



THOMPSON
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TIDINGS

Spring 2022 Edition

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"Making Space for The Holy"

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

We all get to a point where the deep clean is crucial. Whether it's the wrappers shoved in the car doors, the decades old clothes shoved in the back of the closet or the expired food in the fridge, we all get to a point where it is time to clean out the junk. This might sound like an ad for the upcoming rummage sale, but actually, it's just the reality of life.

We collect and hold on to things for many reasons, but over time things build up until you don't even recognize what the substance is on the bottom of the vegetable drawer.

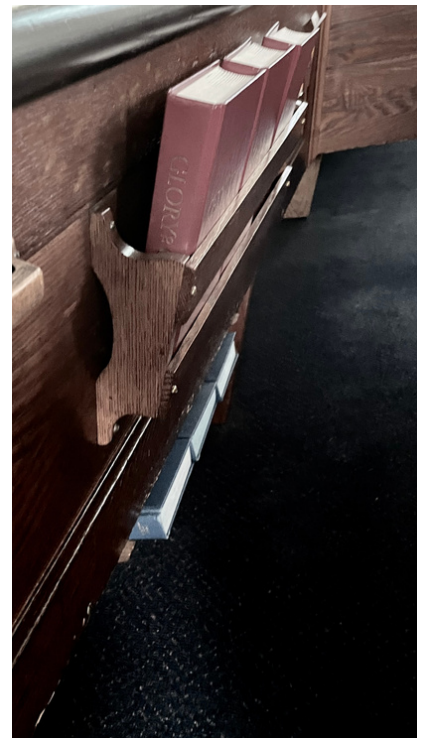
It isn't only our physical lives that are subject to buildup, it is our spiritual lives too. We allow past resentments, disappointments and regrets to cloud our identity as Christ followers.

In Psalm 51, God tells us that it's time to clean house.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

- Psalm 51:10

(con't on pg 2)





Pg 1 Article (con't)

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

It's time to sort through things that don't serve you anymore and time to clean up old messes that have kept you from really experiencing the new creation that Christ has called you to be.

Author Ruth Haley Barton says: "The real question of the Lenten season is how will I clear out the junk and garbage in my life so that I can be restored to God in some fresh way? What are the disciplines that will open up space for God to create a clean heart and new spirit in me?"

God's way of housekeeping comes through the process of acknowledging and letting go. God's way of housekeeping comes through asking for forgiveness and accepting grace.

The best thing after a deep clean is the satisfaction of opening the fridge door and enjoying the order and peace that comes from knowing things are in their right place.



How will I clear out the junk in my life so that I can be restored to God in some fresh way?

Let's use this lenten season to re-order our lives around what matters most. Let's use this lenten season to grow closer in small groups, to engage in forgiving acts, and to commit to worship (there are 8 Sundays between the first Sunday and Lent and Easter -- can you commit to 8 for 8?, online, in person, or watching what you missed before bed on Sunday evening?) Whether you are holding on to a deep hurt or you just need help forgiving the person who cut you off in traffic, join me in praying Psalm 51 with me this lent:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

Psalm 51: 10

Anticipating how God will reorder our hearts and our lives,
Stephanie

Excerpts from a Lenten Meditation

*We come from the earth,
and to the earth we will return.
a place, holy and dark,
where divinity knits the web of life,
a web of beginnings and endings and beginnings.*

*destruction is made fodder for seeds.
death, a nutrient for life.
decay, a slow unfolding of future's potential.*

*it's not without its complications -
this claim of eternal composting -
for one thing,
it smells wretched.
but it is honest.
and we need more of that.*

*and anyway, behold the gardens,
and ponder ocean floors.
consider the harvests on which we feast
and the verdant tables set before wild things.*

to be born again like that.

