



First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.

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A fellowship brought together through God's prevenient grace to grow closer to God

FIRST PRESS

April 2022



As this newsletter comes out it will be Palm Sunday just around the corner, April 2, 2023. So let me ask the question, whether or not we really get stirred up about Christ and the week ahead – like those in Jerusalem when he made that kingly entrance? That gets me to thinking about what it is that really does excite life; when do we find ourselves most fired up and alive? As I filtered through the many things that have got me going over the years, I realized that the times I have been most alive are those times when I see God's hand at work, and it is really evident to me.

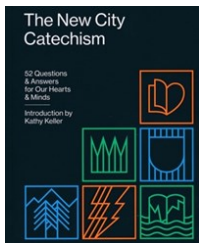
In the life of this congregation, we have had many moments where God is obviously active and alive in our lives. Sometimes it centers on the family of God supporting one another as we move through times of trial. Recently we celebrated a memorial for the life of Marjorie Willson and we were very much alive as we recognized God with us in the gift that was her life. What about the joyous times we see God at work? How about an older couple finding love and wanting to celebrate that as part of morning worship? A marriage ceremony in response to God's Word and sealed with the sacrament of communion with Christ. Wow! Again, Palm Sunday as the youth will sing and wave palm branches – what joy, what life, how much we see God alive and active in our midst. Or, the living presence of God you feel in the work of our Pastor Search Committee.

Recently I understand the process for a new pastor has moved to the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest. Hopefully God will work with the Presbytery and the potential Candidate to bring new good gifts and skills and a great family to come and join this ministry; more importantly for us is to feel God alive and at work in the process. Your search committee has prayed long and hard for God's guidance – and God is at work. You can feel the life-giving power of God. You can see God's amazing work manifest in the faithful. This is the kind of thing that really gets my juices flowing, the kind of thing that stirs my soul and gets me ready to shout alleluia!

So, how about you? Do you see God's life-giving Spirit at work and get really excited? Maybe you have been part of the Wednesday Body Life Suppers. The exuberance and vitality that flows from those gathered around the table sharing God's activity in our lives is a great witness to God alive with us. Maybe you've gathered in a Bible study group and shared insight into God's scripture or fellowship and support from the family of God. Do you see God alive in your life? Do you find yourself really alive because of God's Spirit being alive?

The Good News is that Easter is coming and will soon be gone, but Christ is alive, and we are alive because Christ lives. Look around, the world comes to life in the spring – but we are alive forever because of God's great love for us. So let the juices flow, celebrate God alive with us and let your soul be stirred to new ideas, activities and commitments in Christ Our Lord.

In Christ, Rev. Louis R. Paradise (Interim Pastor)



“How and why did God create us?”

The Answer is **“God created us male and female in His own image to glorify Him.”**



A Note From:

Children's and Youth Director

There's a saying, "when it rains, it pours." This has been true for our weather. After years of drought conditions here in the San Joaquin Valley, we've experienced an unprecedented rainy season. We feel that your generosity toward our camp fundraiser and bake sale last month was a wonderful 'pouring out' of support and help to get our kids to Summer Camp at Calvin Crest! I believe all enjoyed the tri tip lunch and bake sale and we were so pleased to hear positive feedback about our great youth helpers!! THANK YOU so, so much for your giving....it is so greatly appreciated! By the time you read this, we will have completed our Yard Sale. Thank you for your donations! You, our church family, are a great blessing to our children and youth!

This month we celebrate a very meaningful time in the church calendar: EASTER! Have you heard of Resurrection Eggs? Resurrection Eggs help kids celebrate the days leading up to Easter. A dozen plastic orbs in their egg carton holder are filled with reminders of Jesus' final moments before his crucifixion---except the last one, symbolizing the empty tomb. If you have some, get them out to help your children really understand the meaning behind Easter...it is so much more than baskets full of candy, baby chicks and bunnies! Our family used these for many years while our children were younger and I can give them a hearty endorsement.

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the school year and will soon be enjoying graduations and Summer activities. Now is a great time to start planning your involvement with our church's Vacation Bible School. See our director Deborah Pelton's article about all the great things we have planned for VBS!

We serve an awesome God and we are so blessed to be his children! It is our joy through our Ministries to Children and Youth to share the good news of Christ with our kids and to encourage them to live lives that honor our Savior. Please think of families you can invite who would benefit from a church family like ours. The Good News is to be shared!!

~ Sheri Winterowd

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING

JUNE 26TH – JUNE 30TH!!!



Twist & Turns VBS is a celebration of all kinds of games. We will have fun with classic board games and video games, too. But most importantly, the children will learn that Jesus guides us through all the Twists & Turns of our lives. They will learn Psalm 25:4 which reminds us to ask Jesus, "Make your ways known to me, Lord, teach me your paths." We will learn about all the Twists & Turns that Peter encountered as He followed Jesus.

