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Coming Home

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

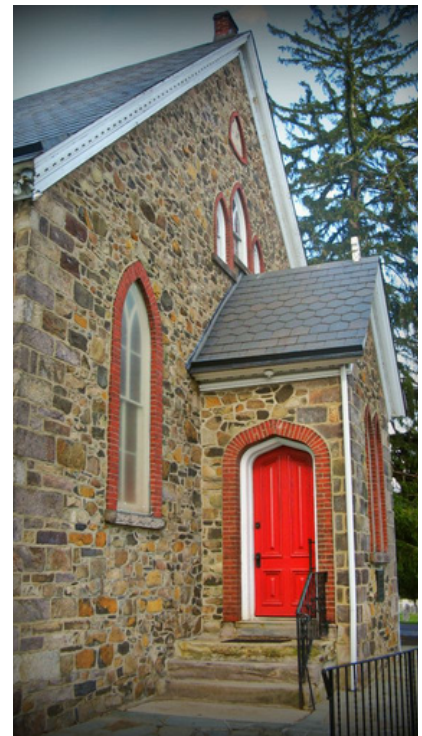
As a pretty typical teenager, I was always asking my parents to buy me the latest trends in clothing and, though I had a job, there were constantly items that needed to be funded. Generally, my requests were met reluctantly, or not at all. However, when I returned from college on my first fall break, it was my mother's idea to go shopping and she was happier than ever to give in to my whims and desires.

It was because I was home.

For two months, there was a hole in our home; a place where I used to sit, a bed I used to inhabit and in my parent's view, something was missing. They longed for me to be home again.

Naturally it is a normal developmental process to leave the coop, so to say, but the concept of home is not lost on us. There are simply moments in time and places of importance that settle us and remind us of our belonging and of home.

(con't on pg 2)



Home (con't)

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

It is with this same emotion that the loving father opens his arms wide for the prodigal son in Luke 15. The father throws a party and prepares a feast and is thrilled when his son finally returns home. It is the embrace of being welcomed home that we all really long for, the knowledge that no matter what we have done or how long we have been gone, God is waiting for us to return home again.

This Advent at Thompson we will again be welcomed home. We will once again inhabit our sacred space on our sacred days. We will once again light candles to welcome in the Christ child. We will once again sing together O Come, O Come Emmanuel. In this season we will reflect on the stories of Mary and Joseph returning home for the census, of Mary visiting Elizabeth in her home, and, most importantly, of Jesus finding his home in our hearts as we explore the series: Close to Home.

This Advent is an invitation for each one of us to think about the ways we have wandered or strayed, ways we have lost our path and to be reminded that God is waiting with open arms, shining the light of Christ as our guide, longing to welcome us home again.

Whether your upcoming holiday season is fraught with challenges or

whether you know there is a warm spot for you in your family, know that at Thompson, in God's house, there will always be a home for you.

*Know that at
Thompson, in God's
House, there will
always be a home for
you*

It is also a time for us to contemplate those without a spiritual home who might be missing a family of faith in their life and this is an opportunity for us to invite them into our home to experience the love that the open-armed God is ready to pour into each of us.

As you look through this season's Tidings, I hope and pray you to take advantage of the many opportunities to grow in faith and to join in the goodness that God is providing for us in this space.

Many blessings,
Stephanie



Welcome Home Layna!

Pastor Bailey, PJ, Annelise, and Bennett welcomed baby Layna Louise on September 28th at 9:51 pm. She was 7 lbs, 5 oz, 20.25 inches. Pastor Bailey will remain on maternity leave until December 25th. We are so happy to welcome this little one into our beautiful family!



Congrats Pat and Madison!

Pat Kelly and his fiancée Madison Zuczek were married on November 12th at Pennington Assemblies of God, where Madison is the Director for Children and Youth Ministry. We are so happy for both of them and we pray God's blessings upon their new marriage!

FALL REFLECTIONS



Rally Day

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

The sun was shining and the pancake bar was a huge hit, but the real joy on Rally Day this year was the faithful fellowship of God's people.

