

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

*“Bringing faith into life by loving God
and all people as God loves us”*



April 2019

First United Methodist Church
505 N. Redington Street
Hanford, CA 93230

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Pastor: Pablo Róvere

What does it mean to be human?

Philosophers have asked this question through the centuries and they have given many different answers. Here are a few:

- “Man – a being in search of meaning.” – Plato
- “All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsions, habit, reason, passion, desire.” - Aristotle
- “Man is the only creature that refuses to be what he is.” – Albert Camus
- “As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.” – Carl Jung

By the time you read these words, Lent will have begun. We will have observed the solemn, confessional process of Ash Wednesday, taken on our disciplines of study, service, or sacrifice. Some of us, are gathering on Wednesdays, to study the book “The Final Words from the Cross” by Adam Hamilton. These words (they are actually sayings) not only preach the Gospel into our lives and realities; they also remind us of what it means to be human.

- “To err is human; to forgive, divine.” – Alexander Pope

Christianity proclaims that human beings are created in God’s image, which might mean that we have a spirit capable of connecting with God. But we are imperfect. We desire to be Lord of our own life. We want the world to serve us. We sin. We make mistakes. We need grace and forgiveness.

From the cross, Jesus looked out over Jerusalem and the crowd which had gathered to mock him, and he breathed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34a) In this stark moment, we are reminded of our humanness, and the great love God carries for those who bear the imago dei, or “image of God”.

Sometimes we need stark reminders about what the Gospel is and who it is for if we are to ever pass it on or minister in Jesus’ name. The forty-six days (including six Sundays) of Lent allow Christians the opportunity to once again strip away the layers of “stuff” that we hang upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It forces us once again to wrestle with our condition and the inexorable love and passion that God has for us. It releases us to receive new life yet again, and pass it on to others.

May your Lent be a time when you rediscover the depth of what it means to be human (in God’s image). May we not only be reminded of our mortality and imperfection, but also the promise of eternity and resurrection.

In Christ,
Pastor Pablo D. Róvere

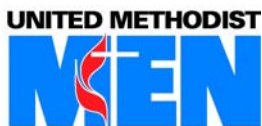
Buildings and Grounds Report

Jim Gregory

- Rivera Air removed the two north wall exterior flue pipes in the Prayer Garden. One of the flue pipes was in danger of falling. The west one is no longer needed.
- It was decided to replace the existing window air conditioner in the choir room with a combination window AC and heater. By doing this, the floor furnace is no longer needed and a new sheet metal flue pipe is not needed. New electrical conduit was installed to provide 220-volt power to the new window unit. They returned and plastered in the four holes where the flue pipe entered the four rooms: choir room, McKelvey Hall, and the two upstairs classrooms.
- Carbon monoxide detectors were installed in the church office, choir room and two in Founders Hall.
- The Gas Company repaired the pilot light for the center burners of the stove in Founders Hall.

Centering Prayer Guidelines

- Choose a sacred word as a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within you.
- Sit comfortably with your eyes closed, if you choose and silently introduce your sacred word.
- Begin to focus on your breathing, slow breathing in and out.
- If other thoughts enter and your mind wanders, return ever so gently to your sacred word.
- At the end of your prayer period, return slowly and know God is with you.



United Methodist Men activities

Most of these activities are having a monthly dinner with a guest speaker. It always falls on the 2nd Monday of the month, but we take a vacation during July and August.

In March, Peggy Gregory organized a team to help us enjoy a delicious corned beef-and-cabbage meal. The decorations were fun, too, and got lots of other use the rest of the week!

Francis Alama was our speaker. He's currently an exchange student at Lemoore High School. But he's originally from Palestine, and we got to hear about his hometown of Bethlehem.

I learned that Palestinians like Mediterranean cooking.

Francis also showed us a diagram comparing the dividing wall (between Israeli territory and Palestinian lands) with the Berlin Wall. The dividing wall is both longer and much taller. I learned that most Palestinians are barred from crossing into Israeli territory, but he's not because (I concluded) he grew up in a family of Catholic faith. Mostly those who can go over to Israel to go shopping.

Francis showed us pictures of the church of the grotto of the nativity. He showed how you enter, and how the floor is marked to indicate a specific spot where Jesus is thought to have been born.

