

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

August 2021



Dear FPC Family -

Wow, what a fast start! This is day fifteen as the Interim Pastor at FPC Hanford and I am practically breathless with all the goings on. Moving boxes, Fourth of July weekend and worship, resetting and formatting office equipment, visits, meeting the staff again, setting worship plans, committee meetings and now my first "Newsletter" report. What a start! I hope in the next few lines to reflect on my first impressions with that fast start and then address a little about the concept of, "Interim Pastor."

Believe it or not, I have known of and about First Presbyterian Church of Hanford since the spring of 1983. That is getting close to forty years that I have been in mission and ministry with this congregation. As a presbyter in the San Joaquin Presbytery, you and I have joined hands many times in ministry and mission. During the Ed Hart era I was on the grounds many times. I played lots of handball with Pastor James Harper and when Tony came, I was there to welcome him and get things ready for the future. I handled the process as FPC moved to the EPC. So, we have been hand in hand many years. In recent years most of you know me as someone who did a little filling in when needed.

There is nothing like a longer term commitment to bond people together. While two weeks can hardly be called a long time, it has been a time for me to see you in a new light. What a wonderful group of people who want to know and love Christ. A family, with all its diversity, that sacrifices and works, shares and cares for one another. A family God has called together for work and play, fellowship and fun, but most importantly to worship our gracious God, Creator, Redeemed, Sustainer and Friend. I am looking forward to being a part of this family.

This time I come with a different hat on. Now I'm called the, Interim Pastor. The job comes with differing responsibilities from a day to day pastor. One of the terms you will hear me use is, creating a platform. During the interim time, I will be working hard in every area to create a platform that is stable and clear, well defined and operating at a level everyone understands. I will spend a great deal of time interpreting to our congregation the life and ministry this church defines itself by. The purpose of this is to present to a new pastor a clear and stable platform that declares, this is who we are, what we do, and how we try to accomplish what we believe in.

Interim pastor work is an exciting time. A time of change and a time of transition. A time to re-identify priorities and clarify goals. Your prayers and support of the Pastor Nominating Committee are extremely important. Your willingness to serve if called upon is also critical. Start now by preparing yourself with a renewed commitment to this congregation, and a new frame of mind fit for a new heart. My heart celebrates with you in this journey. May God bless us with quickness and speed.

In Christ,

Rev. Louis R. Paradise

Church DEACONS

You may have noticed the small tree planted to the right of the fellowship hall on Irwin Street. This Fruitless Olive was recently purchased and planted by the Deacons in remembrance of Naomi Tagawa. (At a later date, a plaque will be added.) Naomi was a life-long, very active member of FPC serving multiple years as an Elder and Deacon. She was Clerk of Session for 30 years! She also sang in the choir for many years as well and prepared the sanctuary weekly for service including folding the bulletins! Naomi never married or had children of her own, FPC became her family. Naomi embraced our church and we embraced her in return.

On a personal note, Naomi holds a special place in my heart. She was a very dear friend of my mother's and my first piano teacher. As was Naomi's selfless nature, she wrote a personal letter of thanks and encouragement to my husband, Steve, when he deployed with the first NATO troops to Bosnia in 1995, something he has never forgotten.

So, when you look at Naomi's tree, think of her smiling face and encouraging words, and let it serve as a reminder that each of us can make a difference. We pray that her joy and selfless giving will grow in each of us as her tree will grow in front of the church she loved and served for so many years.

~ Marj Froberg

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.



Compassion International

Surviving The COVID-19 Pandemic!



Compassion International is an organization that ministers to children in poverty together with their frontline church partners and child sponsors, and even though COVID-19 has changed the lives of people Worldwide, Compassion's Mission has not changed!

Compassion staff have been taking every precaution to protect the children in the program. They have suspended all nonessential International travel to national offices and frontline church partners until travel restrictions have been lifted and it is safe to travel again. This means they are not permitting any International visitors to meet sponsored children, or to visit Compassion child development centers, or national offices.

They continue to teach hygiene to registered children (and moms in the Survival Program), which reduces the spread of illness. Staff are also educating families about social distancing and mask wearing, and in many communities, they are actively distributing masks and hand sanitizer to families. Compassion staff and volunteers are doing everything they can to minimize the impact to the children in the program.

Compassion families are provided with emergency food packs containing essentials like cooking oil, rice, flour, meats, vegetables and fruits. They have been prioritizing access to health checkups, hospital visits and medical treatments for Compassion children. And they are offering families rent assistance so they can stay in their homes.

There are now windows of some "normalcy" slowly beginning from when the pandemic first began; Compassion had to temporarily close child development centers and halt group activities in all of Compassion field countries. However, over the past few months some centers have been able to reopen, but some centers remain closed depending upon the country. In some areas where restrictions have been eased, students are meeting in small groups at the centers. In some communities, centers have been able to reopen fully. Regardless of status, staff are working with families to deliver emergency supplies during this time of crisis.

Please keep Compassion International in your daily prayers that it will continue to have the financial resources, staff, and volunteers necessary to continue its Mission administering to children in poverty and bringing them and their families to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior!



