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Welcome

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

On social media recently I was gifted with a few puns:

- I'm reading a book on anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- Don't trust atoms. They make everything up.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

The last of the puns is a mirror of a biblical image we hear in the book of Isaiah:

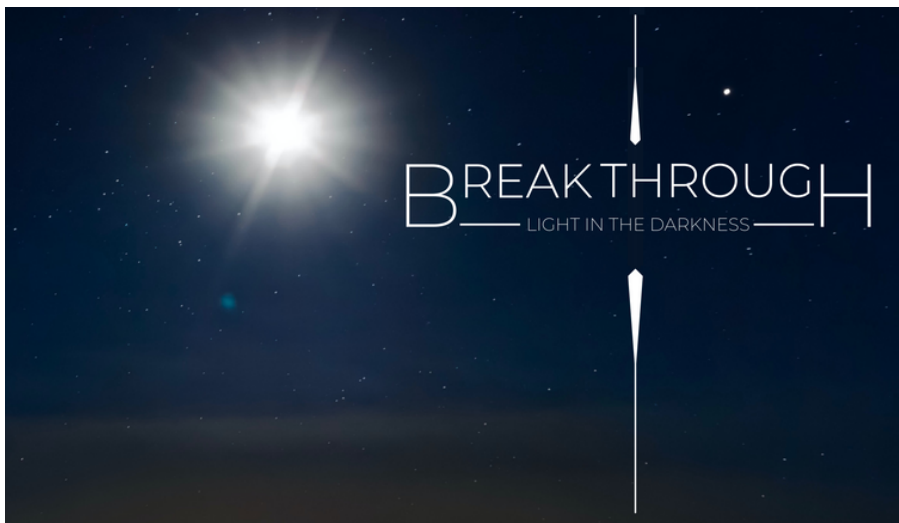
- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.

We walk in the dark and yet we know the light.

I lovingly look forward each and every year to the moment in Christmas Eve worship where everything is pitch black except the light of Christ. The faces across the sanctuary are hidden in that cloud of darkness. Somehow you know that you are surrounded by beautiful souls, but you can't quite see them clearly. That is, until the light of Christ breaks in and shines. The hazy grey of anonymity is gone and the smiles and the wonder and the joy of God's people are revealed by the light of Christ that invades the darkness.

(con't on pg 2)





Welcome (con't)

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

We know how this process this works and yet it holds so much beauty and meaning for us because it is the reminder that we need to hear again and again that when we are lost, when can't see, when we are without hope or in the middle of strife, the light of God, Jesus Christ, breaks in.

We are very excited about entering into this Advent season with you. It will be like no other Advent season we have ever experienced. This may be one of the most clear and definable seasons of waiting and longing we have ever walked through and that gives us an even greater appreciation for the power of God to break in. Over the next four weeks, we will explore themes of light and dark in our worship series: "Breakthrough" and hear stories of how God breaks through complacency, doubt, grief and fear.

To complement this worship series, I will lead a study on Wednesday evenings beginning December 2 at 6:30 pm on Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark* (the zoom link is on our homepage).

“

Wait with the expectation that God is going to break through

Our families will have the opportunity to enter into the season with the Family Devotions from Illustrated Ministry "In Light and in Darkness" and adults will be invited to follow along with the Presbyterian's Today Devotional series following Howard Thurman's poem "I will Light a Candle" (both of these devotional series are available for download on our website).

Though the pun, "I stayed up all night looking for the sun and then it dawned on me" is certainly groan-worthy, there is absolute truth in the fact that sometimes we spend an exorbitant amount of time looking for something that is right in front of us, or perhaps within us.

And so I invite you to wait on the Lord with me this Advent season. Wait by lighting your candles, wait by praying, reading, learning and worshiping. Wait with the expectation that God is going to break through and that even if things seem hazy and unclear right now, there will be a moment when the light will dawn and we will together say: "I have seen a great light."

Blessings,
Pastor Stephanie

Seven Years Later

Rev. Bailey Pruner Heckman

November 2020 marks 7 years since the congregation of Thompson Memorial voted to call me as their associate pastor. Over the past seven years a lot has changed in my life both professionally and personally. And if any of you know me well you know I don't really like change or uncertainty. I always want to have a plan. I want my life and my call to be decent and in order. Of course, that isn't how life works out most of the time and that has been more true recently than at any other time in my life.

