



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 - 8.9.2026
Lay Worship Leader- Jason Marks

Words of Welcome & Announcements
Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)
Opening Prayer

Responsive Call to Worship

Children of God, some of us come today with songs of joy, rejoicing at all God has done for us.

We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Some of us come today with songs of mourning in our hearts, feeling the weight of loss, isolation, and loneliness.

We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Some of us come today with songs of worry and distress, overwhelmed by the troubles and the sufferings of the world.

We come to remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

In our joy, our sorrow, our isolation, and our worry, God is faithful!

We come to sing God's praises, for in all things, God's steadfast love and faithfulness never fail. Thanks be to God! Amen.

"My Hope Is Built" UMH-368

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

"Oceans" Praise Team

**** "Children are dismissed at this time****

Scripture Reading- Matthew 14:22-33 (NRSV) ²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but

by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,^[a] for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind,^[b] he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Sermon: “Being the Church in the Midst of the Storm”

Rev.

Pastor Pablo R. Vargas

“It Is Well with My Soul”

UMH- 377

Offering Prayer (In Unison)

Faithful God, we lift our voices and our gifts in grateful memory of your saving work. You call us to sing of your goodness and to remember your wonders, even when the way forward is hidden from view. As Joseph was used for life in a time of scarcity, so use these offerings for hope and healing in a hungry world. Make us instruments of your purpose—seeds of justice, salt of compassion, and signs of your steadfast love. Receive what we bring as praise made tangible, and send us out as a people who remember, who trust, and who sing of your deliverance in every season. Amen.

Invitation to give Our Tithes and Offering

Doxology

Prayer of Confession:

God is with you, Christ is present,
the Holy Spirit surrounds you and unites us all.

**But we have turned our eyes to the challenges of this life,
lost our focus on God, and are sinking in sin.**

You can begin again.

Imagine a new way of being.

We have cast aside our dreams to maintain the familiar.

We have cast aside the dreams of others, fearful of what they might mean.

God loves you,

Christ will lift you from the waves of doubt,

and the Holy Spirit will rescue you from currents of insecurity and alienation.

**In these moments of quiet reflection, confess to God all that separates you
from God and one another.**

(Offer silent prayers of confession)

Take heart, do not be afraid.

Every one who calls upon God's name will be saved.

We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Closing Hymn- "Freely Freely " UMH-389

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour*)