



THOMPSON
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TIDINGS

Winter 2022 Edition

I'm here for it God, I'll do it.

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
(Luke 1: 48b-50)*

In the top right drawer of my desk is a handwritten post-it note with the words: "In times of struggle" and beneath the title are three scripture verses. The was a note I found in some of my grandmother's things after she passed. Every time I open that desk drawer it feels like her faith is once again strengthening mine. I can hear her voice. I can remember sitting with her in church. I know that her devotion to seeking God's words in times of joy and in times of difficulty is a gift that I inherited from her. I have said many times that the gift of faithful grandparents can never be underestimated, but scripture widens this lens as we look to the words of Mary, mother of Jesus.

Right after Mary found out from the angel Gabriel in the gospel of Luke that she would bear the son of God, she offered God praise for his gift and said that it was not just for her, not just between a mother and son or a grandparent and a grandchild, but for all people, "from generation to generation."

She was aware that what God was doing through her was not for her alone, but through the power of God, Jesus would be the connecting piece between all that had come before and all that was still to come. She stood at the turning point in history and said, I'm here for it, God. I'll do it.

(con't on pg 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome - 1

Fall Reflections - 4

Looking Ahead - 6

Get Involved - 11

Members' Hub - 18



I'm here for it God, I'll do it. (con't)

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

Maybe faith starts as a me and God kind of thing, but it was never intended to stay that way.

This Advent we will spend time recognizing how God has been weaving faith into our story for generations, and also, we each have the chance to think about how we will pass along the most important story of all time through each one of us.

I think it is a natural inclination to want to share Christmas traditions like recipes and stories with new generations, but it is a spiritually mature notion to want the goodness of God to be the essence that defines your legacy.

What note will the people in your life find tucked away that connects them to a faithful past and points them to a God filled future?

Maybe it could just be the words: I'm here for it, God. I'll do it.

With love,

Stephanie

What will define your legacy of faith?

And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Love, Generously

The 2022 pledge campaign filled the month of October with stories of God's incredible love. On October 30th, we gathered all of our choirs and our children and adults alike in a full and glorious worship service as people walked forward, pledge in hand to make a commitment to the ministry of God at TMPC for 2023. We also added a line to the pledge card that notes how many hours of your time you would like to pledge. It is our goal that every member contribute at least one hour of time per month to share the ministry of our congregation.

If you are looking for a way to serve, consider signing up for coffee hour, offering to usher, or volunteer to teach Sunday school!

The Stewardship team reports that at week 4 of the campaign we have gathered 62 pledges for a total of \$530,000. We are a long way off from our goal of \$690,000, but we believe that God is faithful and that with your generosity we will be able to fund our 2023 budget.

We are still collecting pledges and if you haven't had a chance to turn your pledge in, they are available at the Table of Well Wishing and you can pledge online at www.tmpc.org/giving



tmpc.org

What a beautiful thing,
God, to give thanks,
to sing an anthem to you,
the High God!
To announce your love each
daybreak,
sing your faithful presence
all through the night.

Psalm 92:1-2 (MSG)

FALL REFLECTIONS

Playground Dedication

Rev. Bailey Heckman

I can think of no greater joy than seeing the excited, smiling faces of our kids as they ran into our brand new playground to try out the slides, monkey bars, and more. It was a beautiful fall day with the sun shining and the leaves beginning to turn all the brilliant colors of fall. We prayed a prayer of blessing over our new playground and dedicating all the fun that will be had there to God's glory because God delights when we care for, include, and love children.

There are also a few people I would like to make sure we remember with thanksgiving. First, Tricia Murphy who took on this project and worked with the township and equipment company making sure all the details were taken care of. For Trish Chinoy for offering her consult and support. And for Drew Jefferson and his crew who worked tirelessly to prepare the land, install the fence, and put together the playground equipment. And finally the generous donor whose gift made this all possible. For many years we can look out on children happily playing on the playground and be reminded of God's love and joy. What a blessing!



TCHLTB

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

We had such a blast serving the community this November! We had projects on Saturday and Sunday in New Hope and Lambertville and several projects at the church. From book collection to Disaster relief supplies, and our church was able to make a huge impact.

Thank you to all of you who took the time and energy to serve with us this fall, and we are excited to see how God uses our community's work to make an impact in the world!



Community Service - CHLTB



Thank you all so much so the amazing burrito lunch you provided for our folks this past Monday and Tuesday!

One man, who lives in a tent in the park, commented on how excellent they were and on Tuesday, with the change in weather, Arch Street UMC (where we met) actually ran short of lunches. The burritos were heated and it was a perfect day for such a warm treat!

With our limitations on indoor dining, everyone was thrilled to have such a satisfying lunch. The treats were just right and very generous. Look forward to seeing you at coffee hour!

