



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

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

FIRST PRESS

April 2020

UP COMING



As a precautionary measure to protect the health of our congregation and our community, First Pres. Hanford has temporarily suspended in-person services.

The Staff is working to create ONLINE events for the congregation to use to worship with their families as we navigate through the coronavirus threat.

Please check your emails and our website for updates and scheduled events. The FPC church office is closed, however emails and voicemail are checked regularly.

***Apr 3** Ladies Coffee & Prayer
(via: Zoom Meeting)

***Apr 5** Digital Coffee Hour
(via: Zoom Meeting)

** Modified due to Coronavirus*



Reminder! Deacons hope you can bring some non-perishable food on **May 3** to feed those in our community who are in need.



Summary of March 17, 2020 Session Meeting

Deacons:

- Deacons reported communion was served to (96) during worship service and (2) Shut-Ins received communion.

Finance:

- Approved participation for State Disability Insurance for staff.
- Approved participation in Unemployment Insurance

Buildings & Grounds:

- Reported leak to roof overhang on church office has been repaired.
- Continuing follow-up regarding pest issue in church attic.

Worship:

- Approved planning for an "Encore Concert", likely in June, with request for a "Free Will Offering" to help off-set the expense to include accompaniment of string instruments.

Other Session Business:

- Approved Interim Search Committee's request to move forward into negotiations with Mark Nazarian.
- Approved Suspending Sunday Services for three weeks due to COVID-19.
- Approved asking Reverend Nilmeier to record sermons for website.
- Approved pursuing "telecommunication" options for future meetings.
- Reviewed and recommended additions to "Church Information Form" being completed by the Pastoral Search Committee which will be revisited at the next Session meeting.
- Additional items tabled until more guidelines regarding COVID-19 are available. (i.e. Kings County Prayer Dinner—March 20, FPC Workday—April, EPC-PSW Meeting—May, EPC General Assembly—June)



Holy Communion

Holy Communion is easily considered the greatest expression of God's love for his people. And here at First Pres we participate the first Sunday of every month. We partake and proclaim his death until his return. We believe Jesus wanted us to be conscious of how He gave His body to be broken for our wholeness, and He shed His own blood for the forgiveness of our sins. During communion we have an opportunity to truly experience His presence and His unending love. Holy Communion touches each one of us in our own unique way. We may feel a sense of whole forgiveness as we eat the elements. Or maybe we feel our faith is renewed and the warmth of His never-ending love coming over us. Taking communion may renew our strength and bring life into our weary bones. Nevertheless, we view communion as a blessing that we receive, not just a ritual that we schedule into the calendar every month.

We also understand that not all of our church members have the means or abilities to physically attend church. We are happy to be able to bring communion to you. Deacons and Elders of our church have been bringing communion to our shut-ins for the last few months. If you or someone you know is ill or can't make it to church, feel free to reach out to our church office or any deacon or elder and we will make sure to schedule you in for the first Sunday of every month. It is our pleasure to deliver communion to our unable members and allow them to also experience the greatest expression of love and experience God's presence while they partake in our Holy Communion.

A Message From Your Missions Ministry Team

What Is "The Timothy Initiative"



The "Mission and Vision" of The Timothy Initiative (TTI) whom our missionary Dan S, is involved with exists to advance Christ's Kingdom by multiplying disciples and disciple making churches around the world. Their "Core Values" are: Kingdom Focused, Spirit Led & Scripture Based, Integrity First, Disciple Making Leads to Church Planting, Prayer is Priority, People Matter, and Faith Driven.

Through TTI's training, local leaders equip Christians with the necessary tools in their local language, resources, and strategies to reach their nations for Christ. These resources build the disciple maker's confidence in their understanding of Scripture and equips them to make disciples and plant reproducing churches.

TTI's training has three phases that center on spiritual multiplication, obedience-based discipleship, and mentoring. During the two-year training, each church planter is expected to plant at least one multiplying church in their region.

Initiate: A local, seasoned church planter and trainer leads a group of disciple makers through TTI's introductory book, *Disciples Making Disciples*. This phase takes approximately four months and has a strong emphasis on evangelism, disciple making, and church formation.

Establish: Disciple makers go through the entire Bible using TTI's ten-book training materials. During this phase, they share their faith, plant churches, and raise up other believers to make disciples and plant churches. This phase takes 12-15 months.

