



# First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

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

## FIRST PRESS

January 2022



For me, each year January is, without a doubt, the darkest, coldest, dampest month of the year in the Central Valley. I get along with the heat of summer better than I get along with the dark, the cold, and the dampness. It is a good time to be in Hawaii or Palm Springs. Arizona has its best month of the year in January. How is one supposed to keep faith when it is so cold, and dark, and damp?

I know, I'll watch one of my favorite movies, "Hook." What does that do for me, you say? It is in that movie where Smee declares he has had an, "apostrophe." Of course, Captain Hook corrects him declaring, "You mean an epiphany." Yes an epiphany. That's what I have in January. Every January 6th the Epiphany of our Lord comes forth. So, now I have an Epiphany to get me through the dark and cold and dampest month. (I think it's the dampness that really gets me – my toes never get warm.)

Epiphany is the conclusion after the 12 days of Christmas. Traditionally on Epiphany the Wise Men arrive to offer their gifts to the God incarnate, the Christ child. Epiphany is the true day of gift giving in many of the middle-eastern cultures and often the greatest or most valued gift is opened on that day. It warms my heart just to think of the joy and the prophecy of Epiphany.

Three wise men that have traveled some distance to see the Christ child. The suspicion is these were priests from the Zoroastrian religion; a religion based on the stars and constellations. This is our first signal that Christ is for the whole world, not just a small sect in the Middle East. These well-educated and highly thought of sojourners tell us that Christ, the humble child of average means, may reach through culture and class to redeem the world for God's sake. What a gift they gave to the child, but also to us.

Maybe a new tradition could be started in your household this Epiphany. You could always start by watching the movie, "Hook," and then progress to giving that last special gift of Christmas to someone you loved. Or maybe it is more your style to go and do something unexpected, the aha, what a surprise, kind of activity. Go help at the mission, or baby-sit some children so dad and mom can have the afternoon together and have their own epiphany. What if you just spent time reading scripture until you discovered something you had not discovered before? An epiphany straight from the word of God!

Smee had an epiphany, a sudden new and great thought. We have the Epiphany; when the world is surprised and the light goes on that this child, Christ, is God incarnate – God with us, and it will change the whole world. My prayer for you this new year is to have an epiphany on Epiphany. May Christ richly bless you in your journey through the year 2021.

In Christ,  
Rev. Louis R. Paradise

# Church DEACONS

**A BIG Thank You** to all who participated and helped make Santa's Angels and Santa for Seniors a success. The giving of gifts expresses the simple joy of sharing. The sheer delight of the 10 children and 22 seniors would have been a pleasure to behold!

This January will see the class of 2021 complete their 3 year terms. We appreciate the dedication of Deacons Rowena Curiel, Laurie Essepien and Sally Gordon for their fine service. Thank you for all the time and effort lovingly spent

Joining us this year are Laurie Essepien (who graciously accepted another term), Janet Harader and Carley Watson. Kelly Voyles will be filling the vacancy for the class of 2022. Our entire Board of Deacons can be found on the back of the First Press monthly calendar. We are available to assist you in any way!

~ Susan Feaver

THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!

SANTAS FOR SENIORS  
SANTA ANGELS

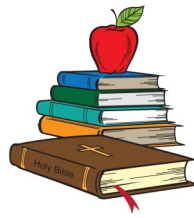
You have helped to make Christmas special with your gifts for Seniors in a Nursing Home and for Children who might not have had such special gifts if it was not for YOU!

Thank you for your generosity and gifts of love! The Deacon's program is designed to help those who could use some extra attention at Christmastime.

We wish you a blessed year in 2022!

~ Sally Gordon

**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring clothing and nonperishable food to help those in our community who are in need. Collection baskets are available every Sunday morning during worship service.



## A Note From: Children's and Youth Director

Parents Morning Out on December 4th was a huge success! THANK YOU to our donors and volunteers who made the day possible. The children had a few hours of fellowship, baked and decorated cookies, had their faces painted, tie dyed shirts, played games, and more. The Christian Education committee is currently planning events for the first quarter of 2022. Stay tuned for more fun events, service projects, fund-raising events, and the possibility of our youth attending Calvin Crest Ministry Camp together this summer.



## FPC Missionaries . . .2022 Expanding Our Horizons



*“He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”*

*Mark 16:15*

As the New Year begins, new horizons and opportunities also emerge and there is much to look forward to in 2022 for our missionaries who are serving the Lord through their mission work sharing and spreading the Gospel to the unreached peoples of the world.