Although he made mistakes, God still worked through Peter to help others learn about Jesus.

Please consider helping out this year! There are a lot of opportunities to serve and have fun along the way! Contact Deborah Pelton at 559-360-6763 for more information.

So, MAKE YOUR MOVE AND JOIN THE VBS TEAM!



Samaritan's Purse – Operation Heal Our Patriots

Samaritan's Purse praises God for His faithfulness as he transformed hearts, lives and marriages during **Operation Heal Our Patriots**. Through Operation Heal Our Patriots' 17-week season, 164 military couples were welcomed at Samaritan Lodge Alaska, where they participated in chaplain-led Biblically based marriage classes and wilderness excursions. In 2022, 96 individuals placed their faith in Christ while in Alaska, and 86 couples recommitted their marriages to God.

All of the couples who attend Samaritan Lodge Alaska are in fragile marriages and are often on the verge of divorce. **Operation Heal Our Patriots** is designed to help strengthen their marriages through a series of wilderness adventures, marriage enrichment activities, and Biblically based counseling so that these heroes and their spouses can find spiritual and emotional healing through the Lord Jesus Christ. Every week many participants discover God's plans for their lives, accept Christ as their Lord and Savior, are baptized in Lake Clark, and renew their wedding vows.

Samaritan's Purse continues to serve these couples long after they leave Alaska. Chaplains maintain contact with them, organize follow-up activities, and help connect them with local churches and Christian mentors.



When you get up each morning and get ready for your day, you probably go to a closet or dresser to get some clean clothes to wear. We usually don't even think about this part of our day. We just hope the laundry is up to date and clean clothes will be there.

The same is not true for some in our community. There are some unhoused, or low income members of the community that do not have the privilege of washing clothes as needed. Fortunately, the Methodist Church of Hanford has restarted Laundry Love, which is an outreach program that allows people to bring in dirty laundry and wash it for free. Every third Thursday of the month the Star Laundry by Big Lots is filled with people taking advantage of this opportunity. Each participant is allotted a certain number of machines. And if you have not been to a laundromat recently, the prices have certainly gone up. A large machine costs \$6 for one load.



Those running Laundry Love would like to extend an invitation for anyone to come and help with the program. The times are 3:00-7:00 pm with shifts being from 3-5:00 or 5-7:00. Any monetary donations for laundry supplies would also be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, you may ask Georgina Snyder.

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16

~ Georgina Snyder, Deacon

UP COMING



- Apr 1** Youth Yard Sale @ 7am
- Apr 2** *Palm Sunday*
- Apr 3** Church Growth @ 1pm
- Apr 4** Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- Apr 5** Praise Team Practice @ 4:30pm, BodyLife @ 5:30pm, Bible Study Class @ 6:30pm, Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
- Apr 6** *Maundy Thursday, service @ 6pm*
- Apr 9** *Easter Sunday*
- Apr 10** *Worship Meeting @ 4pm, *Missions Meeting @ 7pm
- Apr 11** *Finance Meeting @ 7pm
- Apr 12** CE Meeting @ 9:30am
- Apr 13** *Session Reports Due*
- Apr 15** *First Press Articles Due*
- Apr 18** Session meeting @ 6pm
- Apr 30** *Compassion Sunday & 5th Sunday Potluck*
- May 1** VBS Registration opens, Church Growth @ 1pm
- May 2** Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm
- May 4** *National Day of Prayer*



Summary of Mar. 18, 2023 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 221 and 4 homebound took communion in March
- Reported donations of \$50 each to KGM, Soup Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels and Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Laundry Love and Refuge Armona
- 7 bags of food and 3 bags of clothes were donated to KGM

Buildings & Grounds

- The Church Workday has been postponed due to weather, however Mike Ginn has volunteered to work on painting the office as his time allows.
- Plans to place a cargo contained behind the 220 building to serve as additional storage are underway and will proceed as weather allows.

Finance

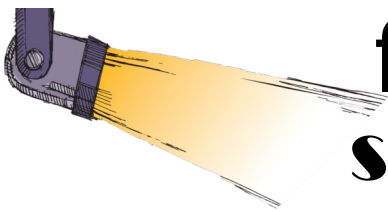
- Reported contributions since the first of the year are below budget needs
- Approved facility usage by Community Bible Study (Sept—May 2023)
- Approved \$100 to upgrade the bookkeepers computer software

Pastor's Report

- Suggested scheduling an altar call on Palm Sunday for anyone wanting anointing by the elders and deacons.
- Communion will continue to be from tables near the altar

Other Business

- Approved paying Nancy for the extra hours she had to put in setting-up and cleaning on 3/5/23
- Approved 220 building use on May 19 & 20 by New Testament Baptist Church for a Men's gathering



fpc Family Spotlight



Walls Family

Who Are We: There are 5 (soon to be 6!) of us. Riley, Valerie, Elliot, Samantha, and Owen. Baby sister will be joining us this June. The Navy has brought us to NAS Lemore three times over the last 14 years. Riley is currently serving as a Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) assigned to VFA-154. Samantha and Elliot are in pre-K at Sunshine Friends Learning Center and looking forward to starting kindergarten in the fall.

