

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

November 2022

First, please accept Christi and my deep appreciation for all the kindness and generous comments given for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Please know that it is a two-way street, and our affection for you and First Presbyterian Church runs very deep – we keep you in our prayers. Now, on to this month's Newsletter article.



– Another Year Bites The Dust –

Some are already saying, “So is the pastor getting senile (more senile)?” Doesn't he know the end of the year comes December 31st not in November? Well hold on now. You know I am a Lectionary kind of guy. So, the Sundays of November are: 6, Communion; 13, Veterans Recognition; 20, Christ The King Festival; and 27, the First Sunday of Advent that begins our new Christian year. The Festival for the end of our Christian year begins Sunday November 20, 2022 and carries on all week until the New Year begins November 27. That's quite a party!

I've said it before, and I'll say it again, the United States isn't too fond of kings. Some people don't call it Christ the King Sunday, but rather, the Reign of Christ Sunday. For me, I don't mind having Christ be King over my life. Loyalty to my King is central to my way of thinking about Christ in my life. When I think about a King who rose on Easter Sunday, or transfigured on a mountain top, or ascended back to heaven, I'm thinking that's no ordinary king. I'm happy to submit myself to that King.

So, I invite you to join the senile old guy and Commune with the King; Celebrate those who make it possible for us to freely live with this King; Start a celebration that is worthy of a King. During the week of celebration, we will have Thanksgiving. So, Give Thanks for the King over your life. Renew your allegiance to that King. Make your New Year's resolution to declare, “Jesus Christ is Lord.” Let your children hear your declaration. Let your elders hear your declaration. Let the whole earth know that in your life, “Christ is the King,” not just on one Sunday, but every day.

Happy New Year in Christ,

Rev. Louis R. Paradise
Interim Pastor

Church DEACONS

What are FPC Deacons

Have you ever seen someone in need and thought: *I wish there was something I could do?* God may be softening your heart to become a Deacon or help them through donations. The Deacons are 9 elected church members who share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing compassion and care for our church family and community. Each Deacon serves for a term of three years. When funds are available, they distribute funds to local Christian charities.

What do Deacons do?

- Monthly visit elderly shut-ins who cannot attend Sunday Worship.
- Prepare the Sacraments for monthly Communion, give cards, baby spoons, flowers or plants to church members in need.
- Prepare and serve food for Memorial Receptions.
- Distribute the food and clothing received to local charities.
- Organize Santa for Seniors and Santa Angels.
- Fund and support these ongoing local programs: Salvation Army, Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, KCAO Women's Shelter, Kings Gospel Mission, Laundry Love, Military Mission, Safe Families, Hands Reaching Out, AWANA, and others.
- Also, one Deacon participates on all the church's nominating committees.

Clothing and food donations are always appreciated. Specific suggestions include:

- * Dried pasta
- * Bulk rice & beans
- * Canned sauces
- * Tortillas
- * Chips & cookies
- * Canned vegetables & fruit
- * Individual servings of: Cereal, cookies, ramen (cup), fruit cups, soups, toiletries, aspirin, Tylenol, band aids.

As you can see, our Deacons are very active in spreading the Gospel through serving the needs of our community. We are blessed by these opportunities to serve.

Submitted By Martin Keast



Samaritan's Purse Who Is Your Neighbor?

Samaritan's Purse recently sent their ministry team to ask a question to national church leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: "Who is my neighbor?" The team defined their "real neighbor as someone who is in need spiritually and/or physically. Participants decided that inmates in a nearby prison were their real neighbors.

They visited the inmates, bringing food, water, Bibles, and songbooks. They prayed with the prisoners, shared the Word of God with them, and encouraged them. As a result of the love shown to them, 31 prisoners received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

"Since we started reading the Bible, we noticed a big change in our lives," said a 23-year-old inmate. "Upon my release, I was preparing to seek revenge against the person who accused me and caused me to go to prison. After you taught us about forgiveness, I forgave that person and I am encouraging my prison mates to forgive those who have offended them."

The Congolese church leaders and members of their congregations continue to visit the prisons, ministering to those who need to know the power of Christ's redeeming love. Samaritan's Purse thanks our congregation for the gifts that enable them to support the work of local pastors around the globe through evangelistic training and the distribution of Christian reading and audiovisual materials.

Please continue to pray for the work that Samaritan's Purse is doing in their quest to help people all across the World in the name of Jesus Christ!





A Note From:
Children's and Youth Director



What a blessing it is to be the family of God together!

2nd & 4th Sunday Nights @ 5:00pm

In September, our youth girls were blessed to spend time with our resident artist, Jeanne Rich creating spiritual journals which could be used for prayer journals, devotions, recording favorite scriptures, or however they wanted to use them. A wonderful time was had by the seven young ladies who were able to participate. Special thanks to Jeanne for sharing her love of Jesus and art and providing an opportunity for creativity and fellowship!

On two consecutive Thursday nights, Deborah Pelton, her daughter Megan and I were on the front lawn of the church during Thursday Night Market Place promoting our children's event as well as sharing our smiles and offers of free prayer and Christian encouragement. We had some very positive connections, prayed with three people and were able to share the gospel message with one person who asked for salvation and prayer.

