

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

Disciples of Christ, reaching out and caring for others

FIRST PRESS

January 2026



“Welcoming Our New Pastor”

We are delighted that God has provided a new pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Hanford. With grateful hearts and great anticipation, we welcome Rev. Noel Anderson who will begin providing pulpit supply right after the first of the year. His examination before the Presbytery will take place in Bakersfield, CA at the winter POPS meeting on January 23-24, 2025 and his installation ceremony is planned for February 1st here at FPC Hanford during morning worship with a reception to follow.

Pastor Noel was born on August 7, 1959, in Spokane, Washington, and raised as the youngest of four children in a Christian family. His early years were spent in Riverside, California, before his family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where he attended junior and senior high school. He earned a B.A. in English Literature from Gonzaga University, where he was actively involved in student leadership as a newspaper editor, humor columnist, and Speaker of the Student Senate. He later received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, with an emphasis on preaching, and helped co-found a seminary newspaper.

Throughout his ministry, Pastor Noel has served congregations in a wide variety of pastoral roles across the country, including Assistant Pastor in Dallas, Associate Pastor in Edmond, Oklahoma, Interim Pastor in Cambria, California, Organizing Pastor of a new church development in Danville, Pastor and Head of Staff at Michillinda Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, and Executive Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bakersfield. Since 2011, he has faithfully served as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Upland, California.

Pastor Noel is also the author of *Those That Leap*, a work of spiritual fantasy fiction, as well as hundreds of articles. In his free time, he enjoys building electric guitars. He and his wife, Tara—whom he met while serving in Bakersfield—love spending time with their two dogs and humbly serving their two cats.

We are grateful for the gifts and experience Pastor Noel brings and look forward to the ministry God has prepared for us together.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Noel and Tara as they settle in here in Hanford and at FPC.

Church DEACONS

Happy New Year! Our Deacons are looking forward to serving our Church in 2026. We would like to welcome our new class of 2028 – Laurie Essepien, Marj Froberg, and Joanna Jones. Thank you for listening and answering the call to serve. They will be joining our current Deacons: Julie Baker; Susan Feaver; Sally Gordon; Janet Harader; Jeanne Rich; and Teresa Voyles.

We want to thank our outgoing class of 2025 who have completed their three-year term: Joanna Jones (two years); Georgina Snyder; and Laurie Tazelaar. 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 2025 we had a very busy year. We provided Memorial receptions for 2 families who lost loved ones. Cards, plants, phone calls, meals, prayers and hospital visits were made. The home bound were visited. Monthly Sacraments for Communion were prepared for the congregation and homebound communion was provided. Distributed the food and clothing received to Kings Gospel Mission. Organized Santa for Seniors & the toy drive for Toys for Tots. Provided funds & support for our local programs: Crossroads Pregnancy Center; Kings Gospel Mission; Episcopal Soup Kitchen; 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 nonperishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available in the church hallway near the backdoor.



UP COMING



- Jan 1** *New Year's Day (office closed)*
- Jan 4** *Communion Sunday*
- Jan 5** *C.E. Meeting @ 10am*
- Jan 8** *Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Jan 11** *Installation of New Officers, Youth Group @ 5pm*
- Jan 12** **Finance Meeting @ 12pm, *Missions Meeting @ 7pm*
- Jan 13** *Deacons Luncheon @ 12pm*
- Jan 15** *First Press Articles Due, Session Reports Due, Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Jan 19** *Martin Luther King Jr. Day (office closed)*
- Jan 20** *Session Meeting @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 22** *Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Jan 23-24** *Presbytery Meeting in Bakersfield*
- Jan 25** *Evangelism Workshop @ 12pm Youth Group @ 5pm*
- Jan 29** *Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Feb 1** *Installation Ceremony for Pastor Noel*
- Feb 2** *C.E. Meeting @ 10am*
- Feb 5** *Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Feb 8** *Annual Meeting Youth Group @ 5pm*
- Feb 9** **Finance Meeting @ 12pm *Mission Meeting @ 7pm*
- Feb 12** *Session Reports Due, Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Feb 16** *President's Day (office closed)*
- Feb 17** *Session Meeting @ 6:30pm*
- Feb 18** *Ash Wednesday*
- Feb 19** *Choir Practice @ 11:30am*
- Feb 22** *Youth Group @ 5pm*
- Feb 26** *Choir Practice @ 11:30am*