Violet/Trenton Area Soup Kitchen



Fall Reflections

Art Show

On October 8th, TMPC hosted the Thompson Memorial Fine Art Exhibit, showcasing 15 local artists. The art displayed was a variety of oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings, prints, pottery and photography. The Art Show was advertised to the surrounding community, and we were able to welcome over 110 guests, both from within and outside of the congregation. All of the attendees enjoyed harp and piano music, as well as a beautiful reception of food and drinks. With a portion of each sale going to the Urban Promise Trenton Scholarship fund, the event raised over \$1,600 for the fund! Many thanks to all of the volunteers, the artists and the wonderful musicians who made this possible!

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

Food Rescue Mission

In November, we took a team of volunteers to Gravity Hill Farm in Titusville, NJ, and worked to harvest lots of turnips!

Rolling Harvest collects produce from local farms and donates it all to the local food pantries to provide healthy options for everyone. Look for another day of service coming up to enjoy this ministry!



Rummage Sale

The Rummage sale was back full swing this fall. Our volunteers were excited to host this event. Our 30+ volunteers took part in our huge sort day, and throughout the week. Our youth ministry helped out with carrying all the items to Fellowship Hall, which was a huge help. Thank you to Anne Peshek for organizing all the details and to her crew of dedicated volunteers!

This year, the proceeds from the rummage sale, which was over \$5,100 will go towards our missions at Thompson. Thanks again to all of those who helped out to make this fall's rummage sale a success!



Annual Fall Festival

October 30, 2022

What an incredible event! Over 200 folks from Thompson Church and our community came out to our fall festival. There was pumpkin carving, music with local musician, Lolly, popcorn, donuts and other snacks, great fellowship, and a trunk-or-treat. Special thanks to Melissa Michael and the membership committee for putting this event together and making it such a success!



TRUNK-OR-TREAT

16 families decked out their trunks with super creative themes, costumes, and, of course, buckets of candy and treats to give away. We had over 75 trick-or-treaters from our community come in costume and move through our trunks gathering treats and having a great time! We even gave our prizes to the best decorated trucks!



Advent @ TMPC



Generation to Generation

The root word of "generation" is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding— in and through us. This Advent season, how will we carry it forth?

This Advent's theme has a parallel devotional booklet that will be available on November 27th, the first Sunday of Advent. We can't wait to journey together through this season.

Nativity Sunday

Nov. 27 - 10:00am

On Sunday, November 27 during The Common Hour, the worship committee and the CE Committee are hosting an Advent Nativity Festival. On this first Sunday of Advent we are inviting you to bring a nativity to display and/or to make a new nativity. There will be creative options for all ages.

Advent Devotionals & calendars for all ages will be available at this event.

Nativity Festival
November 27 at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall

Bring in your favorite nativity to display and make your own DIY nativity to take home

December Dates to Remember

December 11	Urban Promise RED BAGS returned
December 18	One Worship Service at 10am with Children's Christmas Musical
December 24	4:30 pm, 7:30 pm and 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Services
December 25	Christmas Day Service at 9am in the Sanctuary & 10 am Christmas Brunch
January 1	New Years Day Service at 9am in the Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Musical

*December 18th - 10:00 am
One Worship Service Only
in Fellowship Hall*

We can't wait to see our kids tell the gospel story of Christmas through drama and song during the Worship Service. Join us at 10:00 am on December 18th to be a part of "A Christmas Carol, Scrooge in Bethlehem in Fellowship Hall.



Christmas Bags for Urban Promise

UrBANPromise Trenton Christmas BAG



Our Urban Promise Trenton kids and teens have an extended Christmas Break this year so we are asking you to fill a **RED BAG** with goodies to help keep them warm and provide snacks for their down time.

Since all of the kids and teens at Urban Promise Trenton live at or below the poverty level, the high costs of food and fuel are challenging our families. Your gift will make a difference!

Red bags and the list of items needed are available on the Table of Well Wishing
Please return your **RED BAG** no later than Dec. 11 so that the kids and teens receive their bag before break.

THANK YOU!

JOIN US AT
OUR
Christmas Eve
SERVICES

4:30PM | 7:30PM | 10:30PM

4:30PM
FAMILY SERVICE

Every child is a part of God's story!
Join us for a pop-up Christmas pageant where every child gets a part, retelling the birth of Jesus.



7:30PM
LESSONS & CAROLS

Scripture, preaching, and a candlelit Silent Night usher in the Christ child during this traditional service of Christmas worship.



10:30PM
COMMUNION SERVICE

This service is full of all of the mystery of Christmas. Complete with communion, choirs and the ringing in of Christmas, you won't want to miss this worship experience!



