

April 2026

# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HANFORD



## THOUGH APRIL SHOWERS MAY COME YOUR WAY

Most of us, if we're honest, really like rain — especially the lovely, gentle spring showers that grace April everywhere outside of southern California. The peaceable pitter-pat calms tense nerves and reassures us that the poppies will soon bloom. But rain has its darker moods too. The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike, and no matter how well we prepare, we always seem to get caught in a downburst without our umbrella. At least it feels that way.

In this world of storms, it's only human to want to protect ourselves and avoid unnecessary gloom. This is understandable, but Jesus calls us to something better and more glorious — something that glorifies the Father and opens us to a deeper joy than we might expect.

*(continued on pg. 2)*

# PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON

Jesus says quite clearly that true disciples carry crosses [Matthew 16:24]. It does us well, on the road to spiritual maturity, to sort out some common misunderstandings about discipleship from the true nature of this calling. Our aim is to live after the model of Christ, and in doing so to face the rainstorms of this life as faithful reflections of his Spirit.

## **Two common misunderstandings:**

### ***Misunderstanding #1: Following Jesus provides special protection from life's harsher storms.***

We wish it were so. Like Jesus in Gethsemane, we may pray that the threatening cup pass us by — and sometimes it does! We may experience healings and restorations beyond all reason. But those who follow God merely for protection from pain will be disappointed. If we are to follow Jesus by "taking up our crosses," then life is clearly about more than staying dry.

### ***Misunderstanding #2: Jesus wants us to be happy, healthy, and prosperous above all else.***

These are good things, and we rightly aspire to them. But if we imagine that holiness is a shortcut to prosperity, consider that Jesus — the Son of God himself — was crucified for it. Holiness is not valued by this world as it is in God's Kingdom. God desires our happiness and joy, but on his terms, not ours. To say "I'll follow Jesus, but only as long as he keeps things pleasant" is no kind of following at all.

## **Four positive truths to hold onto:**

### ***Truth #1: Righteousness does lead to health and happiness — spiritual health and happiness.***

One can be deeply devout, even saintly, and still suffer in a world that punishes righteousness. Faith is no guarantee of earthly comfort, but it is the surest path to a soul at peace in Christ — and that is no small thing.

### ***Truth #2: How we endure suffering is itself a witness to Christ.***

Because we stand on the promise of Christ's final triumph over death and decay, we face our storms with hope and the anticipation of glory. The Christian can face even death with a heartfelt smile — like a happy traveler making her first trip to Hawaii — and this hope is part of our witness to a world that knows only the darkest powers of the storm.

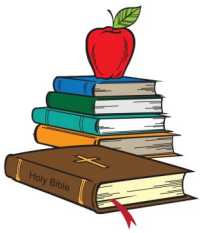
### ***Truth #3: When we suffer, Jesus suffers with us.***

The crosses we carry are signs of authentic discipleship. United to Christ by the Holy Spirit, we never suffer alone. We have the fellowship of the faithful to encourage us, and even when that is out of reach, Jesus is yoked beside us — present in every trial and affliction. We carry our cross not by any personal virtue, but by the power and presence of Christ, made real to us in all circumstances through the Holy Spirit.

### ***Truth #4: Suffering cannot be explained, but it is not for nothing.***

We seek explanations, and none quite satisfies. But when Christians sit with their pain and meditate on the cross, something quietly shifts: we stop asking "Why me, O Lord?" and begin asking "Why you? Why did you have to suffer?" In that moment, self-pity tends to dissolve, and we find ourselves not at the center of our own private storm, but participating in Christ's ongoing story — the unfolding glorification of God.

The rain falls on the just and the unjust alike. We need not despise it. We can accept it — even embrace it — as part of how the Spirit grows us into the nature, character, and likeness of our Lord. We may always get caught in the rain, but Jesus is with us, and he invites us beneath the shelter of his wide and all-embracing umbrella. †



## A Note From:

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

Hello everyone. Time sure is flying by. I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather as we step into Spring. We have enjoyed a lot of fun activities with our children and youth so far this year and we look forward to all that is to come.

We held our Blessing Bag Packing Party on March 15th. Our youth and Missions Team joined forces to continue this local outreach for those who are in need in our community. This year we were able to pack a total of 60 bags. These bags included hygiene products, water, food, and a list of places to receive further assistance in Hanford. Thank you to all who worked together to make this project a success!

Our children were able to participate in our Palm Sunday service on March 29th. They waved palms as our praise team led us in song. Several of the children read portions of scripture from John 12:12-15 and Luke 19:38-40. They also shared a song with us called "Hosanna" by Steve Green. It was a very sweet time. Youth Group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Our students have a great time of fellowship, catching up over dinner and dessert, and playing games together. Mary Kinney has continued to facilitate a Confirmation Class for our Junior High and High School students. We are enjoying the questions that are being asked and the discussions throughout our time together.

