

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 2023



Last month we focused on the big holiday of February, Valentine's Day. So, what do you do with March? Saint Patrick's Day? Another, "Saint?" Isn't this one mostly about green beer and leprechauns, and something about snakes and shamrock shakes? There is nothing really redeeming in this story, is there? Well, let's toss it around for few minutes and see what we come up with.

Let's take a look at the, "big strokes" of the story related to Saint Patrick. Detailed and exact historical records are really hard to verify and since most of the materials written are almost two hundred years after his death date of March 17, 461(or 462) lots of embellishment seems to have occurred. The big points prevail: While about 16 years of age in Roman influenced England he is kidnapped (?) (self exiled?) to Ireland and seems to be a slave of some sort. Escaping (fleeing) he tries to get back home. After a long journey, succeeds. Mid-twenties he is studying in the Christian faith. He feels a "call" to go back to Ireland and bring the Gospel. Off he goes to the people that enslaved him, bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ. That's admirable at the least.

One of his favorite illustrations is the Shamrock. Three leaves growing as one. The trinity in perfect unity. One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That is a nice illustration. Perhaps we can share that this month with someone who doesn't know the significance. A good way to witness gently.

Or, the other great tradition most people seem to know about – driving the snake(s) out of Ireland. Please note, this is my own take on the story that may or may not hold water, but sounds more likely coming from a guy like Saint Patrick than much of what I hear or read. Well before Saint Patrick, there were very few snakes in Ireland. What about that snake from the Bible? Did Saint Patrick drown that snake in the waters of Baptism time and time again? Was the ridding of the snake(s) of the evil one and bringing the presence of Christ? I'm thinking that legend is a better story and more likely in view of a young man who baptized thousands and thousands.

Could we use a little bit of Saint Patrick in our lives this month? Reach out to those who have enslaved us. Tell the Good News with a parable about that shamrock shake that has become so popular. Talk about that snake that likes to tempt us to evil and help drive that snake into the waters of baptism to be gone forever – never to be seen again.

Maybe Saint Patrick (in legend, lore and reality) has something even more to give us than Saint Valentine who sits in the rear-view mirror of March 2023. Have a happy Saint Patrick's Day.

In Christ,

Rev. Louis R. Paradise (Interim Pastor)



A Note From:

Children's and Youth Director

We have a new opportunity for the children of our church to learn music and share a special song during the worship service on Palm Sunday which is April 2. If you have children or grandchildren who are willing to participate, we need them!! Please plan on staying after church and practicing each Sunday in March. Kristie Newman is leading this choir so you may talk to her or Sheri Winterowd for more details.

I have been enjoying our recent chilly weather with sunny skies. I try hard to 'soak it in' and enjoy the change from the heat that is sure to come in the summer. Between the cold and the heat is SPRING which is often a time we go through our home and donate items that we no longer need in order to bless others. May I invite you to consider donating your gently used items to First Presbyterian Church Youth for us to sell in our Yard Sale to be held April 1. Isabella Uhlik is leading our youth in this project and we welcome any volunteers to help us sort and price the items the week prior to our sale. We will have the sale in the 'front yard' of the church from 7 am to 11 am on Saturday April 1. If you would like to bring your items to church, we can store them in two rooms downstairs. We would request that if possible you donate the items by 3/27 to give us time to prepare for the sale. If you need some help getting the items to church, we can arrange a pick up. Please contact Sheri Winterowd at 559-281-4163 or at fpchanford.youth@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like assistance getting your items to church. The funds raised will be used in the following areas 1) helping defray the cost of Christian summer camp at Calvin Crest 2) for church youth events and 3) some of the funds will be given back to the general operating budget of our church as well. If there are items that are not sold by the end of the yard sale, they will be donated to the Kings Gospel Mission Thrift Store to bless others through that ministry.

This month's Catechism Question from The New City Catechism is

"What is God?"

The Answer is **"God is the creator of everyone and everything."**

Hopefully you have downloaded the free New City Catechism app and are learning these important truths. Remember there is a song for each question to help with memorizing, if you have the 'Children's Mode' toggle clicked and I think the songs are neat even though I am an adult.



