

THOMPSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WE WELCOME **OUR NEW PASTOR TO** THOMPSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stephanie Templin Ashford

On May 17, 2020 the congregation heard the Pastoral Candidate's sermon and the vote was nearly unanimous by members, Stephanie Templin Ashford was installed as our new head of staff and Senior Pastor.

This was not a smooth day due to unforeseen challenges, our reacted quickly and pivoted to a full online service and of all things and days to happen, the Zoom application crashed worldwide which delayed our service by several hours.

Having our congregational meeting held online, made TMPC the first congregation in the Philadelphia Presbytery to vote in a new pastor during this time via remote services.

Reverend Stephanie Templin Ashford is a gifted leader, preacher and teacher who has a deep love of Jesus Christ and who has witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit is her own life. Stephanie felt the calling into the ministry at a young age and delivered her first sermon at 15.

Directly after graduating from Dickinson College, she attended Lancaster Theological Seminary, where she received her Master of Divinity. Prior to joining TMPC, Stephanie was Executive Pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church, Jenkintown, PA, Associate Pastor at



Union Church in Seattle, WA, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of West Chester and Pastor at Rock Presbyterian Church in Fair Hill, MD.

About joining TMPC, Rev. Ashford says, "In a world of separation and isolation, I believe the church has a central role in bringing people together in community and in love. The gospel is good news for our lives. Unfortunately for many who have grown up in difficult church situations or have felt the church is no longer relevant, faith has been placed on the burner of back priorities. I hope to build bridges between the church and the New Hope community and provide a relevant and authentic experience of faith that is full of hope and joy, so that all of God's children feel welcome at the table."

Each fall as far back as I can remember, I have eagerly looked forward to Rally Day. As a child we would hold carnivals and picnics and enjoy a softball tournament as a church. I've seen wonderful and creative ways that churches have celebrated the fall kick off of a new program year. We know that this year our kick off will look very different. I suppose there is some sadness in this difference, but there is also great joy and care in our decisions to be a community that desires to protect one another. I have closely followed many news stories about churches opening too soon, becoming too relaxed in their protocols and putting people in danger. There is a celebration in our fall looking different. It will look different because we care for each other deeply.

This does not mean that as a church we have decided to cancel our faith or hit pause on life together as a community. It does mean that we have an opportunity to do things differently, to think creatively and to listen and pray about how God wants us to be resilient and faithful people in these days.

We will continue our safe and socially distant outdoor worship services. If you feel safest at home, please continue to worship online and stay safe in that way. If you are out and about enjoying socially distant picnics, meals and get-togethers, I assure you that our worship services are equally, if not more safe, than common public spaces. There is an added benefit of being together with other believers that you won't get at a nice restaurant or at Home Depot!

Though our fall won't look like any fall we have ever experienced, we are committed to providing meaningful and faithful experiences for community building and spiritual growth in this season. Inside this issue of The Tidings, you will find a celebration of all that we have done together this summer and a look at what is on the horizon for us as a community.

I have had the great opportunity to meet with, study with or worship with over 130 of you. If we haven't had the chance to talk or meet yet, I've set up a new round of Meet and Greets. In addition, if you would prefer a Zoom meet and greet, I'm happy to do that as well!

Our September in worship will feature a study of the first three chapters of Ephesians as we look at what it means to be church. Our September worship series will be called Life Together.

On September 13th we will change to a new fall/winter schedule and we will enjoy lemonade and ice cream after worship to celebrate our community, September 19th-20th will be our special Speaker Series organized by interns Hanna and Craig Bingham and lastly, don't miss our exciting fall event: Team up for TASK! This virtual run/walk will raise money for TASK and unite us virtually on October 17th as we walk or run in support of this mission partner.

As you can see, God is at work among us and we are looking forward to the kick off of a historic and beautiful fall at TMPC!

In Christ,

Stephanie



WELCOMING OUR FALL SEMINARY INTERN

Jamie White

Jamie White comes to us in her second year as a student at Princeton Theological Seminary. Though Jamie grew up in California, she has spent the last 16 years living in Utah, serving as the Youth and Family Minister at a Presbyterian church in Salt Lake City. Jamie graduated from Vanguard University, where she studied theology and pastoral care, but returns to school nearly 20 years later to complete her

M. Div and ordination with the PCUSA. Jamie loves congregational ministry and the opportunity to invite people to experience Jesus Christ and become his committed and passionate followers. She also serves on the board of Kenya Partners Nakuru; an education and health care initiative for vulnerable children in Kenya and a project that is deeply important to her.

