

# First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.

Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.

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*Disciples of Christ, reaching out and caring for others*

## FIRST PRESS

October 2025



### “Pastors Finding Healing”

The Stated Clerk of the EPC, Dean Weaver regularly hosts a podcast called “*In All Things*”. In a recent episode, Dean is joined by Sean Nemecek, Regional Director for PIR Ministries and the author of *The Weary Leader’s Guide to Burnout*, for a candid and compassionate conversation about the realities pastors face behind the pulpit.

Sean and Dean discuss the misconceptions surrounding pastoral burnout, the isolation many pastors experience, and the unique pressures that come with shepherding a congregation. Sean offered heartfelt encouragement and practical advice for both pastors and congregations on how to foster healthy rhythms of rest, support, and care so that churches can thrive and their leaders can flourish.

Whether you’re a pastor, elder, or member of a congregation, this conversation is a powerful reminder that pastors are people, too – and that building healthy church communities requires caring for the shepherds who care for us.

FPC Hanford also partners, through our Missions Committee, with Standing Stone Ministries, which recently expanded to another level with Dan and Maureen Horst becoming Standing Stone Field Shepherds and Retreat Directors along with their usual duties. Retreat Shepherding offers a more intensive form of support when needed. For Example, if ministry leaders themselves might benefit from a retreat that will specifically meet their needs as a couple (burnout, marriage conflict, rest, etc.), they can be matched with a Retreat Shepherd couple and connected for a 7-day focused retreat at one of their many retreat sites. The retreat is reasonably priced, and Standing Stone Ministries meets with the prospective leaders to help with location, need, and financing. Dan and Maureen will now be part of a Retreat Shepherding team and will be hosting a couple of 7-day retreats a year. Please keep them and Standing Stone Ministries in prayer!

**For more information:**

EPC Podcast: <https://epconnect.org/news/inallthings/>

Read Sean’s book *The Weary Leader’s Guide to Burnout*: <https://seannemecek.com/book/>

Standing Stone Ministries: <https://standingstoneministry.org>

# Church DEACONS

Recently, I had an experience that highlighted a serious issue many seniors may face—often without realizing it. One morning, I woke up with severe vertigo that quickly led to nonstop vomiting. After several hours, I became so weak I couldn't get out of bed and desperately needed help.

Although my husband was in the next room, he wasn't wearing his hearing aids and didn't hear me calling his phone—or even the doorbell when a friend came to check on me. She couldn't get inside. Eventually, I managed to stagger to the door and let her in. She called the paramedics, and I was taken to the hospital.

The point is this: I had a medical emergency and was essentially trapped in my own home with no one able to reach me.

How many of you live alone and could find yourselves in a similar situation?

At our age, it's crucial to make sure someone has access to our home in case of an emergency. If this is something you haven't thought about or don't have a plan for, would you be interested in meeting to discuss possible options? It's important to be prepared—before something happens.

If enough people are interested in attending such a meeting, the deacons will organize one. Just call me, Jeanne Rich, 559-362-8799, to let us know.

**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 outside the Fellowship Hall.



## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Dreams Through the Bible

*A Biblical study to explore dreams in Scripture.  
Discovering precedents and applicable principles for  
your life.*

This is a comprehensive Biblical study on dreams in Scripture.

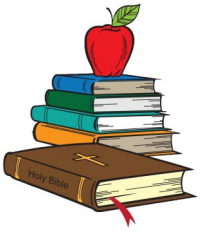
We dive deep into the dreams in Scripture and examine them verse-by-verse, uncovering precedence and exposing myths that may radically shift your understanding of how God speaks.

You will learn to use the Joseph Method, the same method Joseph used to interpret Pharaoh's dreams.

We will observe patterns and explore the depths of Scripture to gain an understanding of dreams, from their purpose to their source. This foundation is absolutely critical for decoding dreams and deciphering the language of God through them!