* via Zoom



A Note From:

Co-Directors of Children's and Youth Ministries
Mary Kinney and Sandy Mills

Hello. Happy New Year and Welcome to 2026! I hope that your holidays were filled with laughter and joy as you got together with family and friends. I pray your hearts were in awe of the most precious gift we have ever received! Thank God for sending His Son into our lives and for the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

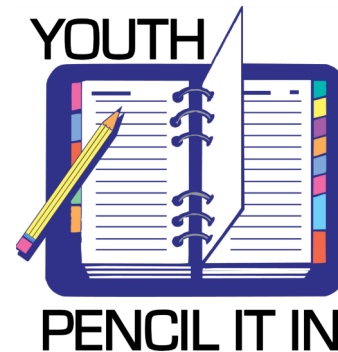
We had quite a full year of activities. We ended the year with two fantastic events. We held a Youth Christmas Party at the church. Everyone enjoyed pizza and a hot cocoa bar. There was a nerf battle, blind-folded snowball tossing, and our youth made some great gingerbread houses. Mary Kinney led us in a devotion, and we finished the night with a holiday movie. It was a lot of fun!

We also celebrated Jesus' birthday in Powerhouse. The kids got to do a craft, play games, hear the Christmas story, and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. There was also a sweet treat involved. It was wonderful celebrating our Savior together.

As we head into the new year, we are excited for all our favorite activities for our children and youth, as well as some fresh ideas and opportunities. Our summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) curriculum has been purchased, and we will begin brainstorming ideas and preparing for that amazing event. We are in the beginning stages of planning a cookie making and decorating event for our youth, a fundraising opportunity, as well as participating in our church's local outreach Blessing Bags event. We will continue to keep you posted as we have upcoming events planned.

I pray blessings upon you and your family in this new year. May the Lord's favor be upon you and may you keep your eyes fixed upon Him, the author and perfecter of our faith.

In His love,
 Sandy Mills



Upcoming Events:

- January 11: Youth Group (5 – 8pm)
- January 25: Youth Group (5 – 8pm)



Summary of Dec. 16, 2025 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 64 took communion on December 7th during worship and 4 Shut-Ins were served
- Art Ramm placed on hospice
- Awarded to family gifts of \$100 each
- Approved \$100 each to The Episcopal Soup Kitchen, Laundry Love, and Meals-On-Wheels

Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of December 1, 2025 total—75
- Presented updates on Winter Presbytery
- Notice of formal complaint from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies towards Presbytery regarding Open letter regarding Same Sex Attraction

Finance

- Approved proposed 2026 Budget
- Approved 2026 Insurance policy with Church & Casualty
- Approved staff awards of \$2,900 for 8 staff members
- Approved transferring Year-End Funds of \$300 to each of the four Major Sinking Funds and remainder tot the Economic Uncertainty Fund



Happy New Year 2026 From Your Mission Ministry Team

As we begin the 2026 New Year, let us celebrate Missionaries everywhere for their steadfast faith in the Lord! Whether they serve world-wide or locally, they are examples to all of us displaying “*Hope*” that God is always with us and we can achieve anything if we depend upon HIM; “*Peace*” knowing that God will see us through all troubled times; “*Joy*” in sharing the Word to the unreached bringing salvation through Jesus Christ to them; and “*Love*” the ultimate love of God that HE sent HIS only Son for all of us so that we will have eternal Life!

It is with a heartfelt heart that our Mission Ministry Team says “Thank You” for your faithful participation in supporting missionaries both International and local to spread the Word of God to those who do not yet know HIM, and it is through the generous donations from you, our congregation, that our First Presbyterian Church will be supporting the following Missionaries and organizations this 2026 – Thank You for helping to spread God’s Word through Mission Outreach!

All Nations Gateway Church: Building the body of Christ through a new church plant in El Tejon Bakersfield, CA with Pastor Joe Mazella.

