

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

# FIRST PRESS

A CBS News report from February of last year tells the story of Tammy Cleveland. She was determined to hold onto her husband, even after one medical professional told her, incorrectly, that her husband was dead.

Tammy's husband Michael had been out shopping at a local supermarket when he collapsed after going into cardiac arrest. Despite being only 46 years old with no history of heart problems, ER doctor Gregory Perry pronounced him dead less than an hour later. It was only after the coroner came to retrieve the body and noticed that Michael was still moving that the doctor was paged to come reassess his conclusion. Dr. Perry later came back and ordered a transfer to the intensive care unit at Buffalo General Medical, where Michael died the following morning after a procedure that attempted to open a blocked artery.

Ahead of her upcoming wrongful death suit, CBS News medical contributor Dr. Tara Narula spoke with Tammy Cleveland. "When you first walked in the room, what was your first observation of Michael?" Dr. Narula asked. Tammy answered, "That Michael wasn't dead. He was following me with his eyes. It wasn't just an involuntary thing. I mean, he looked right at me." Tammy's father also added, "I walked in the room and looked at him and said, 'This guy is definitely not dead. I've seen dead bodies before, and this wasn't it."

Eventually we will all die. Even Jesus died. However, unlike Michael Cleveland, Jesus rose from the dead will not die "again." We, too, can share his resurrection life through faith in him. This Lent Easter season, let is focus upon this profound reality: Death does not have the final word. The Apostle Paul reminds us, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Keep the faith,

Pastor Tony





#### Training the Untrained to Reach the Unreached

For Missionaries Dan and Debbie Smythe continue their work in Nepal India and as Dan writes: "We want to thank you and express our deep appreciation for your great generosity and faithfulness, and for your prayers – in owning along with us the vision of equipping church planters in two of the most unreached countries of the world: Nepal and India. In 2018 alone, hundreds of 'third generation' people have been multiplied into by those we have trained as they have passed on the training to those in their churches, and to other non-English-speaking pastors, and to those attending the new indigenous Training Centers that have now been established within their own locations. We could not do this God-glorifying work without you!"

And their work continues as Dan returns from his first 2019 training of the leaders in Nepal. He reports on how the Lord has put in place a solid team of leaders for this year's Nepal multiplication training. The first cycle of equipping in which Scot Ullrich and Dan served as co-trainers was a great joy and was extremely well-received by all of the men they trained. Scot built a fantastic relational bond with each of the men as he led them through the first of what will eventually be four 2019 cycles of training in his course "The Life of Christ – Harmonized". Dan continued into the next phase of the ongoing journey through "The Theology and Life Applications Revealed in Paul's Greatest Letter: Romans" – this time covering all of Romans chapter 10 and The Doctrine of the Word applied to evangelism. The men inductively dug into the texts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Romans to discover new depths of understanding of these crucial sections of God's Word. They were equipped to "pass on their training" to other non-English-speaking pastors and to their own church families.

Dan and Debbie have a deep conviction that the Lord has called them to equip leaders to be multiplying-self-feeders as 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV) states:

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

This is the power of multiplication on display – as the training being given to trainees is then multiplied and passed on many times to new leaders who become 'the third generation'. There will be three more trainings in 2019 offered to men in Nepal. Please remember to keep Dan, Debbie, and Scot all in prayer as they continue to serve the Lord sharing the Word and training the untrained to reach the unreached!



**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring some non-perishable food on **Mar. 1** to feed those in our community who are in need.





The bins in the hallway are provided for donated clothing and household items which go to Operation Sharing (La Hermosa Assembly of God) and King's Gospel Mission Thrift Shop. Toiletries are used twice a week for the Shower Ministry at the Pentecostal Church. Items for military care packages are collected, packaged and mailed as the need arises. Because of your generosity, the Deacons can supply some basic needs. PLEASE continue to liberally fill the hallway bins. Thanks!

#### GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Over the years, grants from the Community Enhancement Fund of the First Presbyterian Church of Hanford have helped many local organizations to meet social and individual needs in the Hanford area. We are pleased to announce that grant funds are once again available.



In prior years, grants have been awarded to extend respite care for families caring for Alzheimer's patients, provide additional refrigeration for Soup Kitchen supplies, purchase a K-9 dog for law enforcement, used to provide a mobile shower unit for the homeless, help produce an event that exposes public to books and encourages children to read.

If your organization needs help in carrying out a project that is designed to promote human improvement in and around Hanford AND (this is critical), if frequent attenders of Hanford First Presbyterian are numbered among your supporters or volunteers, now is the time to pick up an application for a 2019 grant. The forms are available at the office of the First Presbyterian Church, 415 N. Redington Street between 1:30am—1:30pm, Monday through Thursday.

Organizations which have applied in prior years may reapply for consideration for the same or a different one-time need. The deadline for submission is July 15th. For clarification, phone Bill Baker at 583-7482.

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# **SAVE the DATE:**

WHAT? An eight session, video-driven small group series to help parents raise their children from a biblical foundation.

**WHO?** Parents with children of all ages; anyone willing to invest time and effort in their parenting approach will benefit.