**Unfortunately this fall we will not be offering  
a meal before the study.**

*For those who can not attend on Wednesday evenings, Annette is offering this class on Tuesday afternoons at 12:30pm in the church office conference room beginning Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>.*



## A Note From:

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

Last month we really enjoyed having the youth lead us through Sunday Service on Youth Sunday. Some of our younger children were able to join in with our older youth. It was a special time of worship, scripture reading, and messages. I am always amazed at the hearts of our children and youth within our church family.

Our Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening Bible studies on Dreams Through the Bible are incredible. Annette Rajskup is leading us as we dive into various dreams within the Bible. Using Joseph's method of dream interpretation, we are leaning into the Holy Spirit for wisdom, discernment, and guidance as we rely on Him to reveal layer upon layer of truth in His word. It has been an adventure, and I look forward to each new class as we discuss and learn together.

We have quite a few exciting children's and youth activities coming up. Youth group for Middle School, High School, and our College Group will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We will be having a Parent's Night Out on October 25th. Parents can bring their littles to the church for fun activities, snacks, and a Bible story, as they get a few hours to themselves. On October 26th, our youth will be having a Fall Party at the church during Youth Group.

This year we will be hosting a Progressive Dinner for our youth on November 15th in celebration of Thanksgiving. Dinner will be broken up into sections between a few different church members' homes. Our youth will travel with us from one home to another and enjoy food, games, and conversation with several of our church families. We will finish off at the church Fellowship Hall for dessert and more activities. We anticipate this event to be a lot of fun. Our youth are encouraged to invite friends.

Our Sunday morning 9am classes continue for our children and youth. Thank you to all of our teachers who lead Sunday School, Powerhouse, and Youth Group! And thank you also to those of our church family who join in on our special events with the kids. You bring an element of fun and uniqueness that only you can offer. Thank you. I am so thankful to be a part of this church and this ministry.

In His love,  
 Sandy Mills

### Upcoming Events:

- October 12: Youth Group (5pm - 8pm)
- October 25: Parents' Night Out (4pm – 7:30pm)
- October 26: Youth Group Fall Party (5pm – 8pm)
- November 9: Youth Group (5pm – 8pm)
- November 15: Thanksgiving Progressive Dinner (Middle School, High School, College)  
 4:30—10:00pm
- November 23: Youth Group (5pm – 8pm)



# UP COMING



- Oct 1** Staff mtg. @ 9am, Dreams Through the Bible Study @ 6pm, Choir Practice
- Oct 3** The Chosen Study @ 7pm
- Oct 5** *World Wide Communion Sunday*, Church Growth mtg @ 11:30am
- Oct 6** C.E. mtg @ 10am
- Oct 8** Staff mtg. @ 9am, Dreams Through the Bible Study @ 6pm, Choir Practice
- Oct 10** The Chosen Study @ 7pm
- Oct 12-11** Presbytery Meeting—Vacaville, CA
- Oct 12** **Congregational Meeting**, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Oct 13** \*Finance mtg @ 12pm, Deacons mtg @ 2:30pm
- Oct 15** *First Press articles due*, Staff mtg. @ 9am, Dreams Through the Bible Study @ 6pm, Choir Practice
- Oct 16** *Session Reports due*
- Oct 17** The Chosen Study @ 7pm
- Oct 21** Session Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Oct 22** Staff mtg. @ 9am, Dreams Through the Bible Study @ 6pm, Choir Practice
- Oct 24** The Chosen Study @ 7pm
- Oct 25** Parents' Evening Out 4-7:30pm
- Oct 26** Youth Group @ 5pm
- Oct 28** \*Investment mtg @ 7pm
- Oct 29** Staff mtg. @ 9am, Dreams Through the Bible Study @ 6pm, Choir Practice
- Nov 2** *Reformation Sunday*, Church Growth mtg @ 11:30am
- Nov 3** \*Mission mtg @ 7pm
- Nov 5** Staff mtg. @ 9am, Dreams Through the Bible Study @ 6pm, Choir Practice
- Nov 7** The Chosen Study @ 7pm
- Nov 9** B & G mtg @ 11:30am, Worship mtg @ 11:30am, OCC Packing Party @ 11:30am, Youth Group @ 5pm