Expand: The church planting trainer continues to walk alongside disciple makers as they grow in their leadership, maturity, and move their churches towards sustainability. The church planting trainer also identifies disciple makers who have the calling and competencies to become church planting trainers. This phase of intentional leadership development lasts at least six months.

Additionally, The Timothy Initiative encourages the local church both to share the Good News and seek practical ways to impact their societies for Christ. This includes pulling from their own resources to provide for widows and orphans. They also lead the charge in disaster relief efforts, care for the disabled, rescue trafficked victims, and challenge social injustices.

Please keep Dan and all those working within the TTI in prayer that our Lord will guide and protect TTI's evangelism/discipleship ministry!

Dear Church Family,

The world is in turmoil and things are constantly changing right now. We know that the **one thing that will not change is God and His love and protection for us.** We know that we can fully rely on Him and He will be there for us during this time of social distancing and isolation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your FPC church family for anything: errands, prayer, or just to chat. **We are here for you!**



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With everything changing we are having to adapt as well. Recent directives from the White House have extended their COVID-19 protocols through April 30. Schools in our area have made the decision to close through May 1. It is looking like we may be making the tough decision to keep our doors closed longer than originally planned. Kings County had 0 positive cases for a long time, making all of this seem like overkill; however, we now have at least 2 positive cases in our county. This pandemic has now reached our front door and we want to do everything we can to protect our congregation.

We are working diligently to try and find ways to remain in contact with our members. We have started a **First Presbyterian private Facebook group** where needs and prayer requests can be shared with only those who call First Presbyterian Church home. We are working on creating short digital services so we can still garner a feeling of connection during this crazy time. **We will have a digital coffee hour fellowship on Sunday, April 5 at 9:30am.**

We know this is not how we typically do "church," but we must remember that WE are the church. Just because we are not meeting in a building does not mean that we cannot still connect and worship. Now more than ever we need to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our world. Find small ways to bring smiles and cheer to our neighbors who may be feeling isolated and alone.

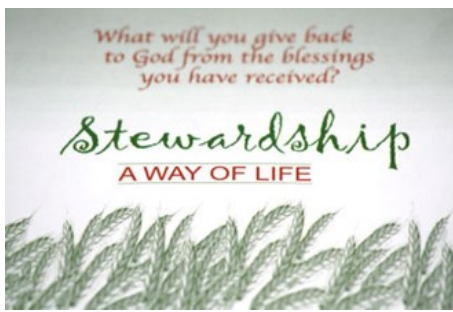


In April AWANA TruthSeekers are leaving Genesis and moving into Exodus with God's freeing a "slave nation." We will end the year with the crossing of the Red Sea... a fitting climax demonstrating that nothing or nobody can change the plans God has made! These final lessons move very quickly. Any newcomers would enjoy hearing them! Club takes a break on April 9th and then continues through May 14th.

See you there!



JONNY
HAWKINS



2020 Campaign

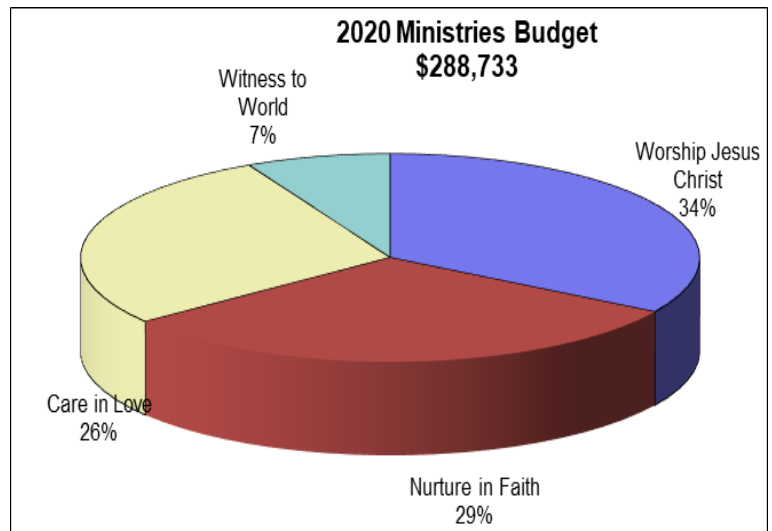
“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10

To Members & Friends of the Congregation,
The Finance Ministry Team would like to let you know the Pledge Drive for 2020 began on Sunday, Nov. 17th. Our 2020 pledge goal is \$285,000. We continue to pray & hope, in 2020, our church will be able to:

1. Further our ministries and missions as we “Go make Disciples of Jesus Christ who go make other disciples of Jesus”.
2. Maintain our current staff.
3. Continue major improvements to the church campus.