Thank you for your support of our Tri Tip Fundraiser and Bake Sale on March 5. This should be a great time to enjoy a tasty meal and raise funds to help send our kids to camp (camp is expensive... but worth it!).

Upcoming Events:

- March 5 - Tri Tip Fundraiser and Bake Sale
- March 12 - Youth Group
- March 19 - Bring a Friend Sunday
- March 26 - Youth Group
- April 1 - Yard Sale

~ Sheri Winterowd



LET'S GO!!!

**FPC Mission Opportunity to
Cameroon, Africa!!!**

**Tentative Dates – Dec 1st to Dec 10th 2023
(plus 4 days travel)**

We have a wonderful chance to travel to Cameroon, Africa, with Paul Ela NSA, Missions Team co-chair and FPC Elder. Paul is from Cameroon. He has served as an Elder in the Efulan Presbyterian Church and will be leading us on this journey to visit this church along with the Yaounde Presbyterian Missions, Ebolowa Presbyterian Missions, and Kribi Erwin Good Presbyterian Missions in Cameroon. This will give us a chance to build a Covenant church relationship with the Efulan Presbyterian Church congregation as well as share faith, cultures, and experiences as missionaries. The itinerary also includes all food arrangements (provided by a private chef), accommodations, and ground transportation.

Temperatures during our journey through the south/central part of Cameroon during the first part of December is said to be hot and humid (lows in the 60's, highs in the 80's).

Cost is **estimated** at \$4,000, which covers flight, food, housing, ground transportation and Visa fees. Immunizations needed for travel & Covid restrictions will be at own expense. Deposit on this opportunity is \$400.

If you would like more information, please contact Gail Forsythe at 559-381-2388. We need to begin the registration process in July 2023 for those who want to take advantage of this great chance to become missionaries in Cameroon, Africa.

Let's Go!!!

Cameroon

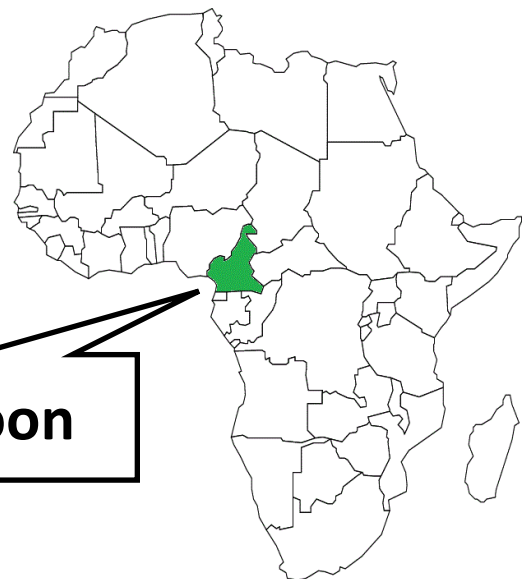


The Shower Bus

The Kings Gospel Mission (KGM) has started a new program to serve the homeless and needy people of our community. It is a free **Shower Bus** that is available every afternoon from 2 PM to 5 PM at 801 West 7th Street in Hanford. Towels and shower supplies are provided. *Spread the word!*

The Deacons would also like to thank and remind members that the food and clothing pantry donations are well appreciated. May you be blessed with your generous donations.

~ Martin Keast, Deacon





- Mar 1** Praise Team Practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study Class @ 6:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Mar 5** *Communion Sunday*, Tri-Tip Dinner Fund-raiser
- Mar 6** Church Growth @ 1pm
- Mar 7** Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Mar 8** Praise Team Practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study Class @ 6:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Mar 12** *Daylight Savings Time Begins*, Buildings & Grounds Meeting @ 11:10am, Worship Meeting @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm
- Mar 13** *Missions Meeting @ 1pm
- Mar 14** *Finance Meeting @ 7pm
- Mar 15** Praise Team Practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study Class @ 6:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Mar 19** *Bring-A-Friend Sunday*, Compassion Letter writing party
- Mar 21** Session meeting @ 6pm
- Mar 22** Praise Team Practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study Class @ 6:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Mar 25** Church Workday @ 8am, FPC Camp 11am—1pm
- Mar 26** Youth Group @ 5pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm
- Mar 29** Praise Team Practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study Class @ 6:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm



