

# Redemption Road



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



*"The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."*



A Reconciling Congregation

**505 N. Redington St.**  
**(559) 584-4075**  
**office@fumchanford.org**  
**www.fumchanford.org**

**Pastor: Rev. Pastor Pablo R. Vargas**  
**Music Director: Cavan O'Neill**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service - 3.22.2026**  
*Lay Worship Leader- Peggy Gregory*

**Words of Welcome & Announcements**

**Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)**

**Opening Prayer**

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.

**We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

Some of us come to worship today, dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace from the troubles that surround us.

**We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

Some of us come to worship today with stories to tell of little resurrections, moments of new life that sprang up when we least expected them.

**We gather to travel God's redemption road together.**

Beloved, whatever we bring with us to worship today, God welcomes us and calls us to work together as we travel God's redemption road together.

**We gather to be truth-tellers and life-bringers as we travel God's redemption road together. Amen.**

**"Goodness of God"**

**Praise Team**

***Passing the Peace of Christ (with hugs, handshakes, and fist bumps)***

***Pastoral Welcome and Prayer (Prayer of Intercession... "Lord Hear Our Prayer")***

**"In Christ Alone"**

**Praise Team**

**Scripture Reading- John 11:32-44 (NRSV)**

***Leader: This is the Word of our Lord.***

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* “Children are dismissed to “Godly Play” at this time\*\***

**Sermon: “Jesus wept, Rolling Stone, and Dead Man Walking” -Pastor Pablo R. Vargas**

**1. Christ’s Compassion in the Midst of Suffering** “Jesus wept” (John 11:35)

- Jesus fully enters human grief—this is the heart of the Incarnation.
- In Wesleyan theology, grace is not distant; it meets us in real human experience.
- Lent reminds us that God does not avoid suffering—but redeems it.

“The tears of Jesus are the tears of God.”- Frederick Dale Bruner

**2. The Tension of Waiting: Faith in the Silence**

“Lord, if you had been here...” (John 11:21, 32)

- Martha and Mary express both faith and disappointment.
- Lent is a season where we sit with unanswered prayers and unresolved pain.
- Wesley teaches us to trust God’s providence even when we cannot yet see.

“God does nothing without a reason, but we do not always know the reason.” -John Wesley

**3. Resurrection Begins Now**

“I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)

- This is not only a promise for the future—it is a present reality in Christ.
- Wesleyan theology emphasizes **new birth and transformation now**.
- Lent prepares us to receive resurrection life through repentance and renewal.

“Eternal life is a present reality before it is a future hope.”

— N. T. Wright

**Offering Prayer (In Unison) & Collection**

**Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take our gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life—abundant, eternal, and holy—is possible in you. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray. Amen.**

**Doxology**

**Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour*)**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out our new announcement board in the sanctuary entry.

1716 N 11th Ave, Hanford, CA 93230

Food Distribution

Tuesday, March 24 from 9am-11am

**\*\*Volunteers needed at 8:00am or before to set up and prep\*\***

**\*\*\*Holy Week Schedule\*\*\***



Maundy Thursday, April 2 7:00 pm

First Christian Church

505 Cameron Street

Soup Supper Provided from 6:00pm

Good Friday – April 3 – 6:30 pm

Episcopal Church of Our Savior

519 N Douty St

**'Love Your Neighbor'  
Food Drive**

Help restock our pantry!  
Donate nonperishable  
food & household  
essentials for our  
neighbors in need!



Giving Just Got  
Easy - Point Your  
Camera at the QR  
Code

Easter Sunday April 5

Sunrise Service – 6:30am

(In Prayer Garden/Breakfast following)

Sanctuary Worship – 11:00am