



THOMPSON  
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# TIDINGS

Winter 2024 Edition

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome

Program & Schedule

Mission, Youth & Kids

Upcoming Events & Photos

Get Involved

Members Hub



*Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford*

## The Challenge and the Blessing of Invitation

At the middle school lunch table, I sat a few seats away from the popular kids. I would try to listen in on their jokes or laugh when they laughed. Occasionally they would include me in their conversations and one day they whispered among themselves before one of them offered me a real and true invitation to hang out with them that Friday night. I kept my cool and answered casually while I was exploding with excitement on the inside. Whatever wonderful things the popular kids had, I would now be in the know. I was invited.

An invitation is a bridge, a ticket to enter a new place. A wedding invitation insures you are on the guest list, a birthday invitation promises you'll be there for cake. A dinner invitation can put you around a table that just might restore a broken relationship. But just as I hoped that the invite to be with the popular kids would open the door to a new life, there is a God who has an invitation with our name on it, inviting us to live a life of joy and purpose.

(con't on next page)



# Pg 1 Article (con't)

*Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford*

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This advent we will hear again the invitations that have defined the coming of Christ for centuries. These are the invitations to hold on to hope, to be at peace, to experience joy and to know love. They are as old as time, but, if you are like me, you still desperately need each one of them.

But here's the thing:

The whole world needs these gifts.

As disciples of Jesus, we have each been given a stack of invitations to God's party, to God's good way of living. We have been given faith that allows us to invite others to experience hope, peace, joy, and love. I know it is hard to invite others to a life of faith. It's uncomfortable and awkward. We are afraid people will reject us or think we are weird. I get it.

Author Hugh Halter, in his book *The Tangible Kingdom*, shares how he began having party nights and Bible Study nights in his living room. On party nights he would cast the invite wide. He exuberantly invited friends and neighbors over to laugh and hang out. Party nights were well attended and everyone made new friends and had a great time. On Bible Study nights, Hugh would only invite the people he knew were faithful Christians, until one day his neighbor asked why there were so many cars outside. His neighbor recognized people from the Party nights walking into Hugh's house. Hugh had to share that it was Bible Study night and he didn't think the neighbor would want to come. Disheartened, the neighbor asked him, Why didn't you invite me? Hugh said I didn't think you'd want to come, to which the neighbor replied, Don't I get to make that decision?

Our job is to invite. We can't force faith on people. We can't make them love Jesus. Inviting might make people look at us differently, but that's a sacrifice that is part of Christianity. What is there really to lose? On the other hand, what would the friend or neighbor gain?

God has already shown us the gain: a life of hope, peace, joy and love.

With love,

Stephanie

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## Coming up

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December 31 -- Christmas  
Worship

January 7 -Epiphany/  
Communion

January 14th -- MLK

January 21st -- Sermon Series  
begins on Unity, focused on the  
book of Ephesians

February 14th -- Ash Wednesday

Advent Devotional  
Booklets are available via  
[www.tmpc.org](http://www.tmpc.org)  
or pick a printed copy in  
the church.

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# Sunday Services

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## Sunday Worship Schedule

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9:00am

### TRADITIONAL SERVICE

A liturgical, structured service filled with hymns, choirs, and classic worship components

10:00am

### COMMON HOUR/COFFEE HOUR

Adult Forum, Youth Sunday School, Choir Practice, and everyone's favorite: free coffee!

11:00am

### CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

A more modern service with a worship band and praise music.



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## Coffee Hour Returns



Coffee Hour at 10 am will take place in between our 9 am and 11 am services. Be sure to sign up to help serve via link in e-news, or website or at the Table of Well Wishing. It's easy and a time for fellowship!

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## Thompson Student Ministry



Thompson Student Ministry (8th-12th grade) is geared to serve, grow, and play all in the name of Jesus on Sundays from 6-8 PM and each week we will offer something unique, fun, and helpful as we find out together what this life of faith is all about. Look for more info soon, and contact Bill Stauffer (bstauffer@tmpc.org) with any questions.

