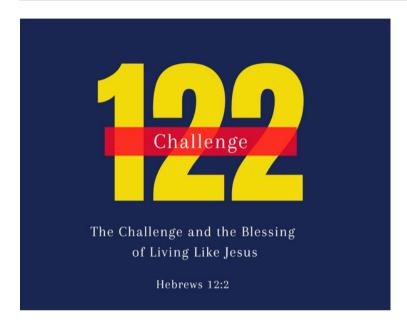


TIDINGS



Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

The Challenge and the Blessing

In a recent TikTok video, a woman is scrambling to collect coins in her car to put a small amount of gas in her car. A man notices her counting and sneaks around the other side of the pump, puts in his credit card and fills her tank before she notices. He quickly gets in his car and drives away.

The first time I saw the video I got choked up. It was so countercultural and so kind and so, well, so much like Jesus. I think that in the days of the New Testament, people experienced Jesus as someone who exhibited surprising kindness, generosity, and peace.

The generous man in the video gave up his time and his resources to show radical and surprising love without any expectation of a verbal nod of gratitude or a monetary repayment.

FALL 2023 Edition

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Welcome

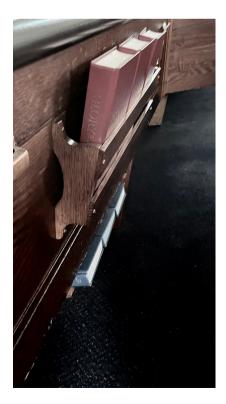
FALL Program & Schedule

Mission, Youth & Kids

Upcoming Events & Photos

Get Involved

Members Hub



This kind of living challenges me. I feel convicted by my own busyness and greed, but I also feel invited to be a blessing to others and to be more aware of the blessings that are all around me.

I'm sure you've had experiences when you served because you were responding to a guilt trip or you gave because there was a plate in front of you, but I also think there are times when you showed up and God showed you why it was worth it.

Throughout the fall at Thompson, we will focus on the challenges and blessings of living like Jesus.

Fix your eyes upon Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith – Hebrews 12:2

We have zoomed in on a specific verse: Hebrews 12:2 (look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, ...or more simply -- Fix your eyes on Jesus) and from the verse number we have created a series of challenges that revolve around the number 122. These challenges are spiritual, interpersonal, physical, and financial. Each challenge is designed stretch you as well as bless you. Each challenge is also designed to help you to live in a way that reflects the goodness of our God.

We will roll out the details on Rally Day and we can't wait to see what God will do in our church and in our community. We will be challenged and blessed, for sure!!!

In Christ's abundant love,

Stephanie



Be humble and peaceful, and Jesus will be with you. Be devout and calm, and He will remain with you. -- Thomas à Kempis

> Fall Sermon Series The Challenge

September

The Challenge and the Blessing of *Following Jesus*

October

The Challenge and the Blessing of *Generosity*

November

The Challenge and the Blessing of *Service*

December

The Challenge and the Blessing of *Welcome*

RALLY DAY



RALLY DAY

We begin a new series on September 10 as our kickoff for Rally Day where we will take new photos for our Directory/Membership, Bible Presentation, begin our Christian Education and youth ministry activities. However, our children's choirs will begin on September 17.

PHOTOS FOR OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our goal is to update our membership photos in CCB, our church directory. Come camera ready on September 10. We'll take photos of individuals, couples, children and families. We will update the directory accordingly. So bring your smiles on Rally Day!

Fall Programming Begins on 9/10

Sunday Worship Schedule



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.

+

Coffee Hour Returns



Beginning in the fall, 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!

Thompson Student Ministry



This year, Thompson Student Ministry (8th-12th grade) is geared to serve, grow, and play all in the name of Jesus. We kick off our school year on September 10 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.

FALL FEST - OCT 29th



CHURCH GROWTH UPDATE

Over the past two years we have seen God do amazing things at TMPC. We want to share the great news of our growing ministry with you!

YOUTH MISSION TEAM

Last year's mission team of 12 went to Lancaster, SC. This year 18 teens and adults went to Puerto Rico.