On 9/23 we had a great evening with 26 energetic children attending and seven of our fabulous youth helping at our Pizza & Movie Night. The idea was to have the children create "cars" out of cardboard boxes and then after the pizza they would sit in their cars and watch the movie and eat popcorn. Well, the kids enjoyed creating and customizing their cars/forts/trucks/campers that they didn't want to stop. Some even kept right on creating during the movie! After the movie, they got to decorate Rice Krispie treats with frosting and sprinkles. They used a LOT of sprinkles! Special thanks to Deborah Pelton for her amazing passion for children and outreach to our community. She addressed over 45 postcards and mailed them to families to invite them to our event, as well as provided amazing leadership for all aspects of this event.



We had one more Pool Party for the children on Sunday, 9/25, a last minute but well enjoyed time in Diane Sharp's lovely pool. The calendar said September, but the thermometer said 98 degrees, so we had some more fun swimming and snacking.

When I pop in to say hello to our youth group Sunday School at 9 am, I am consistently seeing the couches full of youth learning more about the Lord through the gifted teaching of Mary Kinney.

Special thanks to Mary for your love for the kids and for Christ and your faithful teaching from the Bible! Our twice-a-month youth group meetings on Sunday evenings continue to be a great time of eating, playing, learning and having fun together.

By the time you read this we will have finished the month of October, which held some really special events! We restarted the church camp out after a COVID hiatus, we had a perfect Pumpkin Party for the youth and a church potluck and dessert auction. We look forward to making more memories together as we celebrate the joy we have in Christ.





Summary of Oct. 18, 2022 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 72 and 9 homebound took communion in Oct.
- Reported donations of \$75 each were given to KGM, Soup Kitchen, Crossroads Pregnancy Center & Meals-On-Wheels

Buildings & Grounds

- Reminder of Church Workday on Nov. 5th
- Approved Facility use White Dec. 10th
- Approved Facility use White Jan 21st
- Tabled discussion of Facility Use by Kings Symphony pending more information

Church Growth

- Reported implementation of "Mentor Program" for new families

Christian Education

- Reported 28 guest attended Church Campout
- Requested people submit pictures of FPC volunteers for the Volunteer Appreciation slideshow 11/13

Community Enhancement

- Approved recommended distribution on \$7000 in grants from designated funds

Finance

- Proposed budget options for 2023

UP COMING



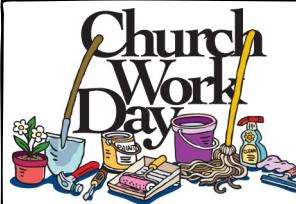
- Nov 1** Deacons mtg @ 6:30pm
- Nov 2** Praise team practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Nov 3** *Bible Study @ 7pm
- Nov 5** Church Workday
- Nov 6** *Daylight Savings Time Ends*, OCC Packing Party
- Nov 7** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm, *Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Nov 8** *Finance mtg 7pm
- Nov 9** Praise team practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Nov 10** *Session Reports due*, *Bible Study @ 7pm
- Nov 11** *Veterans Day*
- Nov 13** OCC Dedication, Volunteer Appreciation & Stewardship Sunday, Buildings & Grounds mtg @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm
- Nov 15** Session mtg @ 6pm
- Nov 16** Praise team practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Nov 17** *Bible Study @ 7pm
- Nov 20** *Decorate Church for Christmas*
- Nov 24** *Thanksgiving (Office Closed)*
- Nov 25** *(office closed)*
- Nov 27** *Advent Begins*, Youth Group @ 5pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm
- Nov 30** Praise Team practice @ 4:30pm, Chimes practice @ 5:30pm, Choir practice @ 6:30pm

* Zoom Meeting



Session

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm



Our Church Needs YOU!

Help! Help! It's been over a year that the office started getting the interior painted. On Church Workday (Saturday Nov. 5), we intend to finish the job. But we desperately need your help.

No skills required. We will train you. So, get on your grubbies and come down for some shared fellowship as we get'er done. The usual donuts and coffee will be provided. There will also be yardwork for those that want to stay outside. Come Join the Fun!

This is what the Lord says:

“Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 9:23-24



Our Stewardship theme for this season will be “My Worth Is Not In What I Own”. We want to thank our Praise Team for introducing this song to the congregation in church last month. How valuable are we to Jesus? He paid the highest price that He could. He bore our sin and shame dying on the cross for us all. It is a wondrous mystery that we can receive eternal life with our Lord! Let us turn our stewardship practices into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe.

Your Estimate of Giving is the faith commitment you use to indicate what you will give to First Presbyterian Church of Hanford to support our ministries and staff in the coming year. Prayerfully consider increasing your monthly tithe in whatever way possible as we anticipate having a new pastor in the near future!

We commit because God never abandons us. We commit because we believe in God’s work of redemption and reconciliation in the world. We commit because we believe in the worship and ministries our church provides especially in these unsettling times as we continue to search for a new full time pastor.