\* via Zoom



## Summary of Sept. 23, 2025 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 68 took communion on September 7<sup>th</sup> during worship and 7 Shut-Ins were served
- Approved \$100 to purchase backpacks for Refuge Armona's backpack program

### Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of September 1, 2025 total—77
- Session accepted the resignation of Brian Pelton
- Session minutes submitted to EPC for review

### Christian Education

- Approved Parent's Evening Out—Oct 25<sup>th</sup> (4-7:30pm)
- Approved Youth Sunday—Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>
- Approved Youth Friendsgiving Progressive Dinner—Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>
- Approved Youth Christmas Party—Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

### Church Growth

- No Fall Festival this year
- Decorating Church for Christmas and Soup Potluck on Nov. 23

### Missions

- Approved Mission Trip to Village of Hope in Ensenada, Mexico for Jan. 5-10, 2026

### BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Evenings  
6:00 pm

*Dreams* THROUGH THE *BIBLE*

### Friday Nights

*Bible Study*

7:00pm

*In the Church Sanctuary*



## It's All About Jesus!

Another season of Operation Christmas Child is just around the corner!



In a few weeks, millions of God's people will be packing and praying over their shoebox gifts that Samaritan's Purse will send to children across the world. And **Samaritan's Purse** gives all the glory to God that in over three decades more than 232 million children who live in 170 countries and territories received shoeboxes! Franklin Graham says he never grows tired of seeing boys and girls open their boxes and squeal with delight, but what brings the most joy is when these precious children ask Jesus into their hearts as they hear the Gospel proclaimed through local church partners and through the literature *The Greatest Journey!* *The Greatest Journey* is a dynamic 12-lesson discipleship course led by a trained local teacher and through the classes, children discover more about the Lord Jesus Christ and how to follow Him! Please pray for the faithful disciple makers who are helping millions of boys and girls grow in their faith!

### On average, every 24 hours:

15,190 children enroll in *The Greatest Journey*;  
 11,477 boys and girls graduate from the discipleship program;  
 8,830 boys and girls receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program is an opportunity for all to directly touch a child around the world with Christ's love! By preparing and filling an Operation Christmas Child shoebox, it opens the door to be part of a one-to-one interaction in the sharing of the Gospel. For many children, this is the first gift they will ever receive and God is using Operation Christmas Child to open doors for more children around the world to learn about Jesus, even in what we call sensitive countries where there are serious social, ethnic, or political challenges to sharing the Gospel.

**November 9, 2025**, First Presbyterian Church's Missions Ministry Team is overseeing the Operation Christmas Child packing party after worship in the Fellowship Hall for all to participate in. We thank everyone who have supported this wonderful program through FPC's Operation Christmas Child Purchase Program and the "Shoes That Grow" and we invite everyone to stay and fill and pack a shoebox in this awesome National Mission effort in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to those less fortunate!!!

Make disciples of all the nations!

Matthew 28:19



# Session Committees

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

**Worship**  
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday after morning worship



**Church**  
DEACONS

2nd Monday of each month @ 2:30pm



**Christian**  
**Education**



Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 10am



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 @ 12pm



**Church**  
**Growth**



Committee Meeting

1st Sunday of each month @ 11:30am



**Session**

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm

## Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Dessert fundraiser was a huge success on September 21, 2025, raising \$1,289.00 toward "Askings." Thank you to all who made the wonderful desserts, as well as to those who purchased these delicious desserts!

These "Askings" support:

1. The mission & service of the EPC to pursue God's vision to make a difference for Christ, the Gospel, and the Kingdom of God in our communities, our country, and the world.
2. The leadership which funds the committees, boards, and special committees enabling them to pro-actively respond to the opportunities & challenges facing our growing denomination.
3. The ministry of the office of GA which serves, resources, connects, and encourages EPC leaders, churches, and presbyteries.
4. Helps support churches and pastors through times of difficulty and times of transition.
5. Supports our missionaries through World Outreach and pastor candidates through their ordination process.

