

First Presbyterian Church of Hanford

Worship Center: 340 N. Irwin St.

Church Office: 415 N. Redington St.

Hanford, CA 93230 (559) 582-0283

Website: www.fpchanford.org

Email: office@fpchanford.org

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

FIRST PRESS

December 2021

There is nothing else like it in all the world! The birth narrative of Jesus Christ stands alone in its uniqueness and impact upon planet earth. Yes, there are other stories of religious leaders with exceptional birth and childhood narratives, but none compare to Jesus Christ and the celebration our world puts on to honor his birth and glory.

I have often shared how depressed I can get during the holiday season. So often the secular nature of the “holy-days” overshadows the power and magnificence that is God born unto mankind. It depresses me to see people wander through the holidays and miss the gift of Jesus Christ under the evergreen, ever life-giving, tree. My heart aches to see the lost in the midst of what is to be a truly blessed celebration. Can the children be saved in such a society? Are the adults safe during the journey?

Protection, of course, is only a prayer away. I find prayer my solace during the holidays more than at any other time of year.

The prayer of Adoration; when I turn and recognize just how great and glorious God really is. All the lights, the festive decorations, each one can be a reminder that God is amazingly glorious, amazingly bright and brilliant, a wonderful celebration of joy and happiness.

The prayer of Confession; when I realize that I do not get to control or manage the “holy-days.” I recognize that God needs to be God and I must be a blessed and forgiven servant, a friend of Christ my Lord. My soul is made clean again, my depressed mood leaves and I am restored to do what I am called to do, encourage others in the faith, give my witness to the Good News in my life and let God be God.

My prayers of Thanksgiving are always full in the Christmas season. Seeing old friends and family. Worshipping with believers who proclaim the holy birth. Recognizing the abundance of resources under my direction and the way I may bless others as God has blessed me. Thanksgiving for the birth of Christ who loves me, redeemed me, and set me free to serve.

Then there are all those others to pray for. Supplication for some I know, others I just see in the mall, or in church because it’s Christmas. I am kept busy praying for all the others, hoping God will touch their lives in the chaos and business of the, “season.”

During the holidays it is good for me to keep the book of ACTS close at hand. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication keep me in balance. How about you? This December I’ll be praying for you and your journey with Christ, the King. Have a joyous and blessed Christmas season.

In Christ,
Rev. Louis R. Paradise



Church DEACONS

One of the Deacon's ministries is to collect food from the congregation to give to local food banks. With higher food prices and ongoing hardships, there is a greater need than ever to help feed families this holiday season. If you are like me, you want to give nonperishable items that are most needed and useful but may not be sure what they really are. I was recently given a helpful list of suggestions compiled by a person who volunteered at a food bank and was able to see first-hand what items are needed and appreciated. It was a helpful eye opener for me, and I wanted to share them with you.

- Boxed milk is a treasure as it's needed for cereal and making Mac & Cheese.
- Try to buy veggies and soup with a pop tab open as many do not have a can opener...or add a can opener!
- Oil is a luxury and needed for making Rice a Roni and other items.
- Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
- Tea bags and coffee makes them feel like you care.
- Sugar and flour are treats.
- Crackers make a good substitute for bread.
- Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
- Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
- Dishwashing detergent is always appreciated.
- Feminine hygiene products are a luxury.
- Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing

Hopefully this gives you some insight on items that are needed and used as you open your hearts and donate this holiday season to make it a little brighter for those in need. It did for me! Thank you for donating.

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



Parent's Morning Out

and

Kid's Play Day!



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
8:30-12:30



FACE PAINTING
TIE-DYE
COOKIE DECORATING
AND MORE!

COST: FREE
AGES: 3 YEARS OLD - 5TH GRADE

CONTACT KATIE SIPPEL TO REGISTER AT
FPCHANFORD.YOUTH@GMAIL.COM OR
(559) 572-6335



Jolly 1's & 2's will hold their Christmas party on Saturday, December 11 from 2-4. Bring a snack or dessert to share.



Since many of you live in facilities where ornaments are not needed, we will be sharing gifts instead (under \$10). If you wish to participate in a gift exchange, bring one (wrapped or in a gift bag) to share. Otherwise, just come and have a good time with us as we celebrate the Christmas season.

December 19 at 4:00 Kings Symphony is presenting "Christmas at the Fox". Senior tickets are \$10 and adult tickets are \$15. No reservations are needed. This concert has always been a great way to celebrate the Christmas season. You won't be disappointed. Those wanting to eat together can join us afterward at Panera.