And yet, Thompson has shone like a light in the midst of the chaos of this year. I have witnessed just joy and compassion, generosity and care. So thank you for the light you all have been in my life and for letting me share my light with you as well.

A grateful pastor,
Bailey



Meet Pat Kelly

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

It has been such a blessing to be given the opportunity to serve at such an amazing church as Thompson. I think what I find amazing is that I didn't even know that this church existed, and yet it was such a perfect fit that I wasn't expecting to find. Growing up in Hopewell, I was really hopeful to find a church in this area that would allow me to pour into people and help them grow in their faith.



For the past four years, I have been studying ministry at Messiah College, patiently waiting on the moment that I could begin my vocational ministry journey. I was so expectant of the first church I would be a part of, and would even look at job listings years before I was ready to start applying. I was hopeful for a congregation with an open mind. I wanted a church that was aware of the current events in the world, and leaning into the tough questions. I was dreaming of a church where I was encouraged and built up as I was able to do the same for others. And I am so thankful that I found that in this church, in this community.

Since I have felt the call to ministry in high school, I have had some amazing opportunities to serve God. I've worked with a missions organization, served in many youth ministries (and led two), created a thriving men's ministry at Messiah, and oversaw an umbrella of ministries on campus at Messiah. I was also blessed with opportunities to preach and lead chapel services for Messiah, which has allowed me to grow tremendously.

When not at Thompson, I am usually finding sports-related activities to play, like disc golf, tennis, golf, bowling, or soccer. I am a big fan of hockey and soccer, and used to play sports constantly when I was growing up. I am recently engaged to my fiancé, Madison Zuczek, and we are hopeful that we'll be able to get married next fall with all of our family present.

Working with our group of students at Thompson has already been such an amazing experience, and it has been so great to see them asking tough questions and wanting to grow in their faith. My approach to youth ministry has always been centered on relational ministry, so being able to meet in-person again has been such a blessing to building a solid foundation to our ministry. I am so thankful for all of the support I have received so far, and I am hopeful that I will get to meet all of you amazing people soon enough!

Blessings,
Pat Kelly



New Members

Please join us in welcoming our new members. They were welcomed into our church during our 9:30am service on October 25th.



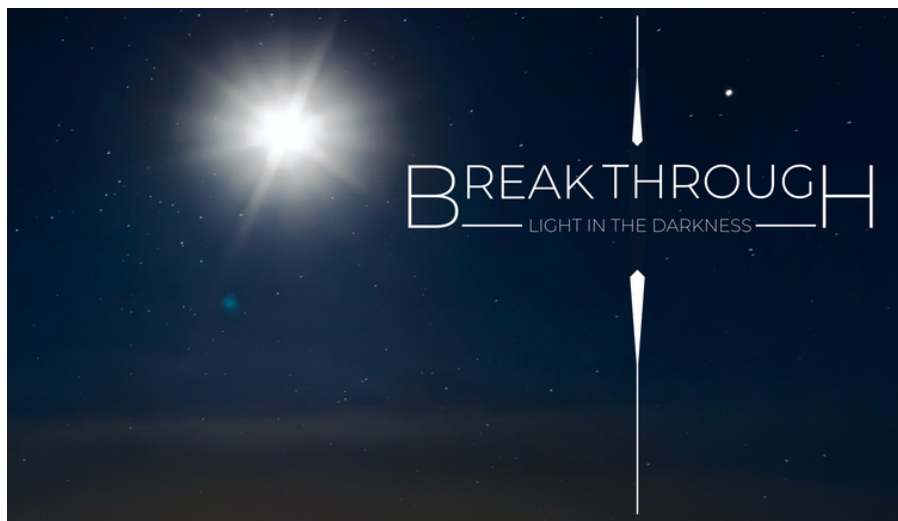
Cheryl and Charles Boyle



Paul Templin Ashford



Betty McCorriston



Worship Updates

Two Worship Service Times: 9:00am & 10:30am

Indoor Worship

If you would like to worship with us in person, we are currently offering two times, 9:00 and 10:30. 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 for both the 9:00am and 10:30am services. You can watch these videos live on Facebook and our website, or you can watch them at a later time 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 crazy 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](#).

