

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



January 2019

First United Methodist Church
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor: Pablo Róvere

January 2019

“We are God’s workmanship, created for good work in Christ.”
Ephesians 2:10

Ask any poet, painter, sculptor, jeweler, or woodworker to show you his or her work, and they will gladly begin to show you what they have created and made. They will share what they were thinking and trying to capture in their works. They will take you from piece to piece, from story to story, until you explain that you really need to leave and go...

Maybe it’s the pride they feel when they see what they have made. I’m sure that’s part of it, but I think there is more. I think they want to share because artists and craftsmen put a little piece of themselves into every work.

So when Paul describes the people who follow Christ as “God’s workmanship,” I think of a craftsman who has taken something ordinary and made it extraordinary because he imparted a bit of himself into it... and with all the pride of an artist, feels great satisfaction when he beholds it.

We are God’s workmanship...but we were created for something. We were created for good works created in Christ for us. At its most basic, the Christian life included two things: a relationship with God and holy living in light of that relationship. The Christian life isn’t one or the other: it is both.

It’s a New Year...and sometimes I don’t feel very well put-together, much-less a work of art. We look into the mirror and wonder who that person is staring at us and wonder how God can love us. We look at our community of faith and wonder what is wrong...why being the church can be so hard and painful. How can we be God’s workmanship?

It’s a New Year. It’s a new start. It’s time to ask what we were created for. It’s time to re-connect to the risen Christ and discover why God considers us his workmanship...

Creator God,

Gather me, for the storms of time have scattered me, the furies of the past have driven me, many sorrows have scarred me, many accomplishments have disappointed me, much activity has wearied me, and fear has spooked me into a hundred hiding places, feigning joy.

I desire passionate days, wondrous days, dangerous days, blessed days, surprising days, what I want is you. O God, I hold my life up to you now, as much as I can, as high as I can, in this mysterious reach called prayer. Come close, lest I wobble or fall short. It is not days or years I seek from you, not infinity or enormity, but small things and moments and awareness, awareness that you are in what I am and in what I have been indifferent to.

It is not new time, but new eyes and a new heart I seek... But most of all, I seek you.

This prayer is adapted from “I Lift My Life Up to You Now” by Ted Loder

Pastor Pablo Daniel Róvere



Back of Sanctuary to Look Different

Plans are moving ahead for putting in the new sound system. In order to let the sound technician hear the same sound as everyone else, that person should be seated out in the congregation. So the sound control board for the new system will be located in the area shown above. You'll be able to walk behind that area. It won't cover any of the carpeting. It will require the space the back pew takes, so that pew will be moved. It is planned to be an enclosed area, elevated four to six inches off the floor, without a top. The equipment will have covers. Larry McDonald is leading the work. The project is being paid for by a Beulah Grant awarded to our church by the UMW of our California-Nevada Annual Conference. No funds from our church budget are being used.

Designer Skills Needed

The two restrooms by the office were designed about 90 years ago, and need an update. They were already re-purposed when our first female pastor, the Rev. Nadine Graham, decided the office did not need the restroom right next to the pastor's office to be Men's only. Since then we have wobbled along with a Ladies room and a one-at-a-time room. Do you have ideas? Are you willing to share them? Contact Cat Barclay, who is leading the effort.

MST Chooses New Chair

The charge conference left it to the BoD and the MST to elect their new chairpersons. BoD nominated Larry McDonald, and MST elected Peggy Gregory to lead us in 2019. David Beeman. 584-2911



Polly Geissler told me we will be having Filipino food for our January dinner meeting of the United Methodist Men. Our speaker will be Pastor Pablo. I have never been to Argentina, so I asked him to tell us something about life there. But I certainly can't tell our pastor what to say to us, so you might want to come and hear what he really says. This will be the second Monday of the month, January 14th at 6:30 PM.

At our December meeting we ate well, with thanks to Mary Durham, our dinner chair for the month, and got caught up on what's going on. We also elected me as president for the 2019 year, and Jim Gregory as our treasurer.

-David Beeman, 584-2911

'Tis the Season to Ring

The UMM organized a day to ring the bell by the Salvation Army's red kettle outside the Hanford Post Office. To help us remember the day, we scheduled it for the second Monday of the month, just as UMM meetings are scheduled.