A Note From: *Children's and Youth Director*

Hello First Pres Family,

It has been an exciting and busy month getting acquainted in this new role I have been called to. I have enjoyed getting to know the adults, youth, and children of First Pres and feel as though God could not have placed me in a more welcoming environment. I am excited about leading our Children and Youth Ministry forward as we begin to get back to our "new normal" way of life.

Looking forward, we are ready to make some adjustments in our Nursery and Powerhouse classes. Pastor Lou Paradise and I have been in communication about what would be best for our ministry.

These are the tentative ideas:

- **Nursery:** It is imperative that we have a nursery for our children ages 0-4. The Powerhouse curriculum is not age appropriate for our younger children. Additionally, we want to allow parents of young children the ease of attending worship. Being a mom of young children I know how valuable it is to have an hour of distraction free worship.
- **Powerhouse K-2nd:** This group of students will be more hands on while also being introduced to stories of the Bible.
- **Powerhouse 3rd-5th:** These students will be in a more structured learning environment with slightly more in depth teachings, while still engaging them with activities.
- **Sunday School 6th-12th:** This is a temporary group until we have the numbers to support breaking them up into more age appropriate groups. We have a volunteer (YAY!) that has offered to teach Sunday School to these groups starting September 12th from 9:00am-10:00am. During worship time (10:00-11:00) these students will be volunteering in the Nursery/Powerhouse or sitting with their parents if they are not scheduled.

Parents, grandparents, and lovers of our children of First Pres-Nursery volunteers, and Powerhouse volunteers are essential if we wish to grow and attract families to our congregation. As for Nursery volunteers, we will have the Youth rotate monthly under the supervision of an adult.

Positions In Need:

- **Nursery Adult Supervisor:** Be present and oversee: youth volunteers, safety and sanitation, check-in, check-out of children. Ideally you would be scheduled 1-2 months out of the year depending on the amount of volunteers available.

- **Powerhouse Volunteer:** Teach prepared Sunday School lessons to K-2nd or 3rd-5th students. Ideally you would be scheduled 1-2 months out of the year depending on the amount of volunteers available.

Please pray over our Children and Youth ministry as we make changes to accommodate our families and for the need of volunteers to be filled. If you are willing to volunteer in either of the positions available please speak to me after worship or you can call/email.

In Christ,

Katie Sippel (559) 572-6335

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

First Presbyterian Church Hanford

rightnow MEDIA

Did you know you can access over 20,000 videos for you and your family through First Presbyterian Church's **rightnow MEDIA** account. It is free to you. All you have to do is register and enjoy.

If you do not already have an account, here is the link to sign up:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/FirstPresbyterianHanford>

If you have questions, contacted Annette in the office (559) 582-0283.



SERVANTKEEPER®

Servant Keeper helps FPC Hanford organize and keep information at our fingertips. You can access the online directory, edit your families personal information, and even track your giving history online or with the Servant Keeper app right from your phone.

You were recently sent an email invitation giving you access to the Member Portal. We hope you've had a chance to register and begin using the helpful features available.

If you did not receive your email invite, have questions or need assistance, please contact Annette in the church office. (559) 582-0283.



Summary of July 20, 2021 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 60 took Communion in June & 70 in July
- Updated Session on their various ministries and the needs within the church

Moderator's Report

- Approved holding "All Church Potlucks" after worship service on Aug. 22 and Oct. 24.

Buildings & Grounds

- The AC on the church office has been repaired
- The Ladies Study room downstairs was treated for termites
- Tree trimming and removal will need to be done around campus
- Pursuing "Work-in-Kind" partnership with KGM for weeding and other projects around the campus

Finance

- Reported our expenses continue to exceed income coming in and will resume placing updates in to bulletins

Missions

- Approved guest speaker Sally Smith, Regional OCC Coordinator to speak Sunday, Nov. 7th, the same day as the "shoebox packing party"

Worship

- Reported the Beard family offered to donate a piano and if someone needs one, Janice has their contact info.
- Approved moving away from the prepackaged communion elements towards a modified COVID safe format

Personnel

- Gail will begin working one day a week beginning in August

Pastor Search Committee

- Reported they have received applicants and are reviewing candidates

Other Business

- Approved "loose change offerings" to be designated for Deacons once each month rather than ever-even-month

UP COMING



- Aug 1** Communion Sunday, Lemon-Ade for Carlla sales as youth fundraiser
- Aug 2** Staff Meeting @ 10am,
- Aug 3** Church Growth Mtg @ 10am, Deacons Mtg @ 6:30pm
- Aug 4** Youth to Island Water Park
- Aug 6** First Friday Coffee & Prayer and Children's Play Day 9—11am
- Aug 9** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Aug 8** Worship Mtg after service
- Aug 10** *Missions Mtg @ 5pm, *Buildings & Grounds Mtg @ 7pm, *Finance Mtg @ 7pm
- Aug 14** Memorial For Charlene Forsythe @ 11am
- Aug 16** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Aug 17** Session Mtg @ 6pm
- Aug 22** All Church Potluck after Sunday service
- Aug 23** Staff Meeting @ 10am
- Aug 30** Staff Meeting @ 10am

* Zoom Meeting



From you Finance/Stewardship Committee

As we move forward on the path God is leading us, we are excited to have Pastor Lou Paradise guide us! Our attendance at worship services has been great!