Fun Facts: Riley and I were high school sweethearts, but spent nearly 10 years during our dating and early married years in a long distance relationship while Valerie attended graduate school and Riley worked his way through the Naval Academy and flight school. In spite of all of our various military moves, all four of our children have been (will be) born in the Central Valley.

Things we Love: Our family loves to travel both domestically and internationally! Locally, we enjoy camping and the various outdoor adventures that California beaches and mountains have to offer. We have also been fortunate to have been granted tours of duty to both Atsugi, Japan and New Delhi, India. We are also adventuresome eaters and Valerie is frequently trying out new recipes and international cuisines. Our family will be leaving Hanford this July for our next adventure in Stuttgart, Germany.

How long have we been attending FPC: Valerie, Samantha, and Elliot began attending FPC regularly in 2020 while Riley was on deployment. Since then Valerie has served as a nursery volunteer, VBS rotation leader, and powerhouse teacher. The kids have enjoyed many of the children's activities.

Cameroon, Africa!!!



**Tentative Dates – Dec 1st to Dec 10th 2023
(plus 4 days travel)**

We have a wonderful chance to travel to Cameroon, Africa, with Paul Ela NSA, Missions Team co-chair and FPC Elder. Paul is from Cameroon. He has served as an Elder in the Efulan Presbyterian Church and will be leading us on this journey to visit this church along with the Yaounde Presbyterian Missions, Ebolowa Presbyterian Missions, and Kribi Erwin Good Presbyterian Missions in Cameroon. This will give us a chance to build a Covenant church relationship with the Efulan Presbyterian Church congregation as well as share faith, cultures, and experiences as missionaries. The itinerary also includes all food arrangements (provided by a private chef), accommodations, and ground transportation.

Temperatures during our journey through the south/central part of Cameroon during the first part of December is said to be hot and humid (lows in the 60's, highs in the 80's).

Cost is **estimated** at \$4,000, which covers flight, food, housing, ground transportation and Visa fees. Immunizations needed for travel & Covid restrictions will be at own expense. Deposit on this opportunity in \$400.

If you would like more information, please contact Gail Forsythe at 559-381-2388. We need to begin the registration process in July 2023 for those who want to take advantage of this great chance to become missionaries in Cameroon, Africa.

Let's Go!!!



Session Committees

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

Worship
Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday after morning worship



Church
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm



Christian
Education



Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 12th @ 9:30am



2nd Monday of each month @ 7pm



Buildings &
Grounds

Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of each month @ 11:10 am



Finance

Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7pm



Church
Growth



Committee Meeting

1st Monday of each month @ 1pm



Session



3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

Faith & Fellowship

Jolly 1's & 2's

April 14 we will be traveling to Visalia to eat at Gozen Restaurant. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 in order to arrive at the restaurant at 11:00. If you are in need of a ride, let Janet Harader know (583-8817 or 367-5658). Please let me know by April 7 if you wish to go. This has always been an enjoyable lunch. We will eat on the Teppanyaki side of the restaurant.

The following is a tentative schedule for the rest of the year. Please check your calendars and see if the dates work with your schedule. More Information will follow in the bulletin and First Press

May 28 – Temple Theatre – “The Hitching Post”

June 22 or 29 – Kingsburg City Band

July – To be determined

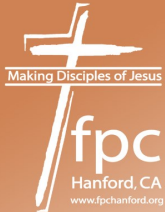
August 20 – Temple Theatre – “4 Weddings and an Elvis”

September 3 – Second Space Theatre (Fresno) – Disney’s “The Little Mermaid”

October 22 – Golden Chain Theatre (Oakhurst) – “The Play That Goes Wrong”


November 5 – Temple Theatre – “Much Ado Out West”

December – To Be Determined





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

Adult Bible Study




Thursday Nights @ 7:00pm




EXERCISE CLASS

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

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.





APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Michael Andrews
- 3 Emerie Porter
- 6 * Thom & Georgina Snyder
- 11 Jaime Christoph
- 14 Whitney Davis
- 19 Parker Andrews, Daniel Newman,
Tyler Uhlik
- 21 Amanda Ginn
- 22 Christi Paradise, *Steven & Michele
King
- 23 Madison Andrews, Joel Bialkowski
- 26 Michael Kinney, Teresa Voyles
- 30 Morgan Gately, *Martin & Darlene
Keast

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STAFF:

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|---|--|
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nancyroller8@yahoo.com</p> | <p>Interim Pastor</p> <p>Director of Youth & Children's Ministries</p> <p>Office Administrator</p> <p>Bookkeeper</p> <p>Custodian</p> |
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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.