Standing Stone Ministries: Shepherding the Shepherds providing Biblical pastoral guidance and support for ministry leaders and their spouses.

The Refuge House (Armona): Refuge House Armona provides a safe place for kids to go after school where God is ever present and there are resources and activities for help to the children.

Ryan & Amy C.: Building discipleship teams to bring God and church back to the people in European countries.

Crossroads Pregnancy Center: Sharing the love of Christ in word and deed with anyone experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, post abortion syndrome or lifestyle distress.

Kings Gospel Mission: A rescue shelter in Hanford dedicated to helping and restoring the homeless and helpless by bringing them to God so that they know they are valued and loved.

FPC Blessing Bags: Outreach ministry bags filled with general daily needed items to bless and help a person in need get through a day knowing that they are loved and valued.

“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor!”

Proverbs 22:9 NIV

In the New Testament, followers of Christ are called by many names. Use the hints to fill in the blanks. Need help? Check an NIV Bible for the missing letters.

D _____ s
(Acts 6:7)



C _____ n P _____ e
(1 Peter 2:9)



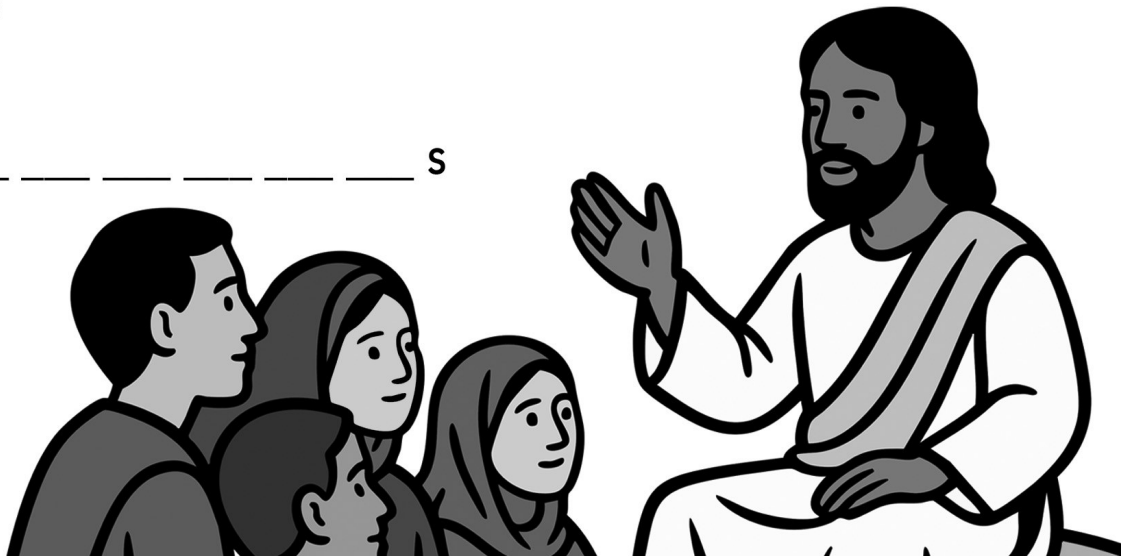
S _____ s of C _____ t
(1 Corinthians 4:1)

C _____ s
(Acts 11: 26)

B _____ s and S _____ s
(1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

B _____ s
(Acts 5:14)

W _____ s
(Acts 1:8)





JANUARY

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

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

P O Box 1185
Hanford, CA 93232

Place
Stamp
Here

Label Here

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STAFF:

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| Noel Anderson pastor@fpchanford.org | Pastor |
| Mary Kinney Sandy Mills youth@fpchanford.org | Co-Directors of Youth & Children's Ministries |
| Annette Rajskup office@fpchanford.org | Office Administrator |
| Melissa Wescoat bookkeeper@fpchanford.org | Bookkeeper |
| Nancy Roller nancyroller8@yahoo.com | Custodian |

Church Office Hours: 9:00am—12:00pm (Mon—Thur.)

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



Please contact the office with any updates, additions or corrections. We don't want to miss anyone or list your special date incorrectly.