Children's Update

Bailey Heckman

Overview

The joy of a smiling child is one of those things that just lights up an entire room. Even with masks, those smiles have been radiating at Thompson each and every week.

Our children's ministry is in an exciting place, filled with energy, passionate volunteers, and teachable spirits in our children.

We want Thompson to be a church that families not only feel welcome at, but desire to be fully involved in. With that in mind, we are eager to roll out some new opportunities for children to grow in their faith journeys!

Vacation Bible School

July 31-August 4, 2023



Can you believe that VBS is only half a year away?! We are excited to announce that we will be hosting VBS on July 31st - August 4th. Registration will open in the next few months.

Kids Club Events



[Sign up at tmpc.org/kids](https://tmpc.org/kids)

We have had a lot of fun at Kids Club this year. Each time we get together we eat, play, and do a service project. Our projects this year have included making soup for Caring for Friends, making cookies for TASK, putting together cards and packages for veterans and active military and so much more!

Our next Kids Club will be January 20, 2023. We hope to see you there!



Kids Mission Weekend - Philly



Registration Due: Jan. 1, 2023

For more information and links to register visit our webpage tmpc.org/mission-weekend or contact Bailey Heckman bheckman@tmpc.org

This trip is for anyone 3rd-5th grade so please tell your family and friends to come along! We will serve through the Philly Project who works with local church partners and our homeowners to complete service projects and simple home repairs. Along with service opportunities, the Philly Project offers dynamic worship experiences on Friday and Saturday night.

THOMPSON STUDENT MINISTRY

At TSM our hope is to see our students **GROW** together with God, to **SERVE** others together the way Jesus served, and to **PLAY** together to build friendships and invite others into our circle.

Since September, we have been doing all of this. We've grown by asking big questions about who God is and how we can find relevancy for our lives in the Bible; we've served together with Rolling Harvest and at our Fall Fest, and we played in NYC and at the movies. (Wakanda Forever!)

Plus, **Breakfast with Mother Goose** where students get to hang with our resident font of wisdom Jeff Campbell in a casual diner setting and pepper him with all types of questions!

There's so much more ahead. Retreats and mission trips and Mother Goose Breakfasts and studies and general goofing around all await our students in the coming months. Teens are, in our humble opinion, the best people on the planet and we are privileged to share life with them!

GROW

Zeteo Retreat Feb 3-5, 2023



TMPC youth will once again head to Manheim, PA to engage in a prayerfully crafted retreat full of singing, stillness, story, and drama, all designed to remind our youth that they are not searching alone. Sign-ups are now open on our website. See Bill Stauffer for more information.

SERVE

Puerto Rico - July 15-22, 2023

This summer we dash off to Puerto Rico to assist with disaster relief near San Juan, following another brutal hurricane season. Our team will be serving at clean up sites, assisting with rebuilding, and building relationships with the beautiful people of Puerto Rico.

PLAY

All. Year. Long.



Monthly Missions @ TMPC

Food Drive

Our next food drive is on **December 21** from 10:00 to 11:00 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 giving so much monthly.

Caring For Friends

Our next Caring for Friends meal preparation will be on Tuesday, **December 13** at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Our sign up for our needed ingredients or volunteer for meal preparation can be found in e-news or on our website. Thank you to everyone who gives generously on a monthly basis to this outreach with their time and ingredients!



Trenton Soup Kitchen

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. For many years, TMPC members and their friends have gone to the facility in Trenton and assisted 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 on **November 28 and December 16** or finding out more about what we do there, please contact Chuck Green (cgreen1030@comcast.net).

Community Meal

Our next Community Meal is **December 11 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 or see the link in e-news.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

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.

Adult Ed / Small Groups



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 in the Conference Room

Join Pastor Stephanie or 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

Monday Morning Women's Ministry

1st Four Mondays - 9:30-11am

Please join our ever-expanding circle of women who get together to discuss meaningful topics and to focus on fellowship 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.

We are meeting in person for the summer. Contact Sue Wert at suewert@tarpfarm.com.

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

Currently meeting in-person at the church or via Zoom on days with inclement weather. Contact Mike Wert for more information at mikewert@tarpfarm.com.

TMPC Members Hub

Welcome New Members!

We are so excited to welcome our new (and returning) members into our TMPC community!

