

# 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](http://www.fpchanford.org) Email: [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)

*A fellowship brought together through God's prevenient grace to grow closer to God*

## FIRST PRESS

February 2024



### "Refueling Center"

Pastor Tim Brown

Relationships are critical to our spiritual health and vitality. Often, when we struggle in our relationships, we end up struggling spiritually. Conversely, when our relationships are thriving, it is easier to thrive spiritually. Everyone I know wants better relationships. I have yet to meet anyone who has a deep desire for unhealthy relationships. However, I have met A LOT of people who falsely assume that healthy relationships just happen. Thriving, healthy relationships require work and effort. They do not happen by accident.

**"Healthy Relationships are a refueling center for life."**

I get a warning light and an audible alarm on my truck when I am low on fuel. I know that I have only a few miles until I have to refuel, or I will run out of gas. It would be foolish of me to ignore the warning light and alarm. I won't share how many times I have ignored the warning! Let's just say that I have many spare gas cans in my garage.

The same can happen in relationships. All relationships get depleted at times; however, healthy relationships are a refueling center for life. In a healthy relationship, individuals understand the importance of filling each other's love tank. When we don't understand this vital function of relationships...to refuel each other.... all areas of our lives can be impacted. We all need regular deposits of love in life.

The Bible says that for relationships to function well, the warmth and the love of God need to fill each of us so full that we splash and spill His love over all our relationships. One of the paradoxes of relationships that Jesus taught was that when we refuel others, we get refueled ourselves. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38, NIV).

**So how can we be a refueling center for our relationships? Here are three things to do.**

#### 1. Say warm words.

Read and apply these Proverbs: "An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up" (Proverbs 12:25, NIV). Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24, NIV). Are the words you use more like vinegar or honey? When was the last time you sincerely expressed appreciation for someone?



**2. Do kind deeds.**

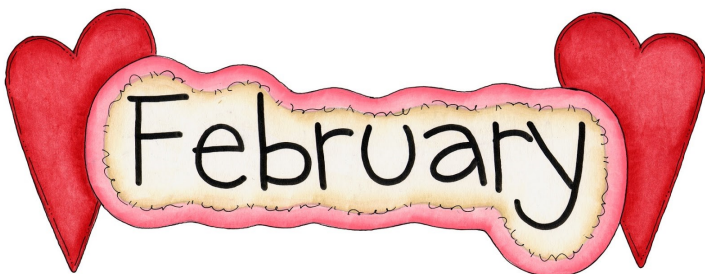
John challenges us, “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth,” (1 John 3:18, NIV).

Look for ways to help and serve others. As I write this, I think of a “magic drawer” that I opened this morning. I had been out of my favorite toothpaste for a week or so and I kept forgetting to purchase more. This morning, when I opened my bathroom vanity drawer, a surprise awaited me. My favorite toothpaste had “magically” appeared. Of course, the one responsible for that magical deed was my wife, Jen. Her kind act filled my love tank and made my morning.

**3. Give thoughtful gifts.**

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ (Acts 20:35, ESV). Thoughtful gifts do not have to be expensive. In fact, one of the most valuable gifts you can give to someone is the gift of time. Making the effort to share your love and appreciation for someone can fill their love tank. But here’s the deal. If we want our relationship tanks filled, we must give with the right attitude and give with no strings attached. If we give with an expectation of getting something in return, then we have given with selfish motives, and that is not love.

February is often set aside as a month to celebrate relationships and love. Step up and challenge yourself to be a refueling center in your relationships.



A HUGE thank you to each and every person who generously donated a new toy for the Deacon’s Toys for Tots Outreach this past year. I am happy to report that 76 toys were donated!! What a blessing these are to the children who received them!

Each Sunday after church there is an opportunity for anyone who attends church to head to the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a tasty snack, a hot cup of coffee or cold cup of lemonade and connect with others. This time is special because it allows us to truly fellowship with one another. The children really enjoy the cookies and lemonade and often sit together and catch up while the adults use this time for all types of connection: insights gleaned from the recently completed church service; concerns surrounding a health diagnosis or injury; praying together to lift up our joys and concerns; sharing walnuts, citrus, pomegranates, etc. that members graciously bring to give to others. We are a warm and welcoming church. This special time following the service allows us a chance to share the love of Christ with one another and to help people new to our church get connected.

Your First Presbyterian Church Deacons as well as several others in our church help facilitate this time by baking, decorating, making coffee and lemonade, cutting up fruit and goodies and plating the treats before service and leaving worship during the last song so they can be whisked out all the food as people arrive in the Fellowship Hall.

