

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

February 2026



These days, Tara and I live with one foot in Upland and one in Hanford. Our lives are measured not so much by calendars as by cardboard boxes. Some are neatly labeled; others bear hastily scribbled notes that seemed clearer at the time. The soundscape of our days includes the sound of packing tape being pulled, drawers being opened and closed, and the familiar question repeated often: Do we really need this?

Relocation has a way of occupying the shallows of the mind. There are addresses to change, real estate listings to scan, utilities to schedule, and the constant mental inventory of what still needs to be done. It is not glamorous work, and it rarely feels complete. Just when you think you've finished one task, two more appear in its place. In that sense, moving is a bit like ministry itself.

And yet, beneath all of that activity—beneath the logistics and the lists—there is something deeper and far more powerful at work. While our hands are busy with boxes, our hearts are full of eager anticipation and longing. We are not merely changing locations; we are stepping toward a new life that we will share with the people of First Presbyterian Church of Hanford and with the wider Hanford community.

Every move involves discernment. This thing stays. That thing goes. Some decisions are easy—old paperwork, mismatched furniture, items that have long since outlived their usefulness. Other decisions are not so easy at all. Certain objects carry stories, memories, and seasons of life that were meaningful and formative. Letting go of them feels a bit like letting go of a chapter that mattered.

Still, we are learning that hope is lighter than fear, and trust travels more easily than nostalgia. We know that what we most need for the road ahead cannot be packed into boxes anyway. Our deepest hopes are not behind us; they are ahead of us. Much of what we need is already there, waiting—relationships yet to be formed, shared worship yet to be experienced, ministries yet to take shape, and joys we cannot yet imagine.

There is a quiet act of faith involved in leaving. Scripture is full of people who were asked to go without knowing all the details of where they were headed. What sustained them was not certainty, but calling. Tara and I feel the same sense of calling, drawing us forward—not away from what matters, but toward what God is unfolding next.

We come to Hanford not as experts, but as learners. Not with a finished plan, but with open hearts. We are eager to know your stories, to listen well, and to grow into the shared life God is giving us together. We believe deeply that God has already been at work among you, and that it is our joy and privilege to step into that ongoing story.

Continued on page 2

From the Pastor continued

As the boxes slowly empty and the move becomes more real, our gratitude grows. We are thankful for your patience as we navigate this in-between season. We are thankful for your prayers, your kindness, and the warmth with which you have welcomed us. And we are thankful for the promise—repeated throughout Scripture—that those who follow God’s call never walk alone.

The hassles of moving will pass. The boxes will be recycled. Addresses will be updated. What will remain is the gift of shared life in Christ: worship offered together, burdens carried together, laughter and sorrow held in common, and hope renewed again and again.

We are willing—gladly—to leave it all behind to participate in what lies ahead. And what lies ahead, we believe, is good. God is faithful. Christ is present. And the future we step into together is held securely in God’s gracious hands.

We cannot wait to be fully home with you.

Rev. Noel K. Anderson
Pastor



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.



Church DEACONS

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated and helped make Toys for Tots and Santa for Seniors a success. The giving of gifts expresses the simple joy of sharing.

You have helped to make Christmas special with your gifts for 20 Seniors at Diamond Terrace Nursing Home. The 50 toys for Toys for Tots this year were not picked up by the U.S. Marine Corps Marines. While the toys were not distributed to Kings County children as planned, God had a different plan in mind. We will distribute the toys to several areas: 1st Presbyterian children’s ministry; Refuge Armona; & the Mexico Mission trip in the spring.

Thank you for your generosity and gifts of love! The Deacon’s ministry is designed to help those who could use some extra attention at Christmas & throughout the year.

As the First Presbyterian church serves, we participate in God’s work, sharing God’s love and grace to the world.

-Julie Baker





A Note From:

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

Hello everyone. It has been so nice to reconnect with the children, youth, and church families after the Christmas season. Youth Group started back up in January. On the 11th, we had a night of food, games, prayer, and devotion. We all had such fun seeing each other after many weeks on vacation.

We have some exciting things coming up. The Youth Group has partnered with Missions to continue the church's Blessing Bag outreach. Blessing bags are filled with self-care items and snacks which can be given to the unhoused in our town. Items include a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, washcloth, deodorant, snacks, and various other hygiene items. On January 25th, our youth and young adults worked on researching and ordering items for the blessing bags. They were involved with deciding which items would be included, how many bags to make, and finding good deals on the items to include. The items are being purchased, and we are looking forward to holding a Blessing Bag event on March 15th after church. We would like to invite the congregation to join us in packing the bags together.

We are excited to continue this mission project for our local community. We will be having a Valentine themed Parent's Morning Out on February 7th, from 9-11am. Parents can bring their littles to the church for fun activities, snacks, and a Bible story, as they get a few hours to themselves. Please reach out to Sandy if you would like your child to attend.