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# Christmas Services

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## Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 AM THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS

*(SPECIAL DRAMATIC STORYTELLING EVENT) - SANCTUARY*

3:30 FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

*(POP-UP PAGEANT AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS) - FELLOWSHIP HALL*

6:00 CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

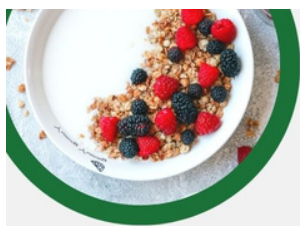
*(CONTEMPORARY CHOIR AND MULTIMEDIA EXPERIENCE) - FELLOWSHIP HALL*

7:00 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

*(LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH CANDLELIGHT) - SANCTUARY*

9:30 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

*(COMMUNION, CANDLELIGHT AND THE RINGING IN OF CHRISTMAS) - SANCTUARY*

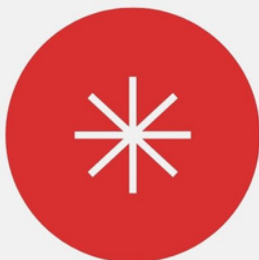
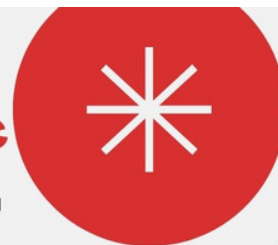


## CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AT TMPC

COMMUNITY MEAL - SPECIAL EDITION

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Join us for Brunch  
11:00 am on December 25  
in Fellowship Hall



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# Challenge Update

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*We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the author who initiates and perfects our faith.”  
Hebrews 12:2*

## OUR GOAL

## ACTUAL

**122**

People reading the Bible every day

**139**

**122**

People serving during November

**128**

**122**

People giving to the Stewardship Campaign

**126**

# Fall Festival 2023





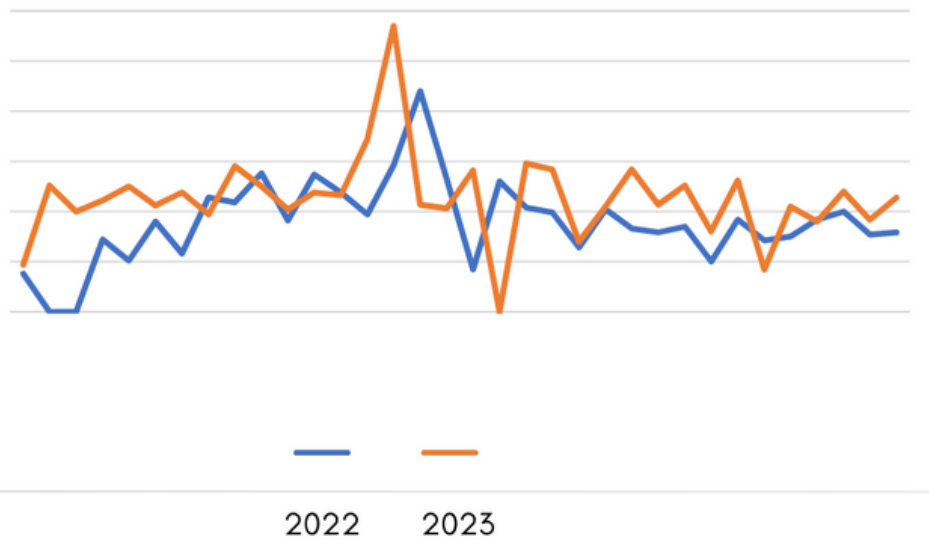
# Ministry HIGHLIGHTS

# 23%

increase



## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



Average Attendance 2022: 89

Average Attendance 2023:110

*\*Palm Sunday and Easter are not included, but Easter 2023 was 30% higher than 2022*

Summer Attendance 2022: 89

Summer Attendance 2023: 110

5th Sunday Attendance is notably higher when two services were held.

