

First United Methodist Church  
505 North Redington Street  
Hanford, CA 93230

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# The Methodist Messenger

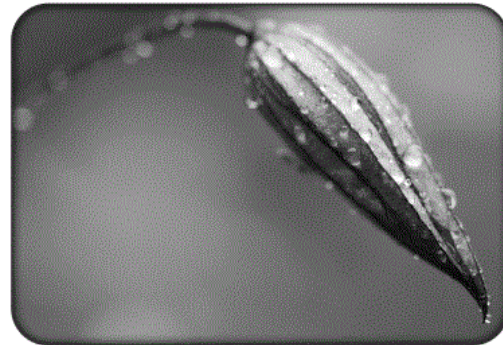
In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



## living water

every Sunday  
through easter  
7:00 pm  
mary lane hall



join us for conversation, reflection,  
fellowship and refreshment for your soul  
as we meet people transformed by their interactions  
with Jesus

# 2015

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

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Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
Pastor Susan Foster, [sfoster@fumchanford.org](mailto:sfoster@fumchanford.org)

Greetings:

As a pastor it is not uncommon to get teased that I only work one day a week. Many people have no idea what is involved in the work of a pastor. While what I do on Sunday morning is clearly seen by the most people, it is not all that occupies my time.

In the same way, it would be easy to think that the only time the Church buildings here at First United Methodist Church, Hanford are used for ministry is Sunday morning. This is far from the truth. We have literally hundreds of people on site each week..

There is a Girl Scout troop meeting every other Thursday (our own Lily Boone is a part of this troop) in Founders Hall. Maybe you saw their garden last summer on the east side of Founders Hall.

Boy Scout Troop 400 meets on Monday nights. They are an active Troop with camp outs and two young men currently working on their Eagle Projects.

Cub Scout Troop 400 meets on Tuesday nights and this year needed extra room for their pack meetings because they had so many boys.

On the third Friday of the month Healing Waters Ministry takes place in Founders Hall. This is a time of healing prayer. Their leader spoke to United Methodist Men last year.



(Continued on page 11)

# WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

## Morning Worship

### March 1

*What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian - Week 4*  
Jesus' Work: Where Is God?  
John 1:1-5,14

### March 8

*What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian - Week 5*  
Jesus' Example: What Brings Fulfillment?  
John 13:1-5, 13-17

### March 15

*What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian - Week 6*  
Jesus' Promise: Who Is The Holy Spirit?  
John 14:15-27

### March 22

*What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian - Week 7*  
Jesus' Vision: What Is God's Dream?  
Matthew 6:9-15 & Isaiah 65:17-25

### March 29

*What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian - Week 8*  
Jesus' Death: What About Suffering?  
Matthew 27:27-31

## Worship Coordinator

**March 1:** Peggy Gregory  
**March 8:** Becky Eversall  
**March 15:** Chris Payne  
**March 22:** Andrea McDonald  
**March 29:**

## Lay Worship Leaders

**March 1:** Carol Collar  
**March 8:** Stacy Brockie  
**March 15:**  
**March 22:** Patty Ferrell  
**March 29:**

## Greeters

**March 1:**  
**March 8:**  
**March 15:** Sue Hensel  
**March 22:**  
**March 29:**

## Ushers

**March 1:** Verne Adams & Mary Durham  
**March 8:** Jim Gregory &  
**March 15:** Mike Bertaina &  
**March 22:** David Beeman &  
**March 29:** Bob Junell & David Beeman

## Counting Team

**March 1:** Verne Adams & Sue Hensel  
**March 8:** David Beeman & Jim Gregory  
**March 15:** Sue Hensel & Karen Shoemaker  
**March 22:** Vicki Beeman & Patty Ferrell  
**March 29:** David Beeman & Verne Adams

## Morning Worship Coffee Hour

**March 1:** Andrea McDonald  
**March 8:**  
**March 15:** David & Vicki Beeman  
**March 22:** ALL CHURCH LUNCH  
**March 29:**

living water  
march 1 - the woman at the well  
march 8 - zacchaeus  
march 15 - fishers of people  
march 22 - the bleeding woman  
& the 10th leper  
march 29 - the woman with the oil

All Church Lunch!  
Mark Your Calendars Now!  
All Church Lunch!  
Join your church family for lunch on  
Sunday, March 22nd

We will share a simple meal and fellowship in Founders Hall following worship. There is no cost for this meal, all that is required is you!



