



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 - 10.11.2026

Lay Worship Leader Amy Wix

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

“Come Ye Thankful People Come”

UMH-697

Responsive Call to Worship –

Beloved, God’s never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbor, and all creation.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God’s always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbors just as Christ loves us.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God’s persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God’s mercy and justice wherever we go.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighborhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

“The Heart of Worship”

Praise Team

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

Pastoral Welcome and Prayer

Pastor Eric Brown

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

Scripture Reading- Matthew 22:1-14 (NRSV) “Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.” **Leader:** *This is the Word of our Lord.* People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Wearing the Garment”

Pastor Eric Brown

Prayer of Confession:

God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all. Therefore, I invite you to confess all that would separate you from God or one another. Let us pray. When we have fashioned idols of our own desire or worshiped the temples of our own tradition,

Lord, have mercy. (*Time for personal reflection and confession*)

When we have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice, or failed to extend the invitation to others,

Christ, have mercy. (*Time for personal reflection and confession*)

When we have adorned ourselves with worry rather than joy or failed to be gentle, knowing you are near,

Lord, have mercy.

Praise be to God, our sins are forgiven.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Praise God!

"We Are Called"

TFWS-2155

Offering Prayer (In Unison)-

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)

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" **UMH-136**

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Lunch*)