Anyone needing a ride to any of our events, please let Janet Harader know so those arrangements can be made.

~ Janet Harader



The Gift That Will Not Be Returned! By Sue Kinney

On Sunday November 7th, First Presbyterian Church had its Annual Operation Christmas Child Packing Party after worship service. A year of planning and coordination by the Mission Ministry Team all coming to a close as congregation members came together to fill boxes with school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, toys and stuffed animals. Tables were stocked to the brim with items to ensure that each box being packed would be full of surprises and gifts for the children across the world to receive. Each box included a hand written note telling the recipient child that God loves them!

On Sunday, November 21st, all the shoeboxes were dedicated and presented before the Lord during worship service before being transported to the pickup location in Hanford. From there they were transported to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Fullerton. Once at the Processing Center, hundreds of volunteers came together to inspect and prepare the boxes for the final shipment to children across the world! Mission Ministry Team members, Dottie and Jeff Crass, Regional Coordinators for OCC, and Janet Harader, once again worked at the Processing Center as an outreach mission experience.

Upon final processing at the Center, the shoeboxes leave for shipment to various locations across the world where Samaritan's Purse partners with a volunteer National Leadership Team that consists of year-round volunteers from various church denominations and equips their ministry partners, pastors and church leaders, to be the volunteer representatives. The local ministry partners distribute the shoeboxes to children in their communities – to many children who may never have received a gift before! After receiving shoebox gifts, the children are invited to enroll in "The Greatest Journey", a discipleship program that introduces the children to Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and encourages them and their families to grow as faithful followers.

Your Mission Ministry Team is very grateful for the support of our congregation in making this year's Operation Christmas Child successful once again! May God Richly Bless You!

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Mathew 28:1





Summary of Nov. 16, 2021 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 70 took Communion in Nov.
- Donations of \$100 each were given to the Episcopal Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army & Kings Gospel Mission
- Fran Bettencourt resigned for health reasons
- Tables for Santa's Angels will be set up for Sundays

Pastor's Report

- Staff and Elder Christmas Party 12/17 @ 5pm
- Worship Plans (advent—Jan 2) presented

Buildings & Grounds

- Trees were trimmed—should last 5-10 years
- KGM "work in kind" twice a month, going well

CE

- Parents' Morning out 12/9
- Children's Choir 12/12
- Adult Ministry will be revisited after the first of the year

Church Growth

- Right Now Media "relaunch" and new content available to everyone

Finance

- 2022 budgets presented to committees

Worship

- Poinsettia sales went well

Personnel

- Gwendolyn Smith hired as new bookkeeper

Nominating Committee

- Elders: Annette Rajskup, Gail Forsythe, Steve Essepian
- Deacons: Carley Watson, Janet Harader, Laurie Essepian
- Members at Large: Annie Wrigley, Joanna Jones, Rowena Curiel

Pastor Search Committee

- Reported they continue to interview candidates and remind people to pray for the committee

UP COMING



- Dec 1** Church Growth meeting @ 10am,
Dec 4 Parent's Morning out 8:30am-noon, Youth lunch & ornament exchange
Dec 5 *Second Sunday of Advent*
Dec 6 Worship meeting @ 6pm
Dec 7 Deacons meeting @ 6:30pm
Dec 9 Pizza & Caroling @ 5:30pm
Dec 12 *Third Sunday of Advent*, Congregational Meeting, Jolly 1's & 2's Christmas Party @ 2pm, NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm
Dec 14 Missions meeting @ 5pm, Buildings & Grounds meeting @ 7pm, Finance meeting @ 7pm
Dec 17 Elder & Staff Christmas Party @ 5pm
Dec 19 *Fourth Sunday of Advent & Special music, Kings Symphony* "Christmas at the Fox" @ 4pm
Dec 21 Session meeting @ 6pm
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service @ 6:00pm (*office closed*)
Dec 25 *Christmas Day*
Dec 26 *College Recognition Sunday*, NSSG @ 6:30pm, Youth Girls @ 6:30pm
Dec 31 *New Year's Eve (office closed)*

* Zoom Meeting

Join us Sunday

December 26th

as we honor the

COLLEGE STUDENTS

from our congregation



ELIZABETH FARRAR

CHRIS RAJSKUP

BRYCE WINTEROWD



Remember
Release
Reimagine
Restore

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

OUR MONEY STORY - During this season we are reminded that our giving to the Lord's work demonstrates that we recognize God's sovereignty and that we put our needs second out of obedience to Him. The power of your gift of kindness is that you give others hope.