**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.**

**Please keep the following in your prayers this month:**

**Prayers of Health Concern**

Kathleen Wilson (undergoing radiation), Esther Geissler (in a coma) - Bob Geissler's sister, Chris Payne (healing from hip surgery & complications), Jill (end stage cancer) & Connor—the Bertaina's ex-daughter in law & grandson, Katie (Leukemia) - Stacy Brockie's cousin, Ben Durham (lung cancer), Fran Knight, Bonnie Peters (health issues), Ellie Wagner (continued healing), Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Larry McDonald (PTSD), Marilyn Peden, Gloria Brown, Peri Neos, Millie Dodge, Pat George, Audra Koelewyn, Alison Klein, June Kruger (diagnosed with cancer), Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Care Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631).

**Other Prayer Requests**

- Jan Franke, family and friends as they mourn the passing of Audrey Franke Remembrance Donations may be given to our church
- The family and friends of Evelyn Sarquis who died January 31st
- John & Penny Meadows grieving the death of Penny's mom & John's father
- Mary and Jeff Durham as they care give for Ben Durham
- Family grieving the passing of Carol Collar's stepfather
- Friends and Family mourning the death of Hilda Douma
- Family and Friends of Frances Creelman who mourn her death.
- 1st Christian's Rev. Tom Warren & family
- For Toni & Seth and Gage on their foster adoption
- Those in the midst of crisis due to disasters
- Opportunities to serve our neighbors
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- The Youth of this congregation
- Ministry Support Team & Board of Discipleship
- Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers who give so graciously of their time and talents. We are the church!

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."  
Alfred Lord Tennyson

**Discover Discipleship**  
Saturday, March 21, 2015  
Porterville Grand UMC  
776 West Grand Avenue  
Porterville, CA 93257  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

An event that shares and explores the ways that churches can be intentional about being places where disciples of Jesus Christ are grown.

Pastor Susan is recruiting a team to attend this event. Please contact her if you are interested.

**Stitching Group**

Wednesdays, March 11th & 25th  
10:00 am - noon  
Millie Kraft Lounge

Anyone who wants to share, learn, stitch in any way or work on cutting and tying plastic bags are welcome to fellowship with us.

**WHAT'S THE LEAST I CAN BELIEVE AND STILL BE A CHRISTIAN?**

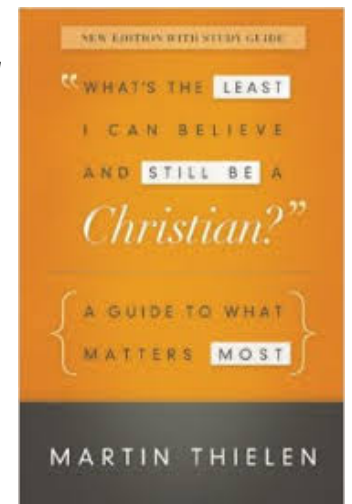
Sermon Series through Lent & Study Groups Continue...  
Wednesdays @ 8:00 am - Men's Fellowship Study  
@ 5:30 pm - done for Choir Practice  
Thursdays @ 8:15 am - Women's Bible Study  
Sundays @ 9:00 am - Mary Lane Hall

This book was born out of a conversation that Rev. Thielen had with a young man who was questioning the assumptions he had about what it meant to be a Christian. Rev. Thielen articulates mainline Christianity in a way that's easy to understand, offering great insights that speak to our deepest needs.



Financial Peace University is a life-changing 9-week program taught via DVD by Dave Ramsey. This program empowers you to achieve your financial goals regardless of your financial situation. It's a fun, easy to understand, and entertaining way to learn how to make your money work for you!

This program will be offered beginning March 24th with a preview on March 17th. The cost per family will be \$93. This program is open to members of our church and the community. You can sign-up through the Church Office or website. Spread the Word!





# Holy Week

March 26 - Palm Sunday

Sunday morning worship @ 10:30 am  
living water @ 7:00 pm

April 2 - Maundy Thursday @ 1st Christian Church  
6:30 pm, 505 W. Cameron Street

We will celebrate this Holy day with our brothers & sisters at First Christian Church who have invited us for a soup supper and worship together.

