

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 2024



"Dealing with Disappointment"

Pastor Tim Brown

"We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

We all face disappointments in life. Perhaps your children break your heart by behaving in specific ways. Your spouse promises to love, honor, and cherish you 'til death do you part, but some days, your spouse loves a job, a hobby, or friends more than you. You think you have found the perfect church only to discover sometime later that there's no such thing as a perfect church and churches are led by flawed people. Jobs, finances, health, people, family, and relationships all have the power to disappoint us.

As disciples of Jesus, how should we deal with disappointment?

1. Shed some tears. It is ok to cry. In the 70s, a band called 10cc did a song entitled "I'm Not in Love." An eerie refrain at the end says, "Big boys don't cry. Big boys don't cry." That is not true.

God created us with emotions. To deny them is to deny our humanity. Jesus wept over the city that rejected Him. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" (Matt. 23:37).

Jesus experienced many of the same emotions we experience. Isaiah describes Him not as a distant God far removed from our pain but as a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). We can trust Him with our hurt.

2. Assess your expectations. I often discover I feel disappointed because I've set unrealistic expectations. I have often made a desire an expectation and set myself up for disappointment.

God's Word and His Spirit can help us evaluate whether our hopes are unrealistic or naïve. Invite Him to search your heart. Accept what He reveals. Then, ask Him to give you the desires He wants you to have.

3. Be honest with God about your disappointments. During some of the darkest times of my life, when I was disappointed with myself, others, or God, I found it hard to pray. Instead of running toward God, I ran away from Him.

When I bring my disappointments to God, I position myself to receive His comfort. In Psalm 42, he beautifully demonstrated how we can speak truth to our soul, even from the depths of our discouragement. Verse 5 says, "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

4. *Find comfort in God's promises.* Here are some promises to remember. He will never leave us or forsake us (Deut. 31:6). He will be our advocate (1 John 2:1), our refuge (2 Sam. 22:3), and our strong tower (Prov. 18:10).

He will comfort and quiet us (Isaiah 51:12), surround us with His love (Psalm 33:22), and, one day, He will wipe all the tears from our eyes (Rev. 21:4).

5. *Surrender your desires and trust Him.* For me, this sounds something like this: "Lord, you know what I hoped would happen in this situation/relationship. As best I can tell, my desires honored you. But I don't know everything you know. I acknowledge that your ways are higher than my ways, and your thoughts higher than my thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). I also know you use the most unlikely means to accomplish the most beautiful ends. Help me trust you, for my good and your glory."

One day, Jesus will triumph over death, hell, and the grave. He will wipe the disappointed tears from our faces one last time and show us how "our momentary light affliction [produced] for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17).

Until then, disappointment will be part of our human experience. When we encounter it, it's okay to weep. With God's help, we can prayerfully examine our expectations, take comfort in God's promises, bring our desires to Him, and surrender to His will.

In our own strength, this is impossible, but with God's help we can do it. Each new disappointment brings another opportunity to trust Him. When we do, He comforts our hearts and grows our faith.

Remember the words of Jesus..."I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).



Church DEACONS

The Deacons are very active in spreading the Gospel through serving the needs of our church and community. We are blessed by these opportunities to serve. Did you know that the Deacon Committee donates a portion of the funds they receive each month to several charitable organizations in our community, mainly faith-based non-profit organizations? Currently, our donations have helped the Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, Kings Gospel Mission, Laundry Love, Meals on Wheels for Seniors, & Refuge Armona. Funds are also used to help in the various Deacon ministries such as Reception/Memorials, Baby Spoons, Cards & Plants, & Military Ministry.

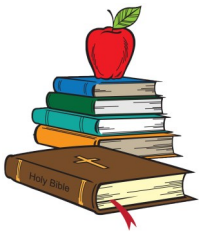
We are so thankful for your generosity to join us in serving our church & community. There are several ways to give monetarily to the Deacons: Designate a specific amount to the Deacons when giving to the church, either monthly or however often you would like (noting this on the description of the donation); and the first Sunday of the month any loose offering (coins or paper bills) in the offering plate which has no designation is given to the Deacons. Thank you for helping us help those in need.

"And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God."

