

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

January 2025

“More About Pastor Joe Mazzela”

Pastor Joe Mazzela grew up in Fresno, California and is the second son in a family of 5. Four brothers, and one sister, well two, but that’s a story from the pulpit. Joe met Christ at the age of 16 at a Young Life camp called “The Malibu Club” in British Columbia, Canada. Following that he felt the call to ministry. He served in Young Life; he led a 4-6 grade youth group at Millbrook Presbyterian Church, and then went to Fuller Theological Seminary after he finished his B.S. Degree in Therapeutic Recreation at Cal. State Fresno in 1985. Joe graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1989 and has served as an Associate Pastor to youth/mission at Glenkirk Presbyterian Church, then served at Mountain View Community Church in Wildomar, Ca. for 15 years. Recently, he served at Sanger Community Church.

Joe and his wife Jasmine continue to feel the call to ministry. They have 4 grown children between the two of them. Samantha (31) (who is married with two children), Kennedi who is (26) and an artist, Esther who is (26) and is working full time, and Samuel who is (22) and an engineer. We’re proud of them all.

In their free time Jasmine and Joe love to go on cruises, be with their kids, grandkids, and their friends. Joe is a soccer fanatic, pickle ball playing, Jesus loving man. He and Jasmine don’t know a stranger.

“EPC New Logo”

Our EPC has released an updated logo. Stated Clerk Dean Weaver explains the reasons and meanings behind this refreshed logo in a YouTube video you can watch at this link <https://epc.org/branding/>



Church DEACONS

Happy New Year! Our Deacons are looking forward to serving our Church in 2025. We would like to welcome our new class of 2027 – Susan Feaver, Sally Gordon, and Janeen Nelson, thank you for listening and answering the call to serve. They will be joining our current Deacons: Julie Baker; Joanna Jones; Jeanne Rich; Georgina Snyder; Laurie Tazelaar; and Teresa Voyles.

We want to thank our outgoing class of 2024 who have completed their three-year term: Laurie Essepian; Janet Harader; and Carley Watson. We were blessed to have all of these ladies who served our church with such loving & caring hearts and gave of their time, energy and compassion for others, thank you!

During 2024 we had a very busy year. We provided Memorial receptions for 7 families who lost loved ones. Cards, plants, phone calls, meals and hospital visits were made. Visited the home bound. Monthly preparation of the Sacraments for Communion. Distributed the food and clothing received to local charities. Organized Santa for Seniors & the toy drive for Toys for Tots. Provided funds & support for our local programs: Crossroads Pregnancy Center; Episcopal Soup Kitchen; Kings Gospel Mission; Laundry Love; Meals on Wheels; Military Ministry; Shower Ministry; and Refuge Armona.

The Deacons hope to be a beacon of light to our Church and community as we reach out to those in need. Please let us know how we may serve you, either through a prayer, phone call, card, or a visit.

As we serve, we participate in God's work, and we strive to share God's love and grace to the world.

~ Submitted by Julie Baker

Reminder! The Deacons would like to remind you to bring clothing and non-perishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available in the church hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.



UP COMING ^{Page 2}



- Jan 1** *New Year's Day (office closed)*
- Jan 3** Ladies First Friday Prayer @ 9am
- Jan 5** *Communion Sunday, Church Growth mtg*
- Jan 7** Staff meeting @ 10am
- Jan 9** Planning mtg. @ 11am, CE mtg @ 1pm
- Jan 12** Annual Meeting, Youth group @ 5pm
- Jan 13** *Missions mtg. @ 7pm
- Jan 14** Staff meeting @ 10am, VBS mtg @ 12pm
- Jan 15** *First Press articles due*
- Jan 19** Worship mtg @ 11:30am
- Jan 20** *MLK Day (office closed)*
- Jan 20** Staff mtg @ 10am, Session mtg @ 6:30pm
- Jan 24-25** POPS mtg
- Jan 25** CPR/AED training 9-noon
- Jan 26** Cider for Carlla fundraiser, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Jan 27** Deacon's Luncheon @ noon
- Jan 28** Staff mtg @ 10am
- Jan 31** New Officer Training @ 6:30pm
- Feb 1** New Officer Training cont. @ 8:30am
- Feb 2** Church Growth mtg @ 11:30am
- Feb 3** Deacons mtg @ 2pm
- Feb 5** BodyLife Begins @ 5:30pm
- Feb 7** First Friday Prayer @ 9am
- Feb 8** Parent's Morning Out
- Feb 9** Souper Bowl Sunday

