online orders were 5th highest and Fresno 4th highest in orders from our area. Our shoeboxes from the Tulare-Kings area were distributed to the Pacific Islands, Ecuador, and Lesotho, Africa.

Pacific Islands: To date, over 283,000 children on more than 960 inhabited Pacific islands have received shoebox gifts and have been given the opportunity to respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Ecuador: "One Child At A Time"

The shoebox that 8-year-old Génesis was given in her native Ecuador was the first gift she had ever received. But as delighted as she was with her new doll and other fun toys, Génesis was even happier to learn how much God loved her and readily gave her life to Jesus. She then shared the Good News with her parents. "At my home, we talked about God, and Jesus saved my mom who was sick with COVID," she said. "I asked God for her healing and her salvation, and both of my parents were saved." Génesis, 8 years old.

The Impossible Made Possible – We praise God that in 2021 over 2.3 million children made decisions for Christ through the 12-lesson discipleship course *The Greatest Journey* teaching children how to follow Christ and share Him with others. Each shoebox is a Gospel opportunity that can be used by God to change a child's life for eternity—and change the course of many other lives as well.

As one Regional Team Leader said: "With Operation Christmas Child, God upsets social habits, overturns traditions and customs, and acquires a people for Himself. Through this ministry, the impossible becomes possible by virtue of God." Amen!

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"
Matthew 19:26



Summary of Mar. 15, 2022 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 54 took Communion in February & 8 Home Bound were served
- Donations of \$75 each were given to the Episcopal Soup Kitchen, Cross Roads Pregnancy, Kings Gospel Mission & Meals-on-Wheels
- Clothing and food donations are down

Clerk's Report

- Highlight from POPS meeting Jan 20—22

Pastor's Report

- Baptism of Ryan LeFils requested for Apr 3rd
- Worship plans through April 17 submitted

Buildings & Grounds

- Approved funds for internet installation and security cameras in the 220 Building

C.E.

- Katie Sippel has resigned and Sheri Winterowd will fill her position

Missions

- Approved participation in "Serve Day" in May

PSC

- Approved updating our Church Information Form

UP COMING



- Mar 1** Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm
- Mar 2** Soup Supper dinner @ 5:30pm, Ash Wednesday service @ 6pm
- Mar 6** *Communion Sunday*, Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser and Bake Sale
- Mar 7** Church Growth meeting @ 1pm, *Missions meeting @ 7pm
- Mar 8** *Finance meeting @ 7pm, *Buildings & Grounds meeting @ 7pm
- Mar 9** BodyLife @ 6pm
- Mar 9-10** California Music Educators Assoc. Festival
- Mar 10** 5:30pm Pastor Search meeting, *Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Mar 13** *Daylight Savings Time begins*, Worship meeting @ 11:15am, NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm
- Mar 15** Session meeting @ 6pm
- Mar 16** BodyLife @ 6pm
- Mar 17** *Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Mar 18** *First Press articles due*
- Mar 23** BodyLife @ 6pm
- Mar 24** *Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Mar 26** Parents' Evening Out (4-7pm)
- Mar 27** NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm
- Mar 30** BodyLife @ 6pm
- Mar 31** *Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Apr 1** First Friday Coffee & Prayer @ 9am
- Apr 3** *Communion Sunday*, Baptism of Ryan LeFils
- Apr 4** Church Growth meeting @ 1pm, *Missions meeting @ 7pm
- Apr 5** Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm
- Apr 6** BodyLife @ 6pm
- Apr 7** *Bible Study @ 6:30pm
- Apr 9** Church Workday @ 8am
- Apr 10** *Palm Sunday*
- Apr 12** *Buildings & Grounds meeting @ 7pm, *Finance meeting @ 7pm
- Apr 14** *Maunday Thursday*
- Apr 17** *Easter Sunday*

* Zoom Meeting

Donations are down,

CAN YOU HELP?