Young and old alike gathered for food and games after worship. We continued our tradition of the TMPC pie-eating contest and we enjoyed ice cream, corn hole, and more!

What a great way to kick off our program year! Thank you to all who helped to make this day a huge success.



TCHLTB

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

We had such a blast serving the community this November! We had projects on Saturday and Sunday in New Hope and Lambertville and several projects at the church. From shoe collections to Hurricane Ida relief, our church was able to make a huge impact.

Thank you to all of you who took the time and energy to serve with us this fall, and we are excited to see how God uses our community's work to make an impact in the world!



Pet Blessing

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

On October 3rd, TMPC hosted its first Pet Blessing, We teamed up with the Bucks County SPCA, the New Hope K9 unit and Tail Waggers Academy to put on a pet blessing for the whole community. We saw cute dogs of all varieties and were able to bless them and enjoy the beautiful weather all together.



Rummage Sale

Pat Kelly

It has been over 2 years since our church was able to bless the community with a rummage sale, and our volunteers were so eager to host this event again. We had around 30 volunteers who took part in our huge sort day, and another dozen who helped out with the event throughout the weekend. Our youth ministry helped out with the set-up of the room and some of the clean-up as well.

This year, the proceeds of the rummage sale, which was over \$5,000 will go towards our youth ministry and missions at Thompson. Some of this money will be used to update and improve our youth rooms in the basement, and some of the money will go towards our youth mission trip. We also will tithe what we received from the sale to go directly to one of our mission partners.

Thanks again to all of those who helped out with this fall's rummage sale!



Rolling Harvest

Rev. Stephanie Templin Ashford

Food Rescue Mission

In October, we took a team of volunteers to Gravity Hill Farm in Titusville, NJ, and worked to harvest some fall crops. Volunteers picked kale and turnips, separated garlic, and continued to work even in the rain!

Rolling Harvest collects produce from local farms and donates it all to the local food pantries to provide healthy options for everyone. Look for another day of service coming up to enjoy this ministry!



A Week of Gratitude



We are less than a week away from the American holiday of Thanksgiving. During this week there will be many pies baked, many rolls buttered, many turkeys brined, and many tables set. We often go into these celebrations full of hope and expectation, and because we want everything to be full of kindness, love, joy, and to go perfectly, it can be difficult to remain Christlike while juggling so much.

It is for this reason that I'm going to set a challenge for our congregation this week: to replace every complaint with a word of gratitude.

Commentator Matthew Henry reminds us that in view of the scriptures, praise and thanksgiving must be woven into everything we do. He calls it the golden thread that needs to run through every duty. We are reminded in Hebrews 13:15 that "in everything, we are to give thanks."

So, I challenge you for just one week to resist complaining, to hold one another accountable, to use every mistake, every disappointment as an opportunity to praise God.

I think you'll notice your blessings are everywhere and God's goodness is present in everything!

See you in worship!

Pastor Stephanie

Worship News



Welcome Bill Stauffer

Thompson Memorial is thrilled to announce the addition of Bill Stauffer to the TMPC staff. Bill will be the Director of Contemporary Worship.

Bill comes to us with an extensive musical background. Having studied at Westminster Choir College, Bill has experience leading a capella choirs and enjoys all forms of music. Bill worked as the Worship Director at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church for 5 years. Bill and his wife Teri live in Clifton, NJ.

Bill describes himself as a passionate worship leader who desires nothing more than empowering others to connect with God in meaningful ways.

Bill has a history of building worshipping communities and describes himself as a "worship architect." Bill also has experience in youth and young adult ministry and has a heart for pastoral care and counseling.

Bill will begin his ministry among us on Sunday, November 21st at the 11:00 service. Be sure to greet him warmly and plan to worship at our Contemporary service to experience the gifts Bill brings to our community.

Jazz Worship

Join us on January 30th for a 5th Sunday combined service at 9:00 am with the Warren Cooper Jazz Ensemble. Warren and his band will lead us with meditative jazz that weaves its way through liturgy and scripture. You won't want to miss it!