Thank you to our 2018 volunteers:

Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell, John Meadows, Jim and Karen Shoemaker, Peggy Gregory, Roy and Delfa Randles, Mary Durham, Rose Shapley, Glen and Jetta Lenox and Amy Medeiros.

David Beeman, 584-2911

Christmas Gifts for Children

Andrea McDonald asked me to put together an "Angel Tree party" to give families the Angel Tree gifts. I don't have the list of all who purchased and donated for these gifts, but I do thank those who came to support the Angel Tree party. We re-told and acted out the story of the First Christmas, sang, enjoyed wonderful snacks, and even took pictures with Santa. The Angel Tree organization provided booklets called The Book of Hope for Santa to give kids.

We had fun, the families who attended were VERY appreciative, and Santa had fun recommending seasonal songs for Rebeccah Eversall to play on her guitar. Carole Hester and John Meadows were the delivery team that got in the sleigh to deliver the Angel Tree gifts to three families that did not attend the Angel Tree party.

Thanks Delfa Randles, Patty Ferrell, Cat Barclay, Jim Boyd, Rebeccah, John, and Carole, and anyone I forgot.

David Beeman, 584-2911

Women to Start New Book Study on January 17 - 8:15 am

Keep It Shut by Karen Ehman explores how to better control your tongue, knowing what to say and how to say it, and realizing when it is best to say nothing at all.

From Bible times to modern times women have struggled with their words. What to say and how to say it. What not to say. When it is best to remain silent. And what to do when you've said something you wish you could now take back. In this book a woman whose mouth has gotten her into loads of trouble shares the hows (and how-not-tos) of dealing with the tongue.

Beyond just a "how not to gossip" book, this book explores what the Bible says about the many ways we are to use our words and the times when we are to remain silent. Karen will cover using our speech to interact with friends, co-workers, family, and strangers as well as in the many places we use our words in private, in public, online, and in prayer. Even the words we say silently to ourselves. She will address unsolicited opinion-slinging, speaking the truth in love, not saying words just to people-please, and dealing with our verbal anger.

Building & Grounds Report

Rivera's Air installed the second cabinet furnace in Founders Hall. The church is now in a much better situation than this time last November, when the Gas Company turned off the gas due to several gas leaks.

McKelvey Hall was cleaned, in preparation for Verne Adams' memorial service. Most items in the room were moved upstairs to the first classroom.

A new custom built door with a tempered safety glass panel for the pastor's office has arrived. The door needs staining and polyurethane painting.

The ballast went out on a light fixture in Millie Kraft Room. Daryl, the electrician, changed the two fluorescent fixture bulbs with LED bulbs. The LED bulbs put out more light and use less electricity.

The rain downspout gutters and drains have not been cleaned for several years. Volunteers spent several hours cleaning the leaves off and out of the drains of the Friendship/Fireside building roof and the two small flat roofs behind the prayer garden fountain.

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Prayers of Health Concern and Other Prayer Requests:

With Christians around the world, we pray for peace with justice and for health, safety and well-being of our neighbors near and far. Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers.

Prayer for: Jan Creelman as she awaits surgery; Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing; the health, healing, comfort and well-being for Casey Howard (cancer); Lindora Perez and her family; Andrea McDonald as her chronic pain continues; Jessica Maris' mother; Bob & Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Sherrie, Dorothy Jensen; the Geisslers and Bob's sister Aida on the passing of Russell; Bonnie Peters; Frank & Bonnie Butterway's son Richard enduring health problems; Mary Delgado (our Lord's Housekeeper) for patience while healing from hip surgery.

Members Lost in 2018

The December 9, 2018 Charge Conference recognized the loss of four long-time members:

- ◆ Bonnie Hinkle died 2016. Bonnie joined Hanford UMC by Certificate of Transfer from Methodist Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming on April 10, 1949. She is John Meadow's mother-in-law. She has four children: John, Crystal, Penny, Leroy, and Dorothy.
- ◆ Jim Taylor, December 20, 2017. Jim died at the age of 103 and the husband of Lela Taylor, who were long time members. Jim is the father of Jan Junell.
- ◆ Ethel Funchess, December 30, 2017. Ethyl was known for her giving and caring personality. She is survived by her three children: Gary, Sharon, and Mark.
- ◆ Verne Adams, November 18, 2018. Verne was received in Hanford UMC by certificate of transfer on April 13, 1977 from Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania. Verne was very active in our church and the Hanford Breakfast Lions Club. He is survived by his three sons: Brian, Bill, and Jeff. His wife Polly is a resident of Valley Christian Home.