April 3 - Good Friday @ 1st United Methodist Church  
Noon

With our friends from First Christian Church we will gather for a time of worship and remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion.

April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service @ 1st Christian Church  
505 W. Cameron Street

In the early morning light we will gather to witness to the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus!

Easter Sunday Worship @ 1st United Methodist Church  
Join us 10:30 am to celebrate and worship together!  
Continue worship at the 7:00 pm living water service celebration.

## Easter Flowers

We will be having flowers decorate our altar area on Easter Sunday morning. Plan now to dedicate a lily or other cut or live colorful flower in memory or honor of a loved one. You can let the office know of your dedication through the blue sign-in sheets or by phoning the church office at 584-4075. Flowers can be brought to the office beginning March 30th or on Easter Sunday morning before worship begins.



## Shower Ministry

Thank you for continuing to remember the Shower Ministry for the homeless as you shop.

We are continuing to collect needed items. Let's keep filling up the basket on the altar.

These items have a great impact on the lives of those who are served at the Shower Ministry for the Homeless at The Hanford Pentecostal Church.

### Needs:

Deodorant, *Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste, Talc or Baby Powder, Terry Bathmats*

**Are you a youth in grades 6 through 12?**



**4:00 pm-6:00 pm on the first Sunday of the month.**

**We will have fun, explore our faith, & serve others!**

**All youth in grades 6 through 12 are welcome.**

**Bring your friends. See Pastor Susan if you have any questions.**



## Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, March 20th,  
8 am - 12 noon

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!

## Hospitality Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this ministry. Those in the support groups have noticed that we care about them!

13 different meetings happen each week in the Friendship & Fireside rooms.

These groups do amazing work with people's lives and for our community.

Treats can be dropped off in the church office or directly in the Friendship/Fireside Kitchen.



Want to use your handyman skills around the church? MST has a list of smallish projects that need to be done. Please see Pastor Susan to help.



### Lunch/Meeting Sunday, March 15th After Church

At our February General Meeting, Pastor Susan gave a program on the Laundry Love ministry, just starting up in February. We had 15 people in attendance to hear about this helpful ministry.

We also began planning the Spring Luncheon (Saturday, May 9th), Peggy Gregory will organize the salad potluck list. Tickets will sell for \$10.

Our next board meeting will be Thursday, March 12th at 1:30 pm.

The General Meeting will be Sunday, March 15th, starting approximately 11:45 a.m. Jetta will provide a lunch. All ladies are welcome to attend both meetings. If planning to attend the General Meeting, please let Vicki Beeman or Sue Hensel know so we can be sure there is enough lunch for those attending.



### Dinner Monday, March 9th 6:30 pm

A big THANK YOU to Jim and Peggy Gregory for hosting our February Meeting in their home. An even bigger THANK YOU to Peggy for preparing the meal and Bob Peden the salad! All was great.

I have been hearing a lot about the Laundry Love project. It sounds like a way we can make a difference. But being male, my perspective was that this was going to turn out to be a ladies' project.

As soon as I asked my question, I began to receive education. Lots of men do their own laundry. And if they need someone to talk to, it would work much better if it was a man. This means we need more men for this project, not fewer. Now I'm passing that along to you, in case your thinking was going the direction mine was. The church will have another training session soon about how Laundry Love works. Maybe you and I can attend that one.

Never know what opportunities there will be at a meeting of the UMM. But you can be sure you will eat well. I am told that Bob Peden will organize and prepare a corned beef and cabbage dinner for March. Before I moved to Hanford, I had decided I didn't like corned beef and cabbage. But then I tried some that Bob had prepared, and . . . the story ends just like Green Eggs and Ham: I will eat Bob Peden's corned beef and cabbage ANY where!

The location is Mary Lane Hall at church. The time is 6:30 pm on our usual second Monday: March 9th. Join us, but give me a call (or e-mail) so I can get a count to Bob.

David Beeman



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 first Laundry Love event on February 19th was a success! We heard many stories and made new connections with people in our community with 46 loads of laundry for 23 families & individuals. We met men, women, children, families, singles, couples, old, young, & in between all grateful for the opportunity of clean clothes and bedding.**

Our next Laundry Love event is planned for March 19th, from 3-8 pm.

Look for information soon on the next volunteer training to be a part of this ministry.

