

# 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](http://www.fpchanford.org) Email: [office@fpchanford.org](mailto:office@fpchanford.org)

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go to make disciples of others*

## FIRST PRESS

**December 2024**

### **“A Message from the Session”**

Your Session wishes to offer more clarity and address concerns regarding the vote taken on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Pastor Tim Brown.

We apologize again that some specific details must remain confidential to protect Tim's rights, but we hope to share as much information as possible to better explain why your Session felt this was the only course of action left to us.

Beginning as early as May, Pastor Tim began to struggle to meet the performance standards for his role as shepherd of this church. On occasion, he was unable to deliver his planned sermon and he began taking unscheduled days off. On August 11th this congregation witnessed Tim's struggle as he was unable to deliver his sermon and was taken to seek medical treatment.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> your Session agreed to give Tim a paid leave, with conditions, to seek medical treatment. As we shared last Sunday, there had been progress and setbacks, but your Personnel Committee and the Session were very hopeful that Tim would successfully complete a treatment plan, be fit to return to his duties, and fulfill his promise of transparency to the congregation. Unfortunately, Tim has been unable to maintain the agreed-upon terms of his leave. After multiple setbacks and renegotiated adjustments to the terms of his leave, your Session had to make the regrettable decision that Tim is unable to lead our church at this time.

The Book of Order is clear that the Presbytery has the sole authority to dissolve the Pastoral Relationship between our church and Tim (Book of Order G14-1). The vote by the Congregation on December 1, 2024, was to inform the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest that FPC Hanford is requesting such a dissolution. Our Presbytery has authorized the Ministerial Committee to address this issue and they will handle the matter from here out. The EPC Ministerial Committee has been an immense source of guidance during this difficult time and promises their continued support as our church moves forward. Pastor Joe Mazzela has agreed to help us with pulpit supply as our church proceeds in the next steps of forming a pastor search committee. We encourage you to continue to pray for your incoming Session and those whom God will call to serve on our next pastor search committee.

# December Reading Plan



With the Christmas season upon us and the year quickly coming to a close for 2024, thoughts of gratitude and blessings come to mind...

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who has generously donated clothing for the Kings Gospel Mission, food for the soup kitchen at the Episcopal Church, towels and toiletries for the Shower Ministries, and cash donations for additional deserving charities such as Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Refuge Armona, and Meals on Wheels. Please continue to remember the collection baskets near the Fellowship Hall entrance for any donations for the listed charities.

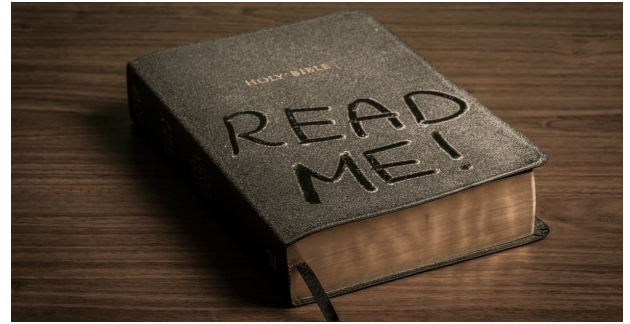
Blessings continued for the Deacons when throughout the year several others in our church helped with making coffee and lemonade, providing various baked treats and assorted fruits for the congregation to enjoy during fellowship time after church services. It was always a wonderful surprise to receive such generous gifts, time and talent from many people!

The Deacons have continued the "Santa for Seniors" gift giving program for senior citizens at the Diamond Terrace Assisted Living. Look for the table in Fellowship Hall that will hold name cards and "wish lists" for a senior without a family or nearby relatives who needs a bit of Christmas cheer. A thoughtful gift (candy, lotion, slippers, clothing, etc.) will always bring much joy during this time of year.

The US Marine Corps Reserve's "Toys for Tots" program for toy donations (new, unwrapped toys) will be drawing to a close on Sunday, December 7, 2024. Please prayerfully consider donating toys (ages infant to 12) for the children in Kings County.

On behalf of the Deacons, have a blessed and joyous Christmas!

~ Submitted by Laurie Tazelaar



## Daily Bible Reading Program

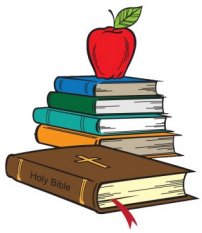
### *Chronological Plan*

1-Year Plan. These readings are compiled according to recent historical research, taking into account the order in which the recorded events actually occurred. This is a fantastic plan to follow if you wish to add historical context to your reading of the Bible. If the schedule provided is followed, the entire Bible will be read in one calendar year.