Jamie is married to Dave, who works as a mental health therapist, and they have three children; Blake (21, and living in Utah), Chase (16), and Mila (7). You may recognize Dave and Chase, who have helped with the contemporary worship team before the pandemic began. The White's love the outdoors and enjoy mountain adventuring of all kinds. Jamie enjoys reading, restoring old furniture, cooking (and eating of course), and spontaneous living room dance parties with her kids. Jamie is excited to serve and worship alongside Thompson Memorial this year and is thankful for how this community has welcomed her and her family.



COVID 19

HEALTH **SAFETY**

PRACTICES AT CHURCH

Please park your car in the cemetery or in the lower parking lot. Ushers will help to guide you. Handicap parking is available in the upper lot.

Parking



Know your health needs

Please stay at home if you have a fever, cough or are immunocompromised.



We will live stream

The worship service will be live streamed on our website and Facebook page so you can comfortably watch from home.



Members of the same household will be assinged a parking spot to sit in. Spots are 6 feet apart. Please bring your own lawn chair if you can.

Seating



Please wear a mask

In order to protect one another, please wear a mask. We will have extras available if you forget.



Restrooms

Restrooms will be available if you need them. They will be cleaned before services and between services. Please use the restoom before you come to limit building use.





Our Members found creative ways to spend their time during the shelter in place mandate; many reported coloring, cooking, biking, walking, attending a small wedding celebration, playing with a new puppy, making masks, preparing meals, and publishing a book. Many members reached out to one another or visited on virtual Zoom calls to stay connected.













And many of our TMPC members, deacons and elders too spent time praying for others, calling friends and family and our deacons provided a lunch for medical staff at Doylestown Hospital. Keep praying for our first responders, doctors, nurses, scientists and all those who service in these essential professions.



We are very grateful to be able to continue to worship together each week. We have both outdoor worship experiences and online live streamed services. To view the Sunday services use these links:

Watch LIVE: tmpc.org/sunday-worship

Watch on Our Website: tmpc.org/sunday-worship

Watch on Facebook: facebook.com/tmpc.org/

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 13 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am Chapel Prayer Service via Zoom followed by Coffee Hour9:45 am Worship Service live streamed and in person (under tent & weather permitting) with children's worship bags provided

Special Sunday Dates:

September 6 Communion
October 4 World Communion
October 25 Dedication Sunday

November 1 Communion - A Service of Prayer and Unity for the Election **November 28** 1st Sunday of Advent

In the event of inclement weather we will cancel the outdoor worship service, the staff will live stream worship from the Sanctuary at 9:45 am for the Fall. You can find the live stream link above, on our website and on the TMPC Facebook page.

See TMPC's website at www.tmpc.org for up-to-date information and e-news.





Summer Music at TMPC

Our summer outdoor worship services have given us the opportunity to gather together in a safe and meaningful way. Through our conversations, one of our members suggested that we reach out to local musicians who may not be able to play and sing during the pandemic. A connection was made with Bob Egan, a well known local musician. Bob eagerly partnered with us and organized many of the local musicians he works with to come and offer their talents in worship on Sunday mornings. We feel blessed to celebrate the gifts of music provided by Tricia Murphy, Dorothy Fine, some members of TMPC and the new voices from local musicians through Bob Egan.























FAITH & RACE

Following the tragic death of George Floyd on May 25th, our nation watched protests erupt around the globe. Called to be a people of prayer and faith, the elders and deacons sat in the outside parking lot listening to one another's thoughts and feelings about the unrest in our nation. Several TMPC families attended the Bucks County prayer vigil. The session discussed the events of our time and how TMPC should respond. The session agreed to host a three week study entitled Faith and Race, to be followed by a book recommendation for all who were interested. The Faith and Race series was held during the day on Zoom and in the evening under the tent. The study was written by Christianity Today and featured articles from Philip Yancey, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and more. The three weekly themes were: Racism in America, Community and Interconnectedness and Navigating White Privilege.

Throughout the three weeks, 45 different people attended the discussions and entered into conversations based in scripture and centered on the hope that we can work toward becoming a united family of God, across racial divisions.

The sessions were facilitated by Pastors Stephanie and Bailey, David Oxley and Melissa Mantz.