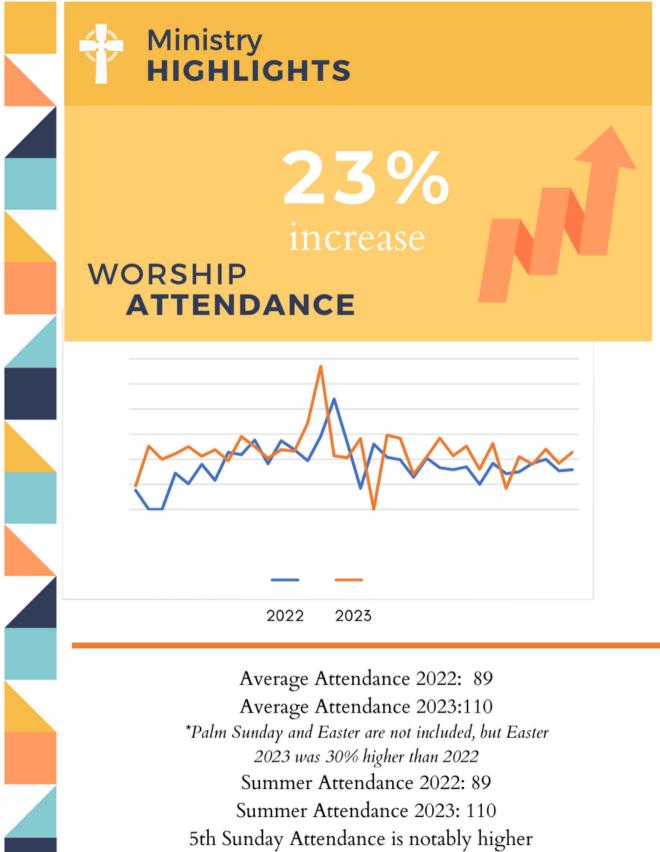
KIDS MINISTRY



Summer Sunday School nearly doubled! Average attendance went from 5 kids to 9 kids per Sunday

Vacation Bible School enrollment went from 45 kids in 2022 to 55 kids in 2023





when two services were held.

By Kurt Thompson

The session would like to share this snapshot of the first quarter financial data with you. We are encouraged by your giving and grateful for your sacrifice of time, talent and treasure to the Lord. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Kurt Thompson, finance chair.

General Fund Revenues	YTD Actual		YTD Budget		(Under) / Over	
Pledged Giving	\$ 409,	387	\$ 4	18,364	\$	(8,977)
Non-Pledged	\$ 79,	689	\$	46,376	\$	33,313
Other Receipts	\$ 5,	802	\$	7,500	\$	(1,698)
Total Donations	\$ 494,	878	\$ 4	72,240	\$	22,638
Investment Income	\$ 3,	718	\$	2,697	\$	1,021
Investment Gain (Loss)	\$ (6,	558)	\$	0	\$	(6,558)
YTD June 2023	\$ 492,	038	\$4	74,937	\$	17,101

General Fund Expenses		YTD Actual		YTD Budget		Under / (Over)	
People	\$	224,583	\$	226,013	\$	1,430	
Place	\$	64,466	\$	61,454	\$	(3,012)	
Benevolence	\$	1,890	\$	45,360	\$	43,470	
Music & Worship	\$	12,362	\$	15,719	\$	3,357	
Christian Education	\$	8,689	\$	6,400	\$	(2,289)	
Membership Development	\$	4,675	\$	5,252	\$	577	
Apportionment, net	\$	7,651	\$	7,907	\$	256	
YTD June 2023	\$	324,316	\$	368,105	\$	43,789	

TMPC'S First Quarter Financial Statement

By Kurt Thompson

TMPC 6 Month Financial Summary

Revenue Notes

For the most part, pledged donations are on track compared to the June YTD budget. The YTD unfavorable variance in pledged giving is due the timing of actual donations compared to the monthly budget spread. Non pledged donations are better than plan due to some larger unplanned donations. Glenmede sold investments and recognized some losses in the first half of the year. None of theses losses were budgeted. Investment income was generally in line with plan.

