

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

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

FIRST PRESS

October 2023



"Do You Trust Me?"

The blockbuster movie *Titanic* tells the tale of how, on that ill-fated voyage, Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) won the affection of a wealthy young woman named Rose Bukater (Kate Winslet). Although Rose turns Jack away at first, she yearns inside for someone to break her free of her dismal life. She says, "Outwardly, I was everything a well-brought-up girl should be. Inside, I was screaming. I felt like I was standing at a great precipice, with no one to pull me back, no one who cared or even noticed."

In the famous scene of the movie, Rose has decided to give their romance a chance and has sought out Jack on the bow of the ship. When he sees her change of heart towards him, he reaches out to her and says, "Take my hand." He asks her not to speak but to close her eyes, and then he leads her to the very bow of the ship. He has her stand up on the railing, while he holds her steady. He asks Rose, "Do you trust me?" She responds, "I trust you."

The scene radiates as the sunset streaks in the background. As Jack stretches out her arms over the bow and tells her to open her eyes, she's overwhelmed by the beauty of the waters and the sunset before her. All she can say is, "I'm flying!" Rose is being rescued from a predictable and passionless life and invited to pursue something more.

This is what happens in our new life in Christ. Christ extends himself to us and commands graciously: "Take my hand." Then he asks one simple question, "Do you trust me?" What follows is pure adventure. "Do you trust me?" In the next few weeks, I want to challenge you. I want to challenge you to trust Jesus with all areas of your life. Why? If God cannot be trusted with all areas of our lives, can he really be trusted at all?

~ Pastor Tim Brown

FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 29 | 12:00-2:00 pm

FREE FOOD FUN

Games

Trunk or Treat

Cake Walk

Bounce Houses

Face Painting

Costume Parade

Candy & Treats...



Church DEACONS

Greetings from the Deacons!

Hello! Along with the boxes for food, clothing and shower ministry donations, there is now a box for old electronic devices! The box is in the Fellowship Hallway with the other boxes for donations.

NCADV (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence) provides a program where you can donate any cell phone, in any condition, and the following:

- Phones
- Mp3 Players
- Laptops
- chargers
- GPS systems
- cases, etc.
- Digital Cameras
- Video Game Systems

NCADV will refurbish and resell 60% of our donated items. The money they earn supports the programs that help end violence in the home. The other 40% of the donated items will be recycled according to current environmental standards.

These donations are tax deductible. If you put your name and e-mail address on a card in a bag of donated electronics, NCADV will send you a tax receipt after Cellular Recycables determines the value of your donation.

If you are worried about personal information left on your device, NCADV says you do not need to wipe your information clean, as the devices are sold for parts, and new software is installed in each reusable item. If it cannot be resold, it will be crushed for recycling.

NCADV will use its profits to assist victims of domestic violence by finding them resources to help them remain free of abuse. The group supports legislature goals to end domestic violence, and helps fund resources around the United States to help end domestic violence in the home.

For more information, please visit NCAD's website at: ncadv.org

Thank you! Recycling our electronics will help declutter our homes, and raise money for a worthy cause.

~ Laurie Essepien

Finance/Stewardship Updates

It's been a bit since our committee has shared an update. We have been busy getting acquainted with our new pastor, Pastor Tim Brown! He is leading our congregation on an exciting new path in our worship and service to our Lord.

You should have received your giving statement recently. Hope you found all in order with our records of your tithes and offerings. If you have any questions, let Athena, our bookkeeper, know. One thing the giving statement shows is if you have given your "Asking" offering yet this year. "Askings" is our \$36 per member request which helps support our local Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) Presbytery and national EPC General Assembly. Our own church and pastors' families have been recipients in the past of support from our Presbytery and National organization because of these funds! If you have not given your "Askings" yet, please consider doing that soon!

