

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

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

FIRST PRESS

March 2020

UP COMING



Mar 1	Communion Sunday Congregational Meeting
Mar 3	Elections, New Officer Training
Mar 4	BodyLife
Mar 6	First Friday Coffee & Prayer Games & Company
Mar 8	Kings Symphony Orchestra
Mar 11	BodyLife
Mar 12	Agape
Mar 14	Zoo Day
Mar 15	Rest Home Visitation (Deacons)
Mar 17	Session Meeting
Mar 18	BodyLife
Mar 19	Laundry Love
Mar 27	Youth Movie Night
Mar 28	Inquirers Class
Mar 29	Youth Sunday 5th Sunday Potluck



Reminder! Deacons hope you can bring some non-perishable food on **Mar 1** to feed those in our community who are in need.



Summary of February 18, 2020 Session Meeting

Deacons:

- Deacons reported communion was served to (96) during worship service and (1) Shut-In received communion.

Finance:

- Approved purchase of battery charger.
- Approved purchase of cover for piano in Fellowship Hall.

Buildings & Grounds:

- Continuing follow-up regarding pest issue in attic

Church Growth:

- Updated signage is being perused for "A" frame sidewalk signs. Until updated, signs will not be placed on sidewalks Sunday mornings.
- Regular updates to Website and Facebook are being made.

Missions:

- "Souper Bowl" Sunday special offering for KGM Women's Shelter brought \$541
- Approved Guest Speaker from Living Waters Ministry
- Missions will organize a 5th Sunday Potluck and "Dessert Auction Fundraiser on May 31st.
- Approved use of FPC parking lot for Community Serve Day on May 2nd.
- Approved Guest Speaker from Compassion International (date TBD).

Other Session Business:

- Approved guest speaker Jim Conners (EPC Moderator) on March 1st
- Approved recommendation for Pastoral Search Committee for a 9 member committee.
- Approved proposed Pastoral Search Committee candidates: Jaime Christoph, Carol Connelly, Jeff Crass, Charles Feaver, Sally Gordon, Martin Keast, Annette Rajskup, Debra Revious and Diane Sharp.

Church DEACONS

Homelessness...whether the reason is the result of weakened drug laws (attracting drug users from out of state & hampering customary law enforcement), the ebbing away at private property rights by the legislature and courts, higher home prices, or something else altogether...it's here in Hanford and it seems it's here to stay.

Kings Gospel Mission (KGM) takes a pro-active, Bible-based, solution-oriented approach to aiding folks living in our community without the benefit of secured housing. We strive to be "God's hands" to bring people into community, to shelter, feed, clothe and employ them.

Look at these numbers from 2019!

- 16,720 - Recycle Tickets – the amount of times hope & encouragement can be shared via cans & bottles.
- 10,636 - Thrift Customers – the amount of times at a register that hope & encouragement can be shared. (I wonder how many just browsed?)
- 156 - Pressure Washing Events where downtown is exposed to the Gospel light.
- 4695 - Shelter Bed Stays – number of evenings we were able to breathe God's word into souls who need the one true light.
- 282 - Individuals Sheltered – the amount of people seeking refuge through our shelter doors in one year!
- 28,210 - Employee Hours where the Gospel can be shared freely!
- Over 32,000 events and 28,000 hours this mission got to shine the Gospel light.

The model is working! Please join KGM as prayer partners, volunteers or donors to engage in this important work that raises living standards for the entire community through sharing the love of Christ. Please contact me at 559-281-0055 to learn more about 2020 expansion plans and to find out how you can engage in this wonderful effort.

Thanks. Diane Sharp, FPC Deacon and KGM Board Member

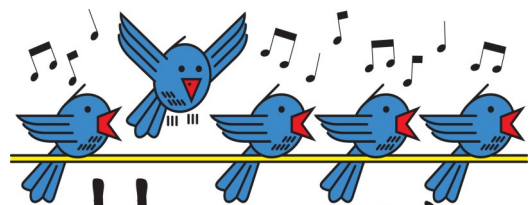


Meet the Composers Part II: One of Choir's favorite Christmas anthems was "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" written by Reginald Heber. Born in 1783 into a wealthy, educated family, he was a bright youth; reading the entire Bible at age 5 and translating Latin classics into English verse by the time he was seven. He entered Oxford at age 17. After his graduation he became rector of his father's church in Cheshire where he remained for 16 years. Heber was determined to demonstrate that hymn-singing was not a prerogative of just the Evangelical wing of the Church of England, and in time he produced some 57 hymns, including "Holy, Holy, Holy", "God, That Made Earth and Heaven" and "Lord of Mercy, Lord of Might".