General Fund Expense Notes

People costs are essentially on plan and are favorable by \$1,430. We have no interns so far in 2023 representing a savings of \$1,665, payroll taxes are \$1,466 favorable (budget was conservative). These savings were partially offset by the timing of professional education expenses and some additional custodial services when our new Sexton was "shadowing" George Salt before his retirement in April.

Place is net unfavorable by \$3,012 primarily as a result unfavorable: 1) fuel oil and propane costs of \$5,748, 2) ground maintenance costs of \$1,390 and furnishings cost of \$1,135 partially offset lower level of office expenses and the timing of software license payments.

Benevolence is favorable by \$43,740 as a result of not making any direct payments to our mission partners in the first half of the year. These payments are expected to be made in July or August.

Music & Worship is favorable by \$3,375 related to equipment maintenance being \$2,500 favorable (\$1,000 of this is for the purchase of a dolly that was not made (and is not expected to be made in 2023) and from \$1,500 in lower levels of audio/visual costs.

Christian Education is unfavorable by \$2,289. Adult education is \$1,497 over plan and the remaining variances are all believed to be timing related.

No other expense captions had a net variance over \$1,000 YTD

General Fund Net Surplus - YTD TMPC has a net surplus of \$60,890 driven by \$17,101 in favorable revenues and \$43,789 in favorable expenses. Excluding the timing of General Fund Benevolence expenses, the surplus is \$17,150 which shows that in the aggregate general fund expenses are essentially on plan and the favorable variance is due to actual revenues being higher than plan.

Upcoming Events @ TMPC



New Member Class October 15 or 22

We will host a class for those who are looking to join our congregation on Saturday, **October 15 OR 22** from 12:00-2:00 PM. This class is an opportunity to learn more about the church, explore your faith, and get to know other new members. If you would like to sign up to participate in this class please contact the church office at officeetmpc.org or pastoretmpc.org and let us know if you can attend either afternoon.

Community Meal September 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**





Serve Weekend Nov. 4-5 Projects both days

On the first weekend of November we <u>will not</u> host Sunday morning worship so that we can worship in the form of service. Events will be held Saturday and Sunday at TMPC and in the community. Look for sign ups coming soon!

Upcoming Events @ TMPC

Blood Drives at TMPC

September 8, 12:00-5:00pm

Make a reservation! Our next drive is on Friday, September 8 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm, The Red Cross will host a blood drive for information or to schedule an appointment: go on-line and sign up at <u>www.redcrossblood.org</u> and enter: TMPC or call 1-800-RED CROSS. TMPC September 8

BLOOD DRIVE 12 -5 pm in Fellowship Hall



Movie Night at TMPC September 9, 6:00-9:00pm

Join us for movie night (date TBD) from 6 – 9 pm for sandwiches, salad and a movie. "Get Low" will be our featured movie in the Conference Room or Fellowship Hall. Contact Sue Wert with any questions.

Jazz & Joe September 24, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

The Deacons of TMPC are pleased to present an afternoon of Jazz & Joe in Fellowship Hall on September 24 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Come and hear these talented musicians and enjoy a cup of coffee, a snack and good company. There is no charge although we will have a basket for donations and pick a mission for the proceeds.





ACT 2 Events @ TMPC

Trivia Night at TMPC September 30, 6:30-8:30pm

Bring your friends and your brainpower for an unforgettable night of TRIVIA at TMPC on Saturday, September 30 at 6:30 pm! Compete for prizes, have some fun and show off your smarts! SNACKS, PRIZES, & FUN! To sign up see the link in e-news or website.

Bingo October 12, 1:00-3:00pm

Join us for a fun afternoon of Bingo on October 12, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Mark your calendar! For further information contact us at <u>Act2@TMPC.org</u>. There is a sign up at the Table of Well Wishing or on the website www.tmpc.org/events and in e-news.

