



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

May 2023



This newsletter deadline is April 15. That means I am writing the week after Easter Sunday. If you were with us on Easter, you will recall I raised the question, "Is the resurrection of Christ, 'The Pinnacle.'" My answer was, "No!" Easter is a focal point of our faith, but it is to move us to greater heights as the faith blossoms and continues growing through history. The final pinnacle will, or maybe, (you never know what God has planned) Christ coming again and the Kingdom of God flourishing over all people.

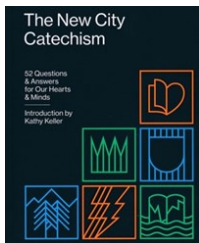
A simple way to support my thesis is May 28, 2023. That Sunday, fifty days after Easter Sunday, is Pentecost Sunday. God breathes new life into the faithful. Another pinnacle for us to enjoy, appreciate and give thanks for. The reality is, many of us follow an ebb and flow of up and down through the regular cycles of our lives. Pastors, maybe more than others, often find the up and down pattern routine. Christmas is up; right after, a big woosh and some let down. Then Lent starts taking us up; Palm Sunday and Holy Week really push us up, and Easter is another pinnacle, only to go woosh again; let me rest. In reality I need to pick myself up and start climbing the hill to Pentecost where God breathes on me again and gives me a revitalized spirit.

Almost everything can be seen in peaks and valleys. The Christian church as a whole has moved throughout history with highs and lows. Hiding and in darkness, then coming into the main light for all the world to see. Becoming the religion of the government and then being reformed into a greater and better representation of what Christ intended. War that drives people back to faith and a surge of life again. Then complacency as technology convinces us, "God is Dead." Each time there are great awakenings that move us to a new pinnacle, ever closer to what God would have us be.

So, First Presbyterian Church of Hanford, where are you in the upward climb? Are you on board for a new beginning? We may have had a valley experience, but now God is calling us to greater heights. Are you ready to be part of the new climb upward? As a prayer warrior? As a financial backer? As a teacher or leader or background worker? "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Let us join with the faithful throughout the ages and celebrate another great awakening, for Christ's sake.

In Christ,

Rev. Louis R. Paradise
Interim Pastor



What else did God create?

The Answer is **“God created all things and all his creation was very good.”**



A Note From:

Children's and Youth Director

Spring is upon us! This is such a glorious time of year!! I am savoring the cool days with green plants and beautiful flowers in bloom. I love the local strawberries for sale at the stands and the clear air. Yes, the pollen is epic and allergies are intense...nothing here on earth is perfect!

We want to thank you, our church family, for your generous donations toward our Yard Sale which was held on April 1st. It was a great success and we are so very grateful we were able to raise over \$1,600. In addition to many happy customers who found great items for super prices, we were also able to help several non-profit organizations that our church regularly supports by donating unsold items to King's Gospel Mission, Armona Refuge House and Crossroads Pregnancy Center. In addition to the great help we received from our youth and their families, we were incredibly blessed by the tremendous help of Julie and Bill Baker, Darlene and Martin Keast, Georgina Snyder, and Susan Feaver by organizing, cleaning, pricing and working at the sale.

We are entering the busy season of graduations and parties, celebrating the wonderful achievements of our students. If you have a loved one graduating that you would like us to honor, please contact me at fpchanford.youth@gmail.com or our office administrator, Annette at office@fpchanford.org.

Our family is delighted to participate with our eldest child, Bryce as he graduates from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on May 12. We will be attending two graduation ceremonies that day; one for all USC graduates and one for the graduates of Dornsife - the specific school that encompasses his major of Political Science, along with others.

This month we celebrate and honor our Mothers as well! It is a great blessing to set aside a special day to give thanks and appreciation to our mothers and all that they have given to us.

As we enter the summer months, our children and youth will have extra opportunities to gather together and enjoy fellowship, learning and fun. In addition to our Vacation Bible School (which will be EPIC!), we will be hosting weekly pool parties in June and July, and this year we are introducing a Book Club that will meet for three weeks in July. The goal is to encourage kids to read during the summer and offer a friendly place to discuss the books we are reading, have food and fun together, as well as provide a fun event where the children of our church can invite friends who might not already have a church family. We always want to offer opportunities for people to come into fellowship with our awesome church family.

May these words of scripture be an encouragement to you today:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.” Ephesians 2:10

~ Sheri Winterowd



2023 VBS MISSION PROJECT

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 tells us, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This year our Vacation Bible School mission will be raising funds for StoryRunners, which is a ministry of Cru, that has a strong focus on the Great Commission.

Eighty percent or about 21.7 billion people in the world are oral learners. That means that they learn best through oral story telling. In addition to that 42% of the world's population live in unreached areas that have no access to the written Bible. StoryRunners ministers to these people.