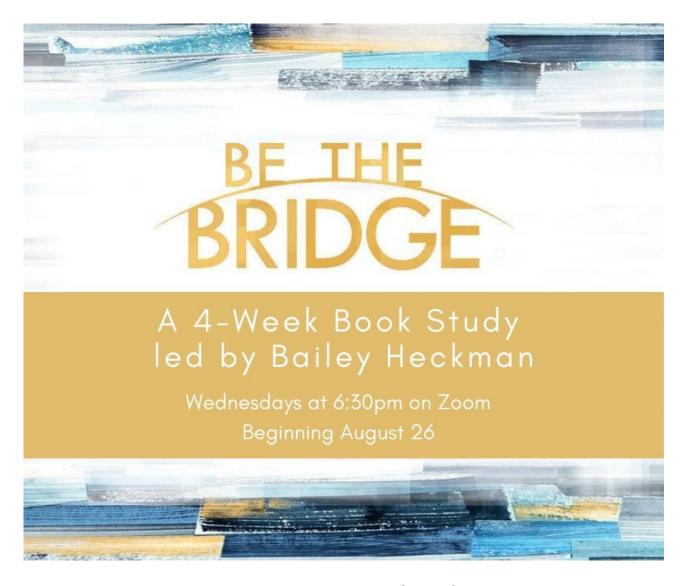
The participants were eager to find next steps toward racial reconciliation. Pastor Bailey will lead a study on the book Be the Bridge beginning August 26th for those that would like to continue the conversation.

See page 9 for the Bible Study information—"Be the Bridge."









BE THE BRIDGE—Book Study

Pastor Bailey Heckman will lead a 4-Week Study on the book *Be the Bridge*:

Pursuing God's Heart for

Racial Reconciliation by Latasha Morrison

This study will take place on Zoom on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm beginning Wednesday, August 26. Please let us know if you are planning to attend and sign up using the link and feel free to pick up the book before or after Sunday services or contact Bailey Heckman to arrange a time.

Zoom Link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83497903530

Meeting ID: 834 9790 3530

Sign up via link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EABA82EA6F94-bethebridge

SERMON TALKS

Thursday Mornings 9:30 am Via Zoom

Join Pastor Stephanie each Thursday morning to take a deep dive into the texts for the upcoming Sunday. It will strengthen your faith and your worship experience!





FOR MEET & GREET PASTOR STEPHANIE





Join Pastor Stephanie for a time and date that works for you. She will begin again in September to offer socially distanced meet and greet opportunities at the church in our outside classroom. This a chance to get to know you better and grow in your spiritual journey. Look for the sign up link in the weekly e-news.

LIFE TOGETHER: A CONFERENCE ON INCLUSIVITY AND THE CHURCH

SAVE THE DATES!
SEPTEMBER 19th and 20th

We will host a 2 part speaker series entitled: "Life Together: You Too are Brought Near."

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church is hosting a conference on September 19-20, 2020. We are excited to welcome outstanding speakers from Princeton Seminary who are experts in their field on the Bible and inclusion in the church. Together we will explore how we can welcome others with the radical love of Jesus.



We are excited to welcome back our

former intern, Kevin Vollrath speaking on disability and inclusion. Other speakers from Princeton Seminary include Rev. Dr. Lindsay Jodrey and Deborah Jodrey speaking on inclusion of the LGBTQ+ Community and Dr. Eric Berretto speaking on inclusion and race.

This free event will occur both in person under our outdoor tent and on Zoom via the link provided after registration. For those gathering in person, please wear a mask and bring a chair. We will practice social distancing.

Please register individually for the days you would like to participate. Registration is free, but we are limiting on site attendance.

For more information and to register please go to tmpc.org/life-together.



Women's Study Group

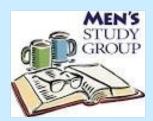
Meets on the 1st & 3rd MONDAYS 9:30-11:00 AM

We are meeting virtually via Zoom on September 7.

As always, all women are invited to participate. Contact Carol Carpenter for more information.







MEETS
THE 1st & 3rd TUESDAYS
9:00-10:30 AM
Under the TENT

September 1

We will meet in-person, under the tent at the church. Wear a mask and bring a chair.

We are finishing up "The Case for Easter" by Lee Strobel.

Contact Mike Wert for more information.







Sunday, July 26, 2020

Stephen Scovell served as our Youth Family Ministry Director and our Contemporary Music Director. Amber Scovell served as an intern, lead the VBS camp last year and together they made a great team sharing their musical talents, faith and positive energy with all our members. The youth group grew spiritually and personally by the experiences Stephen and Amber shared with them. They both will be missed (Parker too) and we wish them the best in life on their new adventure in Connecticut.



