



# First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

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

## FIRST PRESS

March 2024



### **"Seekers"** **Pastor Tim Brown**

This Ash Wednesday, many Christians began the 40-day journey of Lent, preparing their hearts and minds to celebrate Christ's sacrifice and resurrection on Easter morning. While observing Lent, many will fast, give up their favorite earthly possessions, and/or give time to the less fortunate while drawing closer to God.

Now, what if, as Christians, we all joined in on Lenten journey, vowing to prepare our hearts to fully accept the gift of grace on Easter morning? What if we simply asked God to help us experience an awakening during Lent that would lead us to surrender to His gift of grace? What if we asked that He consume our lives with His presence and His will so that we can wake up Easter morning ready to experience His love in a unique and amazing new way?

I want to encourage you to spend quiet time with God during this Lenten season. Seek His will for your life.

One of the tv shows I enjoy watching is "The Curse of Oak Island." For years, two brothers and their partners have searched for hidden treasure on a tiny island in Nova Scotia. They have gone to great expense and long lengths to try and find the ancient treasure, and thus far, their efforts have been to no avail. But they continue to search. They genuinely believe that a treasure is theirs to find.

A great promise is found in Jeremiah 29:13. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (NIV). God promises that we will find Him when we fervently search for him. I wonder how my life would change if I put serious time and effort into searching for God like those treasure hunters? He promises that He will reveal Himself to me if I am diligent in my search.

During this season, become a seeker of the Almighty. Let him lead and guide you. Maybe He'll lead you to have a conversation you've put off for some time. Perhaps He will lead you to a path of forgiveness and reconciliation with someone. Maybe He will open a door of opportunity for you. Join me on a journey during this season.



## Laundry Love

For most of us, when it is time to get ready each morning we go to the closet or a dresser drawer and choose something to wear that has been freshly laundered. Unfortunately not everyone in our community has that same opportunity, for many different reasons. Because of that need to get their clothes washed, the Methodist Church of Hanford began an outreach program several years ago . The Presbyterian church participated by helping with each session and supported it with donations. The program is called Laundry Love and takes place on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the laundromat near Big Lots on 11th Avenue.

Those wishing to take advantage of this program are able to get their clothes washed and dried for free. Members of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches volunteer their time to sign people in, get them assigned to a machine, and offer encouraging words.

If you have had a need to use a laundromat recently, you are aware of the high costs. A large machine is \$6 for a single load. Laundry Love is always appreciative of donations, whether monetary, laundry supplies, or giving of your time. The event is held from 3pm to 7pm. Volunteers may decide to help from 3-5:00 or 5-7:00. I think I speak for each of the volunteers that help with Laundry Love, that after each month's session we come away with a renewed feeling of gratitude for all that we have been blessed with, but also a feeling that we have been a blessing to others by extending a helping hand. If you are interested in helping in some way with this outreach program, please talk with Georgina Snyder.

*The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped. Proverbs 11:25*



**LET'S GO!!!**

**FPC Mission Opportunity to Cameroon, Africa!!!**

**Dates – June 1 – 15, 2024 (includes 4 days travel)**

We have a wonderful chance to travel to Cameroon, Africa, with Paul Ela NSA, Missions Team co-chair and FPC Elder. Paul is from Cameroon. He has served as an Elder in the Efulan Presbyterian Church and will be leading us on this journey to visit this church along with the Yaounde Presbyterian Missions, Ebolowa Presbyterian Missions, and Kribi Erwin Good Presbyterian Missions in Cameroon. This will give us a chance to build a Covenant church relationship with the Efulan Presbyterian Church congregation as well as share faith, cultures, and experiences as missionaries. The itinerary also includes all food arrangements (provided by a private chef), accommodations, and ground transportation.

Temperatures during our journey through the south/central part of Cameroon during the first part of June is said to be pleasant (lows in the 60's, highs in the 80's).