He really held our attention.

Francis was accompanied by his host Mom, Margie Wilhelm. The exchange students aren't allowed to drive. She told us about the rigorous competition to be selected as an exchange student, and how Francis stands out. He added that after all the preparation, school here is easy.

Our next UMM dinner will be April 8th. John Meadows and Carole Hester are organizing the meal for April. PLEASE let me know if you are coming so I can help our dinner team get a good count.

- David Beeman
(559) 584-7510

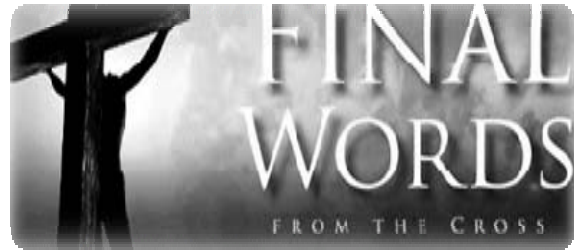
SECOND SATURDAY®

The Central Valley District
Council on Ministry Presents
2019 2nd Saturdays! Save The
Dates!

First UMC, Hanford
505 N Redington St., Hanford, CA
93230
8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

April 13
Basic Lay Servant Training

June 8
Basic Lay Servant Training



LENTEN GROUP STUDY

Wednesday evenings (6:00 p.m.)
from March 13-April 17
First UMC Hanford (Mary Lane
Hall)

****SUPPER INCLUDED****

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Prayer for: For Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing , Lindora Perez and her family, Rebecca Eversall, Andrea McDonald, her daughter Samantha, struggling with her job, Jessica Maris' mother, Bob & Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Sherrie, Jeanette Keith's mother Myrtle at Valley Christian home after falling, Dorothy Jensen, Jan Creelman, Bonnie Peters, Frank & Bonnie Butterway's son Richard enduring health problems, Mary Delgado, Dorothy Jensen, Kari Snow dealing with health issues, Mary Durham's son Jeff Durham, now living at Aaron's house, her brother-in-law Tim Durham and her friend Tina Williams, for Bob & Pollie Geisslar with an upcoming trip to the Philippines.

Shower Ministry/Canned Food Drive

Two Plastic Baskets

There are two white baskets in the church narthex.

One is there to collect soap, toothbrushes and toiletries for the shower ministry at the Pentecostal Church of God at the corner of Green and 11th Streets. Dental floss, toothpaste and small (like hotel rooms have) bottles of shampoo are especially welcome.

The other basket is there to collect non-perishable food items for the ministry at the Soup Kitchen at the Episcopal Church on Douty Street. Please check the dates on these non-perishables, as we can't share expired items.

We participate in these established ministries rather than duplicate them, and they do depend on us. If you haven't had the opportunity to donate in a while, well, the baskets are still there.

God bless you.



Mission Service Opportunity

The Food Giveaway for April was cancelled due to Good Friday

**Salvation Army
380 East Ivy Street**

Join us next month in helping distribute fresh food to those in need

in our community.

Volunteers are needed!

*Many hands make light work!
Canned foods are needed!*



laundry love

Walk with me in a journey of faithfulness.

A commitment in seven different aspects of our Christian faith.

7 Holy habits of Christian faithfulness:

1. Examine your prayer life,
2. Your relationship with Christ,
3. Reading the Bible,
4. Faithful worship attendance,
5. Financial gifts to God,
6. Serving God with our hands,
7. Sharing the Good News of God's LOVE with others.

I invite it you to take the next step in growing your own Faith and helping others to do the same.

"Be a Channel of God's Grace"

Pastor Pablo Rovere

Laundry Love is a cooperative effort among several churches in our community to offer a regular opportunity for people who are struggling financially to come and do their laundry. Laundry Love provides soap, money for the machines and fellowship.

Our next Laundry Love event is planned for
Thursday, April 18, 2019
from 3-8 p.m.

Volunteers are needed! Talk with Peggy Gregory or just come on by!

Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building. They meet every second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

The 2nd & 4th Sundays
of the month
at 2:00p.m. at

HANFORD POST ACUTE

Rehabilitation Center
1007 W. Lacey Blvd. Hanford

Board of Discipleship

BOD is the "Think Tank" of our church at which all church participants dream and suggest programs to help us all in our journey of faith and service.