Laundry Love on the surface, is a ministry of helping people have clean clothes. Going deeper, Laundry Love is about developing relationships with people to see what gifts are present among those we meet, and encouraging and kindling responsibility and dignity. Our hope is that we will be part the process of moving those we meet from dependency toward interdependency.

*Laundry Love began with a question asked of T-Bone, a homeless gentleman living in Ventura Calif. "How can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?" His response, "If I had clean clothes I think people would treat me like a human being."*

**Needed:  
Coffee Hour Hosts  
Greeters  
Ushers**

Each Sunday Morning we are in need of your help to make First United Methodist Church, Hanford a welcoming place!

If you can help there are sign-up sheets available on the bulletin board in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Mary Lane Hall.



# Be A Part Of Our Reverse Easter Egg Hunt....



What is that you ask? Instead of having children hunt for Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday, we will have them collect plastic Easter Eggs you have filled with spare change and special gifts to benefit Imagine No Malaria. Eggs are available after worship on Sundays.

You are invited to make this a part of your Lenten Discipline. If you have given up something for Lent, perhaps the money you save could be put in your egg. Or you could consider a sacrificial gift. Or collect change as we journey through this time.

Imagine No Malaria is the joint effort of the people of the United Methodist Church to end Malaria on the continent of Africa. Malaria is a 100% preventable disease that kills someone every 60 seconds. Nearly 90 percent of malaria's victims are children under the age of 5 and pregnant women. Malaria was eliminated in the United States in the 1950s but remains a potent killer in Africa. United Methodists have already trained 11,600+ health workers, distributed 2.3+ million bed nets, and impacted 4.6+ million lives with lifesaving information.

See [imaginenomalaria.org](http://imaginenomalaria.org) for more information.

## HYMN SING

5th Sunday Sing

3:30 pm

March 29th

Lemoore United Methodist Church  
Mark your calendars now for a wonderful time of fellowship and music with other area United Methodist Churches!



### Interested in Feeding People?

Our neighbors at Caruthers United Methodist Church

host a free community dinner each week.

There is some interest here in possibly doing something similar.

If you are interested in going on a field trip to Caruthers on a Wednesday to see it in action, let the church office know.

*(Continued from page 2)*

On Sunday afternoons, and Wednesday evenings a small Spanish language congregation El Buen Samaritano meets here for worship and bible study.

Six days a week there are Narcotics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings happening in the Friendship and Fireside rooms. Between the two types of groups there are 12 meetings happening each week.. We have had to move all the extra folding chairs that used to be stored in Founders Hall into these rooms to accommodate everyone that attends these meetings.

Recently, Praise Chapel, a congregation here in Hanford was looking for a place to hold a weekday Overcomers Meeting in the downtown area. We said yes, so this faith based support meeting has a home away from home here on Thursdays.

As you can see, each week our church is a part of the lives of more people that we see on Sunday morning. Our congregations' presence here on the corner of Redington and Center Streets provides more than a pretty building. We are a part of providing youth opportunities for leadership development and new experiences. We operate safe space for those in recovery. We demonstrate hospitality and grace to those who enter these buildings. Our presence here matters in the lives of people we may never meet or realize. I thank God that we have been entrusted with this great resource by God and for the glory of God. I also give thanks for this congregation's willingness to be apart of what God is doing in our community.

Remember, God's Love Never Ends,

Pastor Susan Foster



### Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building.

Next Meeting:  
Thursday, March 12 at 5:00 pm

### Board of Discipleship (BOD)

will meet Wednesday, March 25 at **3:30 pm**.

The Board of Discipleship is tasked with ensuring that we as a congregation are growing in the ways in which we follow Jesus. All are welcome!



## Report on Church Facility Projects

By Jim Gregory

The Ministry Support Team has been actively working on several maintenance and improvement projects around the church properties. Many of these projects have been made possible through a grant from the Available Program Fund.

At the Parsonage:

- The palm tree on the north side of the property was removed by Richard's Tree Service.
- The repairs from the water damage in the sunken living room are completed and plans are underway to make sure that water can't get in again.