Upcoming Schedule

Nov 29 - Breakthrough: Week One
Dec 6 - Breakthrough: Week Two
Dec 13 - Breakthrough: Week Three
Dec 20 - Breakthrough: Week Four
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Services
Dec 27 - Breakthrough (**Online Only at 9:00am**) Week Five
Jan 4 - One Service Only (9:00am)

175
HYGIENE KITS
FOR TASK

2
MILES OF RIVER ROAD
CLEANED UP FOR
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

90
SOUP CONTAINERS
FOR CARING FOR
FRIENDS

400
SNACK BAGS FOR
CARING FOR FRIENDS

5
BLANKETS FOR
PROJECT LINUS

The Church Has Left The Building

Thank you to everyone for supporting this year's CHLTB service projects even though it felt a bit different and was limited by COVID TMPC still managed to reach out and serve our local community by making soup for Caring for Friends, making Personal Care Kits and donating books to Operation Paperback and keep our Roads clean with Adopt-a-Highway.

The Operation Paperback project for TCHLTB was completed Nov 13. 18 boxes, containing a total of 275 books, were sent to active duty service members both overseas and in the U.S., to veterans, and to VA hospitals. Of special note this time was a box of children's storybooks that went overseas so moms and dads could read to their children over skype or zoom. Thank you to everyone who donated books! Also, thank you to the Haubrichs who made handmade cards and to Anita Campbell for her notecards that got included with each box.

Team Up for TASK Virtual 5K

This fall we hosted our first ever virtual 5k and we were thrilled with the results. We decided to partner with the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and were able to raise \$2,180, surpassing our goal greatly. Thank you to the many families and friend of TMPC for participating and to Jaimie Salt for organizing this event.



Church Picnic

We had a great time hosting our Fall Church Picnic, with great food and great fellowship. We had pumpkins available for people to write what they were thankful for. Here are some photos from it:





New Church Logo

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

At our first outdoor worship service in June, Pastor Stephanie was having a conversation with Dick and Nancy Quanstrom about the beautiful crosses that Dick has made for TMPC. In conversation, Dick shared about the Chapel cross and the difference in color between the cross which was a dark brown wood and the circle on the outside which was a light brown wood. Dick shared that the cross was made from a tree that fell on the property of TMPC. The "heart" wood comes from the center of a tree and is a darker color and, on the cross in the chapel, it is the wood that makes up the cross. The outer section was made from younger wood toward the outer edge of the same tree. This outer section is known as "sapling" wood. Despite coming from the same tree, the two pieces were of a dramatically different color and age.

This cross has become a standard symbol around TMPC with each new staff person having their picture taken in front of this beautiful cross. In addition, there is another replica of this cross in the Fellowship Hall.

“

*A logo that represents
our history, our unity,
and Christ as our center*

Late this summer, the communications team at TMPC approached the pastors asking if TMPC had a logo or a "brand."

It felt natural for this emblem, drawn from a tree from our own property, designed by one of our beloved members, symbolizing the unity of young and old, gathered together in the heart of Jesus, to be the design for our new logo.