As we continue to partner with our 2021 Missionaries, your Mission Ministry Team is excited to be expanding our mission outreach this 2022 by partnering with and helping two new EPC World Outreach Missionary couples:

Josh and Katya both have experience living as “Mission Kids” (MKs) and they know first-hand that as MKs are transplanted, it is typical for them to experience issues with identity, belonging, loss, and grief. Statistically, MKs are more vulnerable and at high risk for experiencing trauma, mental illness, and suicide. Being there for kids first-thing on field, however, makes space for critical, timely debriefing of difficult and traumatic experiences, spiritual formation, and empowering parents to understand and help their children as challenges arise. Josh and Katya see MK care as a clear responsibility of the Body of Christ, and believe that on-field help can prevent many years of ensuing heartache and confusion. Their desire is for MKs to thrive in faith and health and for workers' families to flourish and serve sustainably. Josh and Katya know their calling is to minister to those reaching the least reached so that they do not become lost themselves.

Rupesh and Susanna are two of EPC World Outreach’s most resilient global workers. When US Immigration Services told them they had to leave the country, when Covid restrictions shut down their discipleship school, when Covid put Rupesh in the ICU, their response was the same – “Thank you, Lord. Your plans are better than ours. Show us how to glorify you in this.” That attitude has helped them pivot, move ahead, and accomplish more in less time and with fewer resources than most - showing they truly have a heart for missions. Currently serving in South Asia, they lead pastor trainings to many believers and have founded a youth church providing a safe place for un-churched youth and new believers to come and worship the Lord together without persecution of their faith.

Let us welcome the New Year with thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for bringing us through 2021 and giving us a fresh start in 2022. Please remember to pray for all missionaries whether overseas or on our own home field, for their safety, needed resources in their mission ministry, and that doors will be opened for them to continue to share the Word of God!

*Happy New Year from FPC Missions Ministry Team!*



## Summary of Nov. 16, 2021 Session Meeting

### Deacons

- Reported 71 took Communion in December & 4 Home Bound were served
- Donations of \$100 each were given to the Episcopal Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army & Kings Gospel Mission & Meals-on-Wheels

### Clerk's Report

- POPS meeting Jan 20—22, Debra Revious & Janice Mills selected as commissioners
- Gail Forsythe & Steve Essepian received as members

### Pastor's Report

- Presented Worship plans through Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>
- Baptism of Abigail Kapanka planned for Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Martin Keast approved for liturgist rotation

### Buildings & Grounds

- Accepting suggestions for 2022 project list

### Finance

- 2022 budget of \$317,962.29—approved

### Missions

- Approved Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb 13<sup>th</sup>
- Approved Living Waters invite for Feb 27<sup>th</sup>

### Personnel

- Approved destitution of Christmas bonuses



# UP COMING



- Jan 1** *New Year's Day*
- Jan 2** *Communion Sunday, Installation of new Officers, Kapanka Baptism*
- Jan 4** *Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 5** *Church Growth meeting @ 10am*
- Jan 6** *Epiphany, \*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 7** *Annual Reports Due, First Friday Prayer*
- Jan 8** *Session Retreat*
- Jan 9** *Recognition of New Members, Worship meeting @ 11:15am, NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 11** *\*Missions meeting @ 5pm, \*Finance meeting @ 7pm, \*B&G meeting @ 7pm*
- Jan 13** *Session Reports Due, PSC meeting @ 5:30pm, \*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 15** *First Press Articles Due*
- Jan 17** *Martin Luther Kings Jr Day (office closed)*
- Jan 18** *Session meeting @ 6pm*
- Jan 20** *\*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 20—22** *Presbytery meeting*
- Jan 23** *NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 27** *\*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Jan 30** *Annual meeting*
- Feb 1** *Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm*
- Feb 2** *Church Growth meeting @ 10am*
- Feb 3** *\*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Feb 4** *First Friday Coffee & Prayer @ 9am*
- Feb 6** *Communion Sunday*
- Feb 8** *Missions meeting @ 5pm, Finance meeting @ 7pm, B&G meeting @ 7pm*
- Feb 10** *Session Reports Due, PSC meeting @ 5:30pm, \*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Feb 13** *Worship meeting @ 11:15am, NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm*
- Feb 15** *First Press Articles Due, Session meeting @ 6pm*
- Feb 17** *\*Bible Study @ 6:30pm*
- Feb 21** *President's Day (office closed)*

\* Zoom Meeting



**Remember**  
**Release**  
**Reimagine**  
**Restore**

**Romans 5:11 ...we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.**

Happy New Year to all who love the First Presbyterian Church of Hanford! Your Finance/Stewardship Team would like to update you on a couple things.

At the December Session meeting, we presented the 2022 budget of \$317,962.29 for their approval. This budget is filled with hope for our congregation as our Pastor Search Committee continues to follow God's lead in seeking our new pastor! It also includes the hope to be able to reinstate the Director of Music position and our Childcare Coordinator at some point in the coming year!

These may sound like lofty goals but God has continued to bless us and provide for us with all we have gone through. If you have not submitted your 2022 faith commitment, please consider doing so now! As of December 19th, faith commitments received totaled \$114,516 putting us at 40.18% of our goal. Our congregation is amazing and we look forward to meeting our faith commitment goal of \$285,000 by the end of this month!