He was appointed Bishop of Calcutta in 1823 and worked tirelessly for three years until the weather and travel took its toll and he died of a stroke at age 42.

For more information on the life of this much loved musician and pastor, go to Hymns and Carols of Christmas at https://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Hymns_and_Carols/Biographies/reginald_heber.htm

Come



Add your voice

We Worship

We Praise

We Glorify

WE SING!

We Welcome You to Join Chancel Choir

Extending an open invitation to our congregation to help us on Sunday mornings as we seek to Worship, Praise and Glorify God

*Rehearsals: Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm
and Sunday mornings at 8:45am*



A Message From Your Missions Ministry Team

“A Visit to the OCC Processing Center”

What happens when the shoeboxes we pack for Operation Christmas Child leaves our church? How do the 10 million boxes packed all over the United States make their way to children in 120 countries around the world?

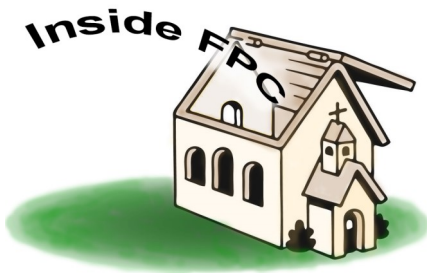
The 184 OCC shoeboxes that we prayed over on dedication Sunday were taken to one of seven drop-off centers hosted by churches in the Kings-Tulare County District. From there, they are taken to our District’s collection center at the Calvary Chapel in Visalia and packed about 12 shoeboxes to a cardboard carton and loaded into the back of a semi bound for the Good Samaritan West Coast Processing Center in Fullerton, California. Our Kings-Tulare District had a 5% increase over last year for a total of almost 10,000 shoeboxes.

A week later, four volunteers from our church, Beverly and Mike Rodriguez, Dottie and Jeff Crass, spent a day helping prepare the shoeboxes that came into Fullerton Processing Center for shipments to the selected locations overseas. “We joined another 250-400 volunteers each day who come from the Los Angeles area and from all over the west coast. After we registered, we were given a brief orientation and brought into what resembled a fruit packing operation, complete with rolling conveyer belts. We were assigned to a team of ten persons who would review the shoeboxes that came to the processing center from the various collection centers throughout the West Coast of the United States. Besides our team, there were twenty other teams reviewing boxes at the same time.

Each person on our team had a special job. One person would check the box for the \$9 donation to take out and place it in a secure slot, since dollars received in many countries is illegal in many countries. Another person removes inappropriate material including liquids or toothpaste (considered a food by some countries). Another person makes sure that each box has enough items and may need to fill with a toy or school supplies. The next person wraps a strap of tape around to seal the box. Finally, the shoebox is loaded back into a cardboard carton with others of the same age and boy or girl. The carton is coded in order to scan and track where the box is sent. These cartons are then loaded into large shipping containers to make the voyage to countries around the Pacific Rim.

The day we served at the Good Samaritan/Operation Christmas Child Processing Center, there were over 50,000 shoeboxes readied for shipment. In the 20 days of operation last fall, just over one million shoeboxes were processed. That, in spiritual terms, means that our church was able to help partner with overseas national churches over one million gospel opportunities to share Christ’s Love.

Good Samaritan’s Disaster Response Center also operates from this location - tours are available for both centers. If you would like to participate in next fall’s processing center, please let us know.”



Session Retreat News

In February your Session met for our annual planning and prayer retreat. Each year we gather together for some training and to discern an objective or goal, sometimes more than one, for the year. 2019 was a year where we saw the power of God's miracles and we came together in prayer both in large groups, worship and individually to rally around several members of our congregation who needed God's healing power.

Session would like to continue this trend and have declared 2020 a *Year of Prayer* for First Presbyterian Church Hanford. We came up with three goals, or objectives, to help keep us focused on this:

- Raise up Biblical and Godly leaders, including the search for our new pastor, to help us continue to be an anchor to our community
- Encourage the increased involvement of Session and church members to ensure First Presbyterian Church Hanford continues to be an effective instrument and reflection of Christ
- Energize the prayer life of the congregation through intentional efforts in corporate, groups, and personal settings.

