

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

# FIRST PRESS

Reuters reported last month that in a coordinated effort across state lines, federal authorities announced charges and arrests for fifty people involved in a \$25 million fraud operation targeting the college admission process. Wealthy parents paid bribe money to fake charities in order to ensure that their children would gain admittance to high profile schools, including Stanford, Yale, Georgetown, and the University of Southern California (USC). Among the parents arrested were actors Lori Loughlin and Felicity Huffman, who both played dedicated mothers on television.

The sting, entitled Operation Varsity Blues, revealed the immense breadth of the fraud, which involved parents, college coaches, test-doctoring proctors, corrupt administrators, and other go-betweens. Some of the students didn't know about the fraud, but many actively participated – several, for example, by posing as athletes in photos for sports they never played.

The public reaction has been swift and brutal. Numerous lawsuits have been filed on behalf of students and their families denied admission to the colleges in question, and both actors have experienced financial and professional repercussions. Huffman took down her parenting website and e-commerce store. Loughlin has since lost work on Netflix and Hallmark channel.

Ironically, both Loughlin and Huffman played characters involved in admission controversies. In season 6 of Full House, Loughlin's Aunt Becky and John Stamos' Uncle Jesse fudge a few details to get their toddlers into the right preschool. And in season 1 of Desperate Housewives, Huffman's character once donated \$15,000 to get her twins in a prestigious school – the exact amount mentioned in the actual criminal complaint.

On a personal note, this whole scandal is particularly distasteful to me because I had been a fan of Lori Loughlin who played a main character in a Hallmark series I really like. She portrayed herself, both on and off screen, as a down to earth, wholesome, family values person. As it turns out, this was/is not true. The hypocrisy is staggering!

I believe there are several take aways from this. First, may we instill in our kids and grandkids that character, integrity and love for Jesus is infinitely more important than college pedigree, especially as graduation season approaches and future educational plans are made. Second, let us address our own issues of hypocrisy before pointing fingers at others. Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:5, "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Keep the faith,

Pastor Tony





## **AWANA Around The World**



#### **History of Awana**

Awana is a global, nonprofit ministry with fully integrated evangelism and long--term discipleship programs for ages 2 to 18 that actively involves parents and church leaders. Each week, more than 4 million children and youth, 470,000 volunteers and 260 field staff take part in Awana in over 47,000 churches around the world. Offered through local churches, Awana reaches kids where they're at and walks alongside them in their faith journey.

#### How did the Awana program begin?

In 1941, the children's program at the North Side Gospel Center in Chicago laid the foundation for the principles of Awana. Lance Latham, North Side's senior pastor, collaborated with the church's youth director, Art Rorheim, to develop weekly clubs that would appeal to churched and non-churched kids. As a pioneer in children's ministry, Art created new and innovative ways to reach kids with the gospel and lead them to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ. Other churches learned about the success of the program and inquired about its availability. In 1950, Latham and Rorheim founded "Awana" as a parachurch organization.

By 1960, 900 churches had started Awana programs and by 1972, Awana began its first International club in Bolivia. Today, children and youth in 104 countries participate in Awana programs and millions of adults are alumni. Awana serves churches from 100 different denominations around the world.

#### **Europe & North Asia**

Awana Clubs are active in 25 European and North Asian countries and reach more than 39,000 children with the gospel in their heart language through more than 900 churches.

#### **Africa**

Awana Clubs are active in 24 African countries and reach more than 2,000,000 children with the gospel in their heart language through thousands of churches.

#### Middle East & North Africa

Awana clubs are active in 12 Middle Eastern and North African countries and reach more than 39,000 children in these countries with the gospel in their heart language through well over 380 churches, despite the risks of preaching the gospel in this area.

#### **Pacific Rim**

Awana clubs are active in 18 Pacific Rim countries and reach more than 300,000 children with the gospel in their heart language through over a thousand churches.

