



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 - 10.18.2026

Lay Worship Leader Janet Wix

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Centering Time (Preparing Our Hearts & Minds for Worship)

Opening Prayer

“Immortal Invisible”

UMH-103

Responsive Call to Worship –

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.

The Spirit inspires us to receive God’s Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.

Come, let us worship in the assurance of God’s love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

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

“In Christ Alone”

Praise Team

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Pablo Vargas

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

Scripture Reading- Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSV)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon: "The Likeness You Bear"

-Pastor Pablo Vargas

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

-Hymn Insert

Prayer of Confession:

God of Grace, we know that you have chosen us,
but we often forget that you have also chosen others.
You call us to be imitators of Christ,
yet many times we are imitators of the world.
You challenge us to turn from our idols,
but we are tempted to turn back to them again and again.

Rescue us, Lord, from ourselves.

Show us your way.

Guide our every action,

that we may live as you call us to live.

Amen

Offering Prayer (In Unison)-

Gracious God, you choose ordinary people and weave them into a community that shines with your love. We thank you for the gift of belonging—for the call to live our faith in ways that ripple outward into the lives of others. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to be witnesses to your grace. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and strengthen your church as a living example of hope. May our shared life together always point to Christ, whose love calls and sends us. Amen.

Invitation to give Our Tithes and Offering (and Doxology)

“O God Our Help In Ages Past” UMH-117

Benediction (*Stay Afterwards for Lunch*)