Our Youth Tri-tip Fundraiser is coming up soon. Our youth have officially begun selling tickets. Please consider helping our youth raise funds for this upcoming year. Proceeds will be used to help send our students to camp and for other trips and events throughout the year. We truly appreciate your support. The Tri-Tip Dinner will be on April 26th, from 11:30am – 1pm. Tickets are \$15 per dinner and include Tri-Tip, Portuguese beans, salad, and a roll. We will also have a bake sale where you can purchase a sweet treat. Thank you for showing your love and support for our youth.

If your youth will be attending one of the upcoming summer camps at Calvin Crest, applications for scholarships are available. You can pick up an application in the church office during office hours or in the Refuge Youth room at church on Sundays.

We are quickly approaching VBS 2026! This year's theme is Rainforest Falls and will be June 22-26th! Keep an eye out for upcoming news and updates. We are looking forward to this week of adventure and sharing God's truth and love! Please begin praying as we seek God's guidance for this week and all He has in store.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We are blessed by your love and encouragement for our children and youth. Your involvement, mentorship, and presence in their lives is priceless!

In His love,  
 Sandy Mills

### Upcoming Events:

- April 12: Youth Group (5 – 8pm)
- April 26: Tri-tip Fundraiser (11:30 – 1pm), No Youth Group
- May: Communion Class during Powerhouse
- May 10: No Youth Group (Mother's Day)
- June 7: Promotion Sunday, Communion Class grads will be able to take communion
- June 10: Book Club (5—7pm)
- June 13: Youth All Day Play Day (8am—8pm)
- June 17: Book Club (5—7pm)
- June 22—26: Vacation Bible School





## Compassion International



In 2025, Compassion International celebrated its 72nd year of ministry releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. The 2025 efforts focused on integrating spiritual, economic, social, and physical care, helping children and youth break the cycle of poverty in Jesus' name!

### 2025 Key Impact Numbers

- **Total Children Served:** 2.4 million children across 29 countries.
- **New Compassion Centers:** 330 new centers opened, welcoming 137,731 additional children.
- **Global Expansion:** Significant growth was noted in newer program countries, including Zambia, which ended the fiscal year with 70 church partners serving over 11,000 children.
- **Local Church Partners – Lighting Up Communities:** Compassion International works exclusively in partnership with local churches because they know their communities best and they are the hands and feet of Jesus. In total they partner with over 9,263 churches across the 29 countries.
- **Volunteers – Everyday Mirrors of Christ's Love:** 100,000+ volunteers worldwide know the children personally, caring for them, praying with them and walking alongside them in faith.
- **Compassion Alumni – Passing on the Light:** 68,583 young men and women graduated from the program with many now serving as mentors and leaders, helping other children grow strong in faith and character.
- **Showing Children the Love of Jesus:** Sponsors are part of a global network that brings the light of Christ by pushing back the darkness of poverty across the world and 89% of surveyed graduates said their sponsors' letters helped them deepen
- **Forbes Ranking:** Compassion International maintained its high ranking as a top-rated charity and was ranked #11 on Forbes' 2025 Top 100 Charities list, up from #12 in 2024.

And Jesus said: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (NIV)

## BIBLE QUIZ



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- There was a flood on both days.
- There was an earthquake on both days.
- There was a huge fire on each day.
- There was complete darkness on both days.

*Maundy Thursday Service*  
6:00pm



April 2

*Easter Sunday*  
*Worship at 10:00am*



April 5



SHOW HOPE

**HOPE**

*for the Journey*

**CONFERENCE**

April 15<sup>th</sup>—May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

6:30—8:30 PM



*Tri-Tip Dinner*  
Fundraiser

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Purchase tickets in the  
Fellowship Hall  
or from and FPC Youth

# Church

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## DEACONS

Deacons are ordained officers of the church. Their purpose is to be compassionate and serve the local congregation. They are like a bridge between the church and the people.

One of their duties is to visit the sick who are unable to attend regular church services, as well as members who live in rest homes or assisted living facilities.

Another duty is to set up for Communion on the first Sunday of each month. The Deacons are responsible for the Fellowship time on the 4th Sunday of the month, where people have a chance to visit and get acquainted with others attending worship service.

The Deacons send cards for such occasions as birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, and other important events in the lives of the members of the church.

A very important duty of the Deacons is to prepare for receptions following a memorial for members of the congregation.

