

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

April 2025



Wednesday Bible Study



Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind

Begins January 30th

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other Thursday @ 6:30pm

Hello FPC Hanford,

It's true, I have been here at the Church for 3 months. Wow, I am a long timer. By the time you get this we will have had our time together with Pastor Mike Griffin. I trust that God really ministered to you during that time of healing and refocus. Since I am not here to be a potted plant, I continue to do the men's Bible Study on Thursday nights and our Wednesday Truth Project. These times with you have been precious. God has truly been at work in people's lives and God is ministering to me and Jasmine just as much. I pray that you are preparing for the Passion of the Christ as we come to the meat of Lent. Don't forget to be praying and reading God's Word during these times. I am looking for 13 men to help us at our Maundy Thursday Service. If you are interested, please call me in the office or on my cell phone. (951) 746 5854. God bless you during this wonderful time of the year.

Pastor Joe Mazzela <><

Church DEACONS

CLASS OF 2025

Georgiana Snyder
Laurie Tazelaar
Joanna Jones

CLASS OF 2026

Julie Baker
Jeanne Rich
Teresa Voyles

CLASS OF 2027

Susan Feaver
Sally Gordon
Janet Harader

Here at FPC Hanford, we have nine Deacons. Each class has a three-year term, where they perform various duty assignments for our church congregation. Setting up the elements for Holy Communion for the congregation on the first Sunday of each month is one. Another is hosting memorials/receptions as needed. On the fourth Sunday of the month, the Deacons provide the refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship service.

This month, our Deacons special project was to purchase two new upright freezers for the kitchen. After more than twenty years of faithful service, our old freezer gave out. A restaurant going out of business nearby on Lacey Boulevard (across the way from McDonald's) sold it to the church for \$100.00. It had rollers on it, and being so close to the church, Debra Revious and Jeff Jones walked it over to the Fellowship Hall.

~ Submitted by Joanna Jones

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.



Summary of March 18, 2025 Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 80 took communion on March 2nd during worship and 5 shut-In's
- Purchased 2 new freezers for FPC

Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of Mar. 1, 2025 total—75
- Recommended three new member applicates to session

Pastor's Report

- Approved purchased of laptop for pastor use
- Presented report from Mike Griffin and Nehemiah Workshop overview
- Approved an EPC Discovery Workshop of May 31, 2025
- Approved \$400 toward airfare to attend GA

Buildings & Grounds

- Approved taking \$289.94 from the Facilities Sinking Fund to pay for the cost of painting the CE classrooms
- Approved facility use for memorial on 3/14/25
- Approved future memorial for Dr. Al Knudsen
- Presented a list of projects needing to be prioritized

C.E.

- Approved a suggested \$5 donation for VBS 2025

Church Growth

- Approved preselling tickets for the Church Picnic
- Approved Nov. 23 for Church Christmas Decorating and Soup Potluck

Finance

- Approved \$60,000 from Support Fund & \$25,000 from Pastor Housing if needed for housing equity loan

Missions

- Approved use of Fellowship Hall on 4/29/25 for meeting with Missionary Ryan Corrigan

Pastor Search Committee

- Provided Session with draft copy of EPC Church Information Form (CIF)



A Note From:

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

Hello! I would like to share some changes happening within the administration of Children's and Youth Ministries at FPC. Sheri Winterowd has been a blessing to our church family, children, and our youth. She has been a beautiful example of being a servant of Christ, giving of herself to pour into the hearts of our young ones. She has been a listening ear, an encourager and has faithfully spread the love of Christ to our children and youth. Sheri's season as Director of Children and Youth Ministries has come to a close as she and her husband, Tony, embark on their exciting new season as they move to Huntington Beach in Orange County. We will miss them dearly.

Starting this month, Mary Kinney and I will be working together as Co-Directors of Children's and Youth Ministries. Brooke Winterowd will be the new Coordinator for Nursery and Toddlers. We are all excited to begin this new adventure as we step out in faith to serve the Lord together. I look forward to introducing you to our new team next month!