Hebrews 13:16 NLT

~Julie Baker





A Note From:

Children's and Youth Director
Sheri Winterowd

Ahhhh, Spring. I have been enjoying the beautiful sunny but still cool weather in March, as well as watching our daughter run track. This is a new sport for our family and we are so proud of her for trying a new thing even as a senior in high school. There was a learning curve for her and for us! Our first track meet, we only knew the events Brooke was running, but we did not have a schedule nor any idea about which race was being run, other than the announcer telling us over the loudspeaker. It is hard to discern which of the eight runners sprinting down the track are our daughter when there are 7 heats of the same race. Fast forward a few track meets and we have now discovered the schedule of each and every race, how many heats there are, which is the varsity and the frosh/soph, etc. It is so much nicer to know what is coming and be able to watch at the finish line.

Upon reflection, I realized that our experience with understanding track meets can be a metaphor for the Christian life. When we first come to know Christ, we listen to his voice yet we are a little confused how to proceed. As we grow in our faith, through regularly participating in worship services, reading and studying the Bible, and serving others, we can understand more of who Jesus is and what God wants for us. Also, we know that our lives here on earth are not the end! We know how things will play out: God wins over evil and as believers in Christ, we will spend eternity in heaven with God who will one day return and put things right.

I love the first questions of the catechism that remind us: What is our only hope in life and death? That we are not our own but belong to God. How and why did God create us? God created us male and female in his own image to glorify him. How can we glorify God? By loving him and by obeying his commands and law. May we be inspired to faithfully attend and participate in worship, read and study God's Word and serve others! I hope you will continue learning and studying the New City Catechism (which is a great tool for learning and understanding scripture)! Remember to download the free app and learn the questions and answers to music as well!

Thank you for your donations toward our Cider for Carlla fundraiser on March 10. We were able to raise four months of her support through Compassion International! Yahoo!

Summer Camp at Calvin Crest is coming up! It is time to complete scholarship applications for any students who would like to attend camp. It is also time for our Tri Tip Lunch and Bake Sale Fundraiser on Sunday, April 7! This is our big fundraiser to help offset the cost of camp.

First Communion Class is coming up this month! Please RSVP to Sheri at 559-281-4163 if your child would like to attend the class!

Upcoming Events:

- **April 7** Tri Tip Fundraiser & Bake sale
- **April 7,14, 21** First Communion Class at 9 am for students 2nd grade and older

fpc Making Disciples of Jesus
 Hartford, Connecticut

April 7th
 Tickets **\$15**
 per person
 order before April 1st

Tri-Tip,
 Portuguese beans,
 salad & roll

Tri-Tip Dinner
 Fundraiser

Dine-in or Takeout
 11:15 - 2:00

Bake sale goodies for purchase

Profits support Youth camp scholarships



First Communion Class

UP COMING



- Apr 1** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm, Deacons mtg @ 2pm
- Apr 2** Staff mtg @ 10am
- Apr 7** *Communion Sunday*, Youth Communion Class @ 9am, Youth Tri-Tip Fundraiser
- Apr 8** Finance mtg @ 11am, *Missions mtg @ 7pm
- Apr 9** Staff mtg @ 10am
- Apr 11** *Session Reports Due*, C.E. mtg @ 1pm
- Apr 14** Youth Communion Class @ 9am, Worship mtg @ 11:15am, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Apr 15** *1st Press Articles Due*
- Apr 16** Staff mtg @ 10am, Session meeting @ 6:30pm
- Apr 21** Youth Communion Class @ 9am
- Apr 23** Staff mtg @ 10am
- Apr 28** *Compassion Sunday*, Youth Group @ 5pm
- Apr 30** Staff mtg @ 10am
- May 2** *National Day of Prayer*
- May 5** *Communion Sunday*
- May 6** Church Growth mtg @ 1pm, Deacon mtg @ 2pm
- May 7** Staff mtg @ 10am
- May 9** C.E. mtg @ 1pm
- May 12** *Mother's Day*, Worship mtg @ 11:15am
- May 13** Finance mtg @ 11am, *Missions mtg @ 7pm

* via Zoom



Summary of Mar. 19, 2024 Session Meeting

Deacons

- Reported 78 and 4 homebound took communion in Feb.
- \$125 each to Soup Kitchen, Crossroads Pregnancy Center and Refuge Armona

Clerk's Report

- Reported Active Members as of Mar. 1, 2024 total—90

Pastor's Report

- Discussed possible youth summer internship program
- Led training and questions on chapters 1 & 2 of the EPC Leadership Training Guide
- Approved activating alternate Elder Sue Kinney to serve

Building & Grounds

- Reported they are prioritizing a list of campus projects

Church Growth

- Approved Fall Festival Event for Oct. 27th
- Approved Pizza and Caroling for Dec. 12th
- Approved Hymn Sing for Feb. 22, 2025

Finance

- Approved budgeting for advertisement costs on "Indeed" for the Bookkeeper position beginning April 1st not to exceed \$750.