WHEN? March 22-24; Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 8:30am-5pm and Sunday after church to 2pm



WHERE? Church

CONTACT: Kevin & Sheryl McCarty 559-707-7357

More info to come, watch bulletin & webpage

#### **Do you shop on Amazon?**

Did you know you can donate a portion of your purchases to First Presbyterian Church?

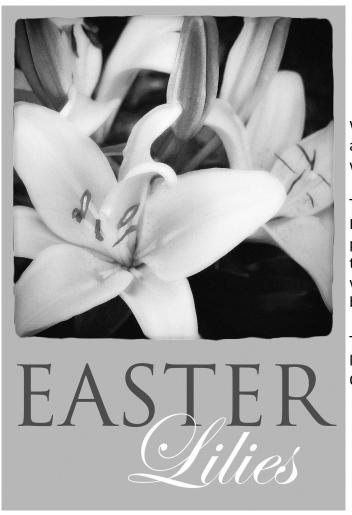
By shopping at smile.amazon.com and selecting First Presbyterian Church Hanford as your charity of choice, Amazon will automatically send the portion to us.

If you have questions please contact: Jaime at (850) 776-5234





"I washed behind my ears, and I wiped the smirk off my face."



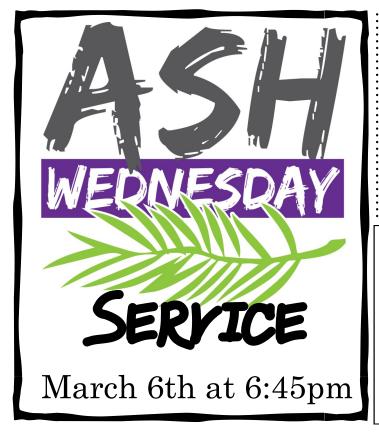
#### Flowers for Easter 2019

What a Beautiful time of year! The warm spring sun and rain bring the trees and plants into a new season with colorful and fragrant flowers.

The Worship Team discussed the past tradition of live Lilies in the Sanctuary for Easter. We have so many people with allergies we are not going to do that again this year. Last year we had a beautiful cross covered with flowers. There are many decorating ideas possible.

Those wishing to donate in honor and memory of a loved one will be able to do that with the Poinsettia's Christmas 2019.

Come and join in the true joy of Easter. "Christ Is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!"





8th Annual Golf Tournament

March 11th @ Kings Country Club
(You can pick up an entry form in the FPC Office)

Central Valley Christian High School Presents



Tickets available at the CVC office or at the door. Adults \$10, Students \$5

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Many opportunities for you to join with others ...

#### Women's Society (Agape)

Our next Agape meeting will be on April 14 at 1:00. I am in the process of tying up a speaker for the meeting. More information will be forthcoming. We hope to see many of you at our meeting.

In February Dottie told us about the Mennonites who came to the United States from Russia. My grandparents and the family were one of the families who escaped in 1929. I learned more from her talk than I learned from my mother, so it was especially wonderful to hear her talk.

Each month we have a great time together, socializing and learning new things, whether it be about a historical person, an organization, health issues, etc.

# **Jolly 1's & 2's**

Our trip to Second Space Theatre to see "Driving Miss Daisy" was a real treat. All 14 of us enjoyed it very much. By the time you get your March First Press our tickets will have been purchased for the Temple Theatre play titled "Dining Room." We will be going on Sunday, March 3. If you wish to go you can check to see if there are still tickets available. We have 19 people signed up to go as of February 18. For those wishing to eat with us beforehand, meet us at Asia Garden after church.

Our next trip takes place on April 7 to hear the Mennonite Men's Chorus sing at the Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church in Reedley (this was the latest information I could find) There is no charge for the concert, although they take an offering. I will need to know who is going so I can arrange transportation. these events.



First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Women of the Church please join us for "First Friday Coffee and Prayer."

Friday, March 1st 9:00am-10:30am





Mar 1 Dorothy Shaw 265 Sycamore

Apr 5 Laurie Essepian 7837 Fargo Pl

May 3 Rosemary Clark 1980 Rio Hondo Way



Questions, Comments, Concerns or Ideas...contact: Jaime Christoph 850-776-5234 fpchanford.youth@gmail.com



# Youth Sunday Events:

We will be working on Youth Sunday during Sunday mornings at 9:00am so please be there to help out and practice...

On Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> we will practice from 6:30-8pm.

On Youth Sunday, March 31st please arrive at 8:45am

Kindergarten—5th Grade (younger kids invited with parent attending)



## Come Prepare for the EASTER SEASON

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00-11:00am

We will make a prayer chain, create a Lenten calendar, make a fun snack and have a great time!

P O Box 1185 Hanford, CA 93230

#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### 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

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Custodian

Send staff emails to staff first name@fpchanford.org send prayer requests or other information to office@fpchanford.org Non-Profit Org U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 88 Hanford, California

## March Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 2 Ellen Matsubara, Kelly Voyles
- 5 Dorothy Shaw
- 6 Rosemary Clark, Sandra Kerr
- 7 Rodney Bairstow
- 9 Jim Rajskup
- 10 Lora Troxell
- 14 Heidi Koppenhaver
- 16 Sally Gordon
- 23 Lexie Garcia
- 28 \* Don & Janice Mills
- 29 Jack & Alleta Brewer
- 31 Mark & Karen Brutigam



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