In this stewardship season, we are reminded that our giving to the Lord’s work demonstrates that we recognize God’s sovereignty and that we put our needs second out of obedience to Him. We have learned that it is in giving that we find joy, in giving we discover the good feeling that our lives are making a positive difference. And we receive the inner assurance that we are doing our part to spread the Good News of Christ.



Our budget for the 2020 ministries is projected at \$288,733 and is depicted in the pie chart above and explained here:

Worship Jesus Christ: This represents costs of the worship experience. Included here are salary and benefits for the pastor and music staff, music royalty costs, sound equipment, instruments and costs for bulletins among others.

These costs are met by your tithe and also from other funds already in place.

Nurture in Faith: This represents the costs of the education of our children, youth and adults. This includes the costs for the education department staff, costs of curriculum, supplies, scholarships for campers, first Bibles and Vacation Bible School, AWANA, among others.

These costs will be covered by your tithe.

Care in Love: This includes the costs for senior adult outreach, home visits, and programs such as Body Life, Sunday Coffee Hour, All-Church Picnic, 5th Sunday Potlucks, Couples’ Retreat, Dinners for 8, the Ice Cream Social, Saturday morning women’s bible study, Small group bible studies, among others.

These costs will be covered by your tithe.

Facilities: Included in each of these areas are some portion of the costs for building maintenance staff and supplies, water, electricity, landscape, insurance, photocopies, computers, internet access, and many other costs to operate our beautiful church and its ministries. As we serve more people, these costs may increase in 2020. Building funds, when funds allow, will support a campus security system and other improvements to the facility.

Witness to the World: This is the portion of your tithe that goes to missionaries around the world, through denominational benevolence contributions, and to local outreach programs.

Ministries that will benefit from your tithe include:

- ◇ Laundry Love -----Local
- ◇ Kings Gospel Mission ----- Local
- ◇ Crossroads Crisis Pregnancy Center ----- Local
- ◇ EPC Presbyterian missions ----- National & International
- ◇ Mercy Ships ----- International
- ◇ CRM/R.& A. -----International
- ◇ Living Waters ----- International
- ◇ Global Training/D. Smythe ----- International
- ◇ Operation Christmas Child ----- International
- ◇ Samaritan's Purse -----National

These donations for Missions' Ministries will be covered by your tithe.

We hope you will consider the following in determining your pledge for 2020:

- **Begin with prayer.** If you are already tithing, consider if God is calling you to go joyfully beyond that level.
- **If last year's giving is not a tithe,** consider a budget plan to move to a tithe over time; perhaps an increase of just 2% of your income. Traveling the road of discipline and obedience in this area is a very important step in maturing in our faith.
- **Consider possibly** there is a ministry(s) you would like to become a part of in 2020.

Ways to Give to First Presbyterian Church of Hanford:

- **In person** at church
- **By mail.** Make checks payable to FPC and mail to:
First Presbyterian Church of Hanford
415 N. Redington St.
Hanford, CA 93230
- **Automated Giving Plan**
Have your donation automatically deducted from your checking account each month. Check with your bank on how to do this.
- **Long Term Giving Plan**
Consider leaving a bequest in your will for the church.

STEWARDSHIP IS....

