

Spring 2021 Edition

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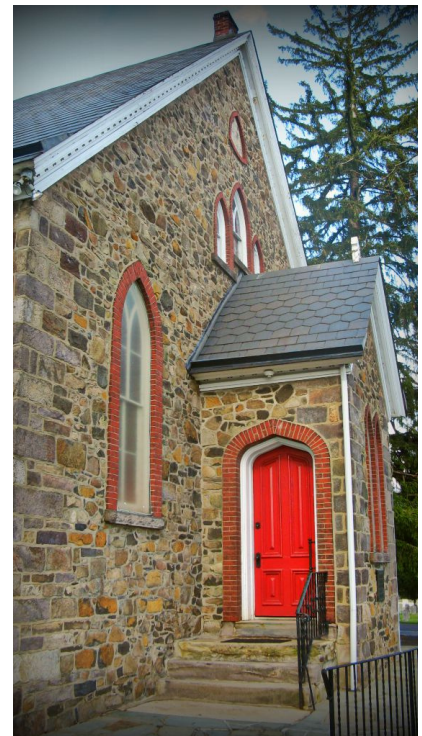
Begin Again

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

In the Bill Murray Film Groundhog Day, cynical weatherman Phil Connors finds himself perpetually caught in a time loop February 2nd. He reports on an impending snowstorm and he waits for the groundhog to appear. Every night he goes to bed in a small Pennsylvania town and every morning he wakes to see the same date on the calendar and hear the same song on the radio.

I have heard dozens of people refer to Groundhog Day over the course of this pandemic. Different day, same routine. We wake up, covid is still here, we stick to our same bubble, miss our same friends and family and repeat our actions. We long to wake up tomorrow and find out that it is a new day, a day different from today. We long for some sort of mix of how it used to be and how it can be. We know that we have been changed in this season; that the whole world has been changed in this season. Lament and hope are all wrapped up together.

(con't on pg 2)



Begin Again (con't)

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

Each and every year we enter into the same season of Lent. We have done this before. We have marked our heads with ash, given up chocolate and purchased our Easter best. The beauty of our story, however, is that though our lives feel they are on repeat of a single track, the Bible is never the same to us twice.

Even if we read a single verse today and then read it again in one week, we view it differently, because each and every day we are different people, wrestling with different struggles, celebrating different victories.



New Pastor Installation

for Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

Since Pastor Stephanie joined our staff in the midst of the pandemic we were unable to celebrate the beginning of her ministry with us in the traditional way. Well, this May marks one year since Stephanie has been serving alongside us and we would like to mark the occasion with an **Installation Service** on **Sunday, May 23rd**. This is a special service to commission a new pastor and their congregation for the next chapter in the life of the church.

All members and friends of Thompson are invited to join us for this special occasion and there will be members of the Presbytery of Philadelphia who will come and be a part of worship as well. Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us on May 23rd.

Even if we read these very scriptures last year and the year before, they are new to us in this season. We now process the lenten story with the lens of a pandemic and prolonged isolation, but also just as again and again we know that this 40 day journey of Lent ends with resurrection, we can allow our hearts to hope for new life and new freedom in our own stories.

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time we come face to face with death, every time we wrestle with temptation, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain:

"I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to new life." Again and again, God interrupts death and despair and offers us a new way forward.

Throughout this season, I invite you to listen for the ways in which God is inviting you to begin again. Perhaps you have let a spiritual discipline of devotion or prayer fall to the wayside. Perhaps your worship participation has waned. In this time, God invites you to begin again to journey to the cross with purpose and intention.

In the movie *Groundhog Day*, Phil Connors is only able to exit his repeating time warp when he leaves judgment and cynicism behind and instead chooses to love and serve in a new way. As you hear these familiar texts of Jesus' temptation, trial and crucifixion again, may you to be brought again to new life in Christ.