Our church has been the recipient of resources from the EPC, receiving funds & support after Pastor Tony's heart attack of several thousand dollars & after Pastor Tim's passing to help with substantial burial costs & health insurance for the family for a year. Your Session believes these financial resources are well directed, especially in light of our denomination's commitment to uphold biblical authority and commitment to mission efforts around the world.

We thank all of those who have paid their "Askings" & encourage our member to please consider contributing to this important ministry, above and beyond tithes and offerings, so that we do not have to take from our budget to pay the balance.

If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Kinney, Finance Chair.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Finance Ministry Team



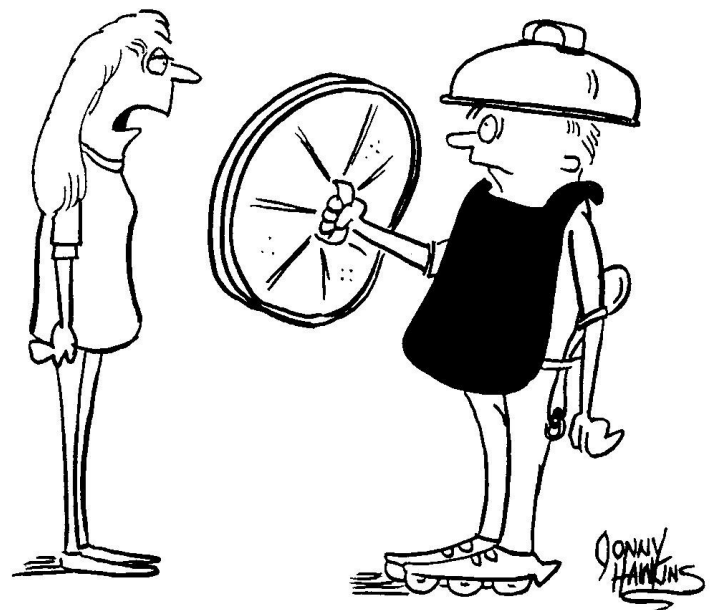
The Kings Symphony Orchestra is presenting their Fall Classic at the Fox Theatre on October 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. We have a couple of our congregation playing in the symphony. It is always a great musical treat.

If you didn't attend the Kings Players production of "The Odd Couple" you missed a treat. The next production is titled "Murder by the Book", which goes from November 8-30. Jolly 1's & 2's will be going on November 16, a Sunday matinee starting at 2:00. Tickets are \$15.00.

"Murder by the Book" features the Raven Society which has met to select the best mystery book of the year. A message arrives stating that each member shall die. Mystery maven, Agatha Christie, takes the message seriously. But who will die before she unravels this dark mystery?

Please let Janet Harader know by October 26 if you wish for her to purchase tickets for you. Purchasing them early will assure us of good seats.

Janet Harader (559) 367-5658 or (559) 583-8817).



"I wouldn't consider calling Mom's pot roast lid, the garbage cover, a mud flap, a stew ladle and roller blades the 'Armor of God.'"

# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Kalob Jones, Mary Kinney
- 2 Nolan Copeland
- 3 Chuck Kinney
- 5 Shirley Voyles, Walker Kopp
- 11 Kevin Jones
- 12 Jeanne Rich
- 13 Braden Winterowd
- 14 Dan Piper
- 20 Brooke Winterowd
- 24 Emily Christoph, Claire Christoph
- 27 \*Dustin & Lynda Cuzzort
- 28 Melissa Wescoat (*FPC Bookkeeper*),  
Thom Snyder

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

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#### STAFF:

**Pastor**

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**Mary Kinney  
Sandy Mills**

**Co-Directors of Youth &  
Children's Ministries**

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**Annette Rajskup**

**Office Administrator**

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**Melissa Wescoat**

**Bookkeeper**

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**Nancy Roller**

**Custodian**

[nancyroller8@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com)

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)



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