You are invited to help by baking some cookies, muffins, or bread, bringing cheese, fruit or single serve packs of cookies, crackers, chips, popcorn, etc. and donating them for use during the Fellowship Time. We have freezers and a pantry where we can store these items. We would LOVE your help on Sunday mornings preparing for Fellowship Time! It is enjoyable to work with others and put together a nice spread for everyone to enjoy. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Julie Baker or Carley Watson. If you prefer to contribute baked and purchased items only, just bring your items to the church kitchen any Sunday morning and let those preparing the snacks know that they are to be used for Fellowship Time. Thank you in advance for your consideration and willingness to help make our special Fellowship Time even better!

~ Carley Watson



## A Note From:

**Children's and Youth Director**  
**Sheri Winterowd**

I always get excited about a new year. Something about a fresh calendar and a whole lot of possibilities stretching out in front of me makes me happy! Yes, preparing all the paperwork for filing my taxes is not my favorite activity, but even still I appreciate the relative 'quiet' of January after the fun and frenzy of Christmastime.

I have accepted the challenge that Pastor Tim gave us of putting a greater emphasis on reading and meditating on scripture. I pulled out The One Year Bible (which Tony and I got for a wedding gift in 1994!) and am dedicated to reading through the whole Bible this year! I am grateful to be doing this along with many of you!

1 Corinthians 12:12 says "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." And then in verse 27 "Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." The metaphor that the apostle Paul uses here explains that it takes many different parts, each doing their own job, to make a well-functioning body. The parts are interdependent, working together to achieve a healthy body and in our case, a healthy church.

Your Christian Education ministry team is one part of our healthy church and we are always looking for our church family to answer God's call to serve him in nursery and preschool, teaching powerhouse, helping with youth group, helping with youth events, and coming up with creative ways to share biblical and spiritual truths in Bible study and small group ministries. Thank you for being the body of Christ and for doing your part to encourage each of us in our spiritual growth. If you have any desire to help in any way or to join our Christian Education team, I would invite you to please talk to me and we would welcome you to serve with us!

We have some great things coming up for your children and youth!

- Feb 3** Paint Party Outreach
- Feb 24** Bowling Party for FPC Kids 3:30 pm then pizza after at church
- Feb 25** Cider for Carlla Fundraiser
- March 2** I Love My Campus community wide youth event at Glad Tidings, 4-7 pm
- April 7, 14 & 21** First Communion Class at 9:00 am for students in 2nd Grade and older

## Communion Class

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>



## Cider for Carlla



Fundraiser

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

# UP COMING



- Feb 3** Painting Party @ 1pm  
**Feb 4** Communion Sunday  
**Feb 5** Church Growth @ 1pm  
**Feb 6** Deacon meeting @ 6:30pm  
**Feb 7** BodyLife @ 5:30pm  
**Feb 8** C.E. meeting @ 1:30pm  
**Feb 11** Souper Bowl Sunday, B & G mtg @ 11:10am, Worship mtg @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm  
**Feb 12** Finance mtg @ 11am  
**Feb 14** Ash Wednesday, BodyLife @5:30pm, Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30pm  
**Feb 15** Session Reports Due, 1st Press Articles Due  
**Feb 18** Ministry Fair in Fellowship Hall @ 11:30am  
**Feb 19** President's Day (office closed)  
**Feb 20** Session mtg @ 6pm  
**Feb 21** BodyLife @ 5:30pm  
**Feb 24** Youth Bowling party @ 3:30pm  
**Feb 25** Cider for Carlla, Membership Class @ 11:30am, Youth Group @ 5pm  
**Feb 28** BodyLife @ 5:30pm  
**Mar 3** Communion Sunday  
**Mar 4** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm  
**Mar 5** Deacon mtg @ 6:30pm  
**Mar 6** BodyLife @ 5:30pm

\* via Zoom



## Summary of Jan. 15, 2024 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 74 and 6 homebound took communion in Dec.
- \$150 each to Soup Kitchen, Crossroads Pregnancy Center and Refuge Armona
- Reported 124 were served at the Bettencourt Memorial
- Reported no one is currently assigned to serve during fellowship time on months with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

### Clerk's Report

- Reported Active Members as of Jan 1, 2024 total—90

### Pastor's Report

- Elder and Deacon training will be held Jan 20<sup>th</sup>
- Approved an Ash Wednesday Service on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>
- Approved a New Members Class on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>
- Approved the baptism of Kaitlyn & Megan Pelton