This summer we hosted a number of Family Ministry Events as a way to stay connected with the children of TMPC and their families in a time when we couldn't meet regularly for Sunday School or hold our annual Vacation Bible School.

We played games together, packed snack bags for our neighbors in need through Caring for Friends, and explored our creative side with a canvas painting event. We are grateful to all the families who participated and helped make these events possible. Also a big thanks to Melissa Michael for leading our painting event and sharing her talents with us.















KEEPING OUR TMPC FAMILY CONNECTED

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR STEPHANIE....

Dear Members and Friends of TMPC.

As for you, the one who lives in the shelter of the Most High, and resides in the protective shadow of the Sovereign One—

I say this about the Lord, my shelter and my stronghold, my God in whom I trust—

he will certainly rescue you from the snare of the hunter and from the destructive plague. (Psalm 91:1-3)

Psalm 91 teaches us that God is our shelter and our stronghold. As the news whirls around us with changing advice and statistics regarding Covid-19 each and every day, it is good to keep these texts close at hand to guide us and center us. Psalm 91 even boldly proclaims that God will rescue us from the destructive plague.

I encourage you to spend some time with this Psalm in particular as you seek to know God's steadfast nature.

Though many of us thought we would be on the other side of the Corona Virus by now, we are still experiencing the effects of this devastating disease. We have worked as a church to provide virtual experiences and cautious in-person experiences. We hope that you have been able to engage in ways that bring you closer to our church community and to Jesus.

I would like to extend my gratitude to so many of you who took the time to fill out our Re-opening survey. The session met, with this information in hand, and made the following decisions:

We will continue to keep the building closed until October 1, 2020. This decision comes with the following understandings:

Staff and worship leadership may access the building as necessary.

Foglifters and AA may continue to meet in numbers of 25 or less, with masks required at all times, at an appropriate distance.

Outdoor worship and outdoor events may continue, following all safety and distancing protocols.

Other access to the building may be granted by the staff and/or the Session on an as needed basis.

As we have been doing throughout the pandemic, we will continue to follow all protocols put in place by Governor Wolf and by the Presbytery of

Philadelphia. If the guidelines from these bodies change, we will alter our plans accordingly.

We will continue to worship online and outside as long as the weather permits and we will not rush to worship or gather in the building.

I am so proud of how so many of you have worked within the physical boundaries we are living with to boldly be the church. Small groups are meeting virtually, the deacons are calling members to check in, soups and non perishable food items are being gathered and shared. I know beyond these physical acts you are praying for one another, encouraging one another and lifting each other up.

Advice across the board also suggests staying with a routine during uncertain times helps to provide a sense of comfort and normalcy. As you are able, make worship a priority, either online, in person or at a time that is convenient for you. This act glorifies God and centers your spirit on something bigger than the pandemic. Stick to your devotional and prayer times, even when your days are all melting together. These faithful disciplines will be an anchor for you and a guide during this time. If you need suggestions for resources, please let me know and I will provide you with devotional options that you can choose from.

If you find yourself experiencing any kind of need, please do reach out. If you need someone to talk to, I would be so happy to talk on the phone or meet you at the benches outside the church. It will likely be quite some time until we have a vaccine or treatment for this disease and so as we continue to reside in the shelter of God's love, let's be diligent about reaching for one another and reminding one another that we are in this together, as God's people.

It is a great joy to serve among you in these days and I look forward to the very first time we can gather together as one body in worship. What a beautiful day that will be!

Stay safe and trust in God, our shelter and our stronghold.

In Christ,

Stephanie

The need is constant.

The gratification is instant.

Give blood.



TMPC BLOOD DRIVE

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall 1680 Aquetong Road New Hope, PA 18938

Monday, September 28, 2020 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For information or to schedule an appointment:

contact Rosemarie
rosemarie.fabianokloss@redcross.org
call 1-800-RED CROSS or
visit Redcrossblood.org
and enter: TMPC



We give blood. Will you?

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

OUR SUMMER FAMILY MINISTRY PROJECT & ACTIVITIES



Thompson Memorial Presbyte...
Yesterday at 8:49 PM · 🚱

We packed about 400 snack bags tonight that will be distributed by Caring for Friends! Thanks for all who came out to help!

TMPC'S FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to everyone for your support! Thanks to Susan Achenbach for the many years of coordinating these efforts and now John Donahue is taking the lead!