F  D

&

CLO  HING

DONATIONS



Session Committees



 **Worship**
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday after morning worship

 **Church**
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm

 **Christian**
Education
Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 3rd @ 3pm



 Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom

 **MISSIONS**
Ministry

2nd Tuesday each month @ 5:00pm

 Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom

Buildings & Grounds
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm



 Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom

Finance
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month
@ 7:00 pm



 **Church**
Growth
Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm




 **Session**

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm



Faith & Fellowship

BodyLife Dinners



Wednesdays 6:00pm
March 9th thru April 6th

Adults - \$6
 Family max - \$18

fpc
 Hanford, CA
 www.fpchanford.org

God's Prevenient Grace

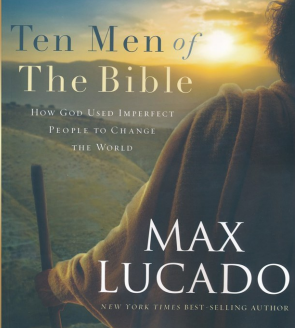
9—11am




Ladies

First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Adult Bible Study



Thursday Nights @ 6:30pm



FPC YOUTH

Tritip Fundraiser

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
 11:15AM Fellowship Hall




\$12

SIT DOWN OR TO-GO AVAILABLE

Profits support Camp Calvin Crest Scholarships

Youth Fundraiser for Camp and Bake Sale



March 6th

Jolly 1's & 2's

Jolly 1's & 2's will be attending the Temple Theatre play titled "The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase," a comedy by Pat Cook on Sunday,

March 13. When Uncle George invites his whole family for a weekend at his rustic cabin, he reveals there is \$480,000 somewhere on his property. What follows is a chaotic farce of pettiness, slander and greed! Who will find it?

If you have not been contacted yet and still want to attend, let Janet Harader know right away. I will check to see if there are still seats available to reserve for you. If you wish to be added to the list of people to contact before events, please let me know. (Phone: 583-8817 or 367-5658).

Cost is \$15. If you have season tickets, please make your own reservations. Those of you wishing to eat together, we will meet at Asia Gardens restaurant at noon. The play begins at 2:00, but it would be in your best interest to get there by 1:30 as they begin giving away seats if you are not there by at least 1:45.. If you need an aisle seat or front row seat, please let me know ahead of time so I can reserve them for you.

Join us for "Soup Supper"



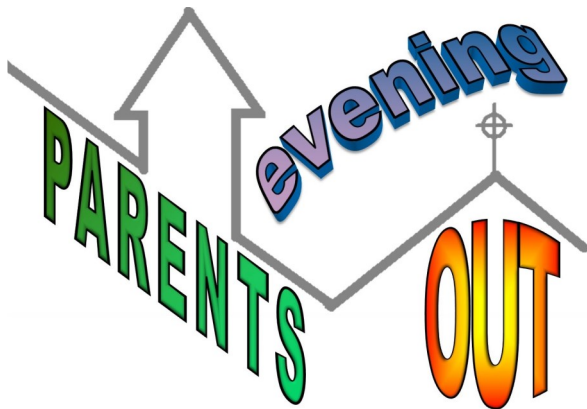
at 5:30pm

followed by our

+ASH WEDNESDAY

Service

at 6:00pm



March 26th 4-7pm

Camping Theme

Dinner provided, games, s'mores...

Register by 3/23 @

fpchanford.youth@gmail.com



Easter "Egging" Fundraiser

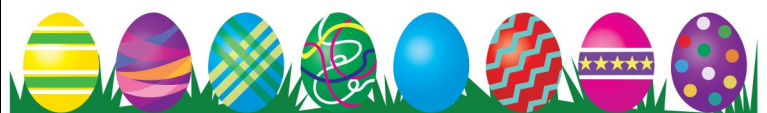
Support the FPC Youth and surprise someone with candy-filled Easter Eggs

Order yours now @

<https://forms.gle/JUDR6oKPPyZw7fJs6>

\$10/dozen

watch for order forms in the Sunday bulletin also



MARCH

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 2 Ellen Matsubara, Kelly Voyles,
Annie Wrigley, *Michael & Jennifer
Kapanka
- 5 Dorothy Shaw
- 6 Wyatt Cabrera, Rosemary Clark
- 9 Jim Rajskup
- 14 Heidi Koppenhaver
- 16 Sally Gordon, Emmett Montoya
- 23 Lexie Garcia
- 27 Riley Walls
- 28 *Don & Janice Mills
- 31 Debbie Ginn



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

Place
Stamp
Here

Label Here

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STAFF:

Lou Paradise pastor@fpchanford.org	Interim Pastor
Sheri Winterowd fpchanford.youth@gmail.com	Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
Annette Rajskup office@fpchanford.org	Office Administrator
Gwendolyn Smith bookkeeper@fpchanford.org	Bookkeeper
Nancy Roller nancyroller8@yahoo.com	Custodian

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

Send prayer requests to hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com
other information to office@fpchanford.org