



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 - 7.26.2026

Lay Worship Leader- Patty Ferrell

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

Responsive Call to Worship

Beloved, this is the core of our faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-ending love surrounds us and calls us, assuring us that through God's love, all things will work together for God's good purposes.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-breaking love empowers us in the face of temptation, distress, division, and scarcity to hold onto our faith and work together for the flourishing of all God's good creation.

Thanks be to God!

Come, let us worship God who is Love, trusting that through joy and sorrow, happiness and despair, contentment and pain, Love will carry us through.

Thanks be to God who forms, connects, and guides us through Love. Amen.

"The Summons"

TFWS-2130

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (The Message)

³¹⁻³² Another story. "God's kingdom is like an acorn that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge oak tree, and eagles build nests in it." ³³ Another story. "God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises." ⁴⁴ "God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field. ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ "Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for exquisite pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰ "Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The

angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good."⁵¹ Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?" They answered, "Yes."⁵² He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

"Holy Spirit"

Praise Team

**** "Children are dismissed to "Godly Play" at this time****

Scripture Reading- Romans 8:26-39 (NRSV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: "A Love That Never Gives Up"

-Rev. Pastor Pablo R. Vargas

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

UMH- 559

Invitation to give Our Tithes and Offering

Offering Prayer (In Unison)

Steadfast God, you search our hearts and know our needs even when we struggle to find the words. In your mercy, you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together in love that cannot be broken. As we bring these gifts today, may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing—not hardship, nor fear, nor even death itself—can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people. Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. Amen.

Doxology

Prayer of Confession:

Creator of all things, who rejoiced in your creation at the beginning of the world; forgive us our sins of greed, selfishness, and carelessness by which we daily damage the beauty to which we have become insensitive. By war and violence, we destroy families and their means of livelihood. We cut down great forests that are the homes of people, animals, and birds. We ill-treat our farm animals in the race to outstrip our rivals in food production, yet still leave millions of people starving. We pollute our air and water with the excess of our greed, without thought for the disposal of what we waste. For all this, we ask not only forgiveness, but also the power to turn away from our headlong course of destruction, and instead to share in your constant work of creation in preparation for the time when our kingdom comes to earth as it is in heaven. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who became part of your creation and gave his life for the whole world.

(Silent prayer)

Receive this good news: There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed us from the power of sin that leads to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

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

Closing Hymn- “The Church’s One Foundation”

UMH-545

Benediction *(Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour)*