Summary of Feb. 21, 2023 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 65 and 8 homebound took communion in Feb.
- Reported donations of \$50 each to KGM, Meals-on-Wheels and Crossroads Pregnancy Center
- Served 50 at Marjorie Willson's memorial reception

Clerk's Report

- Highlight from January Presbytery were presented along with Elder Rajskup's report.
- Elders Forsythe, Ginn, Rajskup and Revious were elected as commissioners to the May Presbytery meeting.
- Elder Rajskup was elected as commissioner to 2023 General Assembly

Christian Education

- Approved asking for \$5 donations per child for FPC Camp on March 25th

Church Growth

- Approved planning for Ministry Fair this Spring to highlight the various FPC Ministries

Finance

- Reported pledges are still shy for the goal set
- Discussed facility usage by Community Bible Study (Sept—May 2023)
- Approved \$1525 to purchase computer for Office Administrator from fund #2174
- Approved building use on March 18th for a bridal shower

Missions

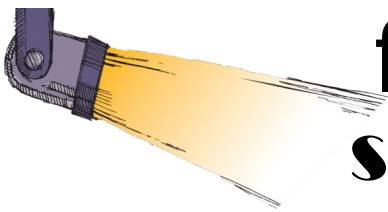
- Approved March 19th for Compassion letter writing party
- Approved April 30th as Compassion Sunday
- Approved May 20th "Serve Day", FPC will again host oil changes and car washes
- Approved VBS missions project "Story Runners by Cru" with a goal of \$600 during VBS week

Pastor's Report

- Approved Worship Plans for Lent through Pentecost

Other Business

- Annette Rajskup was elected Clerk of Session
- Chuck Kinney was elected Moderator of Session



fpc Family Spotlight



Nick & Sue Kinney

Who are we? We are the Kinney's – Nick and Sue - and we have been attending First Presbyterian Church since the early 1980's and this is "Our church and Our church family"! Through the years we have volunteered at church working in various areas – most recently, we both serve as Ushers once a month, Nick serves on the Finance and Investment Ministry Teams, and I just finished 6 years as an Elder, Trustee and Mission Ministry Team Chair and am currently serving on the Investment and Church Growth Ministry Teams.

Our Family: We have been blessed with two wonderful children: Our daughter Tara & (Mike) Hall live in Hanford. Tara is a travel agent and Mike, a retired Veteran. Our son Chuck & (Mary) Kinney live next door to us. Chuck is the Kings County Community Development Director and Mary is an art teacher at Kit Carson Elementary School! Between our children, we have 6 beautiful grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters. *Tara's children:* Twins Austin & Tyler (26 years) live in San Jose. Austin works for Tesla and also as a part-time chef at the Eataly Restaurant in San Jose. Tyler is a musician and also works part-time at the Eataly Restaurant in San Jose. Daughter Alysse (23 years), is a home maker and lives in Kansas with our 2 great-granddaughters, Abby (almost 2 years) and Avery (almost 1 year). *Chuck's children:* Grace (19 years), attends COS and works at Kit Carson Elementary School as a math aide, Michael (16 years) is a junior at Hanford High School and Hope (14 years) is a freshman at Hanford High School. They both are active on the HHS water polo and swim teams and are involved in our First Presbyterian Church youth group. Additionally, Michael serves on the church Media team and Hope works with childcare.

Our life together has been a wonderful journey with lots of fun, variety, and opportunities. We are both retired now but Nick was a farmer for many years when we first were married, then he served on the Kings County Board of Supervisors for 8 years, and ultimately ended his career working for and retiring from the American Cancer Society as a Planned Giving Director after 22 years. I too, had a varied career and ultimately retired from the American Cancer Society working as a Health Promotions Manager for Kings and Fresno Counties.