### Building & Grounds

- Reported they are compiling a list of projects to tackle in the upcoming year

### Christian Education

- Approved allowing donations for camp during the Annual Meeting
- Approved updates to FPC Covenant Agreement for: Infant & Toddler, Youth Ministry & Powerhouse Ministry
- Approved dates for VBS—June 24-28, 2024
- Approved "Cider for Carlla" fundraiser on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

### Church Growth

- Approved Paint Party on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Missions

- Approved "Souper Bowl Sunday" special offering to benefit Calvin Crest Camp

### Other Business

- Approved that Bill Baker will act representative for FPC in matters concerning Memorial Trusts
- Approved Ministry Fair on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>

### The New City Catechism

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



### **Did God create us unable to keep his law?**

*No, but because of the disobedience of Adam & Eve, we are all born in sin and guilt, unable to keep God's law.*



# fpc Family Spotlight



## Jeff & Joanna Jones

It's New Year's Eve in a crowded room. Their eyes meet from a distance. He's very interested but somewhat hesitant. She wonders if he will make his way to her. The atmosphere is buzzing with excitement, and finally, after gathering enough courage, he walks over to the one who has captured his attention and asks her to dance. Her response was, "It sure took you long enough!" And dance they did. Then, at the stroke of midnight, the couple shared their first and their last, first kiss. This sounds like a Hallmark movie script or perhaps a book by Nicolas Sparks, but it is not. It was the beginning of the love story of Jeff and Joanna Jones.

Joanna grew up on 9th Street in Hanford and has been a lifelong resident. When she was as young as four, she can remember walking each Sunday morning to attend First Presbyterian Church, where she has attended her entire life. Joanna is a graduate of Hanford High and College of the Sequoias. Before marrying Jeff, she also worked as a Certified Nursing Associate at a local nursing home.

Jeff grew up in Sanger, California, and after graduating from Sanger High, he enlisted in the Navy, where he served as an electrician at Lemoore Naval Air Station for four years. Jeff traveled to many bases and said, "I was at Top Gun before Tom Cruise."

Later, Jeff carried his skills as an electrician into the workforce and last year; he retired from Del Monte Foods, where he was an Automation Programmer.

Jeff and Joanna's paths intersected on December 31, 1979, and they have been together ever since. They married in 1988 and became very involved in the life and ministry of FPC. Joanna has participated in many ministries and small groups and served as a Deacon. She was recently selected to serve another term as a Deacon. Joanna is known to provide wonderful words of encouragement. Jeff has also participated in various ministries and groups, served as a Deacon and the Moderator of the Deacons, and recently finished his term as a Ruling Elder at FPC. He led the Buildings and Grounds Team as a member of Session. Jeff is also active in leadership for Walk to Emmaus.

In 2019, Jeff and Joanna were in a serious car accident, and despite severe injuries, they continue to use their gifts to serve Christ faithfully. When Jeff and Joanna are not helping at FPC, they are probably at home enjoying hobbies and watching their favorite television shows. They enjoy "Call the Mid-Wife" and anxiously await the new season. They also enjoy "Blue Bloods" because Joanna "has a crush on Tom Selleck." Jeff is also a ham radio operator and an avid cyclist and walker. Watch closely when traveling down 10th Avenue, and you may catch a glimpse of Jeff walking or perhaps waiting in line at the new Dutch Bros.

FPC is blessed to have the Joneses as a part of our church family and leadership.



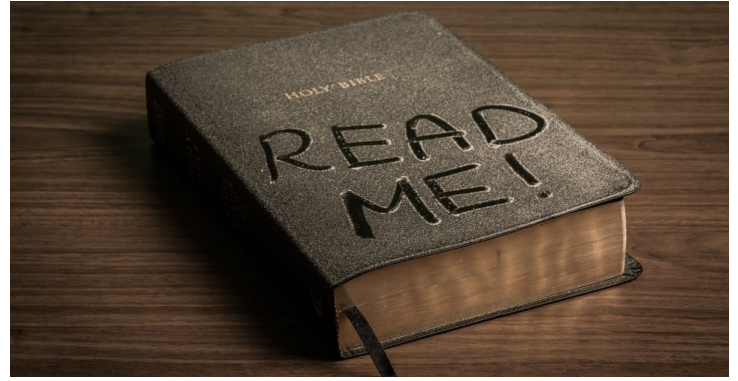
## Membership Class

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

11:30am

Learn more about FPC Hanford  
and how to become a member

## February Reading Plan



### Daily Bible Reading Program

#### *Chronological Plan*

1-Year Plan. These readings are compiled according to recent historical research, taking into account the order in which the recorded events actually occurred. This is a fantastic plan to follow if you wish to add historical context to your reading of the Bible. If the schedule provided is followed, the entire Bible will be read in one calendar year.

