



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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Faith

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
(Hebrews 11:1)*

I do not if you notice that we started the second semester of 2020. And I do not know about you but The news are scary on these days, full of words we have never really given much thought to before but we are getting use to--phrases like pandemic, self-quarantine, and sheltering in place, wear a mask, six feet apart for one another, physical distance, etc. Crazy! Was not it just yesterday we were celebrating the New Year and all of the hope it brings?

Life has change very quickly. Things we accepted as normal parts of life- worship services are out of reach at the moment. We feel turned upside down, inverted and inside out. Shaken and stirred, disoriented and confused, we grasp for something to hold on to, something to steady us. Fortunately we can find ourselves equipped; we can find ourselves upheld, not by our own sense of humor or will, but by something else we have been carrying with us all along! Maybe we have to dust it off a bit, take it off the shelf, or reach down deep into our inner "pocket" to access it, but we have it. Do you wonder what I'm talking about? I'm talking about our faith!

You know that faith I'm talking about: It is the faith that we have been saving for times that are tough. We have gradually contributed to this well of faith week after week--when we attended church, prayed, or read our daily devotional. It is the faith we were helping when we were memorizing Bible verses like "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." It is the faith that we were growing each time God walked with us through a difficult diagnosis, a lost job, a broken heart, or a trying time with our children. It is the faith that we have stored up for such a time as this--a time of uncertainty and maybe fear, a time when the only thing we can know for certain is that we are held by the Rock, steady and sure.

Now is the time that we claim that faith we have been saving for hard times and we cling to it, confident that God is for us and that nothing can separate us from God's love. *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* Today, may each of us stand in God's hope, rest in the knowledge of God's mercy, trust in God's goodness and grace, and revel in the memories of God's tender care.

“Be a Channel of God’s Grace”

Pastor Pablo

July 1st, 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.