# Upcoming Events @ TMPC



## COMMUNITY MEAL

SECOND SUNDAY  
12:15 PM

THOMPSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1680 AQUETONG RD | NEW HOPE, PA  
WWW.TMPC.ORG

## Community Meal *December 10, 12:15 pm*

Join us for the Community Meal. This free and fun event is a time of food and fellowship for everyone. Put it on your calendar and plan to attend!! Sign up at [tmpc.org/community-meal](http://tmpc.org/community-meal)

## Parents' Night Out *December 15 at 5:30 pm*

Drop off your kids and enjoy some time to yourself! On December 15 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. We will provide dinner, games, Christmas activities, and more. Have your kids come for the whole time or drop off and pick up at any point during the event. Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas Jammies! Click on the link to RSVP in e-news or on the website [tmpc.org/kids](http://tmpc.org/kids) and please let us know if your child has any dietary restrictions or allergies.



## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15  
5:30-8:00PM  
ALL KIDS WELCOME!  
4 YEARS OLD - 7TH GRADE

DINNER - GAMES - CAROLING KARAOKE  
CHRISTMAS MOVIES - CRAFTS  
AND MORE!

**SIGN UP AT [TMPC.ORG/KIDS](http://TMPC.ORG/KIDS)**



## Christmas Musical *December 17 at 10 am*

On Sunday, December 17, we will celebrate our worship with one service featuring our children who will perform our annual Christmas Musical: 'Silent Night - The Birth of a Carol' at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall on December 17 lead by our Music Directory, Tricia Murphy. If you have any questions contact Tricia at [music@tmpc.org](mailto:music@tmpc.org).



# Upcoming Events @ TMPC

## MLK DAY OF SERVICE

**JANUARY 15, 2024**  
**9:00 AM-1:00 PM**



Join us on Monday, January 15 from 9 am - 1 pm for a day of service, music and learning. Sean McFadden, the new director of Urban Promise will be our keynote speaker. The team would like to purchase t-shirts for our participants. If you would like to help defray that expense let Melissa Mantz or Pastor Stephanie know.

WARREN COOPER

*Sacred Jazz Ensemble*

JANUARY 28

9:00 AM

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# ACT 2 Events @ TMPC

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## Lunch and Learn - Act 2

*January 10th 11:00am - 1:00 pm*

Come and meet Rich Timmons who will share his coffee table book featuring 67 paintings telling the story of Jesus of Nazareth. Salad Bar Lunch \$10.00. Books will be available for purchase on Wednesday, January 10, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

### LUNCH AND LEARN AUTHOR EVENT



Rich Timmons

*"Where beauty meets truth."*



Wednesday,  
January 10, 2024  
11:00 AM  
to  
1:00 PM

### January ACT 2 EVENTS 2024

Wednesday, January 10 – Rich Timmons  
(Lunch and Lecture)

Friday, January 26 – Movie Night

### February 2024

Friday, February 9 – An Evening with Bob Eagan

Thursday, February 15 – Bingo 1:00 PM

Tuesday, February 20 – Cath Lab Tour

More events information coming soon.

*tmpc.org/act2 or for further information contact ACT2@TMPC.org*

# Children's Ministry

## Overview

Thompson offers many activities to keep our children engaged with many opportunities to grow in their faith and experience God's love through lessons, games, mission, and more!



## Sunday School

During worship at 9am & 11am

Each Sunday children join their families in worship us at the start of worship. After a children's message they head off to Sunday School for a bible lesson along with an activity or game and a craft.



Sunday, November 19

The kids help us celebrate reaching our Challenge 122 goals!

## Kids Club

On the third Friday of the month children 4 years old through 5th grade come together for a great night of food, fellowship, and service.

Our Kids Club program has been growing as kids from Thompson bring their friends and spread the word about how much fun we're having.

When we meet we always complete a service project.

At our November event,

the kids worked together to make 32 portions of soup! This soup will be given out to our neighbors through Fisherman's Mark's meal program.