Just a reminder, Calvin Crest registration is open for Summer Camps. Students get to experience sleeping in cabins, new and continuing friendships, worship, Bible teachings, and fun activities. Sherwood Forest is a summer camp experience for 3rd-5th graders and will be held July 5th – 10th. Middle School Camp will also take place July 5th – 10th and is available for students in grades 6–8. The High School Camp, for grades 9-12, will be held July 12th – 17th. Make sure to sign up your students if you are interested at www.calvincrest.com.

Thank you for all your continued support and prayers. We truly appreciate it. I pray that you will be filled with peace and fullness of joy as we lean into our Savior's love and faithfulness.

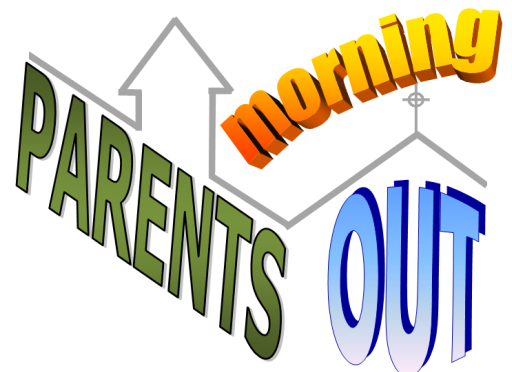
In His love,
 Sandy Mills

Upcoming Events:

- February 7: Parent Morning Out (9-11am)
- February 8: Youth Group - cookie decorating with Marj Froberg (5 – 8pm)
- February 22: Youth Group (5 – 8pm)
- March 8: Youth Group (5 – 8pm)
- March 15: Blessing Bag packing event (after church)
- March 22: Youth Group (5 – 8pm)




 Calvin Crest


 PARENTS MORNING OUT

UP COMING



- Feb 1** Pastor Installation Ceremony & Reception
- Feb 2** C.E. meeting @ 10am
- Feb 4** Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Feb 8** *Souper Bowl Sunday*, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Feb 9** *Finance Meeting @ 12pm, *Missions Meeting @ 7pm
- Feb 10** Deacons Meeting @ 12pm
- Feb 12** *Session Reports Due*, Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Feb 15** *First Press Articles Due*, Mission Trip Information Meeting @ 11:30am
- Feb 16** *President's Day (office closed)*
- Feb 17** Session Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Feb 18** Ash Wednesday Service @ 6pm
- Feb 19** Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Feb 21** Elder Training Retreat
- Feb 22** Annual Meeting @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Feb 26** Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Mar 1** *Communion Sunday*
- Mar 2** C.E. Meeting @ 10am
- Mar 5** Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Mar 8** *Daylight Savings Begins*, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Mar 9** *Finance Meeting @ 12pm, *Missions Meeting @ 7pm
- Mar 10** Deacons Meeting @ 12pm
- Mar 12** Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Mar 15** Blessing Bags Packing Party
- Mar 19** *Session Reports Due*, Choir Practice @ 11:30am
- Mar 20** Youth Group @ 5pm
- Mar 24** Session Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Mar 26** Choir Practice @ 11:30am

* via Zoom



Summary of Jan. 20, 2026 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 68 took communion on January 4th during worship
- Approved \$75 each to The Episcopal Soup Kitchen, Laundry Love, and Meals-On-Wheels

Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of January 1, 2026 total—74
- Annette Rajskup was elected as commissioner for POPS 2026

Pastor's Report

- Approved Ash Wednesday Service at 6pm
- Approved Alysha Rajskup (GCU student) to conduct a Threat Assessment on FPC as a school project
- Approved Communion by intinction on Feb. 1, 2026 during worship in conjunction with Pastor Noe's Installation Ceremony

Buildings & Grounds

- Reported they are getting bids to replace the HVAC unit that serves the Fellowship Hall

Christian Education

- Approved offering a Communion Class in May for 2nd grade and up.
- Approved offering a Confirmation Class for Jr & Sr, High students
- Approved purchase of backdrop frames from #2132
- Approved Tri-Tip/Bake Sale fundraiser on April 26, 2026
- Approved Blessing Bag Packing Party Mar. 15, 2026
- Approved several youth events throughout the year
- Approved tentative plans for BodyLife if meal teams can be secured

Missions Committee

- Approved Souper Bowl Sunday funds for Village of Hope Trip
- Approved "Changing Babies" fundraiser for Crossroads
- Approved Operation Christmas Child Program, Packing Party, and Dedication Sunday
- Approved 5th Sunday potluck on Aug. 30, 2026



2025 Proves Fruitful for FPC Missionaries

First Presbyterian Church Missionaries Ryan and Amy continue their work in bringing unbelievers to Christ in a country where churches are closing and non-Christians are unlikely to respond to a “come to church on Sunday” invitation. By fostering and establishing some new creative unconventional ways of spreading the Gospel to reach the unreached, 2025 has proven to be a very fruitful year where they offer training, mentoring and coaching to local Christians and missional disciple making is growing and opening doors that have never been opened before.

From Ryan: “As we look back and reflect, we can see that the **Lord opened many doors** for our ministry, **provided faithfully** for us, gave us **discernment** on where to **focus for more fruit**, and gave us the **Spirit-infused energy** to carry out the ministry, despite some significant hurdles in 2025; and, God is giving us **new clarity** in ministry **strategies** here (focusing for greater fruit)”.