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. 1 Corinthians 12-14 | 21. Hebrews 1-6      |
| 2. 1 Corinthians 15-16 | 22. Hebrews 7-10     |
| 3. 2 Corinthians 1-4   | 23. Hebrews 11-13    |
| 4. 2 Corinthians 5-9   | 24. 2 Timothy        |
| 5. 2 Corinthians 10-13 | 25. 2 Peter          |
| 6. Romans 1-3          | Jude                 |
| 7. Romans 4-7          | 26. 1 John           |
| 8. Romans 8-10         | 27. 2 John           |
| 9. Romans 11-13        | 28. 3 John           |
| 10. Romans 14-16       | 29. Revelation 1-5   |
| 11. Acts 20-23         | 30. Revelation 6-11  |
| 12. Acts 24-26         | 31. Revelation 12-18 |
| 13. Acts 27-28         | 32. Revelation 19-22 |
| 14. Colossians,        |                      |
| 15. Philemon           |                      |
| 16. Ephesians          |                      |
| 17. Philippians        |                      |
| 18. 1 Timothy          |                      |
| 19. Titus              |                      |
| 20. 1 Peter            |                      |

**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.





## A Note From:

***Children's and Youth Director***  
***Sheri Winterowd***

Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness in getting us to the end of another year! The passage of time is such a crazy thing – the days are long, but the years are short. I think we notice this in a greater way as we watch children grow up and change with each season. Did you know that regularly attending church with your children has a ton of benefits? A recent article in the Harvard Public Health Journal states that a broad amount of data suggests weekly church attendance is associated with reduced mortality, lower depression, less suicide, better cardiovascular disease survival, better health behaviors, and greater marital stability, happiness and purpose in life. These are the many great reasons to continue regularly attending church. Let's invite friends so they can benefit too!

On another note, Advent is a special time to intentionally prepare our hearts for the arrival of Christ. We have Advent Calendars available for each of the families in our youth and children's ministries. The calendars have short, simple suggestions for families to spend a few minutes each day reading scripture or doing an activity in the days leading up to Christmas. Please make sure to get one and experience a new tradition this December.

On Monday, December 9, our church is providing music for the Downtown Hanford's Winter Wonderland at 5:30 pm and I would LOVE if you could join us in singing or Ice skating! Please reach out to me if you are available and interested in either!

Also, let me know if you would like to attend The Nutcracker and support two of our young people, Kaitlyn Pelton and Charlotte Davis, who will be dancing in this production. May you and yours have a blessed CHRISTmas season! !!

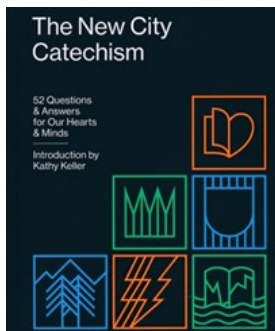
This month we have some exciting things happening:

- December 9 Faith Night at Winter Wonderland in Downtown Hanford
- Dec. 12 Pizza and Caroling
- Dec. 13 & 14 Bethel Ballet Academy's Nutcracker at Fox Theater
- Dec 22 Youth Christmas Party
- Dec 29 Potluck following worship





- Dec 1** *First Sunday of Advent, Congregational Meeting*
- Dec 3** Staff mtg. @ 10am
- Dec 4** Deacons mtg @ 2pm
- Dec 6** Ladies First Friday Prayer @ 9am
- Dec 8** *Second Sunday of Advent, Youth group @ 5pm*
- Dec 9** Finance mtg @ 11am, Church Growth @ 1pm, Faith Night at skatepark @ 5:30pm, \*Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Dec 10** Staff mtg. @ 10am
- Dec 12** C.E. mtg @ 1pm, Pizza & Caroling @ 5pm
- Dec 13** *Annual Reports Due*
- Dec 15** *Third Sunday of Advent, First Press articles Due*
- Dec 17** Staff mtg. @ 10am, Session mtg @ 6:30pm
- Dec 22** *Forth Sunday of Advent, Youth Group @ 5pm*
- Dec 24** *Christmas Eve (office closed)*
- Dec 25** *Christmas Day (office closed)*
- Dec 29** 5th Sunday Potluck after worship
- Dec 31** *New Year's Eve (office closed)*
- Jan 1** *New Year's Day (office closed)*
- Jan 3** Ladies First Friday Prayer @ 9am
- Jan 5** *Communion Sunday*
- Jan 6** Deacon's mtg @ 2pm



**Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer to die?**

*Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.*



**Summary of  
Nov. 19, 2024 Session Meeting  
and Dec. 1 Congregational Mtg.**

Deacons

- Reported 76 took communion on Nov. 3<sup>rd.</sup>, during worship and 3 Shut-ins where served

Clerk's Report

- Reported Members as of Nov 1, 2024 total—77
- Approved the baptism of Elliot Adams on Dec. 22, 2024
- Approved use of 220 Building by the Caparuolo cheer team for practice at \$40 a week.

Christian Ed

- Approved use of RightNow Media promo video

Finance

- Approved changing Servant Keeping billing to \$64.99/mo
- Approved purchase of new computer for the bookkeeper up to 2500.00 from checking account #2 .
- Approved budget for 2025

Personnel Committee

- Approved called Congregational Meeting to request Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest dissolve the pastoral relationship between FPC Hanford and Tim Brown.
- Approved naming Clerk of Session to sign updated job descriptions in absence of pastor

Congregational Meeting on December 1, 2024

- Approved officers nominated by the Nominating Committee
- Approved request to POPS to dissolved the pastoral relationship between FPC Hanford and Pastor Tim Brown



Dessert *Auction*



## “A Little Late - Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”

The Dessert fundraiser was a huge success on September 29, 2024 raising \$1,147.00 toward "Askings." Thank you to all who made the wonderful desserts, as well as to those who purchased these delicious desserts!