This month, two of our youth will be a part of their first out-of-country mission trip. Michael Kinney and Emerson Mills will be joining Dan Peters and Radiant Church in Visalia as they head to Mexico over Spring Break! There will be opportunities for various projects, including building and repair projects, VBS, women's ministry, and a potential sports clinic. Please be praying for them as they make preparations to leave and for their time in Mexico. We are excited for what God has in store for the lives they will touch as well as the work He will do in their hearts.

If your youth will be attending one of the upcoming summer camps at Calvin Crest, applications for scholarships are available. Here is a link to the scholarship form: <https://www.fpchanford.org/current-events.html>. You can also get a paper copy on Sunday at church.

We are quickly approaching VBS 2025! This year's theme is Magnified! Keep an eye out for upcoming news. We are looking forward to this week of fun and sharing God's truth and love! May He be magnified in our hearts and lives! Be blessed!

In His love,
Sandy Mills

Upcoming Events:

- April 6 Winterowd Farewell Reception
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 20 Easter
- May 4 Church Picnic
- June 23-27 Vacation Bible School

CalvinCrest

**MEMORIAL DAY
WORK & WORSHIP
WEEKEND!**

MAY 23-25, 2025

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
for construction,
sewing, raking, burning,
cleaning and other projects!

Register online at
www.calvincrest.com

DISCOVERING THE BIGNESS OF GOD

MAGNIFIED!

PSALM 34:3

IN THE SMALLEST OF THINGS

June 23 - 27

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

SUMMER 2025 AT CALVIN CREST!

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| FAMILY CAMP I | JUNE 22-27 |
| FAMILY CAMP II | JUNE 29-JULY 4 |
| AIM I | JUNE 22-JULY 4 |
| AIM II | JULY 6-18 |
| SHERWOOD FOREST | JULY 6-11 |
| MIDDLE SCHOOL | JULY 6-11 |
| OUTDOOR ADV. EXPEDITION | JULY 6-11 |
| HIGH SCHOOL | JULY 13-18 |
| WEEK IN THE FOREST | JULY 13-18 |
| OUTDOOR ADV. OUTPOST | JULY 20-25 |

REGISTER AT WWW.CALVINCREST.COM

APPLY FOR CAMPSHIPS ONLINE!

His Love Through Relationship

by Sandy Mills



I have had the privilege of going on two mission trips to Romania. My first trip was the summer after my junior year in college. I went through an organization called “Word Made Flesh” where I stayed in Romania for four weeks. My heart was changed forever and I knew I wanted to go back. A few months after graduation, I boarded a plane and met up with three other young adults along the journey who I would spend the next four months in community with. Upon arriving in Galati,

Romania, I was immediately immersed in the culture. I stayed with a host family. This was a family in need who would receive support for housing me. There were three children. I immediately bonded with Andrea, the youngest daughter. She was my teacher, my guide, and like a little sister at the young age of 12. She knew very little English, the only one in the family who knew any English. We would communicate through laughter, hand signals, my simple Romanian, and her attempts at English.

I attended language lessons twice a week. I learned how to communicate and have simple conversations, how to get around the city, and navigate the transportation system. My time was spent in several different ways. Ministry occurred within relationship. That is one thing I valued. It wasn’t about a task being accomplished, which is a wonderful thing, but ministry occurred within active relationship. The love of God was evident in diving in, being real, and being His hands and feet. I was able to briefly enter into these kids’ world to get a small taste of what their life was like and speak life into them, to come alongside and live life pouring out love.

I helped at the drop-in center. This was a place for children who would not necessarily have any means to get an education, substantial meals, and who were possibly headed toward life on the streets or other horrible outcomes. The drop in center was a safe place to get the support necessary to attend school. They were provided food, uniforms for school, backpacks, and a place to take a shower. This was a place they could receive tutoring to catch up to other children their age in school, somewhere to go to stay off the streets, and to worship and hear the word of God. I did demolition. I helped cook. As my Romanian improved, I helped the littlest ones with their homework. We played, celebrated, and allowed the children to be children in a place they were safe and loved. We talked about Jesus and His love for them. We even got to take the kids to camp for a week. I will never forget going to cool off in a stream to see the kids pull out a bar of soap to wash their clothes right there, a luxury they didn’t have.