Learn more about Kids' Club and other children's ministry programs at [tmpc.org/kids](http://tmpc.org/kids)



## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15  
5:30-8:00PM  
ALL KIDS WELCOME!  
4 YEARS OLD - 7TH GRADE

DINNER - GAMES - CAROLING KARAOKE  
CHRISTMAS MOVIES - CRAFTS  
AND MORE!

**SIGN UP AT [TMPC.ORG/KIDS](http://TMPC.ORG/KIDS)**



STUDENT  
MINISTRY



HIGH SCHOOL  
MINISTRY

SUNDAYS 6-8 PM

## High School (8th-12th Grades)

High School youth group meets Sunday nights from 6-8 PM. We eat, play games, get to know each other, and dig in to our faith. The three pillars of our ministry are:

**GROW** - We discover who God is and who we are

**PLAY** - We have "fun to be us" times

**SERVE** - We care for our community and our world

## Middle School (5th-7th Grades)

On **September 15** we are launching a brand new opportunity for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders to grow in their faith. 567 Middle School Ministry will meet on the third Friday of each month, from 5:30-7:00 pm. They'll join with the Kids Club folks for dinner, but then break off for their own games and discussion time. There will also be periodic service opportunities AND fun outings. More to come, so stay tuned!

567  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MINISTRY

Questions? Email Bill Stauffer ([bstaufer@tmpc.org](mailto:bstaufer@tmpc.org)) or visit [www.tmpc.org/youth](http://www.tmpc.org/youth)

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# Adult Ed / Small Groups

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## Monday Morning Women's Ministry

*1st Four Mondays - 9:30-11:30 am*

Please join our ever-expanding circle of women who get together to discuss meaningful topics and to focus on fellowship, service projects and building relationships at TMPC. Using books, articles and movies as our starting points, we discuss the things that matter most to us and how our faith can guide us. There is always an open invitation to join the circle. Contact Sue Wert at [suewert@tarpfarm.com](mailto:suewert@tarpfarm.com).

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**First Monday of Each Month:** We all read and discuss an assigned book. The book title is announced lots of time ahead.

**Second Monday of Each Month:** Discussion of selected scripture.

**Third Monday of Each Month:** We watch an assigned movie ahead of time and discuss with the group that day.

**Fourth Monday of Each month:** When Rev. Stephanie's schedule allows, she leads us in discussion of a Bible Study book, chosen ahead.

## Men's Study Group

*Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday - 9:30-11am*

The Men's Study Group meets in the Conference Room at TMPC. Contact Mike Wert for more information at [mikewert@tarpfarm.com](mailto:mikewert@tarpfarm.com).

## Adult Education

We will be forming a new Adult Education Leadership Team to plan and choose the curriculum for adult Ed. If you would like to serve in this way, email Pastor Bailey!

## Sermon Talks

*Thursday Mornings - 9:30am*

Join Pastor Stephanie or Pastor Bailey each Thursday morning at the church for Sermon Talks. During this Bible Study we will spend time reading through and unpacking the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. This class is open to everyone. Join us!

*It wasn't until I began meeting weekly with our new small Group to study the Bible together that I experienced how necessary studying the Bible in a community is to our growth in Christ. We hear a lot about personal study—and I'm all for that. But we won't fully grow in our faith if we only study the Word sitting in our own little corner, in a comfy chair, surrounded by pretty pens, journals, and a hot mug of coffee.*

*We need to study God's Word in community.*

*--Lauren Washer*

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# Adult Ed / Small Groups

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Grief Share bereavement support group will begin a new 13 week session. This group is for anyone wrestling with the loss of a loved one, no matter how long ago the loss occurred. This supportive experience helps you to walk through the grieving process with other supportive people.

The class will meet Sundays at 10:00 am in Room 125.

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## AΩ

Alpha Omega is a new women's small group that meets every other Sunday morning in the conference room. Currently AO is reading Love Matters More by Jared Byas.

We meet every other Sunday at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room.

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## MCA

MCA is a new men's group that stands for "Men of a Certain Age." These guys are neither old nor young. They will incorporate fellowship, study and service. We meet Wednesday nights at in the Youth Room. To get on the email list for date and times, email Paul Templin Ashford paul@templinashford.net.