**What are Askings and what do they do?** As part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church family, we are encouraged to share a small portion (1.5% or \$3,418) of our yearly earnings with our local Presbytery (Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest "POPS") and our General Assembly (GA) – our national hub. This year, our Askings amount to an average of \$40 for each member.

Per Member Askings is the primary means for funding the work and ministry of our EPC Presbytery and General Assembly. Some of this budget is used to support churches and pastors through times of difficulty and times of transition. We cannot thank our Presbytery and the GA enough for the financial support our church and our pastors' families have received over the past five years after Pastor Tony's heart attack and again after the death of Pastor Tim Hoins. After Pastor Tony's heart attack, we received funds for Pastor Tony's health insurance and costs to help with the transition to finding a new pastor. Almost \$40,000 was covered by Askings to move Kristi Hoins back to Nebraska as well as all the funeral expenses to bury Pastor Tim Hoins there. In addition, through Askings our Presbytery and GA continued to cover the medical premiums for Kristi and her sons for a year after his death. Your Askings helped do all this for our church and have helped many other churches in our Presbytery as well. Askings support our missionaries through World Outreach and pastor candidates through their ordination process. Through our Askings we are part of a huge family that supports, loves and encourages one another. Please help us support the EPC and the work God has done through them.

We thank all of those who have paid their "Askings", so far \$872 general giving plus the \$1,147 from dessert auction for a total of \$2,019. We encourage our membership 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 one of our Finance Team members (Bill Baker, Melissa Wescoat, Julie Baker, Charles Feaver, Nick Kinney & Paula Salud).

Thank you for your continued support!

The Finance Ministry Team



# 25 Days of Christmas ACTS OF KINDNESS

## ADVENT CALENDAR

Spread kindness! Light up December by doing an act of kindness each day.

<b>1</b> Donate food to a local pantry.	<b>2</b> Write a kind note to a family member.	<b>3</b> Leave a treat for your mail carrier.	<b>4</b> Make holiday cards for nursing home residents.	<b>5</b> Donate toys to a children's charity.
<b>6</b> Bake cookies for a neighbor.	<b>7</b> Pay for someone's coffee or meal.	<b>8</b> Compliment three people today.	<b>9</b> Donate blankets to a homeless shelter.	<b>10</b> Call or visit a loved one.
<b>11</b> Leave a positive review for a local business.	<b>12</b> Shovel snow or rake leaves for someone.	<b>13</b> Donate books to a library or school.	<b>14</b> Share your favorite holiday recipe.	<b>15</b> Send a surprise care package to someone.
<b>16</b> Pick up litter in your neighborhood.	<b>17</b> Write a thank-you note to a teacher or mentor.	<b>18</b> Invite a new friend to play	<b>19</b> Deliver flowers to someone who needs cheering up.	<b>20</b> Offer to babysit for a busy parent.
<b>21</b> Bring treats to your local fire or police station.	<b>22</b> Hold the door open for others all day.	<b>23</b> Share homemade treats with coworkers.	<b>24</b> Leave a kind message in a public place.	<b>25</b> Reflect on the acts and plan to keep spreading kindness.

# Faith & Fellowship



*Ladies*

*First Friday Coffee and Prayer*

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month @ 9:00am**



## EXERCISE CLASS

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



**fpc Session**

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

**Church DEACONS**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month @ 2pm



**fpc Christian Education**

Committee Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month @ 1pm



**fpc**

**MISSIONS Ministry**

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



**fpc Church Growth**

Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

**Worship**

Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday after morning worship

# DECEMBER

## Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 1 Louise Collins
- 3 Janice Mills
- 4 Shirley Ramm. \*Chuck & Mary Kinney
- 5 Barbara Kovac
- 9 Owen Montoya
- 12 Laurie Essepian, Stacey Jones
- 14 \*Ken & Laurie Tazelaar
- 18 Adelyn King
- 22 Greg Connelly
- 26 Georgina Snyder

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Label Here

### 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>Pastor</b>
<a href="mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org">pastor@fpchanford.org</a>	
<b>Sheri Winterowd</b>	<b>Director of Youth &amp; Children's Ministries</b>
<a href="mailto:youth@fpchanford.org">youth@fpchanford.org</a>	
<b>Annette Rajskup</b>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<a href="mailto:office@fpchanford.org">office@fpchanford.org</a>	
<b>Melissa Wescoat</b>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>
<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@fpchanford.org">bookkeeper@fpchanford.org</a>	
<b>Nancy Roller</b>	<b>Custodian</b>
<a href="mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com">nancyroller8@yahoo.com</a>	

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

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.