Holy Week @ TMPC

A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DURING THIS YEAR'S LENTEN SEASON

- Feb 24 - Mar 24 Wednesday Lenten Services at 7 pm via Zoom
March 28 Palm Sunday - Holy Week 9am in FH and 10:30 am Outside
April 1 Maundy Thursday Zoom only at 7 pm
April 2 Good Friday In Person & Livestreamed in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm
April 4 Easter Worship Services 6:30 am, 9 am or 10:30 am; 10 am Egg Hunt

Stations of the Cross

During Holy Week, the sanctuary will be open at designated times to read scripture, immerse yourself in art and pray through Jesus' last words. [Click here](#) to sign up for this meditative experience.

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 1 we will hold a Maundy Thursday worship service on Zoom at 7:00pm. We will remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples when he met with them in an upper room and washed their feet before dinner and shared bread and wine with them after.

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during with worship service so please gather elements from your home to participate. [Click Here](#) to access to Zoom link.

Good Friday

On Friday, April 2 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.

Again & Again Lenten Devotional Booklet



[Click here](#) to access the devotional booklet for Lenten that you can use following our worship services. You can also access the booklet through our ENews or on our website.

Wednesday Night Prayer Time

Join us every Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom for a time of prayer and reflection with guest speakers from our church family.

Date	Guest Speaker	Theme
Feb 24	Tim Sanford	Know
Mar 3	Jeff Campbell	Recognize
Mar 10	Jaimie Salt	Trust
Mar 17	Katie Lyons	Remember
Mar 24	Pat Kelly	Dwell



Easter Worship Options

6:30am Sunrise Worship Service

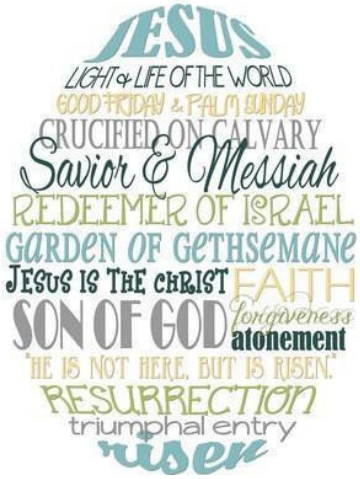
This is an outside service usually held in our courtyard weather permitting. Please bring your lawn chairs and your masks. All are welcome.

9:00 am Worship Service

All our Easter services will be outside this year to accommodate everyone. To attend this service we do ask that you sign up online so we do not exceed capacity. We do ask that those in attendance where a mask and bring a chair to help maintain social distancing. You can learn more about our safety procedures on our website. Click the link at the bottom of the page to learn more about signing up.

10:30am Worship Service

Join us outside at Thompson where we will gather together to hear God's Word. This service is open to everyone so feel free to tell a friend! We do ask that you sign up so can plan accordingly, bring a chair and masks. Click the link at the bottom of the page to learn how to sign up.



Annual Egg Hunt

We are excited to host our annual Easter egg hunt in between the 9:00am & 10:30am services. If you're interested in taking part, please [click here](#) to register so we can make sure we're ready for our participants!



For more info, go to tmpc.org/easter

4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter. The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.



Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.

Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.

Upcoming Events @ TMPC



The Church Has Left The Building

Sunday, May 2, 2021

On Sunday, May 2 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!

This event will be just like the CHLTB event this past fall. We will worship together at 9:00am and then we will have projects set up outside in the parking lot. We will also have some projects that can be completed at home and brought to the church.

Blood Drive at Thompson

March 22, 2:00-7:00pm



**American
Red Cross**

Hold the date! On March 22 from 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm, The Red Cross will host a blood drive for information or to schedule an appointment: go on-line and sign up at www.redcrossblood.org and enter: TMPC or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Youth Update

Pat Kelly

Overview

It has been a great few months for our church's youth ministry. We were able to help pack meals for a homeless ministry in Philly, and a few of our students were able to help with our 4pm Christmas service. We also had a great Christmas party and are in full swing in this new year. We have seen the overall size of our ministry grow, but there has especially been a lot of growth in our students as we continue looking deeper into God's Word.

Recent Teachings

Recently, we have gone through a series titled, *Vision*, which is all about reshaping the way we think and see when it comes to God. We looked at the lens in which we see God, then we looked at a few ways in which people commonly connect to God. And then we challenged one another to push ourselves to connect with God outside of the ways we normally do. Currently, we are going through a series on worship, called *Anthem*, which is exploring aspects of worship we commonly forget about.

