



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



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### **“That is where I have to live - in Hope”**

*“So we do not boast about the work that others have done beyond the limits God set for us. Instead, we hope that your faith may grow and that we may be able to do a much greater work among you, always within the limits that God has set.”*

*2 Corinthians 10:15*

Closing our churches-no be able to worship in person -that limits our freedom. Some say that is too much to ask. That limits our freedom of religion. It keeps us from seeing our friends. Wear a mask in public - that limits our freedom. We cannot see people smile. They make our glasses fog. They are hot. We cautiously approach our friends - or maybe we do not get anywhere near them. We are limited by the choices available in the supermarket, we know all of this by now.

These limitations also limit the spread of COVID-19. They force us to spend more time at home with our immediate family. We learn to survive with much less. We learn to depend more on our relationship with God. We have a whole new understanding of that thing called **HOPE**.

The Apostle Paul knew about limits. In 2 Corinthians, he tells us:

"Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. And, besides other things, I am under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches."

I think that qualifies him to speak to us about accepting limitations. That statement comes from 2 Corinthians chapter 5<sup>th</sup>, but look at what Paul says in chapter 10<sup>th</sup>. He talks to us about **Hope**. He writes:" We **hope** that your faith may grow and that we may be able to do a much greater

work among you, always within the limits that **God** has set. That is where I have to live - in **Hope**.

Let's pray: Creator and Sustainer of life, thank you for the hope that does not disappoint us. Teach us the lessons we need to learn from our limitations. Guide us to new opportunities and to look for new ways to serve you. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

"Now I can say I Live a Day" (John Wesley)

Pastor Pablo

September 30<sup>th</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/>