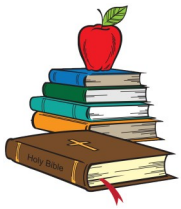
The New City Catechism

52 Questions & Answers for Our Hearts & Minds
Introduction by Kathy Keller



Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sins, God will remember our sins no more.



A Note From:
Children's and Youth Director
Sheri Winterowd

2025! Here we come! I always feel hopeful at the start of a new year stretching ahead with so many opportunities and options for us.

I had set a personal goal to read through the entire Bible in 2024 and it felt great to achieve that goal. I am grateful to Pastor Tim Brown for urging us to do that and a big part of my success in completing that goal was listening to the Bible on the YouVersion free Bible app. Last year, I followed the One Year Bible reading schedule. This year I am going to do the Chronological Bible Reading Plan (which many of you did last year) and just learned about The Bible Recap by Tara Leigh Cobble which gives insights and understanding into the passages that are being read. I am so excited about using these tools to help me deepen my understanding of God's Word! You can start any time...I encourage you to "go for it" and read through the Bible too! Whether this will be the first or the fifteenth time, God promises us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." The time we spend reading, learning, meditating on scripture is time that will benefit us in so many different ways!

I am deeply grateful for the experiences, memories and lessons of 2024. So many great things happened, and some very hard things happened as well. God was faithful and present with us thorough all of it...and he will continue to be in 2025! Let us be faithful to Him! I urge you to start or continue with regular church attendance, start or continue serving where the Lord guides you, start or continue reading His Word, the Bible, start or continue praying and seeking to honor Christ with your attitudes, actions and words. I am blessed to call First Presbyterian my church home and eager to see how the Lord will use all of us for His kingdom in 2025!

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 25 CPR & AED training with Sharon Farrar – 9-12, Fellowship Hall
- Jan 26 Fundraiser - Cider for Carlla
- Feb 5 BodyLife Wednesday Night Dinners and Bible Studies Begins
- Feb 8 Parent's Morning Out Children's Event- (Valentine Themed)



Summary of
Dec. 16, 2024 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 75 took communion on Dec. 1st, during worship

Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of Dec. 1, 2024 total—77
- Approved sending letters inviting members and former regular attended back to church
- Approved updates to membership rolls
- Approved electing Annette Rajsakup to serve as commissioner at presbytery on January 24-25
- Approved contract with Pastor Joe Mazzela for Stated Pulpit Supply Jan.1—April 30 with option to renew.

Buildings & Grounds

- Approved purchase and installation of new metal door for the back of the 220 Building
- Approved removal of acoustic wall treatment in the Fellowship Hall
- Approved contract with Porter Painting repair and paint the main church building

Christian Ed

- Approved cider for Carlla fundraiser on Jan. 26th
- Approved Parents Morning Out on Feb. 8th

Finance

- Approved moving \$200 into each of the maintenance sinking funds
- Approved updating the financial commitment cards
- Approved \$2300 for staff awards

JANUARY

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 8** Wellman Jue
- 11** Annie Jackson
- 15** Don Mills
- 16** Grace Kinney
- 17** *Charles & Susan Feaver
- 18** Meg Connelly, Ken Tazelaar
- 19** Alysha Rajskup, Michael Christoph
- 22** Steve Wartman
- 24** Brady Porter, Carley Watson
- 26** *Kelly & Teresa Voyles



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:

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| Joe Mazzela
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| Annette Rajskup
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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