*Isn't that god?
isn't that redemption?
isn't that a miracle?
isn't that enough?*

- Rev. M Barclay



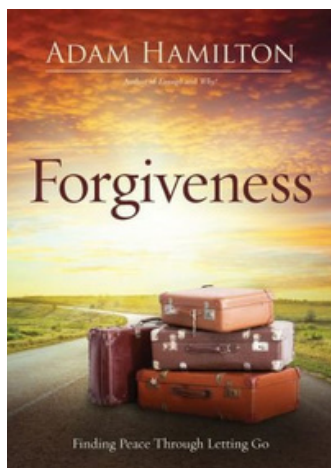
Worship @ TMPC

Upcoming Services Schedule

Mar 6	Jazz Worship 9 am Service only in Fellowship Hall
Mar 9-Apr 6	Wednesday Lenten Soup and Bread at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall with Small Group
	Studies beginning at 7 pm (Supper in Fellowship Hall and groups at tables
	in FH) 3/23 supper in Choir Room due to Rummage Sale)
April 10	Palm Sunday - 9am in the Sanctuary and 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall
April 14	Maundy Thursday In Person & Livestreamed in the FH at 7 pm
April 15	Good Friday In Person & Livestreamed in the Sanctuary at 7 pm
April 17	Easter Worship Services 6:30 am, 9 am or 11:00 am; 10 am Egg Hunt
Apr-May 22	Two Sunday Worship Services, 9 am & 11 am
May 29	5th Sunday Service - Memorial Weekend
June 5	Youth Sunday Service, 9 am Service only, Church Picnic
June 5 - Sep 4	Summer Services Begin - One 9 am Service only

Stories of Forgiveness

Do you have a powerful story of forgiveness? See Pastor Stephanie to share your story as a part of our Lenten Forgiveness series.



Dive Deep Into Lent

During the season of lent, we have three great opportunities for you and your families to grow outside of Sunday worship.

- For adults, we have created a Forgiveness Journal with thought-provoking quotes and scripture that allow you to think and pray through God's call to live as forgiven and forgiving people. Copies available in worship and the office.
- Join us for small groups throughout Lent directed through the book Forgiveness by Adam Hamilton. You can pick up your copy of the book in the office. Join us in Fellowship Hall any Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Holy Week @ TMPC

Palm Sunday

We're excited to be able to celebrate Palm Sunday together as a community on April 10. We'll be waving our palms and remembering Jesus' victorious entry into Jerusalem. We'll be holding our normal 2 services on this Sunday and would love for you to join us.



Stations of the Cross

During Holy Week, we will feature an art exhibit by theologian and artist Scott Erickson. His contemporary renditions of the stations of the cross will allow you to experience the journey to the cross in a new way.



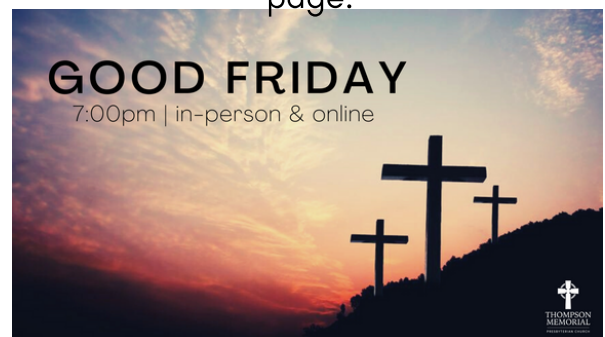
Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 14 we will hold a Maundy Thursday worship service at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This contemporary service will offer a creative expression of the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love.



Good Friday

On Friday, April 15 we will hold a Good Friday worship service at 7:00pm. Join us for a Service of Tenebrae also known as a Service of Shadows. We will hear scripture read as we follow along with Jesus through the last days and moments of his life and respond in song and prayer. This service will be in-person in the Fellowship Hall as well as live-streamed on our website and Facebook page.



Easter @ TMPC



6:30am Sunrise Worship Service

Greet the Easter morning with the sun rising in the sky, even as the savior rises from the dead. This quiet and sacred time beckons each of us to experience resurrection anew.