Please consider the following in determining your faith commitment for 2022: Begin with prayer. If you are already tithing, consider if God is calling you to give joyfully beyond that level; EPC Askings are \$38 per member; If last year's giving is not a tithe, consider a budget plan to move to a tithe over time; perhaps an increase of just 2% of your income. Traveling the road of discipline and obedience in this area is a very important step in maturing in our faith.

Our Faith Commitments received as of November 28th total \$86,496.00. This is 30% of the faith commitments we need to meet our budget next year. Please turn in your Faith Commitment Form as soon as possible so your Session Elders can get an idea how to plan their ministries next year. Feel free to drop your form in the offering plate, email it to gail@fpchanford.org, or mail it to the First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 1185, Hanford, CA 93232.

You can help FPC prosper for God's glory by participating in what God is doing in our church, community and world- wide outreach.

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



Dear Church Family,
 Shirley Voyles wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and support. It has been a challenging 6 months, but she is feeling better and wishes to express her appreciation for all the prayers.

**Congregational Meeting Dec. 12th
 for the election of the class of 2024**



Congregational

Meeting

Elders:

Steve Essepian
 Gail Forsythe
 Annette Rajskup

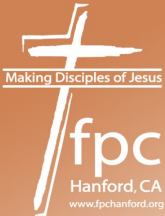
Deacons:

Laurie Essepian
 Janet Harader
 Carley Watson

Members at Large:

Rowena Curiel
 Joanna Jones
 Annie Wrigley

Faith & Fellowship



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

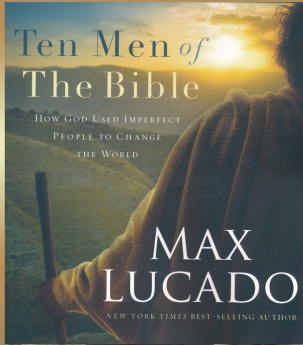
Jr & Sr High Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY

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

Adult Bible Study



**Thursday Nights
@ 6:30pm**



9—11am

Ladies



First Friday Coffee and Prayer

Children's Ministry Update

3-4 yr PreK Class

Check in your child at the Children's Ministry door when you arrive.

Two drop off options

Drop off at 10am, enjoy the service while your child plays until all our friends arrive.

Dismiss your PreK child with **POWERHOUSE**. A volunteer will guide the group to the PreK room for their own curriculum!

Don't forget!

- Check in **BEFORE** 10am/drop off

Pray & Play

- The Pray & Play curriculum includes a Bible story and craft!



Session Committees

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom **Worship**
Committee Meeting


2nd Sunday after morning worship

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

Church
DEACONS

1st Tuesday of each month
@ 6:30pm

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Christian
Education
Committee Meeting

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California

 zoom **MISSIONS**
Ministry

2nd Tuesday each month @ 5:00pm

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 zoom **Buildings & Grounds**
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00pm

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Hanford, California

 zoom **Finance**
Committee Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month
@ 7:00 pm


fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Church
Growth
Committee Meeting

1st Tuesday of each month @ 10:00am

fpc⁺ Making Disciples of Jesus
Hanford, California



Session

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 6:00pm

DECEMBER

Birthdays & *Anniversaries

- 1 David Wrigley Jr., Louise Collins
- 3 Janice Mills
- 4 Steve Essepian, Shirley Ramm. *Chuck & Mary Kinney
- 6 Elizabeth Garcia
- 8 Lance Larson
- 9 Owen Montoya
- 10 Stone Torrez
- 11 Taylor Rives
- 12 Laurie Essepian, Stacey Jones
- 13 Paul Dixon
- 14 *Ken & Laurie Tazelaar
- 15 Corey Loewen
- 17 *Steve & Marjorie Froberg, *Lou & Christi Paradise
- 18 Adelyn King
- 20 Ethan LeFils
- 21 Samuel Wrigley
- 22 Greg Connelly, Robert Torrez
- 26 Georgina Snyder
- 27 *Duane & Heidi Koppenhaver
- 29 Vicki Torrez, *Joel & Amy Bialkowski
- 31 *David & Brittany Gately



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

Place
Stamp
Here

Label Here

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STAFF:

Lou Paradise pastor@fpchanford.org	Interim Pastor
Katie Sippel fpchanford.youth@gmail.com	Director of Youth & Children's Ministries
Annette Rajskup office@fpchanford.org	Office Administrator
Gwen Smith & Gail Forsythe 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