Our new members:

Jim Alpaugh
Andy, William, Ellie Beldowicz & Lisa Dinella
Caitlyn Chione
Sylus Jefferson
Alicia Law
Christiana Mitchell
George and Eileen Wislar

Church Leadership

NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

Dave Callans
Tim Sandford
Kurt Thompson
Sue Wert

NEWLY ELECTED DEACONS

Jeff Berry
Patti Davis
Priscilla Donohue
Tracey Jefferson
Cathy Sandford
Linda Torda

Volunteer Needs



AUDIO/VISUAL TECH

On Sundays we need a small team of 2-4 to assist with the set up of our audio and visual systems so that we can record and livestream our worship services. **No Experience Needed!** Email Pat at youth@tmpc.org

SUNDAY COUNTERS

We need your help on Sundays to be a counter for our weekly collections after the worship service. We need 2 people each Sunday. Sign up on at www.tmpc.org/sign-ups

2023 TMPC SESSION

Judy Cronise	Clerk of Session
Chuck Green	Mission
Melissa Callans	Christian Education
Trish Chinoy	Worship and Music
Tom Barford	Personnel
Kurt Thompson	Finance
Melissa Michael	Membership Development
Fred Wustholz	Property & Cemetery
Anita Campbell	Nominating
Jeff Campbell	Stewardship
Chuck Napier	Inclusivity
Marci Capel	Communications
Rick Schaub	Long Range Planning

Member's Hub (*con't*)

Common Hour

The time in between the services at 10:00am (Common Hour) we have a number of opportunities including: coffee fellowship, children's choir, as well as youth and adult Christian education.

Sunday School for kids 4 years old through 5th grade occurs during the worship service and the nursery will be open all morning for any child younger than 4 years old from 9am - 12pm.

Community Meals

Our meal program is available the second Sunday of each month. Our next in person Community Meal will be on September 11. Contact Judy Cronise at Jcronise@comcast.net, if you can be a driver to take meals to local shut-ins, we would love your help! If you would like to donate financially to the Community Meal effort, go to www.tmpc.org/community.

Wedding Coordinator

Do you love weddings? Are you looking for a fun way to be involved in church? Consider serving on our Wedding Coordinator Team. Members of this team work with the pastors and couples who wish to get married by answering questions they have and helping them at the rehearsal and at the wedding.

The coordinator is compensated with a small donation at each wedding.

Kathy Sailer has served faithfully as a Wedding Coordinator for TMPC for so many years and we are very grateful. She will continue to help new people who are interested in this role. For more information contact Pastor Stephanie.

For more info, go to tmpc.org.

Coffee Hour

On Sundays we share fellowship between our worship services with a cup of coffee and a snack. This is a great way to get to know your church friends and it is a great volunteer opportunity. The best way to learn how to run a coffee hour is to tag along with folks you see in the kitchen, ask questions and lend a hand. You will quickly see just how easy it is to be part of this ministry! This is a ministry, a family, small group, or a group of friends can do this together. Sign up to host a coffee hour. Or just send in baked goods anytime.

Ministry of Meals

Meals are one of the many ways we shower love on one another here at Thompson. A meal delivered in a time of crisis, ill-health, grief etc. can be a priceless gift. If you would like to be informed when meals are needed in our Thompson family, please send Bill Clark an email at bclark.twosixer@aol.com to be included in sign-up email distribution. Thank you!

Sunday Readers

If you would like to be a part of the worship service by serving as a reader, please see our sign-up link via the e-news on our website.

ACH Giving

This is an option for e-givers is to give directly through your bank in the form of an automatic check. This process does not have any fees and allows the church to receive 100% of your donation. Feel free to ask Sue Schaub or Pastor Stephanie if you have any questions about this giving platform.

Ushers Needed

This is an easy job and you will be guided by someone who is experienced. Volunteers are needed for both services. Contact Sandy Barford, sandbar1535@gmail.com. See link in e-news or website on our sign-ups page.

TMPC Members Hub

Worship Service Info

9:00 am & 11:00 am

Worship

We are currently meeting in-person and have a livestream option. For up-to-date info and any changes in our in-person worship, visit our website www.tmpc.org.

Online Worship

We are currently offering live streamed services online every Sunday, which can also be viewed at a later time. Our livestreamed services can be found both on Facebook and on our website. For more information on our online worship, visit www.tmpc.org/sunday-worship

Tithes & Offerings

We thank you for prayerfully considering what God has called you to give during this season of life. At Thompson, we have options for e-giving as well as in-person giving. If you would like to set up e-giving, [click here](#).



Staff

Senior Pastor (Sabbath: Friday)
Associate Pastor (Sabbath: Friday)
Youth Ministry Director/Contemporary
Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Organist/Accompanist
Church Accountant
Business Administrator/Treasurer
Sexton

Stephanie Templin Ashford
Bailey Pruner Heckman
Bill Stauffer

Melissa Bottelier
Patricia Murphy
Dorothy Fine
Laura Kandziolka
Sue Schaub
George Salt



**THOMPSON
MEMORIAL**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church

1680 Aquetong Road, New Hope, PA 18938

Office: (215) 862-2440

www.tmpc.org

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