We would like to invite you to continue to share in the financial support of First Presbyterian Church. Our Faith Commitment Sunday is November 13 but we will receive your pledge physically or digitally, via email, at any time through the end of the year.

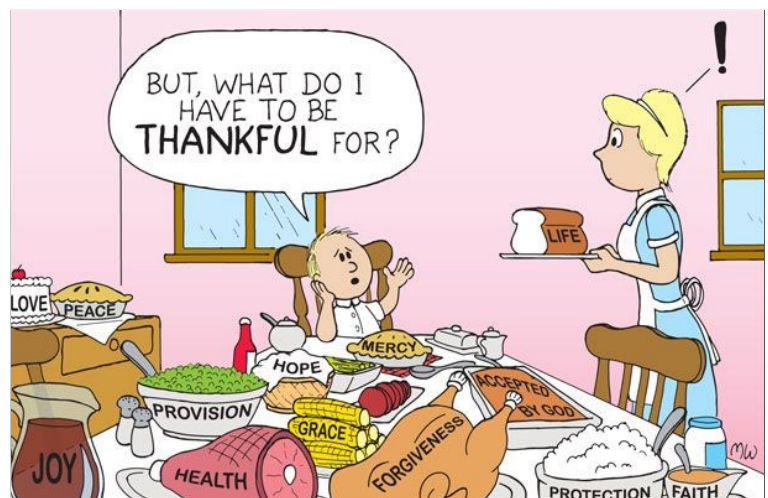
Faith Commitment Cards will be mailed to you and extras will be available in the church flyer or office. On Sunday, November 13, we are encouraging you to turn in your Faith Commitment Cards to begin the celebration of the upcoming year. Please drop your cards in the pledge box at the entrance to the sanctuary or mail to the First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232. We will also be emailing a Faith Commitment Card to you to fill out and return by email if you would like.

~ First Presbyterian Church Finance Committee and Session



Interested in becoming a member of FPC ?

If you are interested in becoming a member of FPC or want to learn more about our church, please come to our inquirer’s class. To register contact Annette in the church office at (559) 582-0283.



Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Psalms 107:8-9



Session Committees

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Worship
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of each month @ 11:15am

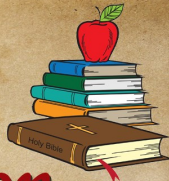


Church
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm



Christian
Education



Committee Meeting

Nov. meeting TBD



1st 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



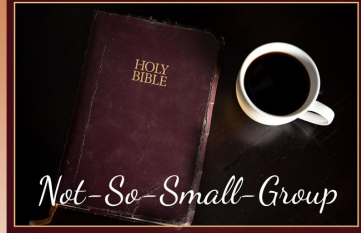
3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

Faith & Fellowship

Jolly 1's & 2's

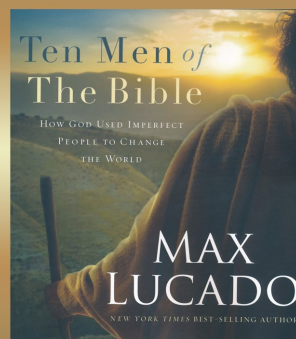
At the present time there is no activity planned for November. As many as can physically do so, join us on November 6 to pack a box for Operation Christmas Child.

As far as I know there will be a Christmas concert by the Kings Symphony in December. The date is not on their web site. I will update you in the December First Press. It is always a special night before Christmas with plenty of songs of the season.





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

Adult Bible Study

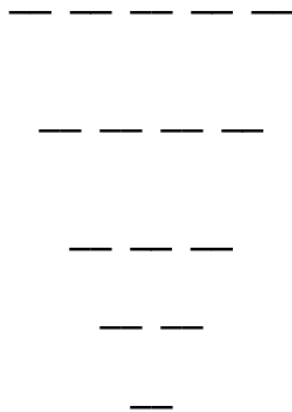


Thursday Nights @ 7:00pm



PYRAMID PUZZLE

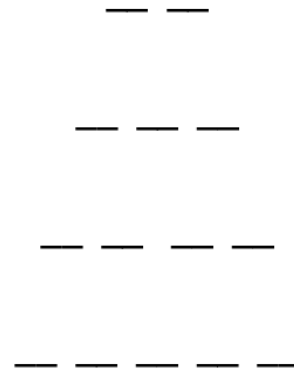
ORANGE



Reduce the six-letter word "orange" to the **left** by one letter at each descending step so each step makes a new word.

To the **right**, descend the stairs by adding one letter to the "O" at each step to make a new word.

O



NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8 Catherine Connelly
- 10 * David & Ann Wrigley
- 11 Diane Sharp
- 12 Sue Bairstow, Kelly Ann Garcia
- 14 David Wrigley
- 16 Haley Baker
- 17 Ava Bialkowski, Carol Connelly, Margaret Feaver
- 21 *Nick & Sue Kinney
- 22 Darlene Keast, Laurie Tazelaar
- 24 Angelika Loewen
- 28 *Kevin & Sheryl McCarty
- 30 *Andrew & Juhyeon Rishel



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

First Presbyterian Church

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.
Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.
Mail: P. O. Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232
(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

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