Stewardship is a way of life
not a program

Stewardship is an attitude
not an activity

Stewardship is biblically based
not the latest fad

Stewardship is a way to attain holiness
not a way to raise money

Stewardship is a conversion of the heart
not just a decision of the head

Stewardship is integral to our faith
not an option

Stewardship is why and how we do what we do
not another thing to do

Stewardship is about our response to God's generosity
not about our generosity

Stewardship is maximizing God's blessing for His Glory
not ours

Stewardship is sharing the gifts we have been given
not accumulating them

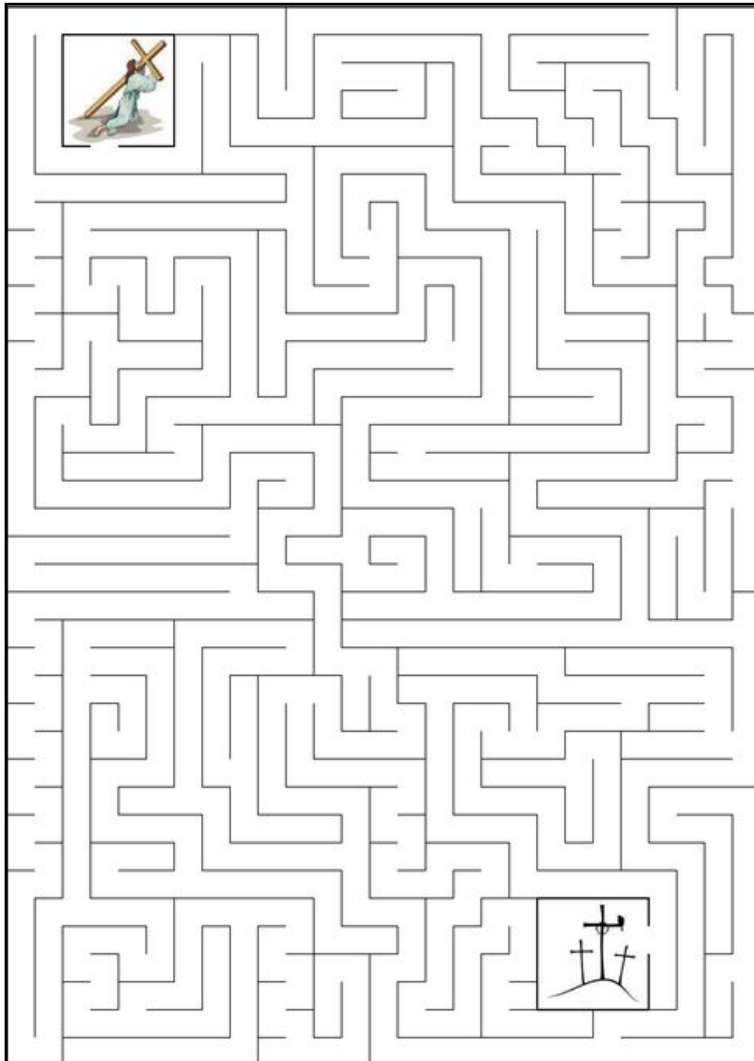
Stewardship is what you do after you say, "I Believe."

As we make our way through this challenging time, we ask that you continue to follow the Coronavirus guidelines set forth by our elected officials. **Stay SAFE!!!** If you have access to our website, www.fpchanford.org and/or Facebook, please continue to keep in touch with FPC, these sites are being updated daily.

FPC has ongoing fixed costs. Since we are not currently having services, we have no opportunity for weekly collections. At this time, we ask that you continue to give your support by sending in your check to **First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232**, or by arranging auto-pay with your financial institution. We are looking into other alternatives, but this will take time to process.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office, 559-582-0283. That being said, the office is closed, we are observing COVID-19. When you do call, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE. We are monitoring our phone messages as well as emails and will return your call or email as soon as we can.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers!!! We are looking forward to the time when we can celebrate God's love together again!!!



ColoringPages



BIBLE EASTER WORD SEARCH



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ROMANS
RISEN
SACRIFICE
THREE DAYS
ANGELS
SAVIOR

GOLGOTHA
BLOOD
SIMON OF CYRENE
JESUS
ROBE
LAMB

SON OF GOD
TOMB
APOSTLES
CALVARY
CROSS
NAILS

MARY
CRUCIFIXION
PILATE
HIGH PRIEST
PASSOVER
SUNDAY



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6 * Thom & Georgina Snyder
- 11 Jaime Christoph, Elaine Kelly, Ed Rasdza, Ernis Radza
- 13 Dorothy Crass
- 15 Teri Hernandez
- 19 Tyler Uhlik
- 22 *Steven & Michele King
- 25 Caleb Larson, *Eddie & Julie Azevedo
- 26 Michael Kinney, Teresa Voyles
- 28 Devin Gonzalez
- 29 Ernie Kerr, Evelyn Radza
- 30 Caryn Larson, *Martin & Darlene Keast



APRIL 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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