



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 - 8.30.2026
Lay Worship Leader- David Beeman

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

Responsive Call to Worship

Sometimes God calls us through burning bushes, telling us to go free a whole people despite our insecurities and fears.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us, and we don't understand the full meaning of the call, the ways our families, friends, and communities may resist the good news and us as messengers of it.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Sometimes God calls us to a path that is harder than we think we can handle, asking us to trust that God will provide what we need.

God, help us accept your call on our lives.

Beloved, God's call takes many forms. Sometimes it feels as natural as breathing, and sometimes we want to run as far as we can. But take assurance in this: You are not alone. God is with us, and God's call can be trusted, because no matter where it leads, God is there.

God, help us accept your call on our lives and to trust that what you equip us to do is what you call us to do as members of the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

UMH 577

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

Reading 1: Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)

"We Fall Down/Holiness"

Praise Team

**** “Children will remain in the sanctuary”****

Scripture Reading– Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV)

“From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’ ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

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

Sermon: “Re-Imagining Taking Up Your Cross” –Rev. Pablo R. Vargas
“Breathe on Me Breath of God” UMH 420

Prayer of Confession:

Leader: Christ Jesus, our teacher and our friend, we have not listened for your word amid the clamor of words all around us. We are more pleased to repeat familiar tunes than to listen for new melodies and strange harmonies. We try harder to defend what we think we know than to reach for that which is beyond our grasp. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do your will. We pray for hearts to pay attention to the cries of our neighbor and to resonate with your Spirit. Silence us and instruct us until we learn afresh to sing the songs of faith, hope, and love. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

There is no greater joy in the heart of God
than the moment when a child opens
to the gift of forgiveness.

God's Spirit reaches out to assure us
of welcome in Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

“Be Thou My Vision”

UMH- 451

Offering Prayer (In Unison)

Holy God, you call ordinary people from unexpected places and send them into hard and holy work. As you met Moses in the fire that did not consume, and as you met Peter on the road of costly discipleship, meet us now in these gifts we bring. Shape us by your presence, not by fear; by service, not by power; by love that risks itself for the sake of others. Receive our offering as a sign that we trust your “I AM” to go with us and that we are willing to follow Christ, even when the way is demanding. Use what we give to bring freedom, healing, and hope to your world. Amen.

Invitation to give Our Tithes and Offering

Doxology

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour*)