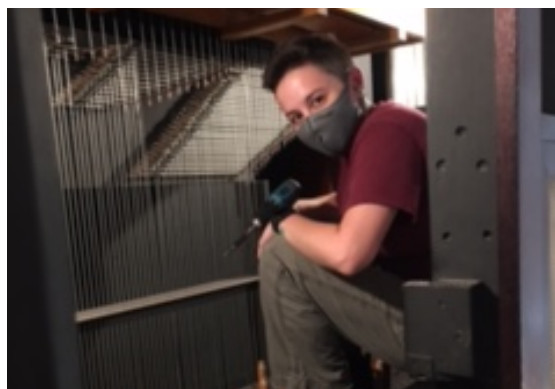
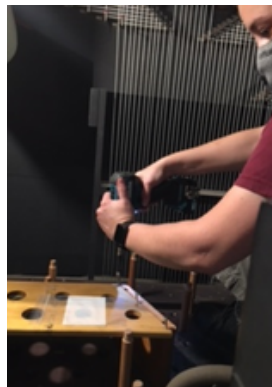
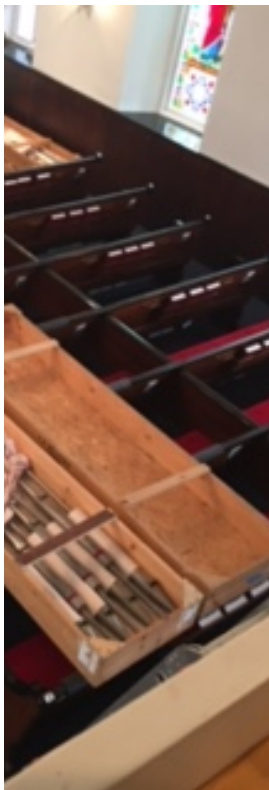
We are grateful to Dick Quanstrom for the many beautiful crosses he has made for TMPC in the sanctuary, chapel, and Fellowship Hall as well as the beautiful hutch that he designed that holds our food for food drives.

We couldn't be happier to have a logo that represents our history, the unity of our community and celebrates that Christ is our center.



Organ Update

We want to share with you some of the progress that has been made to our organ which just received a thorough cleaning. A very intricate instrument as you can see. Thank you to our angel donor to make this possible. It will be great to hear Dorothy Fine warming up the Sanctuary just in time for Christmas and many of our December recorded music offerings.



Youth Update

Pat Kelly

Overview

We have had such a blast being able to meet again in person, first outside and more recently inside. When Pat became the new youth director in September, the youth group had a fun mini golf trip near Oxford Valley Mall. Since then, the youth group has been meeting every Sunday night.

We enjoyed some quality time outside at Pastor Stephanie's home for a bonfire, and later enjoyed a fun night playing a real life version of Among Us (a new popular video game app).

Recent Teachings

Recently, we have gone through a series titled, *When God Doesn't Make Sense*, where we spent three weeks looking at the times it feels like we aren't being heard or seen by God. We looked at the story of John the Baptist's death, the resurrection of Lazarus, and the thorn in Paul's side. With the difficult world we are in currently, the hope was that our students would see the connections to Covid today, and find hope in the reminder of God's love and the salvation that Jesus has given us.

Upcoming Events

During the month of December, our youth group will meet on Sundays from 6-8pm. We will not be meeting the two Sundays following Christmas (12/27 and 1/3). During December, we will be going through a series called "Dear Baby Jesus", where we will take a deeper look at the life of those surrounding Jesus before and at the time of his birth. We will unpack why it was such a big deal how Jesus was born and why so many couldn't believe who he was.



Children's Update

Rev. Bailey Pruner Heckman

We are very excited to announce that starting December 6th, we will now be having a space for children during part of our 10:30am Sunday service. Before the start of the sermon, children will be welcomed to go into our conference room, where we will have activities and a video for them to watch, socially distanced and with masks on at all times. We ask that you sign up beforehand using the comments section on our service sign-up.

CHILDREN'S
w o r s h i p





Inclusivity Update

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

In June of 2020 the Inclusivity Team put together a broad based plan including five key areas that the team would focus their work. One of the areas of focus was mental health and addiction. Many who struggle with mental health concerns and addiction often have a difficult time entering into a church community in an honest and vulnerable way due to social stigmas around addiction and mental health. The Inclusivity Team has spent much of the fall exploring these areas and praying about how to be more inclusive of those who are struggling. We wanted to keep you up to date with the work we have done.

Our intern Jamie White led a study this fall on the book *Mental Health and the Church's Mission* which encouraged the church to speak more about mental health concerns and consider beginning small groups that could be a safe place of welcoming for those who are struggling with anxiety, depression and more.

We met with Larry Beley and asked how we could better serve our current Foglifters group. Larry requested more time and space. There is a great need for a noon meeting in the area. In November, the Session approved a noon meeting of AA at TMPC on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition, the Inclusivity Team agreed to attend some of the AA meetings to learn and understand what the journey looks like.