Cost is **estimated** at \$4,000, which covers flight, food, housing, ground transportation and Visa fees. Immunizations needed for travel & Covid restrictions will be at own expense. Deposit on this opportunity is \$400.

If you would like more information, please contact Gail Forsythe at 559-381-2388 and leave a message. We need to begin the registration process soon for those who want to take advantage of this great chance to become missionaries in Cameroon, Africa. **Let's Go!!!**



## A Note From:

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

Calvin Crest is our local Christian camp, nestled in the beautiful mountains near Yosemite National Park. There are camp options for kids entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, who attend Sherwood Forest, which will be held July 7-12 and is the same week as Junior High Camp. Senior High Camp will be held July 14-19. There are also two Family Camps offered as well as Outdoor Adventure. These camps all have a great blend of solid Christian teaching, praise & worship times, fun activities, time in nature and opportunities to deepen friendships and draw closer to Jesus.

Our main fundraiser to help families offset the cost of camp is our Tri Tip Dinner Fundraiser, which will be held on Sunday, April 7, directly following the worship service. There will be take out and eat in options. If you have any interest in learning more about camp, please contact Sheri Winterowd or speak to some of our youth who have attended the camps. I am offering a Camp Interest Meeting on Sunday March 10 in the Fellowship Hall after worship service. Here is the website for camp where you can see schedules, pricing, photos, etc:

<https://www.calvincrest.com/summer-programs/>

First Communion Classes for students will be offered for three consecutive Sundays, April 7, 14 and 21 at 9 am in the PowerHouse Room. It is requested that your child would attend all three classes, as the teaching builds over the weeks. The reason we offer First Communion Classes is to help children understand the meaning and importance of communion. Even if your child has taken communion, we would love to invite them to join this class if they have never taken a First Communion Class. Please RSVP to Sheri Winterowd at [fpchanford.youth@gmail.com](mailto:fpchanford.youth@gmail.com) or 559-281-4163, so we can make sure and have the correct amount of materials for the class.

We are still learning the New City Catechism! Please continue to review the questions and answers as they are so beneficial for understanding the Christian faith. There is a free app with each question and answer, and a scripture and devotional that goes with each. If you toggle to 'children's mode' there is a catchy song to help you memorize the question and answer. It is worth taking the time to memorize these truths!

Thank you, beloved church family, for your support of our children in their Apple Cider fundraiser for Carlla, our Compassion assisted girl who lives in Peru. First Presbyterian's Children's ministry has sponsored Carlla for many years and the funds that we raise from our Lemonade and Apple Cider stands help pay for her monthly sponsorship. We were grateful to receive \$183.50 from February's Apple Cider fundraiser, which will pay for over 4 months of sponsorship!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

June 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>!!!



Every day is an adventure at Breaker Rock Beach! Catch a glimpse of an orca leaping through the surf or watch happy sea lions playing among the rocks beneath magnificent pines. At Breaker Rock Beach, kids will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true. Each day kids will be challenged to know that God's truth never changes-even when it's radically different from what some people say!

Please consider helping out this year! There are a lot of great opportunities to serve and have fun along the way!

Contact VBS Director, Lori Porter at 559-362-6762 for more information.

# UP COMING



- Mar 3** Communion Sunday, Missions Potluck & Dessert Auction
- Mar 4** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm, Deacon mtg @ 2pm
- Mar 6** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Study @ 6:15pm
- Mar 9** Journaling Class (11am—2pm)
- Mar 10** Worship mtg. @ 11:15am, Summer Camp Interest meeting @11:30am, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Mar 11** Finance mtg @ 11am
- Mar 13** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Study @ 6:15pm
- Mar 14** Session Reports Due
- Mar 15** 1st Press Articles Due
- Mar 17** Missions Compassion Letter Writing Event @ 11:30am
- Mar 19** Session Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Mar 20** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Study @ 6:15pm
- Mar 23** Memorial for Bob Curiel @ 12:30pm
- Mar 24** Palm Sunday, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Mar 28** Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30pm
- Mar 29** Good Friday Guided Prayer 12—12:45pm
- Mar 31** Easter Sunday
- Apr 1** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm, Deacons mtg @ 2pm
- Apr 7** Communion Sunday, Youth Communion Class @ 9am, Youth Tri-Tip Fundraiser
- Apr 8** Finance mtg @ 11am, \*Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Apr 11** Session Reports Due