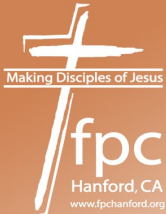
In the last decade cyber threats are becoming more common, causing loss of time personal or sensitive data. Our church is covered for things such as this through our Church Mutual Insurance plan. When we met with our agent to review our coverage for the upcoming year, he pointed this out and let us know individuals can also purchase this on their own through Beazley Breach Services! We were told the cost to individuals runs around \$60 a year. Check <https://www.proofpoint.com/us/resources/data-sheets/essentials-url-defense> for more information.

***All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2nd Corinthians 5: 18-20***

# Happy New Year

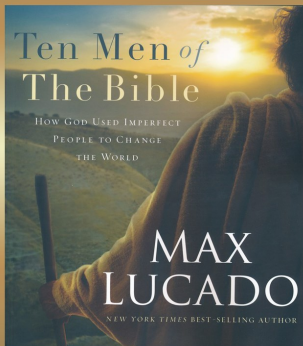


# Faith & Fellowship



**2nd and 4th Sunday  
of each month @ 6:30pm**

## *Adult Bible Study*



**Thursday Nights  
@ 6:30pm**



## *Jr & Sr High Bible Study*



**BIBLE STUDY**

**2nd & 4th Sunday Nights @ 6:30pm**

**9—11am**

*Ladies*

*First Friday Coffee and Prayer*



A special Christmas party was held at the church on December 12 with 7 people attending. We read the Christmas story, sang a few songs (even got to use the piano in the social hall), ate refreshments, exchanged gifts, and enjoyed our time together. Being able to meet inside the church as a group was something we haven't been able to do for quite some time. Last year we were unable to have a Christmas gathering.

Our next excursion will be a trip to Visalia to eat at the Gozen Japanese restaurant. I checked with them today and they are open for indoor dining and also for groups. I am tentatively choosing Tuesday, January 25 for this venture. We will leave the church parking lot at 10:30. They open at 11:00. Let me know if this date is suitable for you. I need to know by January 17 if you wish to go so I can make reservations. We will eat on the teppanyaki side, not the sushi side of the restaurant. My phone number is 583-8817 or 367-5658. Feel free to invite a friend or family member to join us.

## *Exercise & Fellowship Together*

We've all enjoyed the big Christmas meals and treats & inevitably the extra pounds added tend to lead us to create resolutions revolving around weight loss. You've tried to get up, get out but it all collapses a couple of days in and you're right back to where you were, not exercising, feeling uninspired and unmotivated. 1st Pres Exercise group is a simple way to get out and get motivated to work off some of the stress from the holidays and those unwanted pounds. Come join us and enjoy some fellowship time while working out, it makes the time go by faster.

- When: Mon., Wed., & Fri. mornings at 9 am
- What: Exercise videos – work out at your own pace
- Bring: Water, mat & some light weights
- Where: FPC - 220 Building on Dewey Street
- Cost: Donation of a few dollars to help cover some of the utility costs

Questions or thinking about attending contact Julie Baker cell # 559-623-8652



# Session Committees

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



**Worship**  
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday after morning worship

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California

**Church**  
**DEACONS**

1st Tuesday of each month  
@ 6:30pm

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



**Christian**  
**Education**  
Committee Meeting

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



2nd Tuesday each month @ 5:00pm

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



**Buildings &**  
**Grounds**  
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



**Finance**  
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month  
@ 7:00 pm

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



**Church**  
**Growth**  
Committee Meeting

1st Tuesday of each month @ 10:00am

fpc<sup>+</sup> Making Disciples of Jesus  
Hanford, California



**Session**

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

# JANUARY

## Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 8** Wellman Jue  
**11** Annie Jackson, Paula Murray  
**15** Don Mills  
**16** Grace Kinney  
**17** \*Charles & Susan Feaver  
**18** Meg Connelly, Ken Tazelaar  
**19** Alysha Rajskup, Michael Christoph  
**22** Steve Wartman  
**24** Owen Walsh, Carley Watson  
**26** \*Kelly & Teresa Voyles



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

P O Box 1185  
Hanford, CA 93232

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Label Here

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#### STAFF:

<b>Lou Paradise</b> <a href="mailto:pastor@fpchanford.org">pastor@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Interim Pastor</b>
<b>Katie Sippel</b> <a href="mailto:fpchanford.youth@gmail.com">fpchanford.youth@gmail.com</a>	<b>Director of Youth &amp; Children's Ministries</b>
<b>Annette Rajskup</b> <a href="mailto:office@fpchanford.org">office@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<b>Gwen Smith &amp; Gail Forsythe</b> <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@fpchanford.org">bookkeeper@fpchanford.org</a>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>
<b>Nancy Roller</b> <a href="mailto:nancyroller8@yahoo.com">nancyroller8@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Custodian</b>

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)