Advent @ TMPC



Close to Home

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. Close to Home, our Advent theme acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

This Advent's theme has a parallel devotional booklet that will be available on November 28th, the first Sunday of Advent. We can't wait to journey together through this season.

Advent Workshop

Nov. 28 - 10:00am

Join us as we gather to make special advent wreaths for this year. Each person will get 4 mason jars to decorate for each week of advent. Children will decorate their jars with advent colored tissue paper and adults will receive twine and weekly advent tags to make their wreaths festive.

Advent Devotionals for all ages will be available at this event.



Kids Christmas Musical

Dec 12 - 10:00am



We can't wait to see our kids tell the gospel story of Christmas through drama and song. Join us at 10:00 am on December 12th to be a part of "Twas the Night Before" this year's Christmas Musical in Fellowship Hall.

Longest Night Service

December 12th 7:00 PM

The Christmas season isn't always a joyful time. For those who have experienced loss or simply long for a more contemplative time of worship in the season of hustle and bustle, join us for a soup supper and special worship service.



Living Nativity

Dec. 19 5:00 pm

A group of people from Thompson will join together at the Living Hope Live Nativity in Dublin, PA for a Bethlehem village experience that makes the story of the birth of Jesus come alive! Look for a sign up on our Sign up Page coming soon! We will meet at the location at 5:00 pm. See this website to learn all about it!

For more information, see:
<https://www.livinghopepa.org/living-nativity/>

Christmas Bags for Urban Promise

vrBANPromise TRENTON CHRISTMAS BAG



Don't miss this great Christmas service opportunity! Grab a red bag located on the Table of Well Wishing and fill it with shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, and toothbrush, body cream, a pair of colorful socks, and Crocs! Put your own label on the bag and return to the Table of Well Wishing at TMPC by December 12 and the filled bags will be delivered to the kids at Urban Promise on December 20.

JOIN US AT
OUR
Christmas Eve
SERVICES

4:30PM | 7:30PM | 10:30PM

4:30PM
FAMILY SERVICE

Every child is a part of God's story!
Join us for a pop-up Christmas pageant where every child gets a part, retelling the birth of Jesus.



7:30PM
LESSONS & CAROLS

Scripture, preaching, and a candlelit Silent Night usher in the Christ child during this traditional service of Christmas worship.

10:30PM
COMMUNION SERVICE

This service is full of all of the mystery of Christmas. Complete with communion, choirs and the ringing in of Christmas, you won't want to miss this worship experience!



Women's Retreat

Dec. 4 - 8:30am-12:30pm

Holy Restoration

Join us as we focus on God's action in our lives. When God restores, we are not returned to our original condition, rather we are *blessed with more*.

Our half day retreat is for all ladies ages 12 and up. Free nursery care for ages 4 and under will be provided, upon request.

Dr. Lee Barrett

Feb. 20

Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

Join us for a morning of worship, adult education, and a lunch workshop on February 20th, 2022 with Dr. Lee Barrett.

Lee was one of Stephanie's professors from Lancaster Theological Seminary and is the late Marty Bowne's first cousin. He will speak with humor and intellect on "Why do bad things happen: The topic of theodicy."

Grove City Choir Tour

Feb. 27 - 4:00pm

TMPC will be the proud host of the Grove City Touring Choir on Sunday, February 27th at 4:00 PM. Our own Emily Clark is part of this choir and we are excited to welcome them for a performance of musical joy! Mark your calendar!



Winter 2021



December 4th | 8:30am-12:30pm
Childcare Available for Children 4 and Under

MLK Weekend

Jan. 16-17

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "anyone can be great because anyone can serve." Join us on MLK Weekend, January 16th and 17th for a special weekend focused on service and justice. On Sunday, our worship service will focus on Martin Luther King and our call as Christians to serve. We will welcome Rev. Dr. Sanford Hull for a lunchtime workshop sharing about his time volunteering with the Equal Justice Institute collecting soil from lynching victims in Alabama.

On Monday, we will open our doors wide to the community for an MLK breakfast and worship service, followed by a RISE Against Hunger Meal packing event and World Vision Hygiene Kits project. The day will be rounded out with a Racial Wealth gap workshop from Bread for the World.