9:00 am Worship Service

Join us in Fellowship Hall where we will gather together to hear the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

11:00 am Worship Service

Join us in Fellowship Hall where we will gather together to hear God's living word proclaimed.

Annual Egg Hunt

We are excited to host our annual Easter egg hunt at 10:00am during the common hour. If you're interested in taking part, please look in e-news or the website www.tmpc.org to register so we can make sure we're ready for our participants!



For more info, go to tmpc.org/easter

Upcoming Events @ TMPC

Sacred Jazz

March 6th, 9:00am

The Warren Cooper Sacred Jazz Ensemble will offer a musical expression of worship. This will be a music filled worship service you won't want to miss!



Rev. Mark Achtemeier

March 20th, 4:00pm

Join us on March 20 as Rev. Mark Achtemeier preaches in worship. At 4:00 pm, Rev. Achtemeier will talk about his journey to becoming LGBTQ+ inclusive.



Rummage Sale

March 24th 9am-5pm, March 25th 9am-12pm

We begin accepting clean used clothing in very good condition and small household items on Monday, March 7. (We do not accept electronics or large items of any kind.) Place all items by the sign in the back corner of the Fellowship Hall. We need volunteers - please sign up to help. See link in e-news.



TCHLTB

May 1st

On Sunday, May 1 we will host a Church has Left the Building event. Our congregation will partner with local mission organizations and complete service projects that help our neighbors in need. More details about projects and how to sign up will be coming soon!



Upcoming Events (con't)

Philly Sound Exchange

May 22nd, 10:00am

The Philadelphia Sound Exchange is a group of musicians from inner city Philadelphia (many without the means to buy instruments) and combined them with suburban teens who also love music (and sometimes have more of the means to cover the expenses required). Join us between services to hear their spectacular musical giftings. You can here more of their music at phillysoundexchange.com



Youth Sunday

June 5th, 9:00am

Join us for a special Sunday worship service created, planned, and hosted by our youth group (Thompson Student Ministry). Our students will lead worship and will give us a message related to what's on their hearts. We will also be recognizing our students who have spent the year in confirmation class, and they will be officially confirmed into the church this day.

Church Picnic

June 5th, 11:00 am

June 5th will be a day of fun and faith. After our 9:00 service, we will head to Brownsburg Park for a church picnic and the return of our competitive Kickball Tournament. You won't want to miss this exciting event!



Youth Ministry

Pat Kelly

Overview

What a joy it is to see God work in the hearts and minds of our teens. A few weeks back, we took our youth group on our Zeteo retreat. Many of our students were impacted by the things they saw and the things they heard on stage, and it helped them reflect on their own faith walks and the challenges they may feel like are too difficult to take on alone. It's in these moments that we are grateful to be able to come alongside them in support, and to remind them of God's deep love that they can never lose. And for that reason, it's a joy to see our students understand God's love.

What Matters to Teens?

A lot of times, people mention that they "don't know how to connect" with teens. And more than ever, I feel our younger generations live drastically different than we might have grown up. But at the core of every person I've ever met, there is one thing that all of us have in common. We want to be known.

You may not understand TikTok or Instagram, or what the latest pop culture references are, but you do have something all teens need: listening ears and a caring heart. Actions speak volumes, and knowing they matter to others is something they all want and need.

Mission Trip Fundraisers

Did you know that our teens pay their way to be a part of our mission trips? In an attempt to keep the cost low, we like to host fundraisers, which also helps keep our trips free of cost to our volunteers, who are giving up a week of their time to make this amazing experience possible. Here are some fundraisers to keep your eyes out for:

4/3 - Pretzel Sunday **5/15 - Spaghetti Dinner**

Summer Fun Ahead

We've got some fun things planned during the summer, and we would love for all of our teens to take part in these life-changing experiences. Here's a brief summary of our two biggest events:

POCO Camp - July 3-9

Imagine a week of chaotic fun and crazy competitions paired with deep faith conversations and real vulnerability. At POCO, we're all about these things. This high school only camp is full of people from many different Christian backgrounds, all coming together, to grow deeper in our faith (and having fun the whole way).