Now for something new! Our Stewardship process will happen earlier this year and in a different way. Pastor Tim has been presenting a sermon series called "Jump" and it is on the topic of Stewardship and Trust. The series will conclude on October 15th. On that day, you will receive-a "Commitment Card," to prayerfully consider. These Commitment Cards will have several choices for you to make. This is different than in years past as none of those choices will be asking you to pledge a certain amount of money to FPC in 2024! Instead, you will be asked to make a commitment between you and God. We will be receiving these cards at the conclusion of our service on October 15 and Pastor Tim will be the only one to see these Commitment Cards and he will be praying over them and for you and your commitment for the next 90 days. Additionally, under Pastor Tim's leadership, Session will be building a "Faith Based Budget" for 2024 with the hope of seeing the giving increase by 10% above this year!

We have seen all that God has done for us here at First Presbyterian Church Hanford and want to continue to please Him in all we do. Financial planning and Christian budgeting are not just about money. It's also about our values, goals, and how we want to live. We want to make a positive impact with our ministries in our community and around the world! We look forward to an exciting 2024 ministry year!



A Note From:
Children’s and Youth Director
Sheri Winterowd

It was my great joy to work with our students and adult volunteers to prepare and deliver the Youth Sunday worship service on Sept 10. Our theme for the morning was TRUST. It is my hope that you might find encouragement in this article, to reinforce this theme.

The gospel of John, chapters 14- 16, relates a conversation between Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room, immediately following the Last Supper on the night before he was crucified. This is often referred to as The Upper Room Discourse. For our purposes, I want to focus on the part where Jesus tells his disciples that they will be hated by the world, and that he is going to be leaving them and will send the Helper (who we know as the Holy Spirit) who will guide them (and all his future followers, including us) into all truth. As part of this teaching time with his disciples, Jesus says “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Many times when young people see and hear countless images and statistics of the sad, negative, heinous, awful things that humankind does to one another, it can be hard to trust in a good and loving God. When we add to that natural disasters like fires, tsunamis, hurricanes and floods and all the suffering that is caused to innocent people, we have to face those who say “how could a good and loving God allow this to happen?” There is a story in the Sept. 2023 Our Daily Bread devotional of a young boy who took a LIFE magazine cover from July 12, 1968 which showed a horrifying photo of starving children in Africa during a civil war into his pastor and asked “Does God know about this?” The pastor replied, “I know you don’t understand, but yes, God knows about that.” The boy walked out, declaring he was uninterested in such a God. Winn Collier writes,

“These questions disturb not only children but all of us. Alongside an affirmation of God’s mysterious knowledge, I wish that boy had heard about the epic story God is continuing to write, even in places like (Africa). Jesus unfolded this story for His followers, those who assumed He would shield them from hardship. Christ told them instead that ‘in this word you will have trouble.’ What Jesus did offer, however, was His promise that these evils weren’t the end. In fact,

He’d already “overcome the world” And in God’s final chapter, every injustice will be undone, every suffering healed. Genesis to Revelation recounts the story of God destroying every unthinkable evil, making every wrong right. The story presents the loving One whose interest in us is unquestioned.” Let’s hear again Jesus’ comforting words in John 16:33 “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.”

Seeking to glorify God with our lives by our words, our attitudes and our actions fuels the desire to do what we can to meet people in their places of need and be the hands and feet of Christ, as we seek to put our full trust in Christ and be a witness for Him.

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 7** - Jordan Feliz and Colton Dixon Concert at Gateway Church Visalia @ 6:00 pm
- Oct 8** – Youth Group at Church 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Oct 14** - China Alley Yard Clean Up service project -9 am - 11 am; Location: 216 N Green Street
- Oct 21** - Walk for Life 9:00am to 12:00 - Fundraiser for Crossroads Pregnancy Center in Hanford
- Oct 22** - Pumpkin Party at Pelton’s Home - 4:30 – 8:00 pm for Jr. High & High School
- Oct 29** - Fall Festival at church 12 - 2 pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Pumpkins and Pizza Party