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# Monthly Missions @ TMPC

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## Food Drive

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Our next food drive is on **December 20** from 10:00 to 10:30 am. You can also leave donations at our food pantry inside the church during office hours before that date. Contact John Donahue if you have any questions regarding the Food Drive. See sign up in e-news and the website. Thank you to all of our TMPC family for your support.

## Fisherman's Mark

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Meal preparation will be on Tuesday, **January 9** at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Watch for the sign-up genius to donate food items and to help prepare the meal. We look forward to your future support of this new exciting program.



## Trenton Soup Kitchen

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One of our local Mission Partners is TASK. Over the years, TMPC has not only supported TASK financially, but also with donations of food, clothing, other necessities and our time. TMPC members and their friends go to the facility in Trenton and assist with serving the mid-day meal from 9:15 am to 1:00 pm. More volunteer opportunities are now available, and on the **"fourth Thursday of the month" for volunteer work**. If you are interested in going or finding out more about what we do there, please contact Chuck Green/cgreen1030@comcast.net. **Dates: December 15, 19 & 28.**

## Community Meal

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Our next Community Meal is **December 10 and January 14** in Fellowship Hall **at 12:15 - 1:15 pm**. The meal is free to all who attend! If you would like more information or to sign up to help with a meal, go to [CommunityMeal.org](http://CommunityMeal.org) or see the link in e-news. Every Second Sunday of the month.

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

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We have been blessed to support several families in a more in depth way this season. These funds come out of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to support these ministries, mark the memo line of your check or select that option online.

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# Mission @ TMPC

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## Rummage Sale - A Success

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Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to this year's Rummage Sale. We raised \$4200 which will go to a scholarship fund for Urban Promise - Trenton. Thank you to Tim, Sandford, Cathy Sandford, Anne Peshek and all our dedicated sorters as well as those who helped set up and clean up Fellowship Hall. It was great to see you serve others and caring for our community which makes a huge difference in people's lives and it is a great example of faith in action!

We can't do things like this without all the special people it took to make it a success!

Thank You!



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## Habitat for Humanity

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Thompson partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County as a part of the Faith Build program. TMPC helped to build one of three new single family homes in Croydon, PA.





# SERVE Weekend

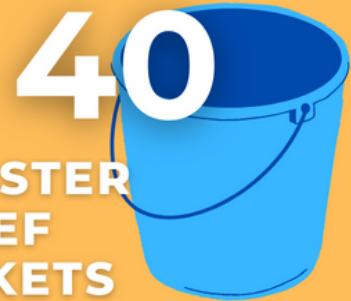


# SERVE WEEKEND @ TMPC

SERVE WEEKEND IMPACT



**250**  
WORLD  
VISION  
HYGIENE  
KITS



**40**  
CWS  
DISASTER  
RELIEF  
BUCKETS



**200**  
PB&J  
SANDWICHES  
FOR TASK



**16** VOLUNTEERS  
ROLLING  
HARVEST



**150**  
PAIRS  
OF SHOES  
DONATED TO  
SOLES 4 SOULS



**8**  
DELIVERIES  
OF TREATS TO  
FIRST  
RESPONDERS



**100**  
BURRITOS MADE FOR  
THE WELCOME CHURCH  
PHILADELPHIA



**300**  
BREAKFAST BAGS  
MADE FOR  
FISHERMAN'S  
MARK



**40**  
THANKSGIVING  
BOXES FOR BCOC



**2** MILES  
CLEANED  
THROUGH  
ADOPT-A-  
HIGHWAY



BROWNIES AND  
COOKIES FOR  
TASK  
**260**



**28** VOLUNTEER  
HOURS  
HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY &  
GOOD NEWS  
HOME

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# TMPC Members Hub

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## Volunteer Needs



### SUNDAY COUNTERS

We need your help on Sundays to be a counter for our weekly collections after the worship service. Sign up in e-news or website. If you are able to help with this task. We need 2 people each Sunday.