\* via Zoom



## Summary of Feb. 20, 2024 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 66 and 7 homebound took communion in Feb..
- \$150 each to Kings Gospel Mission, Laundry Love, Meals-on-Wheels
- Reported Bob Curiel's Memorial will be Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Clerk's Report

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

### Pastor's Report

- Approved election of Gail Forsythe and Annette Rajskup as Elders to the Nominating Committee
- Approved Gail Forsythe as Chair to Nominating Committee
- Approved Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30pm

### Building & Grounds

- Reported they are replacing lights in the Fellowship Hall

### Christian Education

- Approved moving Tri-Tip Fundraiser to April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Approved placing donation baskets at VBS sign-up
- Approved luncheon event after church on 6/30/24 for FPC and VBS families

### Church Growth

- Approved All Church Picnic to be May 19<sup>th</sup> at Freedom Park

### Finance

- Approved moving of funds and defined from which accounts previously approved expenses will come.
- Approve emergency purchase of new Wi-Fi router and surge protector.
- Approved purchase of new microphone system

### Missions

- Approved Potluck & Dessert Auction for Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Approved 4/28/24 as Compassion International Sunday

### Other Business

- Approved Jimmeyer Wedding (June 22, 2024)

#### The New City Catechism

52 Questions  
& Answers  
for Our Hearts  
& Minds

Introduction by  
Kathy Keller



### Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

*That we may know the holy nature of God, and the sinful nature of our hearts; thus our need of a Savior.*



# fpc Family Spotlight



## Kelly and Teresa Voyles

A quote says, “Trust that God is in the details and believe with all your heart that one day you will see His perfect plan for you fall in place.” That has certainly been true for Kelly and Teresa Voyles. Both were born in Missouri, although 166 miles apart, and through a series of God-orchestrated moments, their paths would cross and eventually merge into one beautiful family.

Teresa grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and after graduating from High School, she attended the University of Missouri and then began a career with Southwestern Bell. Some would say, “As fate would have it,” but in actuality, it is “As God would have it,” Teresa would be a coworker of a woman named Shirley Voyles. They also played in the same bowling league. On one occasion, when Shirley and Teresa were on the same team, Teresa kept trying to check out a young man who kept looking at her. It turns out that the young man was Shirley’s son, Kelly. Shirley passed word onto Teresa that Kelly had taken notice of her and wanted to give her a call.

Kelly, who had grown up in Springfield, Missouri, was on a one-month leave from the Navy and visiting Shirley in Kansas City. He was stationed at Lemoore Naval Air Station. Teresa thought the relationship would only go so far; however, they maintained a long-distance relationship through long-distance phone calls. They would typically talk on Sunday nights because it was cheaper (remember when you had to pay for long-distance calls)? Teresa says that Kelly was also “a prolific letter writer,” so they wrote each other often. Their relationship continued to grow and flourish, and in January 1985, their paths merged as one when they were married.

Kelly served our country for 18 ½ years as an Airframes Mechanic in the Navy. He returned to school at Reedley College to complete an FAA certificate, worked for United Express, was a stay-at-home dad for five years, and was a contract employee for LNAS. He retired in 2019. After the birth of their first son, Matt, Teresa decided to go to nursing school and graduated from College of the Sequoias in May 1993 with her RN. She then established a career as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Adventist Hospital in Hanford, where she retired in 2020.

