



First United Methodist Church of Hanford
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“Comfort and courage”

We have been listening to a whole lot of back-and-forth lately about whether to "open up" the country or to continue to stay the course as far as social distancing and restrictions on businesses.

We have too, been listening to a lot of back-and-forth about whether to "reopen" Schools or to have distancing learning at home. And all the complications that this brings to the table of so many families. No one seems to be able to quite make up their mind about what to do and when to do it. And despite the fact that some of us have opinions and preferences one way or the other, we are smart enough to know that that is all they are - opinions and preferences. Of course, the back-and-forth dialogue, in some cases, has turned into unpleasant rhetoric. Chaos seems to have become a daily part of our lives.

The truth is that as advanced as we are as a society, we simply do not have all the answers, whether it is about coronavirus or a thousand other dilemmas. And sometimes we get an exceedingly rude reminder of that. This is one of those times. What we are going through right now is something we would never have imagined just a few months ago. Yet here we are, navigating the great unknown.

You know as well as I do that we do not do well with uncertainty. We want to see a clear path in front of us. We want to know what to expect tomorrow and the day after that. But right now, we do not have that. What we do have is a God who walks beside us in that uncertainty, who calms our fears and who shines a light on the path ahead of us - it might be ever so dim, but it is enough.

I would like to share with you a Scripture passage that has the power to get us through our days. I invite you to take the time to read it aloud slowly several times. Ask God to give you some new insights into His Word to you today. Use it as the basis of your prayer time. Journal about what God is saying to you through this passage. And take both comfort and courage in knowing that God is with you today.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7

Let's pray: We thank you, Lord, for inspiring your people to bless one another with care and compassion during this difficult time. We pray for peace and patience in this time of uncertainty. Help us remember that you are in control even when it feels that the world is out of control. Remind us to trust you and to open ourselves to receive the gift you have for us each day - the peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.

“Be a Channel of God’s Grace”

Pastor Pablo

August 5th, 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/>

Daily words of wisdom and faith including quotes, scripture, questions, and the lectionary bible readings.