A Deacon attends the monthly Session meeting to keep the Session informed on the number of people who partook of Communion that month, where they have delivered donations, and most importantly, the care and needs of the congregation.

The Deacon board has nine members, divided into three classes, each serving a three-year term. They hold their meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 12:30 PM in the conference room of the Church office.

Submitted by—Joanna Jones

**Matthew 6:37—39 ESV** *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

# UP COMING



- Apr 2** Maundy Thursday Service @ 6pm  
**Apr 5** Easter Sunday, *Communion Sunday*  
**Apr 7** Staff Meeting @ 11am  
**Apr 12** Youth Group @ 5pm  
**Apr 13** \*Finance Meeting @ 12pm  
**Apr 12—19** Pastor Study Leave  
**Apr 14** Staff Meeting @ 11am,  
Deacons Meeting @ 12:30pm  
**Apr 15** Hope for the Journey @ 6:30pm,  
*1st Press Articles Due*  
**Apr 16** *Session Reports Due*  
**Apr 21** Staff Meeting @ 11am  
Session Meeting @ 6:30pm  
**Apr 22** Hope for the Journey @ 6:30pm  
**Apr 26** Youth Tri-Tip Dinner Fundraiser  
**Apr 28** Staff Meeting @ 11am  
**Apr 29** Hope for the Journey @ 6:30pm  
**May 3** *Communion Sunday*  
**May 5** Staff Meeting @ 11am  
**May 6** Hope for the Journey @ 6:30pm  
**May 7** *National Day of Prayer*  
**May 10** *Mother's Day, No Youth Group*  
**May 11** \*Finance Meeting @ 12pm  
**May 13** Hope for the Journey @ 6:30pm  
**May 14** *Session Reports Due*  
**May 14—15** Presbytery Meeting (Reno, NV)  
**May 19** Staff Meeting @ 11am  
Session Meeting @ 6:30pm

\* via Zoom

**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.



## Summary of Mar. 24, 2026 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 70 took communion on February 1<sup>st</sup> during worship
- Approved using Deacon's Investment Fund to purchase a mini-split AC unit for the Church Kitchen.

### Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of March 1, 2026 total—74

### Pastor's Report

- Reported Pastor's Study Leave Plans (April 12-19)

### Buildings & Grounds

- Approved facility use of 220 Building for Hand In Hand Faith & Deliverance Baptist Church
- Approved Community Bible Study facility use for Tuesday mornings Sept 2026-May 2027
- Approved facility use for New Testament Church Men's Group May 15 & 16, 2026
- Approved repair & replacement of doors and a broken window using account # 2116 and funds from the annual B&G maintenance budget

### Christian Education

- Approved preparing a \$100 "petty cash" draw for use on April 26 for the Tri-Tip Dinner fundraiser and bake sale.

### Other

- Approved redirecting the remaining unused funds budgeted for campus monitor radios and applying it towards the purchase of an AV system for the Fellowship Hall.





# Session Committees



**Worship**  
Committee Meeting



**Church**  
**DEACONS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 12:30pm



**Christian**  
**Education**



Committee Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month @ 10am



**MISSIONS**  
*Ministry*



2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month @ 7pm



**Buildings & Grounds**



Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month @ 11:10 am



**Finance**



Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month @ noon



**Church**  
**Growth**



Committee Meeting

Meeting Times: TBD



**Session**



3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm



# APRIL

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Label Here



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

### First Presbyterian Church

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.  
Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.  
Mail: P. O. Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232  
(559) 582-0283—FAX (559) 582-0336  
[www.fpchanford.org](http://www.fpchanford.org)

STAFF:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Noel Anderson</b><br><a href="mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org">pastor@fpchanford.org</a>                   | <b>Pastor</b>  |
| <b>Mary Kinney</b><br><b>Sandy Mills</b><br><a href="mailto:youth@fpchanford.org">youth@fpchanford.org</a> | <b>Co-Directors of Youth &amp; Children's Ministries</b> |
| <b>Annette Rajskup</b><br><a href="mailto:office@fpchanford.org">office@fpchanford.org</a>                 | <b>Office Administrator</b>                              |
| <b>Melissa Wescoat</b><br><a href="mailto:bookkeeper@fpchanford.org">bookkeeper@fpchanford.org</a>         | <b>Bookkeeper</b>  |
| <b>Brooke Winterowd</b>  | <b>Nurse &amp; Childcare Coordinator</b>                 |
| <b>Nancy Roller</b><br><a href="mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com">nancyroller8@yahoo.com</a>                  | <b>Custodian</b>   |

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM  
Church Office Hours: 9:00am—12:00pm (Mon—Thur.)  
Send prayer requests to [hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com)  
other information to [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)