Support Needed!

We are so excited at the energy and growth that the group is taking, despite the pandemic conditions we are in. That being said, there are a few things that could help us continue growing and we would love your support with.

First, we need more volunteer leaders. It's a weekly commitment of about 2 hours, and you don't need to be "hip" to help, we will find a great place for you to serve within our ministry. Second, we have some things would help our ministry flourish: we would like to buy a game called *Nine Square in the Air* (a mix of four square and volleyball) that costs around \$350. We also need an iPad for a check-in station (used or new, 5th gen or newer). If you're interested in helping us out, please reach out to Pat at youth@mpc.org.



Spring 2021

Children's Ministry

Rev. Bailey Heckman

Easter Egg Hunt April 4 at 10:00am



On Easter Sunday, April 4 Thompson Church will hold 3 worship services at 6:30am, 9:00am, and 10:30am. The Children's Ministry team will hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am so that everyone can participate in-between the two regular worship services.

So that we can prepare and have enough eggs and goodies on hand we ask that you please sign up and let us know how many children will be participating in the hunt. We will provide everything for the egg hunt so just come by and have fun!

[Sign Up Here](#)

Upcoming Events: Intergenerational Bingo Night April 30 at 6:30pm

Looking for a fun game night? Let us host!
We will have a Family Bingo Night
at Thompson on Friday, April 30 at 6:30pm.



This is a totally free event and we will provide everything you need to play.
And of course there will also be prizes!

[Sign Up Here](#)

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School July 12-16th from 9am-Noon

We are excited to announce the dates and them for our 2021 Vacation Bible School! This is a free summer camp that meets from 9am-Noon each day. Children 4 years old through those who completed 5th grade are invited to join us for a week of music, art, bible stories, and fun. Registration will be opening in the Spring but please save the date because this will be a week you do not want to miss.

Remember if you are a teen or an adult who would like to be a helper or teacher you can reach out to Bailey Heckman and let her know. She would be happy to have your help!

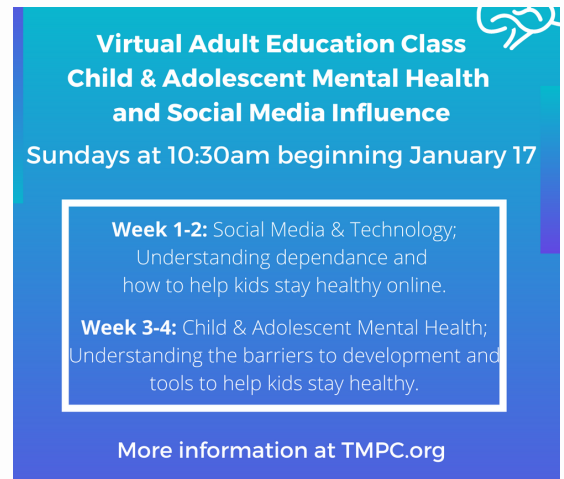


Adult Education

Child & Adolescent Mental Health and Social Media Influence

Our seminary intern, Jamie White, taught a 4-week class in January that focused on the many questions that parents and family members have when it comes to social media use and mental health in kids and teenagers. She covered the big picture issues and also dug into the practical how-to's that will help everyone understand and navigate these very relevant matters.

If you didn't have a chance to participate in this class you can watch the lessons and find the resources from the class by [clicking here](#).



Virtual Adult Education Class
Child & Adolescent Mental Health and Social Media Influence
Sundays at 10:30am beginning January 17

Week 1-2: Social Media & Technology; Understanding dependence and how to help kids stay healthy online.

Week 3-4: Child & Adolescent Mental Health; Understanding the barriers to development and tools to help kids stay healthy.

More information at TMPC.org

Take 5: 5 Ways to Be Prepared for Anything that Life Throws Your Way

In a season when change and uncertainty are around each corner you might have found yourself overwhelmed with all life has thrown at you recently. Licensed therapist and friend of Thompson, Dave White, hosted a special event where he helped us identify and possibly change how we react to life's curveballs. This virtual event was recorded and you can watch it at anytime by [clicking here](#).