Mission Trip - July 16-23

We're headed to Lancaster, SC to help restore a community and share the love of Christ along the way. Teens from all over come together to repair roofs, build ramps and fences, or similar projects. Coming together in worship tonight, this trip is all about combining service and faith with a good bit of fun along the way.



Children's Update

Rev. Bailey Pruner Heckman

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!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Remember to pick up your fish banks and fill them up with spare change during the season of Lent. Bring them back on Palm Sunday as a contribution to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

VBS at TMPC

We are excited to announce our 2022 Vacation Bible School, August 1-5! This is a free summer camp that meets from 9am-Noon each day. Children 3 years old through those who completed 5th grade are invited to join us for a week of music, art, bible stories, and fun. Registration is now open!

Register at tmpc.org/vbs



Lent Kids Club

During the season of Lent, we will be holding special weekly Kids Club events at the same time as our adult small groups. We will be taking the stories from our Sunday School lesson and making them come to life! We're hoping to retell these stories in a way that is fun and lively, and we'll plan on filming these retellings to show the congregation at some point in worship!



Parents Night Out

March 18: 5:30-8:30pm

Parents, take the night off - you deserve it!

Drop off your kids ages 4 years old - 5th grade for the evening. We will provide dinner, games, and activities. You can drop off for the entire time or stay for just a portion of the evening. There is no cost to attend!

Communion Workshop

March 27: 10:00-11:00am

Pastors Stephanie and Bailey would like to invite all children 4 years old through 5th grade to attend a special Communion Workshop.

Please know that attending this class is not required to receive Communion during the worship service. Rather we are hosting this workshop as a way for the children to learn more about the Lord's Supper, ask their questions, and feel more comfortable participating in the sacrament during our regular worship services.

Adult Ed / Small Groups

Small Groups

Have you ever wanted to be in a small group, but aren't sure how? This lent we will offer a space to begin in a new small group for 6 weeks. At the end of lent, you can choose to remain in your group or move on! Please see the Lent 2022 page on our website for more information. www.tmpc.org/lent

Sermon Talks

Thursday Mornings - 9:30am

Join Pastor Stephanie 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!

Adult Education Class: Lent

Sunday Mornings - 10:00am

During Lent, we will study theologian Miroslav Wolf's work on forgiveness. Each week will offer a stand-alone video and discussion. Join us at 10:00 in the conference room.

Grace Groups

We have added a new group to keep our TMPC members connected. Each Grace Group has a leader who has been given contact information for their assigned group and will reach out to each household 2-3 times per year. The Grace Group Leaders can pass along information to the deacons and the pastors as needed. We hope that this new connection brings you a reminder from TMPC of how much we care for each one of you!

Monday Morning Women's Ministry

1st Four Mondays - 9:30-11am via Zoom

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.

To receive the Zoom link, contact Sue Wert at suewert@tarpfarm.com. Sue will email the Zoom link to you.

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: We read and discuss an article from "Wired Word" (sent several days ahead).

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. We will study "The Reason for God".

Contact Mike Wert for more information at mikewert@tarpfarm.com.

Missions @ TMPC

Food Drives

During this time of Covid and with food insecurities at an all time high, we host a Food Drive monthly. 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Feel free to bring non-perishable items for those in need. Contact John Donahue if you have any questions regarding our monthly Food Drive. Please find the link in e-news to sign up to drive or to bring in food items. Thank you to all of our TMPC family for giving so much monthly.

Caring For Friends

Thank you to all our Caring for Friends volunteers and supporters who made soup these past two months. We will once again meet in person to prepare meals for those in need. Our next CFF meal preparation will be on Tuesday, March 8 in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. Please go to the link in e-news to access the CFF Sign Up Genius to bring in some of our needed ingredients or volunteer for meal preparation.



