

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

November 2023



"Approaching the Father"

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrew 4:16)

We are learning about the power of prayer here at First Presbyterian. As I was preparing for the sermon series entitled "Unleashed," I came across the following story. During the American Civil War, a young soldier in the Union Army lost both his older brother and his father in the Battle of Gettysburg. The soldier decided to go to Washington D.C to see President Lincoln to ask for an exemption from military service so that he could go back home and help his mother and sister with the family farm.

When he arrived in Washington, he went to the White House. Approaching the front gate, he asked to see the president. The guard on duty told him, "YOU can't see the president, young man! The president is a very busy man! Now go away, son! Get back out there on the battle lines, where you belong!" While sitting on a park bench not far from the White House a little boy came up to him and asked what was wrong. The soldier began to share his sad story. The little boy listened and said, "I can help you, soldier." He took the soldier by the hand and led him back to the front gate of the White House. Apparently, the guard didn't notice them because they weren't stopped. They walked straight to the front door of the White House and walked right in.

After they got inside, they walked right past the generals and high-ranking officials, and no one said a word. The soldier couldn't understand what was happening. Why didn't anyone stop them? Finally, they reached the Oval Office—where the president was working—and the little boy didn't even knock on the door. He just walked right in and led the soldier in with him.

There behind the desk were Abraham Lincoln and his secretary of state, looking over the battle plans that were laid out on the desk. The president glanced at the soldier and then looked at the boy with a smile. "Good afternoon, Tad. Can you introduce me to your friend?" And Tad Lincoln, the son of the president of the United States, said, "Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you." The soldier pleaded his case before President Lincoln, and at that moment he received the exemption from the war that he desired.

Continued on page 2

"Approaching the Father" cont.

"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty."

~E.M. Bounds~

It is through Jesus Christ the Son that we can approach the Heavenly Father with confidence with our requests and prayers. Prayer simply takes us to a place where we gain access to the all-powerful God who can make things happen according to his will. I want to challenge you and FPC to recapture the passion for drawing near to God the Father, through Jesus the son, and receive the movement of the Holy Spirit as we pray. May the fire of our love for God the Father, Spirit, and Son be renewed, and kindled afresh in our hearts.

~ Pastor Tim Brown



"I minded my mother, ate my spinach, and did my homework today. But you won't tell the guys, will you?"



Meet Mercy Ships

"Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his mercy from me!" Psalm 66:20

Don and Deyon Stephens had dream of converting a ship into a floating hospital to bring safe, free surgical care to those who needed it most. They left their home in the United States setting out into unfamiliar waters. There were six of them: Don, his wife Deyon, and their four children.

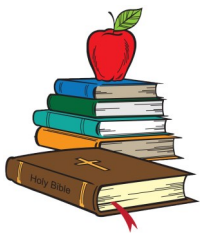
Mercy Ships began their mission in 1978 to provide hope and healing to those in need. Each year, hospital ships filled with volunteer professionals who selflessly provide life- changing surgeries to children and adults who otherwise would go without.

Today, four and a half decades later, Mercy Ships has impacted more than 1.2 million medical and programmatic beneficiaries and performed more than 110,000 life-changing surgeries. In the first half of 2023. More than 1,100 volunteers served on board the brand new *Global Mercy*.

Because 50% of the world's population lives near a coast, Mercy Ships can provide more surgeries for more people with their floating hospitals. Their state-of-the-art hospital ships are the most efficient way to deliver free services. Their programs include training local professionals, providing new medical tools and resources, renovating facilities, and more.

Over the past 30 years, Mercy Ships has been based exclusively in Africa, serving the nations of Benin, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo. Bringing **hope: hope for progress, hope of healing, hope to touch someone's life, hope for a better tomorrow.**





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

I am grateful for the cooler weather that Autumn brings and look forward to wearing jeans, boots, sweaters and scarves (yes, I am a bit over the heat!!). Thank you, Lord, for the change of seasons and for reminding us that you provide for each and every one of us throughout all the seasons of our lives.

The youth of FPC have been busy with school events: sports, band, choir, art, homework, projects, tests and ASB activities. We are so grateful for our church family and the chances we all have to work together to bring the kingdom of God to our community.

By the time you read this, our Fall Festival will have taken place. Thank you all for your support and help in all aspects of putting this event together – from donating candy to decorating cars to baking cakes to setting up and cleaning up. What a blessing it is to all be able to contribute to a big event like this that helps us be more visible in our community and hopefully will bring new families and individuals to be part of our church.

Pastor Tim's series on prayer is much needed for me. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn more about one of the greatest missions we as Christians have: communicating – talking with and listening to - our Heavenly Father through prayer.

At this time, let us all pray earnestly for the people of Israel as they are suffering as a result of the attacks on Oct 7 and the aftermath. The Bible encourages all people to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122:6). We can feel overwhelmed with the enormity of the problems surrounding Israel and Palestine, but let us never forget that our God cares deeply for all the people who are suffering and he will provide greater help in times of greater need. He promises that he is "close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18). Thank you Lord!