At the BOD meetings everyone is welcome to bring an idea or a concern about any of the following practices:

- Worship
- Christian Education
- Service to the Community
- Mission and Outreach to the World
- Spiritual Growth
- Social Activities in the church
- Youth Activities
- Meetings are always on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Next BOD meeting:

April 3 @ 3:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School Volunteer Request

The Board of Discipleship (BOD) is gathering names of volunteers for Vacation Bible School this summer. If you are willing to help with a VBS (probably in July), let the office know. Our goal is to do Monday through Friday. Let us know if evening or daytime works best.

Larry McDonald, BOD Chairman

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

April 7: Cat Barclay
April 14: Peggy Gregory
April 21: Mary Jane Gozun
April 28: Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

April 7: Carol Collar
April 14: David Beeman
April 21: Jan Franke
April 28: Vicki Beeman

Ushers

April 7: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
April 14: David Beeman, Mike Bertaina
April 21: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
April 28: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

April 7: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
April 14: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
April 21: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
April 28: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Coffee Hour

April 7: Gregory
April 14: Boone
April 21: Patty Ferrell
April 28: Randles

Greeters

April 7: Chris Payne
April 14: Cat Barclay
April 21: John Meadows, Carol Collar
April 28: Mike & Candy Bertaina

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



April Birthdays

Jan Creelman	April 1
James Ferrell	April 3
Dena Mendoza	April 3
Denise Pedersen	April 7
Saul Wyman	April 11
Pablo Róvere	April 13
Pollie Geissler	April 18
John Meadows	April 23
Jaxon Mendoza	April 26
Leisa Wyman	April 30



April Anniversaries

Dennis & Patty Ferrell	Apr 2
Richard & Janice Alves	Apr 8
Larry & Carol Collar	Apr 9

Is your Birthday or Anniversary not listed?

Let the office know so we can include you not only in the Newsletter, but the Church Directory.

At FUMC Hanford, we take the vows of membership very seriously. We have promised to uphold the United Methodist Church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.



Sunday Schedule
 9:00 am Children & Adult
 Sunday School
 9:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal
 10:30 am Worship Service &
 Coffee Hour following worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1)	2) 7:10 a.m. Men's Bible Study	3) 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship & Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Stitching Group 3:30 p.m. Board of Discipleship (BOD) 6:00 p.m. Lenten Group Study/Supper	4) 8:00 a.m. Women's Book Study— <u>Breakfast Fellowship @ IHOP</u>	5)	6)
7) Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	8) 6:30 p.m. UMM Meeting, dinner following 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	9) 7:10 a.m. Men's Bible Study	10) 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship & Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Stitching Group 6:00 p.m. Lenten Group Study/Supper	11) 8:15 a.m. Women's Book Study " <u>Messy People</u> " 6:00 p.m. Ministry Support Team (MST)	12)	13) 2nd Saturday FUMC Hanford Mary Lane Hall 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
14) <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Worship at Hanford Post Acute (HPA)	15)	16) 7:10 a.m. Men's Bible Study	17) 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship & Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Stitching Group 6:00 p.m. Lenten Group Study/Supper	18) 8:15 a.m. Women's Book Study " <u>Messy People</u> " laundry love 3:00—8:00 p.m. @ Star Laundry 6:30 p.m. <u>Maudy Thursday</u> First Christian Church	19) 6:30 p.m. <u>Good Friday</u> , Saint James Lutheran Church	20)
21) <u>EASTER SUNDAY</u> 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Easter Services	22)	23) 7:10 a.m. Men's Bible Study	24) 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship & Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Stitching Group	25) 8:15 a.m. Women's Book Study - " <u>Messy People</u> "	26) 	27)
28) 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Worship at Hanford Post Acute (HPA)	29)	30)				

Risen Lord, Shine On Us"

**An Easter Worship Celebration
Palm Sunday, April 14 - 10:30 a.m.**

HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday, April 18 - First Christian Church
505 W Cameron St, Hanford - 6:30 p.m.**

**Good Friday, April 19
Saint James Lutheran Church
1780 Emma Lee Ln, Hanford - 6:30 p.m.**

**Sunrise Service, April 21
6:30 am**

**Easter Services, April 21
10:30 a.m.**