Missions

- Approved \$350 from they discretionary budget to fund making "Blessing Bags" for the homeless

Other Business

- Approved update to the Bookkeeper Job description
- Approved building use by Master Men's group on May 17 & 18

The New City Catechism

52 Questions
& Answers
for Our Hearts
& Minds

Introduction by
Kathy Keller



What is sin?

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.





fpc Family Spotlight



Meet the Bakers

The distance from Columbus, Ohio, to the Bay Area, California, is approximately 2,500 miles. But in God's sovereignty and providence, He has a way of closing distances so His plans can be realized. Or, as in the words of the country band Rascal Flatts, "God blessed the broken road that led me straight to you." That's certainly part of the story for Bill and Julie Baker.

Bill grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and upon graduating from high school, he attended Miami University of Ohio and graduated with a BS in Marketing and Economics. Bill's career took him to various places. Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and Texas are a few places he has lived and worked. He even returned to his hometown to complete an MBA at Ohio State University.

Julie was born and lived in Oklahoma before her family made their way west when she was ten years old. She resided in Merced, attended Merced Junior College, and eventually graduated from Santa Clara University with a BS in Accounting.

Julie and Bill met during Julie's final year at Merced Junior College when mutual friends introduced them at a wedding in the Bay Area. It was then that their relationship began to blossom. Bill was living in Texas at the time, and they maintained contact through phone calls and writing letters. When a change of jobs was apparent for Bill, he decided to move to California to be with Julie.

Julie had a stellar career as a CPA and worked for a top CPA firm in the Bay Area. She also worked as a Chief Financial Officer for a non-profit in Santa Clara. Bill and Julie were married on July 3, 1989, on a mountaintop in Colorado with wildflowers blanketing the background.

Julie took an early retirement after their daughter Haley was born in 1994. Bill returned to school at San Jose State University and received a Master's in Administration, and his career with school systems began. He has had tenures in various school districts but finally retired after serving as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Parlier Unified.

Haley graduated from Hanford West, attended Biola University, and was an All-American Swimmer there. Upon graduation, she moved back east to work. She currently works and resides in Columbus, Ohio.

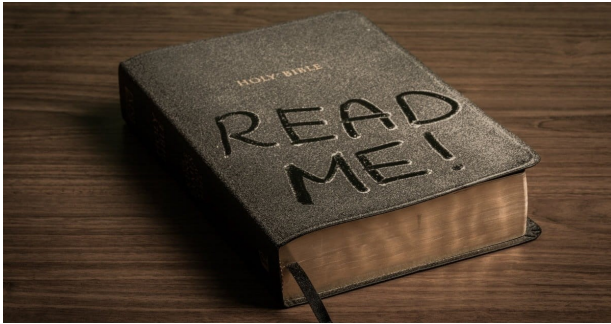
Julie and Bill have been active in FPC since moving to Hanford twenty years ago, and both have held various leadership positions. Both are Elders in our church, and Bill serves on Session as the Chair of Finance. Julie serves as the chair of our Deacons and is actively involved in serving the elderly in our church and community. They both assist FPC in finance.

You can probably catch Bill playing golf at Kings Country Club during his free time. He is also an avid Ohio State sports fan. Julie spends most of her free time volunteering at FPC, but she also enjoys gardening and cooking. Julie was also an accomplished snow skier and will occasionally hit the slopes.

So, if you are ever in church and see a tall gentleman wearing a Scarlett and Grey shirt with an "O" on it, you can safely assume that's Bill. And the gracious woman with him, running around caring for and serving others, is Julie. FPC is blessed to have the Bakers as a part of our church family.