Upcoming events:

- Nov 4** Community Workday (9-noon) @ 216 N Green Steet, Hanford
- Nov 12** Friendsgiving Potluck for Youth at the Pelton Home (4:30—8:00pm)
- Nov 26** Youth Group (5-8pm)

Church

DEACONS



First Presbyterian Church has purchased Christmas gifts for residents at Diamond Terrace nursing home for many years. I have been in touch with their activities director and she will have a list of residents and their needs/wants by about

the middle of November. The items requested in the past have ranged from pajamas, slippers, lotion, clothing items, and even candy. Watch for updates in the bulletin as to when we will have the names ready for you to choose from. Their needs and wants are few but it means so much to them that someone cares about them and wants to make their Christmas special. Any questions, please direct them to Janet Harader.

Also, we are participating in Toys for Tots sponsored by the marines as written about in our August newsletter. A bin should be coming soon for us to fill with unwrapped toys. Any questions may be directed to Julie Baker.

Thank you for your generosity and participation in making Christmas a time for children and adults to feel your love and kindness by these gifts. It can be an especially lonely time for residents at Diamond Terrace. This is one way to put a smile on their face when they realize someone has remembered them.

~ Janet Harader



UP COMING



- Nov 1** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm. Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Nov 2** *Bible Study @ 7pm, Praise Team Practice @ 7pm
- Nov 4** Youth Service Project 9—noon @ 216 N. Green St., Hanford
- Nov 5** Communion Sunday, OCC Packing Party after worship service
- Nov 6** Church Growth @ 12:30pm, *Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Nov 7** Deacons mtg @ 6:30pm
- Nov 8** BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm. Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Nov 9** Session Reports Due, C.E. mtg @ 1:30pm, *Bible Study @ 7pm, Praise Team Practice @ 7pm
- Nov 12** OCC Dedication during worship service, Youth Friendsgiving (4:30-8:00pm)
- Nov 13** Finance mtg @ 10am, Session mtg @ 6pm
- Nov 15** Fist Press articles due, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study @ 6:15pm. Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Nov 16** *Bible Study @ 7pm, Praise Team Practice @ 7pm
- Nov 19** New Members Class @ 11:30am
- Nov 23** Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
- Nov 24** Office Closed
- Nov 26** Decorate the Church for Christmas after worship service, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Dec 3** Communion Sunday, First Sunday of Advent, Congregational Meeting after worship service
- Dec 4** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm
- Dec 5** Deacons mtg @ 6:30pm
- Dec 10** Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec 11** Finance mtg @ 10am, *Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Dec. 14** Pizza & Caroling @ 5:30pm

* via Zoom



Summary of Oct. 17, 2023 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 72 and 5 homebound took communion in Oct.
- \$90 each to the Soup Kitchen and Refuge Armona

Clerk's Report

- Reported Active Members as of Oct. 1, 2023 total—83
- RE Rajskup submitted report on October Presbytery

Pastor's Report

- Opened Session with a devotional time
- Approved Congregational meeting for Dec. 3 following worship service

Church Growth

- Reported updates on Fall Festival planning

Finance

- Approved opening bank account at Pacific Western Bank and moving money as recommended by the Finance Committee

Missions

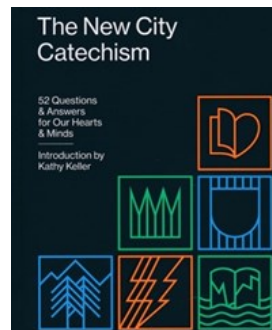
- Reported the Cameroon Mission trip dates have been moved to June 2024

Nominating Committee

- Presented their recommendations for:
 - Class of 2026 Elders, and Deacons
 - 2024 Trustees and Nominating Committee members at large.

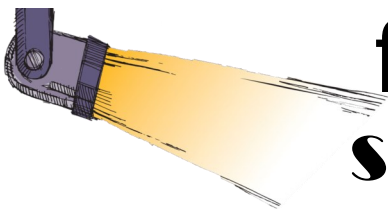
Other Business

- Approved moving November Session meeting to Monday, Nov 13 at 6pm



What does God require in the sixth, seventh and eighth commandments?

Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate our neighbor. Seventh, that we live purely and faithfully. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else.



fpc Family Spotlight



Gail Forsythe

I was born in Galesburg, Illinois. Through my childhood years, we moved around a lot, by the time I was in the 5th grade we had lived in 6 different states, and I had attended 7 different elementary schools. We moved to Hanford, CA, in the middle of my 7th grade. When my dad's company wanted to move us back to the Chicago, IL area, we had a family meeting and vote. We all voted to stay in Hanford.

In my adult years, I began working in the bookkeeping field, I married, moved to Visalia (3,000 miles away according to my mom) and birthed 2 sons, Donavon and Matthew. I divorced, enrolled at Fresno State full time, continued to work full time, earned my BA, and eventually moved back to Hanford.