TMPC held 3 Food Drives serving these food pantries in our area:

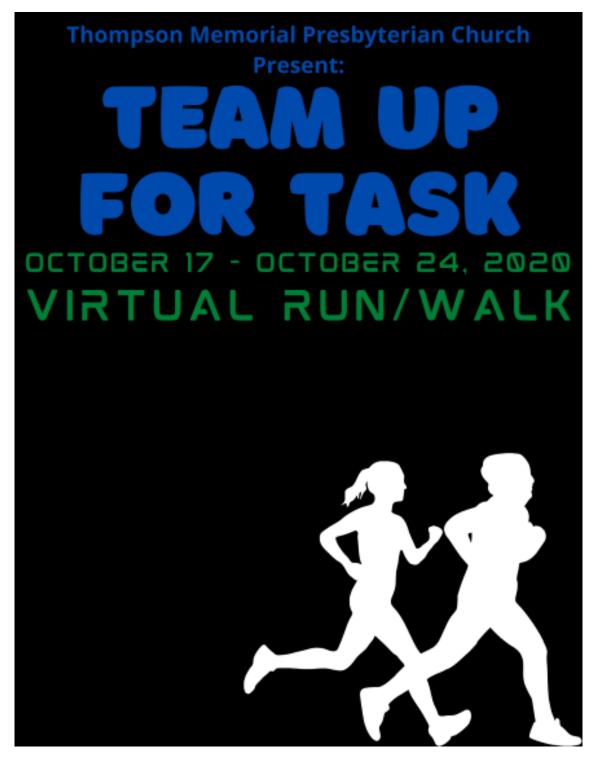
Lambertville, Morrisville, and Doylestown and the Delaware Valley Food Pantry

Food Center needs are increasing dramatically due to the COVID 19 virus and the impact it has on our economy. Many clients at the food banks we support have problems making ends meet even in normal times. With the economic decline caused by the COVID 19 virus, they are worse off now.



Caring for Friends supporters at TMPC continue making soup for those in need.





This event is a virtual walk/run to help raise funds for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). Participants can choose the distance from a 1 mile fun walk, 5k all the way up to a full marathon and then walk or run that distance on their own or with their family.

All the proceeds will go to TASK and if you or someone you know would like to make any additional donations we will be happy to accept them.

Be on the lookout for an email with more information on how to register but save the date to Team up for TASK now!

THE LIGHT BEHIND THE DARKNESS

I was driving home one day recently when a summer thunderstorm was moving through our area. As I drove down the highway if I looked to the left there was nothing but dark ominous clouds and I could see sheets of rain off in the distance. If I looked to the right there was bright sun, blue sky, and fluffy white clouds. Have you ever experienced something like that? Maybe you were in the middle of a storm but for just a moment the clouds parted and the brilliant sun's light broke through the darkness for just a moment.

We all have stormy moments in our lives. Unfortunately right now it seems like another immediately follows one storm. These storms take the shape of illness, grief, uncertainty, anxiety, loss, unrest, anger...the list goes on. When the storm clouds hover overhead too long we can almost forget the sun and we believe that all there will ever be is clouds. But the truth is the sun is always there even when we can't see it.

The same is true of God. When we are in the midst of stormy seasons in our lives it can feel like God is not with us, but that cannot be further from the truth. We read in the Psalms,

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.



— Psalm 139:7-12

Friends, like the sun that continues to warm the Earth even from behind the storm clouds, our God continues to sustain us even when the storms of life are raging around us. God does not promise that you will never experience storms, but when the storms come, God will not abandon you and more than that God will continue to provide, sustain, and strengthen you.

By Bailey Heckman
July 27, 2020
GRACE NOTES/BLOG "Cafeinated Clergywoman"

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK!

TO HANNA AND CRAIG BINGHAM





Hanna and Craig Bingham will not be rejoining us this fall as Princeton Seminary has made the decision to go completely online. They are sad to miss their final year of seminary on campus and we are sad that we won't be able to walk as closely with them, but we will keep them in prayer as they discern what a virtual final year of seminary looks like.

We will miss you and wish you the best on your journey. And know that you always have the support and love from your Thompson Church Family.

Be sure to say goodbye and pass on your prayers for them at:

hanna.kate.bingham@gmail.com and craig.bingham@gmail.com

Dear TMPC Family,

It has been a while since we have seen you all in person (or even online), but as we are sure is also the case for each of you, the outbreak of COVID-19 has made our lives into a bit of a whirlwind of unexpected change. We miss seeing you all, playing with the praise team at the second service, leading adult forum, and discussing with the Theology on Tap group. In spite of all that is going on in our nation and in the world, though, we are doing well! It has been a joy this spring and summer—despite COVID-19—to be able to continue to work with and stay connected to the Body of Christ through TMPC online as interns as we continue to train in ministry and discern our own vocations.

