



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



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“Re-imagine”

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20: 19-20)

Easter was but a week ago. We spent 40 days getting there. We spent a week walking the emotional roller-coaster with Jesus to the cross. Why would we be so quick to move on? To allow it to be swallowed up in the routine of daily life or to act like it is not a part of our reality.

We are on this side of Easter therefore we are an Easter people. It is our reality. Jesus comes to all of us in our upper rooms - those metaphorical places we go when we are hurting, confused, angry, questioning, and second guessing, and he says to us, peace be with you; I am here. I am your reality.

This is just the beginning. Now is the time we must remember, re-imagine, and rebuild. Like the composer, the clockmaker, coach, artist, and teacher, everything Jesus was and is can only be if those who claim to believe in him, implement, enact, carry out, continue, and do what he started that first Easter morning - the creation of a New Kingdom - God’s Kingdom.

So, what that means for you, me, and for Hanford Church. What does it mean, really, to remember all that Jesus taught? What is the point if we do not live it out in authentic and meaningful ways. What does it mean to re-imagine church and community in light of following the risen Jesus? What difference would it make in the life of this church, this community? What would that reimagining look like? How can we rebuild following the kind of year and half we have had? What needs to be rebuilt? What does building on the cornerstone of Jesus bring about for us and for others that is good, beautiful, and true for all God’s people?

These are the questions (or some variation thereof) that the first followers faced. These are the questions that awaited them on the other side of the upper room door following Jesus’ resurrection. Like us after the year we have had; they were cautious and overwhelmed, and like us, they were empowered by Jesus to open the door and greet the anxious, hurting, fractured, imperfect, and waiting world with a message of love and hope.

Are you ready Easter people? Can we see Jesus in the room with us and remember? Will we creatively re-imagine and with wisdom, courageously rebuild? I pray the breath of the risen Christ makes it so.

Let us pray: Our God, may we always remember the love poured out in Jesus. May we have the insight to re-imagine just how powerful and healing that love is. May we have the courage to rebuild your church on the cornerstone of that love. Amen

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

Pastor Pablo

April 14th , 2021

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) <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals>

A daily devotional including scripture lesson and story.

[UPPER ROOM DAILY REFLECTIONS](https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/) <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>