



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

“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 Worship Service – 5.17.2026
Lay Worship Leader- Janet Wix

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in your name. We come as living sacrifices, to offer You our worship and thanksgiving, our praise and our prayers. Come among us, living Lord. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so that we may encounter your presence, recognize your voice, know your will, and follow in your way. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Responsive Call to Worship

Family of God, who are you?

We are disciples, formed by Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Family of God, why do you gather?

To worship God who loves us and teaches us to love our neighbors, ourselves, and all creation.

Family of God, how do you worship God?

By loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously.

Family of God, receive this good news: in our loving, our serving, and our leading, we are not alone—God is with us!

We come to worship God by loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously in our community and through our worldwide connections, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

The Gift of Love- UMH 408

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

Video & Miracle Sunday Offering Invitation

“Hosanna” -Praise Team

Blessing:

Generous and Loving God, You call us together as the Body of Christ, and equip us to live as your disciples in our local communities and through our connections around the world. Bless this Miracle Sunday offering, that through our sharing of resources, our gifts might multiply to support and equip ministers around the world whom you have called to pastoral ministry. May their education be one of many opportunities. For your Spirit to work through The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

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

Scripture Reading- Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Leader: This is the Word of our Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Grace for Doubters, Courage for Disciples” -Pastor Pablo R. Vargas

Pastor’s notes:

- Jesus commissions imperfect people — worship and doubt can exist in the same heart.
- Christ declares: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.”
- The mission of the Church is not merely making converts, but making disciples.
- The Gospel is for all nations, peoples, and cultures.
- Baptism reminds us we belong to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The success of the mission depends on the presence of Jesus, not the perfection of His people.
- Christ’s promise remains: “I am with you always.”

The Church has never been powered by perfection — it has always been powered by resurrection.

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”- UMH 114

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord, that we may live as disciples who transform the world. Amen.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Receive the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

Invitation to give our Tithes and Offerings & Offering Prayer (In Unison)

Commissioning Christ, you meet us on the mountain where worship and doubt share the same ground. You call us not because we are certain, but because you are faithful. As we offer these gifts, we offer ourselves—our questions and our courage, our fears and our hopes. Use what we bring to form disciples, to teach with humility, to baptize with joy, and to share a song of grace that reaches every nation. Send us where you will, trusting your promise to be with us always. Shape this offering into witness and welcome, so that love may be known, community may be formed, and the world may be changed through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song- "I'm Going to Live So God Can Use Me" -TFWS 2153

Benediction (Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour & ON Team)