We had originally planned to return to Princeton this fall and continue to worship with you all. However, about two weeks ago, the seminary announced that the 2020-2021 school year will take place entirely online. They also strongly encouraged any students who have the opportunity to do so to move out of the seminary housing in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission amidst the student body. As we will both be graduating with our Masters of Divinity degrees in May of 2021, we have decided to move out of Princeton for our final year of school. Currently we are trying to figure out our living situation for this coming year and have hopes to rent a house with some friends of ours who are also students. We would very much appreciate your prayers as we are packing, moving, and figuring out a new living situation in such a short amount of time. Our classes start up on September 3rd and we are planning to move and get settled in a new spot in Seattle or Portland by then. Having just a couple weeks now to pack, say goodbye to our community, and move across the country is definitely a bit daunting.

As we are sure many of you are also experiencing during this strange and uncertain season, upheaval has become the new normal. Just when we think things are settling down, something new seems to erupt and some new part of our lives gets thrown into chaos. We are thankful daily for the faithfulness and steadiness of our God, for the support of friends, family, and the church, and for the gift of one another as built-in adventure partners during this time. Though having nearly half of our seminary education take place online is not how we hoped or planned for things to go, we know that God is at work in the midst of it, opening new doors as others close behind us. We are so thankful for you, as you have been our wonderful home church during this seminary season, and your support of us in our time here on the east coast. As we enter into the final year of our program and continue to discern where God is leading us, we are grateful that we have had such a wonderful community at TMPC to participate in. Thank you for your care of us and know that we hold you in our thoughts and prayers as you discern what it means to be the church amidst this global pandemic, as you grow and change, and as you continue to do the important work of Christ in your community and in the world. We will miss you!

Blessings to you,

Hanna and Craig Bingham

Keeping our Leaders in Our Prayers

TMPC's Session Elders for 2020

Susan Achenbach Chuck Green & Melissa Callans

Colin Jenei Tom Barford

Bruce Stevens & David Oxley

Jo Ann Alberts Fred Wustholz Al Matulis

Anita Campbell Kurt Thompson

Clerk of Session Christian Education Worship and Music Personnel

Business & Finance

Membership Development

Property Cemetery Nominating Mission

TMPC's Deacons for 2020

Sandy Barford Jeff Berry (Head of Deacons)

Amy Brewer David Cane

Joanne Clark

Patti A. Davis

Colleen Guest

Tracey Jefferson

Colleen Koh

Melissa Mantz

Brad Michael

Bucky Pope

Susan Post

Cathy Sandford Ken Williams





TMPC's GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to the many families who volunteered and helped keep TMPC looking beautiful over the summer.

Our Mission

We are a joyful family called by God

Through Jesus Christ and empowered

by the Holy Spirit to:

Welcome all, share our faith,

love each other, serve the world and

glorify God.



Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church 1680 Aquetong Road, New Hope, PA 18938 Office: (215) 862-2440

Fax: (215) 862-9046

www.tmpc.org

Office open: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-2:30pm

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE Begins Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am Chapel Prayer Service via Zoom followed by Coffee Hour **9:45 am** Worship Service live streamed and in person (weather permitting) with children's worship bags

Special Sunday Dates

September 6 Communion
October 4 World Communion
October 25 Dedication Sunday

November 1 Communion - A Service of Prayer and Unity for the Election November 28 1st Sunday of Advent

Disciples: All Members of the Congregation

Teaching Elder/Senior Pastor (Sabbath: Friday) Stephanie Templin Ashford pastor@tmpc.org

Teaching Elder/Associate Pastor (Sabbath: Friday)

Bailey Heckman

bheckman@tmpc.org

Youth & Family Ministry Director & Contemporary

Music Director

Administrative Assistant Melissa Bottelier office@tmpc.org

Director of Music Patricia Murphy <u>pmurphy@tmpc.org</u>

Organist/Accompanist Dorothy Fine <u>organist@tmpc.org</u>

Fall Intern Jamie White

Church Accountant Linda Landis <u>llandis@tmpc.org</u>

Sexton George Salt No email

Treasurer/Business Administrator (Volunteer)

Sue Schaub

sschaub@tmpc.org