At the Church:

- One Stop Sprinkler Shop replaced the four sprinkler irrigation valves on the west side of the sanctuary.
- Mel Williams repaired the hardware on several doors with panic hardware.
- Michael Guy Plumbing removed the antique toilet which was leaking in the men's bathroom in Founders Hall. A new toilet and new flooring are up next!
- Major upgrade to Fireside Room has started. Steve Payne's company, Kings County Glass, replaced five windows on the south side of the room & windows are ordered for the rest of the room. New flooring has been chosen, blinds are ordered and paint colors chosen. Look for a painting day coming soon!
- Coming Soon - replacement of the Center Street sidewalk, and walkway/ ramp to the door by the Choir Room, made possible through a gift from the estate of Hilda Douma and gifts made in her memory.

### APF GRANTS

Ministry Support Team will be considering Available Program Fund grant requests at its next meeting on March 12th.



There is a collection basket in the narthex for your offering of canned food for the Salvation Army.



**Vacation Bible School!** *This year could be different...*

### Organizing and Planning Meeting Sunday, March 29th After Church in Millie Kraft Lounge

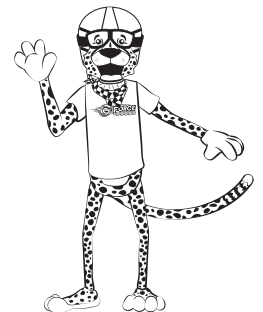
We are open to changes in format and schedules. We could go with only one day, or just Saturday(s), or once per week, or one week, or days, or evenings, June or July, or whatever the majority of volunteers decide. Curious? Have questions? Or ready to jump in! This is your opportunity to give input and commit to volunteer before you schedule your summer. :)

Check out the web site for G-FORCE at [Cokesburyvbs.com](http://Cokesburyvbs.com). It looks like a lot of fun learning is ahead!

Already know the VBS position you want? Contact Jan Franke for information or to sign-up.

There will be a VBS display set up in the coming weeks so you can get an idea of the program and endless opportunities.

"No! This is not me!"  
Jan




### SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM

The Board of Discipleship is looking to form a Sunday School Support Team. Do you have an interest in the spiritual lives of children? Would you like to see our Sunday School grow?

We are looking for people who would be interested in supporting what is already going on in our Sunday School and working to invite more children and families to be a part of our congregation. Let Pastor Susan know if you are interested.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1) 9:00 am Children & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Youth Group	2)	30 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	4) 8:00 am Men's Study Group  5:30 pm Study Group 6:30 pm Adult Choir	5) 8:15 am Women's Study Group	6)	7)
8) 9:00 am Children & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship  7:00 pm living water service	9)  6:30 pm <i>United Methodist Men Dinner</i>	10) 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	11) 8:00 am Men's Study Group 10:00 am - Noon <i>Stitching Group</i> 5:30 pm Study Group 6:30 pm Adult Choir	12) 8:15 am Women's Study Group 1:30 pm <i>United Methodist Women Board Meeting</i> 5:00 pm Ministry Support Team (MST)	13)	14)
15) 9:00 am Children & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <i>Noon United Methodist Women Lunch/Meeting in Founders Hall</i> 7:00 pm living water service	16)	17) 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Financial Peace University Introduction	18) 8:00 am Men's Study Group  6:45 pm Adult Choir	19) 8:15 am Women's Study Group  3:00 pm - 8:00 pm Laundry Love	20) 8am-noon Salvation Army Food Giveaway  	21)
22) 9:00 am Children & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <i>After Service "Ye all Come Hungry" Free Congregation Lunch</i> 7:00 pm living water	23)	24) 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Financial Peace University	25) 8:00 am Men's Study Group 10:00 am - Noon <i>Stitching Group</i> <b>3:30 pm Board of Discipleship (BOD)</b> 5:30 pm Study Group 6:30 pm Adult Choir	26) 8:15 am Women's Study Group  <b>10:00 am NEWSLETTER FOLDING</b>	27)	28)
29) <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am Children & Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship <i>After Service VBS Mtg.</i> 3:30 pm <i>5th Sunday Sing @ Lemoore UMC</i> 7:00 pm living water	30)	31) 6:30 am Men's Bible Study  6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Financial Peace University				

Sunday Schedule

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



**Birthdays**

Delfa Randles March 5  
Marie Wiles March 17  
Nicholas Brockie March 21  
Fran Knight March 27  
Marilyn Peden March 28  
Carole Hester March 31  
Jim Gregory March 31

Your Birthday or Anniversary not listed?  
Let the office know so we can include you not only in the Newsletter but the Church Directory