Upcoming Services Schedule

- Feb 24-Mar 24 Wednesday Lenten Services at 7 pm via Zoom
- March 28 Palm Sunday – Holy Week 9am in FH and 10:30 am Outside
- April 1 Maundy Thursday Zoom only at 7 pm
- April 2 Good Friday In Person & Livestreamed in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm
- April 4 Easter Worship Services 6:30 am, 9 am or 10:30 am; 10 am Egg Hunt
- April – June 13 Sunday Worship Services
- June 6 Youth Sunday Service
- June 20 Summer Services Begin



Inclusivity Update

By Chuck Napier

The Inclusivity Team has spent the past few months shifting focus onto the Disability portion of our work. Several members of the team have been brainstorming ways to make the building more accessible, including having various conversations with several members about their own experiences. We are researching signage and we plan to continue to try to make the building and worship experiences accessible for all!

Membership Update

By Melissa Michael

The Membership Committee needs you to update your contact information and it's really easy to do! If you have not visited our online directory in the last year, we are asking you to take just a few moments to do so.

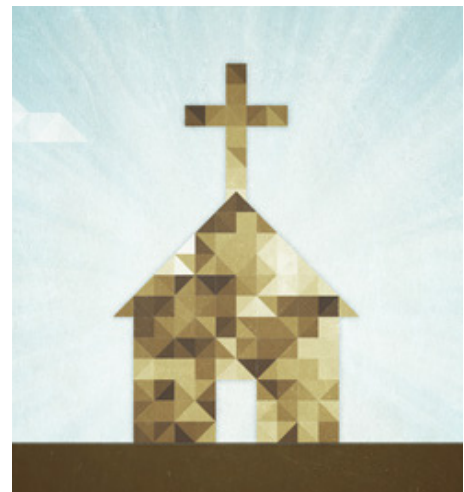
We would love for everyone to add their current phone numbers, address, and (if you are able to) a current photograph of yourself and/or family.

Please be assured that this information is not accessible by non-members of our church and only address, name, photo, and phone numbers, birth day and month are visible to members only but no other details.

Keeping your information updated helps our church serve you better! 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.



**HAVE YOU BEEN TO
"MY TMPC"?
DIRECTORY UPDATES**



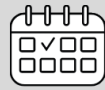
2020 AT A GLANCE

WORSHIP

- We worshipped the Lord with gladness and creativity by holding worship outdoors, indoors while social distanced, and on live stream
- We partnered with local musicians over the summer with the help of Bob Egan
- The repairs to our sanctuary organ were completed and we recorded two virtual organ concerts

EDUCATION

- In September we hosted the *Life Together* conference and heard from four speakers who helped us understand how the church can be more inclusive.
- On Wednesday Evenings we held multiple studies on the following books: *Be the Bridge*, *Troubled Minds*, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*
- Pastor Stephanie launched Thursday Sermon Talks - a bible study on the week's scripture



SPECIAL EVENTS

- Team Up 4 TASK Run/Walk which raised \$2,180 for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- In September TMPC hosted the Red Cross Blood Drive.
- October Church Picnic where we made gratitude pumpkins as decorations and gifts for our members at home.
- Advent Wreath Making event where families and friends of TMPC made Advent Wreaths outside after worship.



NEW TO TMPC

- In May the congregation welcomed our new pastor, Stephanie Templin Ashford.
- In September, Jamie White joined out staff as our seminary intern.
- In September Pat Kelly was hired to be our new Youth and Families Director.
- In 2020 we also welcomed four new members; Cheryl and Charles Boyle, Paul Templin Ashford, and Betty McCorrison

2020 AT A GLANCE



MISSION BY THE NUMBERS

6 Food Drives held to support three local food pantries

800 Snack bags made and delivered to Caring for Friends

25 Promise Boxes filled with gifts and delivered to children at Urban Promise Trenton for Christmas

500+ Frozen containers of soup made by members and brought to Caring for Friends

2 Miles of River Road cleaned up during CHLTB

5 Blankets made for Project Linus

175 Hygiene Kits made to be distributed to clients at the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen

40 Toys donated to Whosoever Mission for clients to give a gifts to the children in their lives for Christmas

50 Breakfast Bags made by the youth to be distributed by the Welcome Church of Philadelphia

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!

