



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



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### **Open my heart to accept the challenge.**

*Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4: 8-9*

On this Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> is our daughter Trinity's 13th birthday. She was our first child and the details of the day she was born are indelibly imprinted in our minds. Mostly we remember a feeling of great joy. Joy not just that she had arrived sound and healthy, but also exuberance and hope for her future.

Now she will be officially a teenager, and we are left a bit bewildered by where all those years have gone – and how swiftly they have passed. Of course we recall important milestones along the way – her first words, steps, her baptism, and her first day of school. Her happiness when she had a baby brother, certain birthdays and other significant achievements and events through the years, and I can keep going and going..... The majority of those days have passed without leaving any specific memories at all.

That's the way it is with life. We get up in the morning with a job to go to, or a list of things we want to do. We hope to remain healthy and safe, and we strive to accomplish our plans. In other words we start our days thinking more about what we will **do** than what we will **be**. Perhaps if we focused more on the latter, our days would be more memorable – and filled with a far greater sense of accomplishment.

Let us pray: Lord, open my eyes and ears to all that is going on around me this day. Open my mind to understand what you would have me do to make a difference. Open my heart to accept the challenge.

“Now I can say I Live a Day” (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

## Online Devotionals

To grow in your relationship with God and others, it is important to have some spiritual disciplines in your life. Below are some helpful websites that will lead you to read scripture, pray, and focus on God.

**UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL** <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

**UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS** <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>