We received a request during this time from a local Narcotics Anonymous Group (NA) who has been unable to meet inside due to Covid and has been having a hard time with meaningful connection over Zoom. The session received this request and approved a request to further conversations and allow space for this group to meet.

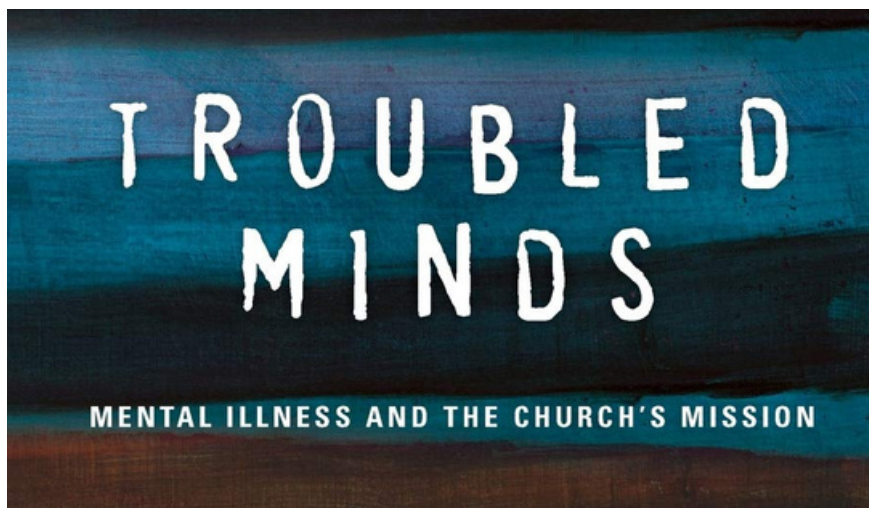
“

Many who struggle with mental health and addiction often find it hard to enter into a church community

Pastor Stephanie attended a Faith Leaders Summit with New Hope Cares in November of 2020 that addressed ways in which local faith communities could join together to help those suffering from addiction in our communities. Though there was a lot of discussion, there were two concrete take aways that everyone can take part in and learn about:

- Empty all prescription drugs that you are currently not taking from your home at an approved site. This is a great source of struggle for an addict and often becomes an entry point for teens who are pressured by peers to find prescription medicines in family medicine cabinets. [Click here](#) for a list of places to drop off prescription drugs.
- Obtain a Narcan Nasal Spray. This spray, which works like any nasal spray, can help even if someone inside your home has taken an incorrect dose of opioids. It is free and has saved over 1,000 lives in Bucks County this year. It cannot harm the recipient so even if it is given to someone who is not having an overdose it will not do any damage. To learn more and get a Narcan device, [click here](#).

The Inclusivity Team will continue to learn and grow in ways that our church can reach out to all. We appreciate your prayers as we do this great work.





Christmas Service Opportunities

Promise Boxes

Urban Promise - Trenton, NJ

This year TMPC will fill boxes with small Christmas gifts for children at Urban Promise, Trenton. You can pick up a box at TMPC beginning this Sunday and fill it with the suggested items. Please return the filled box, labeled with the age and gender of the child you chose. You may wrap the box if you would like. Boxes are due to TMPC by December 18.

Here is a list of suggested items for the box:

- headphones (over ear)
- phone charger
- warm wear- hat and gloves
- toothbrush (2)
- toothpaste (fun kid kind)
- fleece lap blanket
- small Lego toy- age appropriate
- socks
- healthy snacks
- \$10 bill, so the kids can use it at their corner store. Many kids come from families with limited transportation and run down to their corner stores for stuff. Enclose it in a Christmas Card, how fun!

Season of Advent

We are very excited about entering into this Advent season with you. It will be like no other Advent season we have ever experienced. This may be one of the most clear and definable seasons of waiting and longing we have ever walked through and that gives us an even greater appreciation for the power of God to break in. Over the next four weeks, we will explore themes of light and dark in our worship series: "Breakthrough" and hear stories of how God breaks through complacency, doubt, grief and fear.

To complement this worship series, I will lead a study on Wednesday evenings beginning December 2 at 6:30 pm on Barbara Brown Taylor's book Learning to Walk in the Dark (the zoom link is on our homepage).