### USHERS

Please contact Sandy Barford if you would like to be added to the sign up list to serve as an usher for our services.

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### JOIN THE TECH TEAM

Come join the TMPC Worship Tech Team! No experience required - we'll even train you! All you need to bring with you is a basic comfort level with technology. Interested? Contact Bill Stauffer ([band@tmpc.org](mailto:band@tmpc.org)) for more information.

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### JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM

We are currently seeking contemporary worship musicians to join our team. We're looking for intermediate to advanced skilled instrumentalists who play guitar, keyboard, drums, or other contemporary worship instruments, as well as singers with tenor, alto, or soprano ranges who can sing harmony. Just as important as musical skills, we are looking for people who are passionate about worship and committed to creating an atmosphere that helps people draw closer to God. Interested? Contact Bill Stauffer ([band@tmpc.org](mailto:band@tmpc.org)) for more information.

## Prayers

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### PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME OR IN CARE

George Brandenburg  
Marlene Clark  
Frank Gatto

Pam Mills  
Josh Nemzoff  
Lisa Palise  
Bucky Pope

Meredith Power  
Nancy Quanstrom  
Elinor Raike  
Brenda Redfield

Jim Revie  
Tom Thatcher  
Holly Tomkovitz

Doris Wessner

## Church Leadership 2024

### DEACONS

Susan Achenbach, Jo Ann Alberts,  
Jeff Berry, Cheryl Boyle,  
Debbie Gardner, John Donahue, Tracey  
Jefferson, Bucky Pope, Peggy Rowlett, Bruce  
Stevens, Darlene Tomlinson, Linda Torda  
Sandy Barford & Cathy Sandford - Co-Chairs

### SESSION ELDERS

Judy Cronise	Clerk of Session
Katie Lyons	Christian Education
Trish Chinoy	Worship and Music
David Callans	Personnel
Kurt Thompson	Finance
Melissa Michael	Membership Development
Fred Wustholz	Property
Sue Wert	Nominating
Marci Capel	Communication
Rich Schaub	Long Range Planning
Chuck Napier	Inclusivity
Jeff Campbell	Stewardship
Tim Sandford	Mission

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## Update Your Membership

Keeping your information updated helps our church serve you better! And please be assured that this information is not accessible by non-members of our church.

Visit [tmpc.org](http://tmpc.org) and click on the MY TMPC button in the top right corner. If you need instructions, you'll find a link in the Welcome paragraph that will take you to a How-To page with easy-to-follow tutorials on how to make these changes.

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# TMPC

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## James Daily

We have hired a new sexton, James Daily. James comes to us with experience in building and construction. He has a strong attention to detail and is a joyful worker. James lives in Yardley, PA with his parents and his son, Carter. James will be in the building during regular office hours and is happy to help with whatever you may need. I'm sure you will join me in extending a warm welcome to him.



## Dorothy Fine

It is with great sadness that I share the news that our beloved organist Dorothy Fine will be stepping down from her position. Dorothy no longer wishes to drive in the evenings and is looking forward to stepping down before the winter weather hits. Dorothy will be with us through the end of the year or early into the new year, depending on when we find a new organist. We can't thank her enough for her faithfulness to TMPC through these past years.

## Staff

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Senior Pastor (Sabbath: Monday)  
Associate Pastor (Sabbath: Friday)  
Administrative Assistant  
Accounting Administrative  
Director of Music  
Contemporary Music Director & Youth Director  
Organist/Accompanist  
Business Administrator/Treasurer/Volunteer  
Sexton

Stephanie Templin Ashford  
Bailey Pruner Heckman  
Melissa Bottelier  
Laura Kandziolka  
Tricia Murphy  
Bill Stauffer  
Dorothy Fine  
Sue Schaub  
James Daily



**THOMPSON  
MEMORIAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### **Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church**

1680 Aquetong Road, New Hope, PA 18938

Office: (215) 862-2440

[www.tmpc.org](http://www.tmpc.org)

Office Hours: M-F 8:30am-2:30pm