StoryRunners has developed *The Promise*, which is a series of 42 Bible stories from Creation to the return of Christ that they share with people in their own language. *The Promise* offers opportunities for evangelism, discipleship and church planting.

StoryRunners offers three opportunities to serve. The first is the School of Storytelling where missionaries work with local people to develop *The Promise* in their own language. Once people groups have *The Promise* available to them in their language, the next step is to plant a church in their community. Story telling training equips teams to use the spoken Bible stories to minister to oral learners here in the US or overseas.

This year our FPC's Vacation Bible School team has set a goal to raise \$600 for StoryRunners throughout the week of June 26th – June 29th. If you would like to make a one-time tax-deductible donation to StoryRunners now, you may do so here:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YS54/campaign/C-13K8Q>

If you would like to learn more about the ministry of StoryRunners, you can visit their website at www.storyrunners.org.

Deborah Pelton
VBS Coordinator



One of the ministries that the Deacons support is the Meals on Wheels program, which is provided by the King's County Commission on Aging (KCCOA). During the last three years, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this agency had to stop providing daily hot meals at the Hanford Senior Center and was restricted to delivering a week's meals to people's homes. The King's County Commission on Aging is proud to announce the Hanford Senior Center was officially re-opened on April 10 and will be offering hot meals every weekday, Monday through Friday at noon. The location of the meals is: View Road Apartments, 602 9 ¼ Ave, Hanford. They ask for you to **call the day before at (559) 583-9258 to reserve your meal**. They request a suggested donation of \$2.50 per meal for seniors and \$4.00 per meal for non-seniors; however no one will be turned away for inability to pay. At the grand re-opening party they had Bingo and Karaoke.

If you have any questions, please call the main office for the KCCOA at (559) 852-2828.

This is a great addition to our community's care for our senior citizens, providing opportunities for hot lunches, interaction and fellowship with others each week day.

Isaiah 46:4 reminds us "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

~ Carley Watson, Deacon



Sunday

May 7th

Congregational MEETING



- May 1** VBS Registration opens, Church Growth @ 1pm
- May 2** Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm
- May 3** Youth Band practice @ 4:30pm, Praise Team Practice @ 5:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- May 4** *National Day of Prayer*, *Bible Study @ 7pm
- May 7** *Communion Sunday*, Congregational meeting
- May 8** *Missions meeting @ 7pm
- May 9** *Finance meeting @ 7PM
- May 10** Youth Band practice @ 4:30pm, Praise Team Practice @ 5:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- May 11** *Bible Study @ 7pm
- May 14** *Mother's Day*, Changing Babies Campaign begins, Building & Grounds meeting @ 11:10am, Worship meeting @ 11:15am
- May 16** Session meeting @ 6pm
- May 17** Youth Band practice @ 4:30pm, Praise Team Practice @ 5:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- May 18** Presbytery meeting, *Bible Study @ 7pm
- May 19** Presbytery meeting cont.
- May 20** Serve Day
- May 24** Youth Band practice @ 4:30pm, Praise Team Practice @ 5:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- May 25** *Bible Study @ 7pm
- May 29** *Memorial Day (office closed)*
- May 31** Youth Band practice @ 4:30pm, Praise Team Practice @ 5:30pm, Choir @ 6:30pm
- Jun 4** *Communion Sunday*, Church Picnic
- Jun 5** Church Growth meeting @ 1pm
- Jun 6** Deacon's meeting @ 6:30pm
- Jun 11** *Promotion Sunday*, Building & Grounds meeting @ 11:10am, Worship meeting @ 11:15am

*via zoom



Summary of April 16, 2023 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 69 and 9 homebound took communion in April
- Reported 36 took communion on Maundy Thursday
- Reported donations of \$50 each to KGM, Soup Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels and Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Laundry Love and Refuge Armona

Christian Education

- Reported the schedule of events for VBS week

Church Growth

- Approved Church Picnic event for Jun 4th

Finance

- Shared a thank you letter from CMEA
- Approved use of 220 Building by John Singh on Monday & Tuesday afternoons for music lessons.

Missions

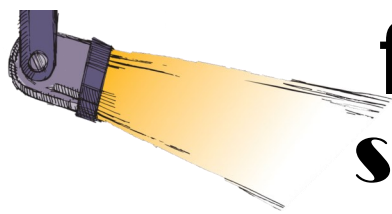
- Approved FPC as a distribution point to purchased tickets for National Day of Prayer luncheon.