Toy Drop

Whosoever Gospel Mission - Philadelphia, PA

Whosoever Gospel Mission of Philadelphia is requesting toys for the men at the shelter to be able to give to their children. This is a huge step for many men to reconnect with family members. Toys should be geared toward children ages 0-18 and be **unwrapped**. All toys and stocking stuffers are welcome and should each be valued at \$25 or less. Toys need to be delivered to TMPC by December 10

- Here is a list of eligible donations:
- Games, especially for older kids
- Art supplies
- Baby dolls and other dolls, with clothing or accessories for dolls like little strollers
- (They frequently run short of dark-skinned dolls)
- Legos or engineering games for older kids
- Gift cards for Walmart or Target, max value of \$20 or \$25
- Small items from 5 Below are also welcome, like stuffed animals



Whosoever Gospel Mission

Sharing God's Love Since 1892

Christmas Eve @ Thompson Church



Online Worship Services

*4:00pm Family Worship Service &
10:30pm Candlelight Communion Service*

There will be two virtual worship services offered on Christmas Eve. First, a 4:00pm Family Worship Service with children and youth reading scripture and offering special music. Second, a 10:30pm Candlelight Communion Service with special music, familiar hymns and a time in the Word hearing the good news of great joy. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper and ring in Christmas morning at midnight. These services will be streamed on our Facebook page at the times indicated but we will also have a link to the videos on our website so that you can view them at anytime on Christmas Eve.

Indoor Worship Service

5:00pm Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

We are happy to offer a safe indoor worship service on Christmas Eve. To attend this service we do ask that you sign up online so we do not exceed our room capacity. We do ask that those in attendance wear a mask while inside the building and maintain social distancing. You can learn more about our safety procedures on our website. [Click here](#) to sign up to attend.



Outdoor Worship Service

7:00pm Worship Service near the Upper Parking Lot

Join us outside at Thompson for a 20 minute, socially distanced Christmas experience. We will gather together to hear the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, light our candles and sing Silent Night. This service is open to everyone so feel free to tell a friend! We do ask that you [sign up](#) so can plan accordingly.

For more info, go to tmpc.org/christmas-eve



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.

View Our Upcoming Schedule:

11/23: We meet with Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford and discuss a chapter from "Golden Fruit" by Julie Maschhoff.

12/7: We'll be reading ahead of time: "The Remarkable Ordinary" by Frederick Buechner, Chapter One.

12/14: We'll be discussing "Wired Word"... "Humans Hide Angels for Neighbors to Find". Note: The "Wired Word" is sent to the women prior to December 14.

12/21: Each woman will watch independently the movie "The Bishop's Wife", 1947, with Cary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven.

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](#)

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.



Caring
for Friends™

TMPC Members Hub

Volunteer Needs



AUDIO/VISUAL TECH

On Sunday's 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.

Operation Paperback



Thank you so much for the donations! These great books & DVD's are definitely going to add entertainment to the disabled vets in the Las Cruces, NM & El Paso, TX area. Again, thank you for what you do. From: German

Thank you to George Salt for preparing and setting up for the Board of Electors and to TMPC for hosting as a polling location.

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
John Paslo
Meredith Power
Nancy and Dick Quanstrom

Brenda Redfield
Paul Rickert
Tom Thatcher
Holly Tomkovitz
Arlene Whitticar

Church Leadership Updates

NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

CLASS OF 2023:

Marci Capel - Communications
Judy Cronise - Clerk of Session
Annie Lo - Long Range Planning
Melissa Michaels - Membership
Chuck Napier

NEWLY ELECTED DEACONS

CLASS OF 2023: Alyssa Capel, Tracy Jefferson, Amy Perry, Bucky Pope, Cathy Sanford

2020 TMPC SESSION

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
Lydia Williams

Clerk of Session
Christian Education
Christian Education
Worship and Music
Personnel
Business & Finance
Business & Finance
Membership Development
Property
Cemetery
Nominating
Mission
Stewardship

COVID Task Force/Reopening Team

Kurt Thompson, Mike Wert, Melissa Callans,
Jaimie Salt

TMPC Members Hub

Worship Info

Two Worship Service Times: 9:00am & 10:30am

Indoor Worship

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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