Kelly and Teresa have two sons, Matt, who is married to Stephanie, and Carter, who is married to Monika. They live in Hanford. They also have three grandchildren. Kelly and Teresa have served in various capacities at FPC. Most recently, Kelly served on the pastoral search team that hired Pastor Tim Brown, and he helps with the youth and sings in the choir. He has also served as a Deacon. Teresa volunteers in our church office and is currently a Deacon. She has also been an Elder at a Presbyterian church.

In their spare time, the Voyles enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. They also care for the one who introduced them, Shirley Voyles, who lives with them. Kelly is an avid reader of history and mechanical books and magazines. He also likes to go to the gun range and work on his model airplanes. On a side note, Kelly was also on the USS Enterprise during the filming of the first “Top Gun” movie. Teresa loves spending time with her grandkids and reading. They are hoping to take an Alaskan Cruise soon.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, “God has made everything beautiful in its time.” That has certainly proven true for the Voyles family. FPC is blessed to have this wonderful family as a part of our church family.



We hope that everyone is enjoying their time reading God's word. As you are reading do you have questions? Do you wish that you could ask someone those questions? Did you notice something interesting and want to share? Please join us in our discussion Facebook group. The best way to learn and grow is to discuss what we are observing and ask questions when we are confused. There are sometimes different resources shared for those that wish to have clarification or go deeper into a subject.

To join us you can go to the church Facebook page and scroll down until you see the FPC Bible in a Year group post, you can put this url directly into your web browser [www.facebook.com/groups/fpcbibleinayear/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fpcbibleinayear/) or you can search for the FPC Bible in a Year in the Facebook search bar. We hope to see you there!

## March 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. Numbers 16-17      | 17. Deuteronomy 21-23           |
| 2. Numbers 18-20      | 18. Deuteronomy 24-27           |
| 3. Numbers 21-22      | 19. Deuteronomy 28-29           |
| 4. Numbers 23-25      | 20. Deuteronomy 30-31           |
| 5. Numbers 26-27      | 21. Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 91 |
| 6. Numbers 28-30      | 22. Joshua 1-4                  |
| 7. Numbers 31-32      | 23. Joshua 5-8                  |
| 8. Numbers 33-34      | 24. Joshua 9-11                 |
| 9. Numbers 35-36      | 25. Joshua 12-15                |
| 10. Deuteronomy 1-2   | 26. Joshua 16-18                |
| 11. Deuteronomy 3-4   | 27. Joshua 19-21                |
| 12. Deuteronomy 5-7   | 28. Joshua 22-24                |
| 13. Deuteronomy 8-10  | 29. Judges 1-2                  |
| 14. Deuteronomy 11-13 | 30. Judges 3-5                  |
| 15. Deuteronomy 14-16 | 31. Judges 6-7                  |
| 16. Deuteronomy 17-20 |                                 |

# Faith & Fellowship

## Jolly 1's & 2's

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will already have reserved your seats for the play "Leading Ladies" at the Temple Theatre. If you still wish to go, I will see if there are any seats left.

The Kings Symphony is presenting their spring concert on March 17 at 4:00 at the Hanford High School Presentation Center. It is usually a very wonderful event to attend. If anyone needs a ride, let Janet Harader know (559-367-5658). Also, if anyone wants to go but finances are tight, let Janet know and we will see what can be arranged. We do not necessarily arrange to sit together, as seating is at your discretion and not reserved. Those of us who attended the Christmas concert were impressed with the new director. I am eager to see what he will provide for us in the spring concert.

**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)

# MARCH

## Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 2 Ellen Matsubara, Kelly Voyles,
- 5 \*Randy Edwards & Diane Sharp
- 6 Rosemary Clark, Cora Kopp, Avery Mills
- 8 Andrew Rishel
- 9 Jim Rajskup
- 16 Sally Gordon, Emmett Montoya
- 18 Faye Kopp
- 19 Brian Pelton
- 28 \*Don & Janice Mills
- 29 June Kennedy



P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

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#### STAFF:

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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)

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