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Exodus 7-9       | 18. Leviticus 16-18            |
| 2. Exodus 10-12     | 19. Leviticus 19-21            |
| 3. Exodus 13-15     | 20. Leviticus 22-23            |
| 4. Exodus 16-18     | 21. Leviticus 24-25            |
| 5. Exodus 19-21     | 22. Leviticus 26-27            |
| 6. Exodus 22-24     | 23. Numbers 1-2                |
| 7. Exodus 25-27     | 24. Numbers 3-4                |
| 8. Exodus 28-29     | 25. Numbers 5-6                |
| 9. Exodus 30-32     | 26. Numbers 7                  |
| 10. Exodus 33-35    | 27. Numbers 8-10               |
| 11. Exodus 36-38    | 28. Numbers 11-13              |
| 12. Exodus 39-40    | 29. Numbers 14-15;<br>Psalm 90 |
| 13. Leviticus 1-4   |                                |
| 14. Leviticus 5-7   |                                |
| 15. Leviticus 8-10  |                                |
| 16. Leviticus 11-13 |                                |
| 17. Leviticus 14-15 |                                |



**February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

at 1:00pm

Sign-up and  
bring a friend



# Faith & Fellowship

## Jolly 1's & 2's

Jolly 1's & 2's will not have an event in February. March 10 will be our next time we meet when we attend the Temple Theatre for the play titled "Leading Ladies." This comedy features two down-and-out actors who plan to pass themselves as nephews to get an old woman's cash. When they learn the nephews are actually nieces, they continue their scam. Romantic entanglements ensue in this silly comedy.

If you wish to attend, please let Janet Harader (559-583-8817 or 559-367-5658) know by February 25 so reservations can be made. If you need a ride, let Janet know and we will provide transportation for you. Cost is \$15. Time of the play is 2:00, but you need to be there by about 1:30 to secure your seats. Anyone in First Presbyterian church and your friends are welcome.

**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring clothing and nonperishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available in the church hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.



### "Powerhouse"



**Children's Church**  
(ages K—5th)

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**

**@ 10:30 am**

(children attend church, then are released to their classes)

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month**  
**at 5:00pm**



**YOUTH GROUP**  
*grades 6<sup>th</sup> — 12<sup>th</sup>*

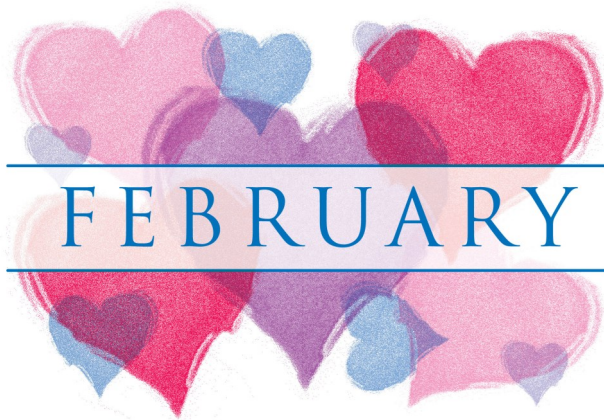
## Exercise class

The FPC exercise class  
M, W & F mornings @ 9:00am in the  
FPC Outreach Building (220 Dewey Street)

# FEBRUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Anna Kopp
- 6 \*Michael & Laurel Montoya
- 8 Juhyeon Rishel
- 12 Martin Keast
- 19 Lindsay Caparuolo



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

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Here

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#### STAFF:

<b>Dr. Tim Brown</b> <a href="mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org">pastor@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Pastor</b>
<b>Sheri Winterowd</b> <a href="mailto:fpchanford.youth@gmail.com">fpchanford.youth@gmail.com</a>	<b>Director of Youth &amp; Children's Ministries</b>
<b>Annette Rajskup</b> <a href="mailto:office@fpchanford.org">office@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<b>Athena Smith</b> <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@fpchanford.org">bookkeeper@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>
<b>Nancy Roller</b> <a href="mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com">nancyroller8@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Custodian</b>

Church Office Hours: 9:00am—1:00pm (Mon—Fri)

Send prayer requests to [hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com)  
other information to [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)