#### Latin America & Caribbean

Awana clubs are active in 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries and reach more than 900,000 children with the gospel in their heart language through over two thousand churches.

Awana continually expands to make disciples by pursuing new locations and partnerships with the goal of reaching 10 million kids with the gospel by 2020!



**Reminder!** Deacons hope you can bring some non-perishable food on **May 5** to feed those in our community who are in need.





## KINGS GOSPEL MISSION

**KINGS GOSPEL MISSION (KGM)** ~ You have heard about KGM and the programs that they offer: the Overnight Shelter, the Sober Living Room & Board Facilities and the New Song Academy, but the Deacons have recently learned something new. It's what goes on behind the scenes.

There is a nightly meal provided for the approximately 60 individuals. It is prepared fresh daily by staff. Who provides the food for these meals? **Donations!** In the way of either canned goods, dry goods, etc. or financial giving.

We, the Deacons, have made the decision to distribute the food donations brought on the first Sunday of each month to KGM. We will continue to donate to Salvation Army. The donations will be distributed by alternate months between the two ministries.

We thank you for your continued giving to those in need. May God continue to bless you for being part of this ministry.







## First Presbyterian T-Shirts

We still have T-shirts with the FPC logo available for purchase.

The shirts are \$12 each and available in two colors, maroon and indigo blue.  $XXL\ sizes\ too!$ 

Contact Jaime Christoph to get yours. (850) 776-5234 jaime.christoph@gmail.com





2019 Stewardship Campaign – God gives richly that we may give - As we end our 2019 Pledge/Commitment Drive, we thank all those who have pledged. We have reached \$193,621 (67.94%) of our pledge goal of \$285,000. Last year, we reached \$222,862 (78.20%) of our pledge goal of \$285,000. We appreciate all those that are continuing to contribute to the Lord's work. God is working in us and among us, doing great things here at First Presbyterian Church of Hanford! Thank you, Lord, for the abundant blessings in our lives. Open our hearts to recognize these blessings that surround us and inspire us to share your gratitude and joy with others.



First Presbyterian Church will be partnering with Koinonia Church, First Baptist Church, Kings United Way and volunteers to help with service projects all around Kings County on:

## May 4th @ 8am-1pm

We invite you to join us for this special day of service to make a difference in our community. Watch our church bulletin and website for more information.



## 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 8:30am—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.



# <u>Church</u> <u>Campout</u>

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## October 18-20, 2019

## Morro Bay State Park

Cost \$85/family

<u>Includes</u>: a campsite to be shared with another family, s'mores Friday & Saturday night, breakfast & dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday

Non-refundable deposit of \$15 due when signing up. NEED to have sign-ups soon to confirm sites together. Optional Friday dinner for \$15/family or \$5/person.

Questions and RSVP to Kevin & Sheryl McCarty 559-707-7357

Don't want to camp?... Get a hotel room on your own and join us during the day for activities including the meals at \$30/family and \$15/person



## Youth Event:

Adventure Park May 18th

more info to come



AWANA TruthSeekers will complete our 2nd year in May. We have been studying the life of Christ. One young

girl accepted Jesus as her Savior in March. Two boys visited in April for "Eggstravaganza" Games. Everyone has a good time! Awards will be given out May 9th. We know everyone will enjoy their summer break. We hope to see them all July 15th-19th for Day Camp. Club will begin again in August.

# Congratulations !!! Tess Elizabeth Hernandez

Graduating from Fresno State

Masters degree—Chemistry



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Many opportunities for you to join with others

## Women's Society (Agape)

Agape will meet May 9th at 12:00pm at Jean Knudson's home. If we change the location, we will let you know. It will be a salad luncheon. We will have sign-ups for next years programs, hostesses and devotionals. Don't hesitate to get involved, or give suggestions for programs.



## **Bring a Friend Sunday**

May 19th

Invite a family member, neighbor, coworker, and/or friend to worship. We have an awesome community of faith! This is a simple, easy way to introduce them to us. All you have to do is ask.

