



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

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

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 7.05.2026

Lay Worship Leader- Janet Wix

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

Responsive Call to Worship

We gather to worship God with our full, imperfect selves.

We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.

We gather as people who don't always know what to do in the face of difficult and complex circumstances.

We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.

We gather as people who desire to follow God with our actions but struggle to connect what we want to do with what we actually do.

We come to delight in the law of God, who is Love.

Whether you come to worship today wondering if there is anything good left in the world or rejoicing in the small moments of goodness that remind you grace is still at work among us, you are welcome here.

We come to delight in the law of God, whose grace shows us how to live, work, play, and rest as a community of faith woven together by Love. Amen

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am

gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

“Come Thou Fount” UMH-400

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

“Goodness of God” Praise Team

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

Scripture Reading- Romans 7:15-25 (NRSV) ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God^[a] through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Covertly Rebelling in the Midst of God’s Grace Rev. Pastor Pablo Vargas

Offering Prayer (In Unison) & Collection

Gracious Redeemer, you know us completely—our good intentions, our wavering will, our stumbling steps. Like Paul, we confess the war within us: we long to do what is right, yet too often fall short. Still, you meet us not with condemnation, but with mercy and grace. So, we bring these offerings, not to earn your favor, but to respond in gratitude for a Savior who rescues us from sin’s grip. Use these gifts, and use us, to offer hope where there is despair, light where there is shadow, and love where there is brokenness. We give because you gave first—and because your Spirit empowers us to live not by our strength, but by your grace. In Christ’s name, we pray, Amen.

“One Bread One Body”

UMH-620

Communion

PRAYER OF CONFESSION IN UNISON

Almighty God, You have set before us the path, but we have wandered on our own to try to find our way. Sometimes we are like toddlers, and we hear Your call and come back. Other times, we are children testing boundaries, ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back. And still other times, we are full of youthful rebellion, demanding to be cut loose and set free, not knowing how much we still need to seek Your wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults and have figured it all out and know our own way, only to stumble and stray so far. Remind us, parental God, that we are always Your children, that we are never fully grown up in Your sight, that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek You every day, to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance, and help us to return to the path and walk with You. In the name of Christ, who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn- “Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

UMH-662

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour*)