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

4:30PM TO 8:00PM

THE PELTON HOME

1942 W. HUMBOLDT DRIVE, HANFORD

**PLEASE BRING A PUMPKIN TO DECORATE OR CARVE,
 A SWEATSHIRT, AND A FRIEND!**

**PAINTS AND CARVING TOOLS
 WILL BE PROVIDED**

**PUMPKIN DECORATING
 PIZZA, BONFIRE & SMORES**

**RSVP TO
 DEBORAH PELTON
 559.360.6763**



UP COMING



- Oct 1** *World Wide Communion Sunday*
- Oct 2** Church Growth @ 1pm
- Oct 3** Deacon's mtg @ 6:30pm
- Oct 4** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Oct 5** *Bible Study @ 7pm
- Oct 5-8** Emmaus Men's Retreat
- Oct 8** B&G mtg @ 11:10am, Worship mtg @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Oct 9** Finance mtg @ 11am, *Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Oct 11** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Oct 12** *Session Reports Due*, C.E. mtg @ 1:30pm, *Bible Study @ 7pm
- Oct 12-15** Emmaus Women's Retreat
- Oct 13-14** Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
- Oct 14** Youth Service Project in China Alley
- Oct 15** *1st Press Articles Due*
- Oct 17** Session mtg @ 6pm
- Oct 18** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Oct 19** *Bible Study @ 7pm, Praise Team Practice @ 7:30pm
- Oct 21** Church Workday @ 8am
- Oct 22** New Members Class Luncheon @ 11:30am, Youth Group Pumpkin Party @ 4:30pm
- Oct 24** *Investment mtg @ 7pm
- Oct 25** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Oct 26** *Bible Study @ 7pm, Praise Team Practice @ 7:30pm
- Oct 29** Fall Festival 12-2pm

* via Zoom



Summary of Sept. 19, 2023 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 70 and 5 homebound took communion in Sept
- \$100 each to Kings Gospel Mission, Meals-on-Wheels, Crossroads, Laundry Love
- Several Deacons served as "Guest Chef" at Soup Kitchen

Clerk's Report

- Reported Active Members as of Sept. 1, 2023 total—83
- Approved (TE) Tim Brown & (RE) Annette Rajskup to attend Presbytery on Oct. 13-14

Pastor's Report

- Lead a devotional and sharing at joint Session/Deacon dinner meeting
- Reported a friend of Pastor Tim's from Clovis gifted the church money to update our online media equipment
- Approved Christmas Eve Candlelight service @ 5:30pm

Buildings & Grounds

- Discussed quotes for repairing stucco on church & office
- Discussed additional maintenance projects

Church Growth

- Reported updates on Fall Festival planning

Missions

- Approved making OCC Shoeboxes available in Oct.
- Approved Nov. 5 for OCC Packing Party
- Approved Nov. 11 for OCC Shoebox dedication
- Reported the dates for the Cameroon Missions Trip have changed slightly

Other Business

- Elder Forsythe reminded current and previously serving Elders that there are vacancies for "Elder of the Day" and encouraged more people to volunteer to serve. If you are interested, please contact Annette in the church office.



The elders who direct the affairs of the church will be worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.
1 Timothy 5:17

Pastor Appreciation Month



Justin Smith

Justin Smith is a sophomore at College of the Sequoias (COS) and he lives with his mother Gwendolyn and his grandmother Catherine. Justin is studying Administration of Justice as his major and after completing his AA degree from COS, he plans to transfer to Fresno State University to get his Bachelor's degree in Criminology. His career interest is military special operations.

Things he loves: Justin can often be found at the gym working out or running around his Hanford neighborhood. A cross country athlete at Hanford West High School and COS, he has taken a break from competing on a team but still trains by running 35 miles a week and will soon increase that to 10 miles per day (70 miles a week!) as he trains to compete in marathons. Justin also loves good food: buffalo chicken fries and hamburgers are his favorites.

Fun Fact: Justin enjoys going to National Parks and doing challenging hikes. During this past summer break, he went on a road trip with his friends in order to visit many national parks in California, Arizona and Utah. They went to Death Valley, Moab, Arches and the Grand Canyon, where they did an 18 mile hike from the top down to the Colorado River and back.

How long has he been attending FPC: In February 2022, he started attending FPC with his mom when she was the bookkeeper here. He enjoys technology and was invited to be part of the media ministry, where he faithfully comes early on Sunday mornings to help create and project the slides that enhance our worship service.