Things we love: We love travelling - ocean and river cruising - and have been very blessed through the years to have had multiple opportunities for travel both abroad and within the US. We have taken 27 cruises to places as far as Ushuaia, nicknamed "the end of the world" at the Southern most part of South America to Australia/New Zealand/Germany/Russia/Iceland, and many other European countries. We have experienced rough seas cruising where glass has been broken on the 15th floor of our ship with winds up to 75 mph to the calm and beautiful waters of the Society Islands in Tahiti. God's beauty shines everywhere!

Fun Facts: Nick and I met through our parents in a very odd way. I was invited to dinner by Nick's Mother to meet his brother, but Nick happened to "pop in" and that was that! It was a quick romance for us – Nick lived in Fresno and I in Orange County and after 5 dates (between the distances) we were engaged with a marriage on the way! Nick was 27 when we ultimately were married in 1970 and I at 22 years. We first lived in Fresno but with Nick farming in Stratford, the distance and hours were too much. *(Remember in those days, there were no cell phones!)* So, we purchased a home in Hanford through Humason Real Estate and our friendship with the Humason family then began as well as our life in Hanford. Looking back through the years – 52 years now to be exact – we have had a beautiful life together and have been so blessed by God every step of the way! In Christ, Nick and Sue Kinney





Session Committees

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

Worship
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday after morning worship



Church
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm



Christian
Education



Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 8th @ 9:30am



2nd Monday of each month @ 7pm



Buildings &
Grounds

Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of each month @ 11:10 am



Finance

Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7pm



Church
Growth



Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm



Session



3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

Faith & Fellowship

You're Invited to Join a Committee



Buildings & Grounds: Seeks to maintain and enhance the church facilities. Stewardship of the facilities and grounds are accomplished with the experiences and talents of our team to repair, replace, and maintain the building and grounds. Chair, Jeff Jones jeff@jude2.net

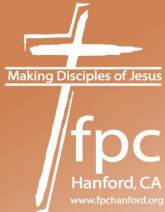
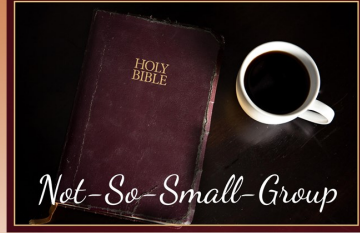
Christian Education: Responsible for the planning, execution, and supervision of the biblical and spiritual education of the congregation. From the infants in the nursery to the most senior adults, the CE team is dedicated to providing quality learning opportunities that are grounded in biblical teaching and relevant to all ages while remaining authentic and true to our faith, our church, and our Lord. Chair, Ken Tazelaar kptazelaar@gmail.com

Church Growth: Works to spread God's love in the community and invite others to be part of our church family. Chair, Annette Rajskup office@fpchanford.org

Finance & Stewardship: Oversees budgets, spending and good stewardship of the giving of our congregation. Chair, Debra Revious dkrevious@sbcglobal.net


Missions: Believes that Missions Outreach is an integral step in spreading God's word to the unreached. God says to go into all the world and preach the gospel. That is the reason we support missions and missionaries who are involved in the task of bringing the gospel and support to both global and local missionary organizations. Chair, Gail Forsythe glf9201@gmail.com

Worship: Strives to make our worship services more meaningful, enjoyable and informative by enhancing our worship events with music and visual accents. Chair, Janice Mills jdmills@unwiredbb.com





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

Reminder! Deacons hope you can bring clothing and nonperishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available in the church hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.



MARCH

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 2 Ellen Matsubara, Kelly Voyles,
Annie Wrigley
- 5 Dorothy Shaw
- 6 Rosemary Clark
- 8 Andrew Rishel
- 9 Jim Rajskup
- 14 Heidi Koppenhaver
- 16 Sally Gordon, Emmett Montoya
- 19 Brian Pelton
- 23 Lexie Garcia
- 27 Riley Walls
- 28 *Don & Janice Mills



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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(559) 582-0283—FAX (559) 582-0336
www.fpchanford.org

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
Athena 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