Thank you to all who helped with your talents, offerings, time, and service during the Advent and Christmas season of hospitality! Your preparations, decorating and participation in the Wednesday Evening Advent Bible Study with soup supper, Sunday Advent Services, Angel Tree, Christmas Tea at Hannah's House, Poinsettias, Christmas Eve Dinner, Christmas Eve Service, and Christmas Day Community Breakfast with gifts of extra food and toys could not have happened without your outpouring of love-inspired discipleship. Thank you!



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, January 17, 2019
from 3-8 p.m.

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

Budget Update

As of December 26th we are still behind in meeting our operating budget obligations for 2018.

Additional gifts to the General Fund for 2018 will be accepted until January 6. They should be dated in 2018 and marked General Fund 2018.

You may direct any comments or questions to Peggy Gregory or any member of the Ministry Support Team.



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, January 18, 2019
8 a.m. to noon
(or any part thereof)

Salvation Army
380 East Ivy Street

*Join us in helping distribute fresh food to those in need in our community.
Volunteers are needed!
Many hands make light work!*

Wednesday Supper & Study Continues
A Series of Video Sermons & Presentations by Adam Hamilton

6:00 p.m.- Including a Supper

- ◆ **January 16** - Special Session on the future of the United Methodist Church
Adam Hamilton, Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection and Bishop Robert Schnase, author of the [Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#), discuss the issues before the church regarding human sexuality.

Here is some of what is discussed in the video

- An historical and scriptural review of some of issues that have confronted Christians in the past,
- Where the denomination is today as it relates to same-gender marriage,
- The bishops' proposal (called the One Church Plan),
- The vote that will take place in February in St. Louis that will determine the future of the denomination,
- What it all means for local churches.

The full report of the three plans being considered is available on our web site funchanford.org
(Click on The Way Forward)

- ◆ **January 23 - February 27** - "Prayer As Jesus Taught Us"

For THINE is the Kingdom, Power and ...
Lead Us ... Deliver Us
Forgive ... As We Forgive
Our Daily Bread
Whose Will be Done?
This Then is How You Should Pray

The Meaning of Epiphany

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Epiphany challenges us to be seekers, to search for God and recognize God's presence wherever and when God chooses to reveal Himself. When we discover one way, God is present to us, wonderful! But we need to keep looking, always and everywhere, for other ways, too. Always seeking and searching for God's presence in the unexpected.

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JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP
the 2nd & 4th Sundays
of the month
at 2:00 p.m. at
HANFORD
POST ACUTE
1007 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford
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WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

January 6: Chris Payne
January 13: Cat Barclay
January 20: Peggy Gregory
January 27: Mary Jane Gozun

Lay Worship Leaders

January 6: Sue Hensel
January 13: Carol Collar
January 20: David Beeman
January 27: Jan Franke

Ushers

January 6: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
January 13: David Beeman, Mike Bertaina
January 20: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
January 27: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

January 6: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
January 13: Jim Gregory, David Beeman
January 20: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
January 27: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell

January 6: Patty Ferrell
January 13: Cat Barclay
January 20: Geissler
January 27: Chris Payne

Greeters

January 6: Jim & Peggy Gregory
January 13: Sue Hensel
January 20:
January 27:

VACATION

Pastor Pablo (and family) will be on vacation December 25 through January 9. In case of emergency, contact **Pastor Randy Bolen at 559-924-5295** or the Lemoore and Armona UMC's.

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.
Coffee Hour

The Board of Discipleship will meet January 16 at 3:30 p.m.



Poinsettia Dedications

Additions and Corrections from
December

Carole Hester in memory of Walt &
Helen Fowler, Marvin & Dorothy Hester
and Darrell Hester

Andrea McDonald in memory of Brenda
McDonald

Frank & Bonnie Butterway in memory of
their parents

Jim & Peggy Gregory in memory of Ruth
Frazee, Marion Gregory & Marge
Gregory



Beware of Tree

An arborist recently warned that the
big tree along Redington just north
of the church office could drop a
large branch.

Take care parking under it until we
can work with our neighbor who
owns it.