TRIVIANICHT

Saturday, Sept 30 6:30 PM



Thursday Oct 12 1:00 pm



Author Speaker Event October 25 6:00 pm

ACT 2 will host the author, Robert Wittman, Author of Priceless and The Devil's Diary (\$20 pp)

Antique Road Show November 4 10:00 am

ACT 2 will host the author, Mike Ivankovich, Author, Appraiser & Auctioneer. A time to have an Antique/Collectible Appraised! Speaker Only (No fee) - \$25.00 per appraisal





ACT 2 Events @ TMPC

Friday, September 9 6:00 PM

Dinner & Movie Night

Saturday, September 30 6:30 PM

Dinner & Trivia

Thursday, October 5 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

Luxury Bus trip to the Revolutionary Museum in Philadelphia with a private tour (\$120.00 pp) Lunch at Frieda Café

Thursday, October 12 1:00 PM

Bingo

Wednesday, October 25 6:00 PM

Robert Wittman, Author of Priceless and The Devil's Diary (\$20 pp)

<u>Sunday, October 29th</u> Bingo at TMPC Fall Fest

Saturday, November 4 10:00 AM

Mike Ivankovich, Author, Appraiser & Auctioneer A time to have an Antique/Collectible Appraised! Speaker Only (No fee) - \$25.00 per appraisal

Friday, November 10 6:00 PM

Dinner & Movie Night

Friday, December 1 6:00 PM Snowball Bingo

<u>Wednesday, December 6 10:30 AM—9:30 PM</u> Luxury Bus Trip to New York , & Juliet Broadway Show, Dinner (\$300 pp)

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

Youth Mission Trip 2023









Abba. Savior. King. Master. Friend. On and on we could go. Yet ultimately, ... God is love. His very nature and essence is love. His driving force and motivation is love. And the way he acts and reacts are the manifestations of His perfect love for us. ... My best theological response for most things is: "I don't know." However, there is one certainty in my life: ... His name is Jesus, and Jesus is love. ... And the wonderful thing is that Jesus did not come to earth just to validate the information that God is love, He came to manifest it fully.

- Carlos Rodriguez, The Happy Givers

13 students and five adults ventured off the mainland to serve the beautiful people of Puerto Rico. We cleaned homes, worked in fields, and delivered meals, all in the name of Jesus.

Our partner in Puerto Rico was an organization called The Happy Givers, and they lived up to their name. THG provides social services, meal delivery, home care and repair, and much more. They take the challenge and invitation of Jesus joyfully and seriously.

Our lives were changed by participating in such sacrificial love and radical giving. Thank YOU, TMPC for making this all possible.

Bill Stauffer Worship||Youth||Outreach



Vacation Bible School



Stellar VBS July 31- Aug 4

What an incredible week we had at Vacation Bible School this summer! 55 kids aged 3-12 years old gathered for a week of music, art, bible study, creativity, and games. It was so wonderful to have our building and grounds buzzing with life and laugher. Our theme this year was Stellar and focused on Jesus' light in the world. five days of camp we heard we heard all about how we can be shining Jesus' light in all times and places.

The week would not have been possible without all the volunteers who came together to give their time and talents. I would like to thank the teen helpers who shepherded the kids from class to class, the Adult volunteers who taught and planned, and the Staff of Thompson who worked so hard to make the camp great! I cannot wait



for next summer's VBS!

- Pastor Bailey Heckman

ART CLASS

Each day students made crafts that helped retell the Bible story for the day or would be taken home as keepsakes from camp.



MUSIC CLASS In the music class

In the music class students learned new songs and sang old favorites. They would sing and dance and praise the Lord with their music.



EXPLORATION STATION

At the station, students used hands-on learning to engage with the theme of the day with Play-Doh, experiments, and other fun activities.



GAMES & RECREATION

It wouldn't be VBS without time set aside to run around and playing games. From relay races, slip & slides, parachutes and more!