I also went with a team that ministered to the kids who lived on the street several times a week. We would meet at a concrete area to play soccer. These children and teen boys would come excited for fellowship. We would join them in a game of soccer and see the hardness of the street melt away as they once again became just boys. They could have

fun and be carefree, not having to watch their back or beg or defend themselves. They did not have to be ashamed of the dirt covering their body or matted hair or tattered clothing. After an exciting game, we would sit together on a grassy patch. We would share a lunch of sandwiches side by side. There was no barrier. Just God’s beloved in fellowship and breaking bread. We listened to stories, provided connection, and offered the gift of Jesus.

I chose to attend a Baptist church on Sundays. The message in Romanian was a bit over my head, so I began joining some of our kiddos in children’s Sunday school. I would sing along to Jesus loves me and Our God is an Awesome God and listen to the Bible stories. There is something powerful about worshipping the Lord together. I would smile at how every nation and tongue will one day praise Him, and it was beautiful!

There are so many amazing stories I could share, and I would love to share them with you sometime. Stories of walking a child to school each day, having lice picked out of my hair for hours by little girls who felt loved because someone was willing to get close to them, the sound of the boys on the street yelling and laughing, “Sendi, I love you,” an English phrase they knew, and long walks with a girl who would share her story with me and letting her know she was so capable, so smart, and so loved.

Continued on page 5

UP COMING



- Apr 1** Staff meeting @ 11am
- Apr 2** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6pm
- Apr 4** Ladies First Friday Prayer at 9am, "The Chosen" study @ 7pm
- Apr 6** *Communion Sunday*, Church Growth meeting @ 11:20am, Farewell Reception for the Winterowds
- Apr 7** Deacon's meeting @ 1pm
- Apr 8** Staff meeting @ 11am
- Apr 9** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6pm
- Apr 10** CE meeting @ 1pm, Men's Bible Study Group @ 6:30pm
- Apr 11** "The Chosen" study @ 7pm
- Apr 13** *Palm Sunday*
- Apr 14** Finance meeting @ 11am, *Missions meeting @ 7pm
- Apr 15** *First Press Articles due*, Staff meeting @ 10am
- Apr 17** *Session Reports due*, Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30pm
- Apr 18** "The Chosen" study @ 7pm
- Apr 20** *Easter Sunday*
- Apr 22** Staff meeting @ 11am, Session Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Apr 24** Men's Bible Study Group @ 6:30pm
- Apr 25** "The Chosen" study @ 7pm
- Apr 27** *Compassion Sunday*
- Apr 29** Staff meeting @ 11am, Missionary meeting @ 1pm, *Investment mtg. @7pm

* via Zoom

His Love Through Relationship cont.

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I would share stories of how I was brought to tears at the generosity of children who had nothing yet gave all they had in contrast to my selfishness, children who knew how to have joy even when their world was unstable and dangerous at best. I would share stories of holding hands for hours with a young adult who was blind and mentally handicapped, who had been kicked out of a hospital because he aged out but had been taken in by a special organization, and stories of children who still sought the Lord and chose Him over bitterness. I'd like to say I made an impact while I was there, but if I'm honest, it was I who was changed forever. And I was able to glimpse the love God has for all of His children and how He desires to have relationship with us, walking with us in our brokenness and impoverished nature. He is faithful and He is love.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
340 N. IRWIN STREET**

Easter



LET IT CHANGE YOU

**PALM SUNDAY SERVICES
APRIL 13 @ 10:00 am**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
APRIL 17 @ 6:30 pm**

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES
APRIL 20 @ 10:00 am**

The New City Catechism

52 Questions & Answers for Our Hearts & Minds

Introduction by Kathy Keller



What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

They will be cast out from the presence of God, into hell, to be justly punished, forever.



fpct Making Disciples of Jesus
Hartford, California

VBS 2025

June 23—27

Vacation Bible School is June 23-27 and planning is already well underway! This year's theme is *MAGNIFIED! Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.* Kids will be challenged to stand in awe of God's spectacular creation and see how He keeps the whole universe going and growing, yet He still cares about what's going on in their lives. They will learn that they can be confident God loves them and He will be faithful to keep His promises.