Pastor Search Committee

- Presented Pastoral Candidate Dr. Timothy Brown and the Terms of Call
- Approved a Congregational Meeting for May 7th for Pastoral Candidacy
- Approved June 4th as provisional Pastoral Installation



If you have a student promoting into 3rd grade, graduating from 8th grade, high school or college, please let Sheri Winterowd know. We want to honor them on promotion Sunday, June 11th. Email your student's name, grade and school information to fpchanford.youth@gmail.com.



fpc Family Spotlight



The Pelton Family

Who Are We: There are five of us. We are Brian and Deborah, Andrew, Kaitlyn and Megan. Brian works in the computer field and Deborah is a stay-at-home mom. Andrew is 16 and a sophomore at Sierra Pacific High School. He loves music and stays busy playing percussion and clarinet in the school's marching band. In his free time, you will usually find him on his computer either composing music or programming. Kaitlyn and Megan are our 14 year old twins. They are in the 8th grade and are homeschooled. When Kaitlyn is not doing school, she is probably dancing. Kaitlyn has been dancing ballet for 10 years and it truly is her passion. If she has any free time, you will probably find her reading or playing her guitar. Megan loves all things art. She loves to paint, but also enjoys learning new things. Some of her favorite new techniques are screen printing and book binding. She spends a lot of her time with the kids at Refuge Armona creating art together.

Things We Love: We enjoy traveling together. When we get a chance, we love to travel to visit family. Some of our favorite trips have been to Colorado, Oklahoma, Hawaii, and most recently Florida. We also enjoy music, so we have been to several concerts together. We try to support one another in our interests, so we love going to band performances, ballets and art stores. The kids are usually pretty busy during the week, so we look forward to just simple dinners together or an evening where we can all sit down and watch our favorite show or a movie together.

Pelton Family cont.

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Fun Facts: Brian and Deborah met at the hospital where we both worked. We will be celebrating our 20th wedding anniversary in June.

We are completing our 10th year of homeschooling. We have homeschooled all three of our kids through their 8th grade year.

Brian and Deborah love to do home projects and you can often find Brian watching YouTube to learn how to complete a new project that Deborah has dreamed up.

How long have we been attending FPC? We started attending FPC in July 2019. All of our kids instantly felt a connection to the kids in the youth group. You can often find Megan, Kaitlyn and Deborah working in some way with the children's ministry and Andrew loves being a part of the praise team. We are thankful for the church family that God has blessed us with at First Presbyterian Church.

Exciting Missions News Event!!!

You're invited to join FPC Missions Ministry Committee welcoming one of our supporting Missions.

Ryan Corrigan from NOVO will be visiting here at First Presbyterian Church on **Friday, May 12, 2023, at 12:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall.** A salad bar will be provided.

Our church family has been supporters of Ryan and Amy for many years. He and his wife have been doing great things abroad. Ryan will be sharing updates on their ministry and life while he is here.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 10th, if you are planning on attending.





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

Jolly 1's & 2's will be attending the Temple Theatre May 28. The show is titled "The Hitching Post" by Pat Cook. The play is about Hurley Squonk's 'Hitching Post' general store where you can find almost anything you need. Run by Hurley himself, who is always behind the counter, this sort of 'everything store' not only carries a variety of items but also attracts some mighty strange folks. It is bound to keep you in stitches.

Date: May 28 **Time:** 2:00 **Cost:** \$15


If you wish to attend, please let Janet Harader know by May 14 so tickets can be reserved. (Tel. 583-8817 or 367-5658)

Keep your eyes on the June First Press for our next event, a trip to Kingsburg to hear the Kingsburg City Band. The date is not yet determined (either June 22 or 29).





**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.




Join us at the **Church Picnic!**

June 4th
at Freedom Park

MAY

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 1 Veronica Andrews, Rowena Curiel,
Charlotte Davis, David Gately
- 2 Julie Baker
- 5 *Michael & Nancy Porter
- 6 *Tim & Debra Revious
- 7 Ginnie Herelman
- 10 Dustin Cuzzort
- 13 Ron Herelman, Michael Montoya
- 14 *Jeff & Joanna Jones
- 15 *Nick Elvena & Jeanne Rich
- 20 Bryce Winterowd
- 22 Valerie Walls
- 23 Michele King, Tim Revious
- 25 Joanna Jones
- 27 Charles Feaver
- 29 *Riley & Valerie Walls
- 30 *Ron & Ginnie Herelman

P O Box 1185
Hanford, CA 93232

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STAFF:

Lou Paradise pastor@fpchanford.org	Interim Pastor
Sheri Winterowd fpchanford.youth@gmail.com	Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
Annette Rajskup office@fpchanford.org	Office Administrator
Athena Smith bookkeeper@fpchanford.org	Bookkeeper
Nancy Roller nancyroller8@yahoo.com	Custodian

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.