* July 4th – 104 * July 11th – 84 * July 20th – 78



We know people are on summer vacations and we look forward to them returning. While you are away or unable to attend regular worship, you can access to our website, www.fpchanford.org and/or Facebook! New cameras have been installed to make watching our services livestream even better. We encourage you to continue to keep in touch with FPC; these sites are being updated daily.

“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

We are so grateful for you and the way you’ve provided for and continue to support First Presbyterian Church of Hanford! We continue to have our offering plates in the narthex for you to put your tithes and offerings each Sunday. Thank you to those also that chose to contribute via our on-line giving – GivePlus and/or GivePlus Mobile through Vanco. We will begin sharing our monthly income & expenses summary with you through our newsletter articles and weekly bulletin. As you can see, our expenses are more than our income. While we look to hiring a new full-time pastor in the near future, bringing back our child care services, and full music ministries, we pray that each of us continue to be faithful in giving of our blessings that God has poured out on us.

At this time, we ask that you continue to give your support by:

- Dropping your offering in the plates in the narthex each Sunday as you come in to worship
- Sending in your check to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1185, Hanford, Ca 93232,
- Arranging auto-pay with your financial institution,
- On-line giving - GivePlus and GivePlus Mobile.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Debra Revious, Finance Chairman, 559-381-0951, or the church office, 559-582-0283.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers!!! We look forward to seeing you at our 10:00 am Sunday morning services in the sanctuary to celebrate God’s love together!!! The Finance Ministry Team.

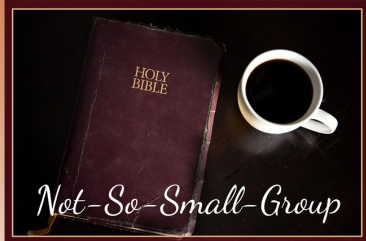
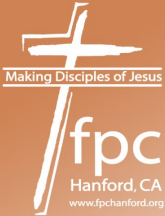
***The Lord owns everything and we’re the asset managers. Help us to be good stewards of God’s funds.
The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; Psalms 24:1***

2021 Budget \$306,342.95 Needed Monthly \$25,528.58

	June	Year to Date
Income	\$ 17,878.67	\$109,224.27
Expenses	\$ 18,536.33	\$114,319.38
Net income/deficit	- \$ 657.66	- \$ 5,095.11

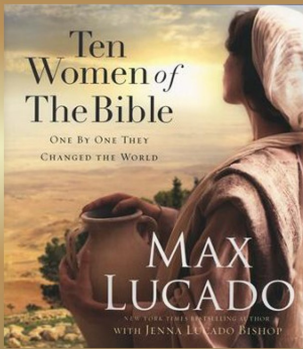
**Year to Date Expenses include continuing to pay, through August, the medical benefits for Kristy, Conner & Josh Hoins.

Faith & Fellowship




**2nd and 4th Sunday
of each month @ 6:30pm**

Adult Bible Study



**Wednesday Nights
@ 6:30pm**

With Pastor Tony 



EXERCISE CLASS

The FPC morning exercise class will be restarting soon. If you are interested in joining, please contact Julie Baker (559) 623-8652.



Youth Up Coming Events

Aug 6 Kids playday @ church 9-11am

Aug 11 CPR certification class 8am—5pm

Contact Katie Sippel for more info. (559)572-6335

Jr & Sr High Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY

2nd & 4th Sunday Nights @ 7:30pm

9—11am

Ladies

First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Fall Kick-off

Watch for news about exciting events beginning the middle of September



Session Committees

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom **Worship**
Committee Meeting

Sunday, Aug. 8th after morning worship

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

Church
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month
@ 6:30pm

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Christian
Education

Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 3 @ 10:30 am

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom



2nd Tuesday each month @ 5:00pm

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom **Buildings & Grounds**
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom **Finance**
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month
@ 7:00 pm


fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Church
Growth

Committee Meeting
1st Tuesday of each month @ 10:00am

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Session

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

AUGUST

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 1 Bill Baker, Carol Speer
- 3 Davian Cabrera
- 4 Debra Revious
- 5 Andrew Pelton
- 6 Lauren Larson
- 7 Beverly Brautigam, Jonathan Wrigley
- 10 Doug Porter
- 11 Michael Kapanka
- 13 Chris Rajskup
- 14 Jean Bell
- 15 Joyce Vanderbeek
- 19 Abigail Dixon, Wilma Humason
- 20 Marjorie Froberg
- 23 Kaitlyn Pelton, Megan Pelton
- 24 Nick Kinney, Cristy Van Hook
- 25 Luke Christoph, Steven King
- 26 Renee Lowen
- 27 Jeff Jones, *Doug & Lori Porter
- 28 Arthur Ramm, *Wes & Dorothy Lehmann,
*Taylor & April Rives



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
Katie Sippel fpchanford.youth@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: 9:00am—1:00pm (Mon—Fri)

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