In our effort to better focus on prayer you will now find Prayer Request cards in the back of the pews. If at any time you, or someone you know, needs prayer, please fill out one of these cards and put it in the offering plate. Each Sunday the cards received will be divided among Session and they will actively be praying for those needs throughout the week.

We will also again be offering a time of prayer during the worship service on Sunday mornings. This can be a time of silent prayer, or if you feel led, you can say your prayers aloud during this time.

In addition to these options of prayer during Sunday mornings, we will be adding opportunities to come together and pray. We currently have the Ladies' First Friday Prayer group, where on the first Friday of each month women of this church and our community are invited to come together to share a time of fellowship and pray for one another. To this we will be adding a time of evening prayer during the Lent season. On Wednesday evenings, February 26 through April 8, we invite you to join us in the sanctuary from 5:15pm-6pm for a time of prayer.

There are other ideas in the works on ways to encourage and energize the prayer life at First Presbyterian Church. Your Session and Deacons are always available by phone or email for any prayer requests of needs you may have. You may also contact Rowena Curiel to have your prayer requests added to the prayer email chain.

Blessings In Christ,

Jaime Christoph

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Faith & Fellowship



Our next meeting takes place on Thursday, March 12 at 1:00. We have a special program all will want to hear. Dave Clevenger of Kings Gospel Mission will talk about their women's ministries that were started recently. Wonderful things are happening at Kings Gospel Mission. Our church helps in supporting their ministries to both the men and the women down on their luck in our community. Please come and hear what Dave has to share.

Refreshments will follow the program.



The Kings Symphony will be featuring Young Artists at their spring concert. The program is on March 8 at 4:00 at our church.

Jolly 1's & 2's will be attending the concert for their March event. This concert has been excellent in the past and I expect the same quality again.

Winter BodyLife

February 5th - March 18th

Join us for a wonderful dinner
and multi-generational activities

Dinner - 6:00pm

Adults - \$6

Teens - \$5

Children - \$3

Family max - \$18



Ladies

First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Women of the Church please join us for
"First Friday Coffee and Prayer."

Friday, Mar. 6th
9:00am - 10:30am

Weekly

**PRAYER
MEETING**

Wednesdays @ 5:15pm

Midweek
**BIBLE
STUDY**



Tuesdays at 12-noon

All Ladies Welcome

Join us for lunch with the Bible Fellowship

We meet every Tuesday at 12 noon and study
God's Word. Bring your lunch and your Bible to
the church office conference room and join us.

Our current study is:

"The Twelve Disciples"

Brothers & Sisters in Christ



B·A·S·I·C

BASIC meets the 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 5pm



*Congregational
Meeting*

**March
1st**

following 10am
Worship
Service

This congregational meeting is for the purpose
of selecting a Pastoral Search Committee

**Games
& Company**



Mar. 6th

265 Sycamore



Campbell.

"Just have a seat, Reverend. The
search committee will be right in."



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Zoo Day

March 14th

We will meet at the
Reptile House at 9:30am

Questions, Comments, Concerns or Ideas...contact:

Jaime Christoph 850-776-5234



AWANA TruthSeekers have journeyed with Abraham and Sarah from Ur to Canaan to learn about God's faithfulness...He always keeps His promises. We are discovering the roots of our faith as through Abraham "...all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
Genesis 12:3.

Feel free to join us on Thursday afternoons as we travel through the promised land with Isaac and Jacob.



Refuge

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Movie Night

March 27th, 6:30-9:30pm

at the Dixon Residence

Outside event, bring a snack to share



Guys & Gals



BIBLE STUDY

SR High Girls 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 6:30pm

JR High Girls 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 6:30 pm

Guys 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 6:45pm

Contact Jaime Christoph at
850-776-5234 for more information.

MARCH

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 2 Ellen Matsubara, Kelly Voyles, Ann Wrigley
- 5 Dorothy Shaw
- 6 Rosemary Clark, Sandra Kerr
- 7 Rodney Bairstow
- 9 Jim Rajskup
- 14 Heidi Koppenhaver
- 16 Sally Gordon
- 20 Jack Longabaugh
- 23 Lexie Garcia
- 28 *Don & Janice Mills



March 2020

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 93230

Place
Stamp
Here

Label Here

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