New Members Class

Sunday, Oct. 22 at 11:30am



*Learn about FPC
and see where
you fit in*

Lunch provided





Operation Christmas Child



“Every box is an opportunity to reach a child
with the Gospel of Jesus Christ”
(Franklin Graham)

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan’s Purse partners with the local churches worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Our church has been participating in Operation Christmas Child for many years. Have you wondered about the history of OCC?

In the summer of 1993, Samaritan’s Purse President Franklin Graham received a call from a man in England asking if he’d be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until he received a call back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts.

Franklin asked his friend, the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. One Sunday shortly afterwards, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways!

Due to their generosity and with additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan’s Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas. Through these gifts, OCC communicated to children and their families what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus’ birth: “I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people” (Luke 2:10, ESV)

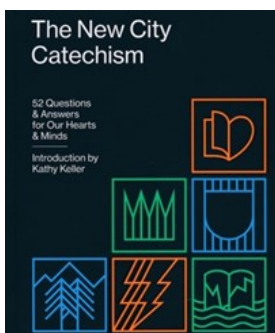
Since 1993, more than 209 million children in more than 170 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many of these children, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God’s love.

Samaritan’s Purse estimates that there are 7,000 “unreached people groups”, in places that very few missionaries have gone to, if at all. In 2022, 99 of those “unreached people groups” were reached by Operation Christmas Child, who every step of the way, prayed and gave the greatest gift – the gift of Jesus Christ.

Our church is once again participating in Operation Christmas Child. We launched our OCC Purchase Program to provide school items, clothing, toys, hygiene items, along with the current Shoe That Grows campaign, to pack into shoeboxes during the OCC Packing Party, after Worship on Nov. 5.

In October, Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be available for those that prefer to pack their own! We ask that those be returned to the church to be blessed along with the other boxes on Nov.12 and we will deliver them to the area drop off location during the following week. Your Missions Ministry Team thanks you for your generous support of our Team and project Operation Christmas Child.

Remember, every box is an opportunity to share the story of Jesus Christ.



What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in worship of God. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother.

Faith & Fellowship

Jolly 1's & 2's

Please note some changes for Jolly 1's & 2's. There are no activities planned for October. Also, we were planning to go to the Temple Theatre on November 5th. I have a conflict that date. We will instead go to the Temple Theatre on November 12th. I have a meeting after church but should still be able to make it to the play.

The title of the play is "Much Ado Out West." This Western is inspired by Shakespeare's battle-of-the-sexes romantic comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing." While the cowpokes were away at the Civil War the womenfolk did the roping and ranching. Despite all the taunting between them, love seems to be in the air.

Cost: \$15.


Play begins at 2:00. Doors open at 1:30. You need to be there early to get your seat assignment.

For reservations, please let Janet Harader know by October 29 if you wish to attend. Seats have been going fast for all the plays so this deadline is the latest I can wait to find seats.

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
MINISTRY**

Children's Church
(ages K—5th)


SUNDAY MORNINGS
@ 10:30 am

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

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
at 5:00pm



YOUTH GROUP
grades 6th—12th



Exercise class

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

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Kalob Jones, Mary Kinney
- 3 Chuck Kinney
- 5 Shirley Voyles
- 11 Kevin Jones, *Michael & Amanda Ginn
- 12 Bob Casterson, Jeanne Rich
- 13 Braden Winterowd
- 14 Dan Piper
- 16 *Bob & Paula Casterson
Brooke Winterowd
- 24 Emily Christoph, Claire Christoph
- 27 *Dustin & Lynda Cuzzort
- 28 Eric Caparuolo, Robert Curiel, Thom Snyder

P O Box 1185
Hanford, CA 93232

Place
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Here

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www.fpchanford.org

STAFF:

Dr. Tim Brown Pastor
pastor@fpchanford.org

Sheri Winterowd Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
fpchanford.youth@gmail.com

Annette Rajskup Office Administrator
office@fpchanford.org

Athena Smith Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@fpchanford.org

Nancy Roller Custodian
nancyroller8@yahoo.com

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

Send prayer requests to hanfordfpcprayer@gmail.com
other information to 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.