Each day the kids will rotate through several activities including crafts, games, Bible, and snacks. This year we are excited to add a mission rotation where kids will learn all about how they can be on mission for Jesus in their everyday lives. We will sing and dance, we will learn Bible stories, we will eat snacks and we will create - all while remembering God sees me, God loves me, and **GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES!!**

How can you help? I'm so glad you asked ;)

First and foremost, prayer. Please join our current VBS leaders in praying for a great week where we can teach and reach the children that walk through our doors and share the love of Jesus with them.

Second, spread the word! There will be cards in the church narthex and church office that you can grab and hand out to family and friends that you think would enjoy coming for the week.

Third, join us!! VBS is a big task and it takes lots of hands to make it happen. If you have the time to volunteer that week we would love to have you! We need help in decorations, registration, nursery, group leaders and rotation leaders. If you have a particular talent, let me know and we can find a place to plug you in.

Lastly, donate! If you are unable to be here that week for whatever reason you can still help make VBS a success with your donations. We would love monetary donations to help purchase supplies, t-shirts, and various odds and ends. You can drop your monetary donation off at the office or in the offering plate, just

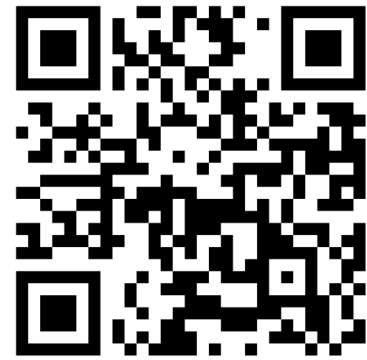
please make sure to mark it for VBS! As the date gets closer be on the lookout for specific things we will need donated for our crafts, games, and snacks!

We are excited for a great week of VBS and can't wait to see what God will do!



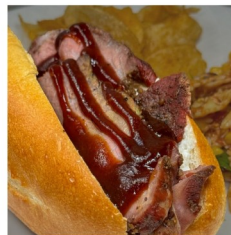
VBS has an Amazon Wish List that we will update regularly over the next months leading up to the actually week. Please take a look and consider helping us out by purchasing items off of the list. Thank you for your support!!

**Use this QR Code link to access the
VBS 2025 Amazon Wishlist**



May 4th

at Freedom Park



Join us at the **Church Picnic!**

Lunch will be Tri-Tip and rolls
Tickets \$5/person, max \$20 family
Please bring a side or dessert

Please sign up and pay by April 25th

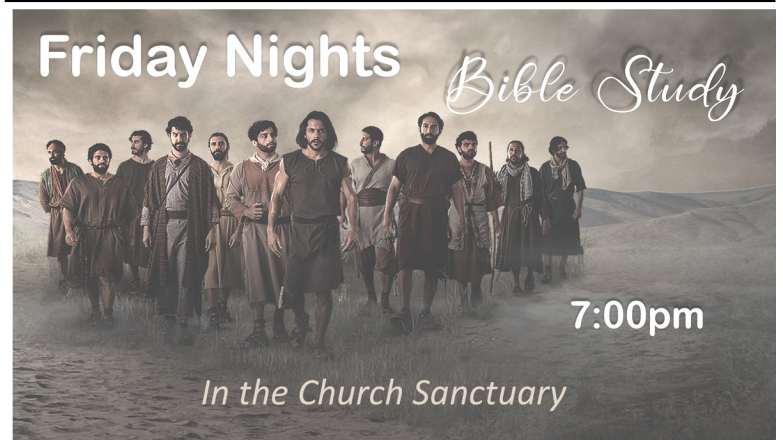
Faith & Fellowship



Youth Group meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 5:00 pm



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



VBS June 23—27

If you are interested in volunteering we have a place for you!

Email jaime.christoph@gmail.com



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Emerie Porter
- 6 * *Thom & Georgina Snyder*
- 9 Emerson Mills
- 11 Jaime Christoph
- 19 Daniel Newman
Tyler Uhlik
- 21 * *Brady & Paula Adams*
- 22 * *Steven & Michele King*
- 26 Michael Kinney
Teresa Voyles
- 28 Isla Adams
- 30 * *Martin & Darlene Keast*



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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Joe Mazzela 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—1:00pm (Mon—Fri)

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