April Reading Plan



Daily Bible Reading Program

Chronological Plan

1-Year Plan. These readings are compiled according to recent historical research, taking into account the order in which the recorded events actually occurred. This is a fantastic plan to follow if you wish to add historical context to your reading of the Bible. If the schedule provided is followed, the entire Bible will be read in one calendar year.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Judges 8-9 | 18. 109. 1 Samuel 28-31;
Psalm 18 |
| 2. Judges 10-12 | 19. Psalms 121, 123-
125, 128-130 |
| 3. Judges 13-15 | 20. 2 Samuel 1-4 |
| 4. Judges 16-18 | 21. Psalms 6, 8-10, 14,
16, 19, 21 |
| 5. Judges 19-21 | 22. 113. 1 Chronicles 1-2 |
| 6. Ruth | 23. 114. Psalms 43-45,
49, 84-85, 87 |
| 7. 98. 1 Samuel 1-3 | 24. 115. 1 Chronicles 3-5 |
| 8. 99. 1 Samuel 4-8 | 25. 116. Psalms 73, 77-
78 |
| 9. 100. 1 Samuel 9-12 | 26. 117. 1 Chronicles 6 |
| 10. 101. 1 Samuel 13-14 | 27. 118. Psalms 81, 88,
92-93 |
| 11. 102. 1 Samuel 15-17 | 28. 119. 1 Chronicles 7-
10 |
| 12. 103. 1 Samuel 18-20;
Psalms 11, 59 | 29. Psalms 102-104 |
| 13. 104. 1 Samuel 21-24 | 30. 2 Samuel 5; 1 Chron-
icles 11-12 |
| 14. Psalms 7, 27, 31, 34,
52 | |
| 15. Psalms 56, 120, 140-
142 | |
| 16. 107. 1 Samuel 25-27 | |
| 17. 108. Psalms 17, 35,
54, 63 | |

Bookkeeper Job



First Presbyterian Church is now accepting applications for a bookkeeper.

TITLE: Church Bookkeeper

TERMS: Part-time, up to 16 hours per week, \$17.63, flexible schedule with approval by Pastor & Personnel Committee.

EXPERIENCE: Background in financial affairs – budgets, payroll, spreadsheets, financial computer software, QuickBooks experience preferred. Nonprofit experience desired.

PURPOSE: To maintain accurate records of all church finances and be responsible for proper handling of all receipts of monies to the church.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Accountable to the Pastor, as head of staff, and under the guidance of the Trustees and the Finance Chair. The Bookkeeper also responds to requests from members of the congregation for contribution accounting and to others for designated giving accounting.

To apply: Send resume to

fpcHanfordApply@gmail.com

See a full job description on our website

www.fpchanford.org

Faith & Fellowship



Please mark the following dates on your calendars for upcoming Jolly 1's & 2's events. The dates may be changed if there are too

many conflicts in schedules with the dates I have chosen.

We had many conflicts with the date chosen to go to Gozen Restaurant in January. I have had requests to go again. Thursday, April 18 we will leave the church parking lot at 11:15 for the restaurant in Visalia. Please let me know by April 10 if you wish to go. Transportation will be provided. The food at Gozen is prepared in front of you and is seasoned to perfection. Anyone in the church is invited to join us for lunch. Cost varies by which meat item you choose from the menu.

May 5 we will be going to Fresno for the play "On Golden Pond" performed at Second Space Theatre. This play is about "the turbulent relationship between father and daughter. The generation gap between young and old, and a couple navigating the twilight years of a long marriage, all combine in a play that effortlessly illustrates the hilarious, heartbreaking, human moments of which life is made." We will leave the church parking lot by 12:30. You will need to either eat beforehand or on the way to the play as there is no food available at the theatre. Please let Janet Harader know (583-8817 or 367-5658) if you wish to attend so I can reserve tickets and arrange transportation. The play starts at 2:00 and seating is available at 1:30. Cost of the tickets is \$22.00 for seniors and \$25 for people under the age of 62.

June 2 is the Kings Symphony Concert in the Park. The concert begins at 7:00. I will be out of town, so you are on your own to get to the park to enjoy the music. Some of our church members play in the symphony.

This concert is free, but they will have a place to give donations to defray the costs of the performance.

Other proposed events are:

June 13 – Kingsburg City Band. More information will be forthcoming when it is available.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

June 24th-28th!!!

Every day is an adventure at Breaker Rock Beach! Catch a glimpse of an orca leaping through the surf or watch happy sea lions playing among the rocks beneath magnificent pines. At Breaker Rock Beach, kids will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true. Each day kids will be challenged to know that God's truth never changes-even when it's radically different from what some people say!

Please consider helping out this year! There are a lot of great opportunities to serve and have fun along the way!

Contact VBS Director, Lori Porter at 559-362-6762 for more information.

★ Registration is now open! Invite a friend, neighbor or grandchild! ★

You can register today using this QR code





APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Emerie Porter
- 6 * *Thom & Georgina Snyder*
- 9 Emerson Mills
- 11 Jaime Christoph
- 14 Whitney Davis
- 19 Daniel Newman
Tyler Uhlik
- 21 Amanda Ginn
* *Brady & Paula Adams*
- 22 * *Steven & Michele King*
- 26 Michael Kinney
Teresa Voyles
- 28 Isla Adams
- 30 Morgan Gately
* *Martin & Darlene Keast*



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

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Here

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| 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