HAVEN

because everyone needs a safe place ART :: MUSIC :: POETRY :: COFFEE :: FRIENDS

1680 Aquetong Road New Hope, PA 18938

haven – n ha·ven | \ 'hā-vən \

- 1. harbor, port
- 2.a place of safety, refuge
- 3. a place offering favorable opportunities or conditions (a haven for artists) 4. a social and arts community housed in and around TMPC/New Hope

Haven Launch - June 9, 2023

In early June, we had a beautiful inaugural meeting of our Haven community! Folks from in and around New Hope gathered with us to share their stories in our first ever Story Slam. Our hearts were moved as strangers became friends through the simple act of vulnerability and openness. There were cash prize winners for audience favorites, but the real winners were those of us who moved as we listened to stories of belonging. This fall will see new events more joy – stay tuned!

OPEN MIC STORY SLAM





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 s bible lesson along with an activity or game and a craft.

Register for Sunday School at **tmpc.org/kids**

If you have questions about any of our children's events or programs you can always reach out to Bailey Heckman for more information.

Kids Club - September 15

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.

We believe that serving the Lord is not just something for grown-ups but that even our youngest members can answer God's call. Learn more about Kids' Club and other childrens' ministry programs at **tmpc.org/kids**





Sign up and bring a friend! *tmpc.org*/kids

Bible Presentation - September 10

It is a tradition here at Thompson to give out bibles to our children and youth as they move through our programs. In the pages of scripture we can find stories of bravery, words of comfort, lessons on living, the good news of Jesus, and so much more. The truth in these pages are meant for all of us – young and old and it is a joy when we can gift a child their first bible.

We will begin this year by giving bibles to our preschoolers and 3rd graders. Bibles will be presented during both worship services on September 10th.



S T U D E N T MINISTRY



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!



High School (8th-12th Grades)

Questions? Email Bill Stauffer (bstauffer@tmpc.org) or visit www.tmpc.org/youth

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

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 Washe

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.

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.

Adult Ed / Small Groups



Beginning **October 1**, the 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.

$A\Omega$

Alpha Omega is a new women' s small group that will meet on weekends. The first event is a Charity Bunco at Lisa Dinella's House on **September 15th** at 7:00 PM. Call the office to attend!

AO will also begin reading the book Love Matters More. This study begins **September 17th** at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room.

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. Look for upcoming emails about Habitat work days and a new study starting O**ctober 8th** at 10:00 AM in the Youth Room.

Monthly Missions @ TMPC

Food Drive

Our next food drive is on **September 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

The first meal preparation will be on Tuesday, **October 3** 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

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 **September 28** or finding out more about what we do there, please contact Chuck Green/cgreen1030@comcast.net.

Community Meal

Our next Community Meal is **September 10 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.

Mission @ TMPC



Backpack Drive

Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to this year's backpack drive for Fisherman's Mark! We donated 30 filled backpacks and an additional 25 unfilled backpacks to help kids start the school year off right. Serving others and caring for our community makes a huge difference in people's lives and it is a great example of faith in action!



Habitat for Humanity

Thompson is partnering Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County as a part of the Faith Build program. The Mission Committee has allocated funds to this new partnership and the next opportunity to join the build is on **November 4**.

The worktime is 8:30–12:00 and you can sign up by using our **unique link**. It can also be found in e-news.





TMPC Members Hub

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.

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) for more information.

JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM

We are currently seeking contemporary worship musicians to join our team. We're looking for intermediate to advance 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) for more information.

Church Leadership 2023

DEACONS

Susan Achenbach, Jo Ann Alberts, Jeff Berry, Cheryl Boyle, Bill Clark, 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 Katie Lyons Trish Chinoy David Callans Kurt Thompson Melissa Michael Fred Wustholz Sue Wert Marci Capel Rich Schaub Chuck Napier Jeff Campbell Tim Sandford

Clerk of Session Christian Education Worship and Music Personnel Finance Membership Development Property Nominating Communication Long Range Planning Inclusivity Stewardship Mission

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 <u>tmpc.org</u> 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.



PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME OR IN CARE

George Brandenburg Marlene Clark Frank Gatto Laurel Krauss Pam Mills Lisa Palise Meredith Power Nancy Quanstrom Elinor Raike Brenda Redfield Tom Thatcher Holly Tomkovitz JoAnn Weiskopf Doris Wessner





Staff

- 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 Alec Seltzer



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