Our teams are seeing new relationships built with unbelievers; new **Discovery Bible Studies** started with unbelievers; new local redemptive initiatives begun or strengthened among artists, women, intellectuals, and the poor; leaders growing; teams forming; spiritual community deepening within the group; and freedom gained from lies and wounds through inner healing prayer.

The **Missional Discipleship Formation** ministry is starting by teaching and coaching on an ongoing lifestyle of mission and disciple making; equipping in intentional and spiritual conversations with the lost to find ‘hungry’ people and relationally disciple them into following Jesus and becoming fishers of men; and solidifying identity in Christ as beloved children of the Father and ambassadors of Christ.

Invitation To God’s Movement works by training and taking lay leaders and pastors and helping to bring more of a missional discipleship focus into some existing churches; clarifying strategies for local missionaries and churches; and providing a community of higher-level commitment to a lifestyle of missional discipleship. Through this community of practice, teams foster a highly relational environment aimed at inner transformation into Christlikeness and growth in disciple-making.

God is definitely “on the move” and opening doors and offering opportunities for Ryan and Amy to outreach and spread the Gospel! Please pray for the Lord to bless them with strength, wisdom, and discernment as they work to motivate, educate, train and mentor new disciples for Christ!



Session Committees



Worship
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of each month @ 11:30am



Church
DEACONS

2nd Tuesday of each month @ noon



Christian
Education



Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 10am



MISSIONS
Ministry



2nd Monday of each month @ 7pm



Buildings &
Grounds



Committee Meeting


2nd Sunday of each month @ 11:10 am



Finance
Committee Meeting



2nd Monday of each month @ noon



Church
Growth



Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm



Session



3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm



Jolly 1's & 2's

Jolly 1's & 2's is a group that anyone in the congregation is welcome to join in. Events are geared but not limited to seniors. We go to plays, eat out, attend the Kings Symphony events, etc. I have chosen a few events for consideration. If anyone has suggestions, feel free to contact me.

March 8, The Sound of Music is being shown at the Fox Theatre at 2:00. The cost is \$10 if you purchase tickets in advance or \$12 on the day of the event.

March 15 is the date of the Kings Symphony Spring Concert. It begins at 4:00. The cost for seniors is \$15. I have several tickets if you cannot afford to pay. The concert generally lasts from 1 to 1-1/2 hours.

April 18 is the Storybook Garden Mystery Theatre. More information will be forthcoming.

Several plays will be featured by the Kings Players at the Temple Theatre. The cost is \$15. 1 Shot Jennifer Lopez runs May 15-31. We generally choose a Sunday matinee. The second play is The Mousetrap playing August 14-30. November 20 to December 6 is a Christmas Double (2 plays). More information on and dates chosen for each will be forthcoming.

I hope to see you at several of the above listed events. If you need for me to purchase tickets for you or you need a ride, contact Janet Harader at 559-367-5658 or 559-583-8817.

~ Janet Harader



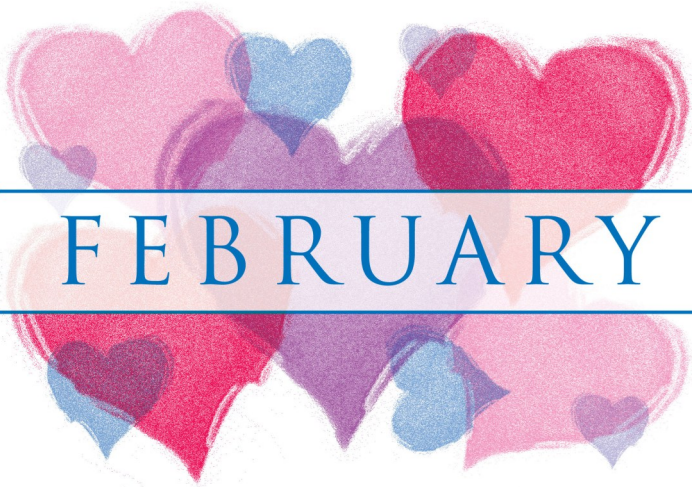
Office Closed Feb. 16th for President's Day



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Anna Kopp
- 6 *Michael & Laurel Montoya
- 12 Martin Keast
- 15 Elliot Walls, Samantha Walls
- 16 LeeAnn Copeland



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

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Mail: P. O. Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232
(559) 582-0283—FAX (559) 582-0336
www.fpchanford.org

STAFF:

Noel Anderson Pastor
pastor@fpchanford.org

Mary Kinney Co-Directors of Youth &
Sandy Mills Children's Ministries
youth@fpchanford.org

Annette Rajskup Office Administrator
office@fpchanford.org

Melissa Wescoat Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@fpchanford.org

Brooke Winterowd Nursey & Childcare
Coordinator

Nancy Roller Custodian
nancyroller8@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours: 9:00am—12:00pm (Mon—Thur.)
Send prayer requests to hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com
other information to office@fpchanford.org