This is a family-friendly worship and service day for all ages. If you or your children have off of school or work, please join us!



Children's Update

Pat Kelly

Overview

The joy of a smiling child is one of those things that just lights up an entire room. Even with masks, those smiles have been radiating at Thompspon each and every week.

Our children's ministry is in an exciting place, filled with energy, passionate volunteers, and teachable spirits in our children.

We want Thompspon to be a church that families not only feel welcome at, but desire to be fully involved in. With that in mind, we are eager to roll out some new opportunities for children to grow in their faith journeys!

Kids Club Expansion

Starting early spring of 2022, we will be expanding our Kids Club, making it a weekly opportunity for families. We will also be adjusting its meeting time to Wednesday nights so that our youth will be able to be leaders for Kids Club.

With this new weekly opportunity comes a greater need than ever for people in our church to step up into leadership.

If you are interested in serving in our children's ministry, please reach out to Pat Kelly at youth@tmpc.org.

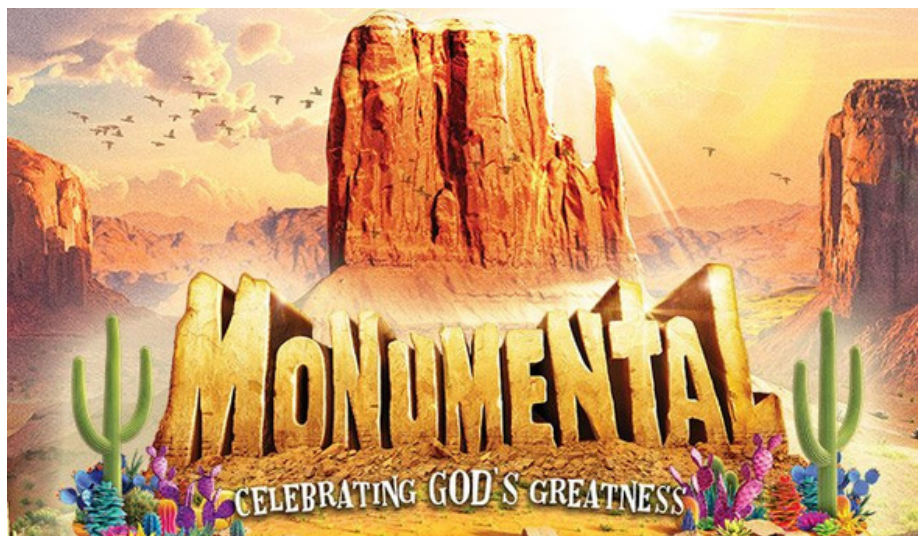
Upcoming Kids Club Events

We have 2 more fun Kids Club nights planned this year, on 11/19 and on 12/17. For our November Kids Club, the theme of the night will be gratitude, and our service project will directly correlate with that theme. In December, we will have a fun Christmas Party and have decided to extend our Kids Club night with a movie. This will allow parents to have a night out or try and get some Christmas shopping done.



VBS 2022 Theme: *Monumental*

Can you believe that VBS is only half a year away?! We are excited to announce that we will be hosting VBS on August 1-5th. More deatils will follow throughout the next few months.



Youth Update

Pat Kelly

Overview

You ever been in a place and just felt like "there's something special in the air here"? Every week when I show up to youth group, or when I grab a meal with a student, or spend time with our Confirmation Class, I can't help but feel this way.

One of the blessings with the group of students we have is their desire to seek more. They want to be the best version of their own self. They want to know as much about God as they can. And they aren't afraid to be challenged.

So we continue to pray and trust God, and we'll continue rejoice in the good things God is doing for Thompson's Student Ministry

The Big Picture for Youth

So what's the big goal with all the fun and games we do?

I try to take a look at the big picture in all things we do. Every planned moment in our youth ministry builds on the hope that our students will choose to follow God, and that they will lean into their faith.

So whether it's Nerf blasters or deep questions about why bad things happen to good people, the hope is that they experience Christ's love in a way so tangible that they want more of God.

