



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 - 6.13.2026

Lay Worship Leader- Peggy Gregory

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

Responsive Call to Worship

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

"Goodness of God"

Praise Team

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

"Psalm 23 (I am Not Alone)"

Praise Team

**** "Children will be dismissed at this time" ****

Scripture Reading- Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Sermon: “The Math of Mercy” -Rev. Pablo R. Vargas

Prayer of Confession:

O God, we seek your mercy...

Yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged.

**We think it “only fair” and “what is right” when we retaliate
and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship.**

**The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend;
still, we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items.**

We are eager to do your judging.

**And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness
while avoiding honest repentance.**

Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts.

Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.

(Silent confession.)

God's gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew, and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

"His Mercy is More"

-Praise Team

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*)