I have three grand "old" kids ages 19-23 (2 girls and one boy) who live in Visalia (my mom was right, Visalia is 3,000 miles away). And I am a "great" aunt of a little baby boy who lives in Florida.

4 fur-kids live with me: 2 dogs, Reign and Edward, and 2 cats, Reba and Mr. P who is not a Mister.

The coast is my go-to place, my healing place – the sound of the waves and being able to just kickback and enjoy the fresh air (rain or shine). I especially like Cayucos. And it only takes a couple of hours to slip over.

Traveling is something I like to do. One of my favorite ways to travel is by train. My grandfather worked for

It was a real treat to get on a train (woowooo) and ride to go see relatives in Illinois. As an adult, I still get excited to get on the train and go.

After going on a 15 day cruise to Hawaii and back, I retired from Kings County Housing Authority after working for 23 years. In lieu of becoming a hermit (which at that time would have been very easy for me to do), I was fortunate to be hired to work part time as the bookkeeper here at FPC. After 4 years, I retired and (as a friend has said) never left – lol. I am so blessed to have found my church home and family here at FPC.

What else? I am active with the Kings Art Center, where I developed my passion for moulding clay and collecting paintings (I am a wannabe painter). I am active in a group called P.E.O. Sisterhood (founded in 1869). We raise money to award scholarships to women to further their education. I also am active with Kings County Commission on Aging Council to help lend a voice and a hand for seniors in our county.

Another passion of mine is volunteering at an animal rescue. I haven't begun that yet, my house and yard aren't big enough for many more adoptions.....



Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to all of you who came to the open house and helped me to celebrate my 90th birthday. To those of you unable to attend, you were here in spirit. Many thanks for the lovely cards, gifts and above all your love and friendship. You are truly my church family! I love and appreciate each one of you. Thanks for your prayers always.

~ Shirley Voyles

FALL FESTIVAL

Dear Church Family.

Thank you for your support and hard work to make our Fall Festival such a success! We were blessed with fabulous weather and a wonderful turn out. Our "WHY" when planning this Fall Festival was to create a high invite event aimed at creating exposure of First Presbyterian Church to our community. With your hard work, generosity and fabulous attitudes, I feel we were successful.

We received registrations from about 40 families and had close to 150 children participate. We gave away 55 items in our cake walk, 182 hotdogs and 200 bottles of water and bags of chips, plus the popcorn was a big hit. The trunk-or-treat cars were creatively decorated with a wonderful variety of themes. Both children and adults had a great time playing the various games, taking pictures at the selfie station and getting their faces painted.

We can't thank everyone enough for helping with this event and we welcome your input and photos you may have taken. If you have suggestions on how we can improve this event for next year, please email the Church Growth Committee with your suggestions at office@fpchanford.org attention to Annette Rajskup.

~ Submitted by Annette Rajskup, Church Growth Chair

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN PRESENT:

An Invitation to Growth

What: 1-day Women's
conference featuring
Tiffany Staman, Executive
Director Calvin Crest

Exploring the spiritual
practices of silence,
solitude, and simplicity

Where: Three Rivers
Community Presbyterian
Church

When: November 11th
9:00-2:00

cost: \$20

Bring your
friends!



Sign up online!



Or by calling
559-732-8627

Faith & Fellowship

Jolly 1's & 2's

If you have not yet made reservations to see the play "Much Ado Out West" at the Temple Theater, call Janet Harader to see if any seats are left.

A possibility for December is a play put on by the Second Space Theatre in Fresno titled "A Christmas Carol". Many of you have probably seen this movie on television many times, but it still is one that can warm our hearts to the possibility of changes in a person's heart. It is the story of greedy and bitter Ebenezer Scrooge and his other worldly journey towards kindness and the true meaning of Christmas. The date chosen is December 3. Cost is \$22. The play starts at 2:00, doors open at 1:30. We would need to leave the church parking lot by 12:30. I will need to purchase tickets by November 26.

If this does not get much interest, the other possibility is for us to support the Kings Symphony. Their Christmas concert is scheduled for December 17 at 4:00 at the Fox Theatre. Jeff Fritz has resigned his directorship of the symphony and a new one has been chosen. Please support him as he follows a very talented director. The cost is \$15 and tickets can be purchased at the door. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Janet Harader.

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)

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)

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Justin Smith
- 9 Catherine Connelly
- 10 *David & Annie Wrigley
- 11 Diane Sharp
- 12 Sue Bairstow
- 13 Dale Newman
- 14 David Wrigley
- 15 Allie Caparuolo
- 16 Haley Baker
- 17 Carol Connelly
- 21 *Nick & Sue Kinney
- 22 Darlene Keast, Laurie Tazelaar
- 24 Angelika Loewen
- 27 Debra Pelton
- 30 Andrew & Ju Rishel

P O Box 1185
Hanford, CA 93232

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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.