Outreach Opportunities

Caring For Friends Soup Drive

We are seeking volunteers to prepare soup for Caring for Friends. Pick up your soup containers and please fill 3/4 full, label in detail & freeze. Then bring in the frozen containers with labels attached back to TMPC. Our deacons or office staff can place them in TMPC freezer for you. If you have any questions, please call Susan Achenbach at 267-432-4312 or Beth Thompson at 925-353-0075 or Barbara Pope at 215-262-9704.



Community Partners

If you are looking for other ways to give back during this difficult time, feel free to check out these websites from some of our community partners:

[Bucks County Housing Group](#)
[Fisherman's Mark](#)
[Morrisville Food Center](#)

[Doylestown Hospital](#)
[St. Mary's Medical Center](#)
[Delaware Food Pantry](#)

TMPC Monthly Food Drive

During this time of Covid and with food insecurities at an all time high, we host a Food Drive monthly. 10:00 am - 11:30 am. Feel free to bring non-perishable items for those in need. Contact Jim Donahue if you have any questions regarding Food Drive for February. Please sign up to drive or to bring in food items in e-news. Thank you to all of our TMPC family for giving so much monthly.



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.

Church Ladies Group

1st Friday of the Month - 7pm

We meet in Fellowship & Prayer on the First Friday of every month at 7:00 pm. Come Join us!

Contact Marie Wanat at 609.915.9241 or via email: Marie.Wanat@firstbanknj.com

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.

TMPC Members Hub

Volunteer Needs



YOUTH MINISTRY

We are looking for people who want to pour into the next generation to help us with our growing youth ministry. If you're interested in more info, [click here](#) so Pat can reach out and answer any questions.

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! [Click Here to Sign Up](#)

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.

Remembering Members & Friends of TMPC

Betty Edwards -- December 11, 2020

Carol Douglass -- January 29, 2021

Dick Quanstrom -- February 2, 2021

John Paslo -- February 5, 2021

Prayers

PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS AT HOME OR IN CARE

Peggy Van Arsdale

Linda Bishop

Sheila Fruend

Patty Gatto

George Gushue

Bob and Betty Hart

Doris Holmquist

Jake Kopp

Laurel Krauss

Brad and Pam Mills

Dolores Monaghan

Lisa Palise

Meredith Power

Nancy Quanstrom

Brenda Redfield

Paul Rickert

Tom Thatcher

Holly Tomkovitz

Arlene Whitticar

Church Leadership 2021

NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

CLASS OF 2023:

Marci Capel - Communications

Judy Cronise - Clerk of Session

Annie Lo - Long Range Planning

Melissa Michael - Membership

Chuck Napier - Inclusivity Team

NEWLY ELECTED DEACONS

CLASS OF 2023:

Alyssa Capel, Tracey Jefferson, Amy Perry,

Bucky Pope, Cathy Sanford

2021 TMPC SESSION

Judy Cronise

Chuck Green

Melissa Callans

Colin Jenei

Tom Barford

Bruce Stevens

David Oxley

Melissa Michael

Fred Wustholz

Anita Campbell

Kurt Thompson

Clerk of Session

Christian Education

Christian Education

Worship and Music

Personnel

Business & Finance

Business & Finance

Membership Development

Property

Nominating

Mission

TMPC Members Hub

Worship Info

One Worship Service at 9:00am During Lent

Indoor Worship

If you would like to worship with us in person, we are currently offering a 9:00am service indoors. In order to attend in-person worship, you must sign our worship covenant and sign up for a service. For more info on in-person worship, [click here](#).

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
Organist/Accompanist
Fall Intern
Church Accountant
Business Administrator/Treasurer
Sexton

Stephanie Templin Ashford
Bailey Pruner Heckman
Pat Kelly
Melissa Bottelier
Patricia Murphy
Dorothy Fine
Jamie White
Linda Landis
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