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. Due to COVID, volunteer opportunities at TASK were limited. More volunteer opportunities are now available, and this month, TMPC will resume our **"fourth Thursday of the month" volunteer work**. If you are interested in going on March 24 or finding out more about what we do there, please contact Chuck Green (cgreen1030@comcast.net).

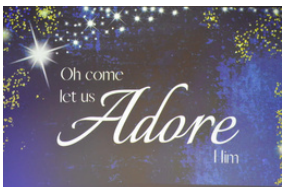
TCHLTB

We will host a Church Has Left the Building event. Our congregation will partner with local mission organizations and complete service projects that help our neighbors in need. More details about projects and how to sign up will be coming soon!

Our spring edition, The Church Has Left The Building volunteer event will be on May 1, 2022. We look forward to our members support of this great day of service. Contact Chuck Green at cgreen1030@comcast.net for more information.

Christmas @ TMPC

We were so thankful to celebrate Christmas Eve together again! Check out some of the highlights from our night of worship together:



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. Please let us know by [clicking here](#) 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 indoor services.

Matulis Memorial Fund

A donation has been made to honor Denise Matulis and her incredible legacy of hospitality at Thompson. She had a beautiful gift for service and everyone felt her kindness and care. This donation will go to honor her legacy in the area of welcome and hospitality. While the use of the funds are not yet fully determined, we will share our progress with you as we know!



If you would like to honor Denise and join in this memorial gift, please let Stephanie know.

Coffee Mugs

Our new TMPC coffee travel mugs are available for purchase in the main office or after any service. Each mug is \$15.



Prayers

PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME OR IN CARE

Marlene Clark
Patty Gatto
Bob and Betty Hart

Laurel Krauss
Matulis Family
Pam Mills

Lisa Palise
Meredith Power
Brenda Redfield
Paul Rickert

Tom Thatcher
Holly Tomkovitz
Arlene Whitticar

Church Leadership 2022

NEWLY ELECTED DEACONS

Susan Achenbach, Jo Ann Alberts,
Cheryl Boyle, Bill Clark,
Bruce Stevens,
Sandy Barford & Cathy Sandford - Co-Chairs

2022 TMPC SESSION

Judy Cronise	Clerk of Session
Katie Lyons*	Christian Education
Trish Chinoy*	Worship and Music
Tom Barford	Personnel
Bruce Stevens	Business & Finance
Kurt Thompson	Business & Finance
Melissa Michael	Membership Development
Fred Wustholz	Property & Cemetery
Anita Campbell	Nominating
Marci Capel	Communication
Rich Schaub*	Long Range Planning
Chuck Napier	Inclusivity
Jeff Campbell*	Stewardship
Chuck Green	Mission

**Newly Elected, Class of 2024*

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 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.

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 take-out or delivery meal program is available the second Sunday of each month. Stop by to pick up your pre-ordered meal in the kitchen on March 13.

Our first in person Community Meal will be on April 10. 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.

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

During the pandemic, so many of our givers moved to e-giving which allowed us to continue to do ministry without being in person. Thank you! We want to pass along the information that e-giving comes with a 1% fee per transaction. Another 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.

For more info, go to tmpc.org

TMPC Members Hub

Worship Info

Indoor Worship

If you would like to worship with us in person, we are currently offering a 9 am and 11am service indoors. On months with a 5th Sunday, we have a 9 am service only. During the summer months we offer a 9 am service only.

Online Worship

We are currently offering livestreamed services online every Sunday, which can also be viewed at a later time. Our live services can be found both on Facebook and on our website. For more information on our online worship, [click here](#).



Tithes & Offerings

We thank you for prayerfully considering what God has called you to give in 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 & Family Ministry Director
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Contemporary Music Director
Organist/Accompanist
Business Administrator/Treasurer
Sexton

Stephanie Templin Ashford
Bailey Pruner Heckman
Pat Kelly
Melissa Bottelier
Patricia Murphy
Bill Stauffer
Dorothy Fine
Sue Schaub
George Salt



**THOMPSON
MEMORIAL**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church

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www.tmpc.org

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