#### Here are some suggestions concerning how to prepare:

- Pray for your guest Who is it you know that needs Jesus? Begin praying for him or her immediately.
- Speak up with a friendly spirit Be bold and gracious in looking for opportunities to speak concerning faith
- Team up with others You and another church member can partner together concerning a shared friend you want to invite to church.
- Add a caring expression of love Offer them a cup of coffee or danish before church. Lunch after church. A gift such as a book or Bible. A ride to church. A follow-up thank you card.
- Cultivate compassionate habits toward them Continue to nurture a friendship with your friend, even/especially if they initially decline your invitation.

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

We need to change the date for our Gozen Restaurant event. We had planned on May 9th, but this conflicts with Agape, so we are planning on moving our Gozen Restaurant event to May 23rd. We will leave the church parking lot by 10:30am.

Our June event is on the 9th at 2pm. We are going to the Temple Theater to see "Over the River and Through the Woods". We plan to eat at Asia Garden after church and then walkover to the theater at 1:30pm. The cost is \$10 for seniors. Please reserve your spot with your caller or with Janet (583-8817) no later than May 28th. These need to be firm reservations, as they go on a credit card.





May 3 Rosemary Clark 1980 Rio Hondo Way

Jun 7 Sue Hensel 860 E. Grangeville #59

Jul 5 Sally Gordon 1204 Van Ct

Aug 3 Carol Speer 1216 Oxford Way

**Sep 6** Dorothy Shaw 265 Sycamore May 12<sup>th</sup> will be the observation of Mother's Day through out our country. Mom's are very important and this is a seemingly small tribute to recognize all they do for us. Pictures are fun and great gifts. First Pres. would like to offer this opportunity to give a free picture for/of Mom.

Rajskup Phtography will be here taking pictures in the fellowship hall on May 12<sup>th</sup> between services. A nice backdrop will be set up. Anyone can have their picture taken, but we are mainly providing this opportunity for pictures of Moms, or for Moms. Invite your Mom to attend and take a picture with her, or Moms invite your family, Navy wives take pictures to send to those deployed, all ideas are welcome.

You will be able to preview your picture that morning and pick up your FREE gift photo after second service. If you wish, you may also place an order for prints beyond the "free gift photo". Orders will need to be paid for that day and will be available for pick-up at First Presbyterian church in about 3weeks.

The pictures might make a great Father's Day gift too.

#### Cost for Additional Prints:

4x6	\$2.00	Refrigerator Magnet	\$10.00
5x7	\$5.00	Key Tag	\$14.00
8x10	\$8.00	Mouse Pad	\$16.00
8 wallets	\$8.00	11oz Ceramic Mug	\$15.00
		15oz Ceramic Mug	\$20.00



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

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:00am-10:30am



"Of course there's nothing to the theory of evolution. If there were, mothers would have more than two hands by now."

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

STAFF:

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Director of Youth &
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Annette Rajskup
Gail Forsythe
Nancy Roller

Child Care Coordinator
Office Manager
Bookkeeper
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

## May Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 1 Rowena Curiel
- 2 Julie Baker, Jeff Crass
- 3 Tess Hernandez.
- 4 \*Rich & Melanie Karwowski
- 5 Bryce Bowers
- 6 \*Tim & Debra Revious
- 7 Ginnie Herleman
- 10 Dustin Cuzzort
- 12 Caroline Eshelman
- 13 Ron Herleman
- 14 \*Jeff & Joanna Jones

- 15 Michael Rodriguez, \*Nick Elvena & Virginia Rich
- 20 Bryce Winterowd
- 23 Michele King
- 24 \*Brandon & Kelly Wigton
- 25 Joanna Jones, Tim Revious, \*Paul & Abigail Dixon
- 26 Betsy Essepian, Kevin McCarty
- 27 Charles Feaver
- 29 Karen Brautigam
- 30 \*Ron & Ginnie Herleman

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