



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 - 10.4.2026

Youth Led Worship-

Words of Welcome & Announcements- Sara Vargas

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer- Gabriel Galamgan

“Amazing Grace”

UMH-378

Responsive Call to Worship – Isaiah Vargas

We live in a world that entices us with influence, power, and accolades.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call.

Sometimes we find ourselves wishing for heaven without working to bring heaven to earth.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to live righteously here and now.

Other times, we find ourselves exhausted by working for the gospel, wondering if anything we do is making a difference.

We remind one another to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call, leaning on Christ as the source of our perseverance and hope.

Beloved, God calls us not to escape this world but to build the kingdom of God in this place and in this time.

We choose to press on toward the prize of the heavenly call to embody God’s mercy and justice as we build God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Youth Praise Team

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

****“Children will be dismissed at this time”****

Scripture Reading- Philippians 3: 4b-14 (NRSV)

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵

circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Sermon: "What Lies Behind to What Lies Ahead" -Rev. Pablo R. Vargas

Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, present and near.

You are beyond our words and our understanding.

Help us to remember that You are at once

infinite, boundless, timeless, and eternal,

but, at the same time, intimately entwined with our lives.

You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.

When we have forgotten You,

Lord, have mercy.

When we have failed to speak words of love,

Lord, have mercy.

When we have neglected the need of another,

Lord, have mercy.

Loving God, present and near,

help us to recognise Your presence and nearness with us

as we worship together.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer (In Unison)- Isaiah

Faithful Shepherd, you call us beyond our resumes and our trophies, beyond what we have been toward who we are becoming in Christ. As we lay these gifts before you, free us from clinging to what we think gives us worth. Turn our eyes toward the future you are unfolding. Let our giving press us deeper into mercy, widen the circle of belonging, and shape us into people who embody your justice and grace. Keep us moving; keep us growing; keep us following. We press on toward your kingdom, trusting you to lead. Amen

Invitation to give Our Tithes and Offering (and Doxology)- Josh & Gabriel (ushers)

Communion

“To God Be The Glory” UMH-98

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Coffee Hour*)