Confirmation Class

Thompson is enjoying the big questions that come with confirmation class. We have 8 students in our group and together we will tackle topics like the Trinity, worship, Bible basics, spiritual disciplines, the Church, and service.

At the end of our time together, our students will create their own belief statements, which they will then share with our congregation as they become confirmed into our church.



Zeteo Retreat - Feb 4-6, 2022

TMPC youth will once again head to Lancaster, PA to engage in a prayerfully crafted retreat full of singing, stillness, story, and drama, all designed to remind our youth that they are not searching alone. Sign-ups are now open on our website. See Pat for more information.



Outreach Opportunities

TMPC Returns to TASK

TMPC returned to TASK in November to once again serve at the soup kitchen. Members were able to help prepare to-go meals, as well as hand out items to take away and provide fresh salads from the salad bar. TASK is still not open for full service operation, but is slowly resuming it's vital work in Trenton.

the next TASK service day is December 1 from 9:30 to 1:00. Email the office to sign up.

Habitat for Humanity

Several local churches have been volunteering as a part of the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build program. Over the past year, churches have raised money and invested time to build a home for a family in Bristol, PA. The house is nearing completion and TMPC will volunteer to help with the finishing work on December 4th at 8:30 am. Email Stephanie if you would like to join the group.

Caring for Friends

Our next Caring for Friends (CFF) meal preparation is on December 14 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. We need help with the donations of the ingredients and volunteers to assist with the meal preparation. If you would like to contribute food items or your time to this great cause, please look for our link in e-news to access the CFF Sign Up Genius. If you don't have access to a computer and would like to donate or help with preparation, please contact Susan Achenbach at 267-432-4313 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](#)



Outreach Cont'd.

TMPC Monthly Food Drive

Thank you for your generous donations and support for our monthly food drives over the past year. Hunger continues to be a “silent issue” in Bucks County. Please continue to support our food drives for the upcoming year. Our next food drive at TMPC is on December 15th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. You can also leave donations at the food pantry inside the church whenever the church is open.

TMPC supports the following food centers Delaware Valley Food Pantry, Fisherman's Mark, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), and The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church. Contact John Donahue at (215) 968-6812 if you have any questions.



Blood Drive

Our next blood drive is December 7th from 2-7 pm.

Giving blood is a wonderful way to help your community. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org, enter TMPC.

Own the Vision



November 14th was Dream Sunday, a wonderful celebration of a God who speaks through dreams and visions and who has a beautiful future planned for TMPC. After many weeks of hearing the dreams and visions of our members, we celebrated God's faithfulness to us by bringing pledges forward as a sign of our gratitude to God and as a commitment to God's future at Thompson. Coffee hour was an extra special treat with two amazing Dream Cakes made by Carol Salt and a wonderful coffee hour set up by the men's group, with help from Melissa Michael. If you have not had a chance to pledge

yet, pledge cards are available in the office and on our website at www.tmpc.org/own-the-vision.

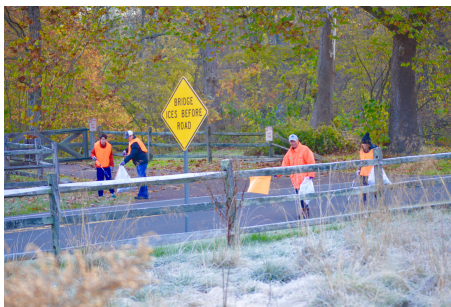
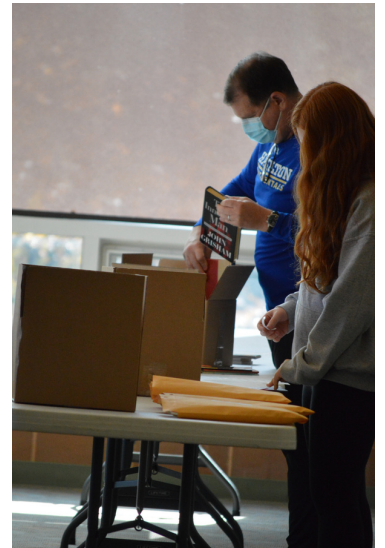
Additionally, you can fill out the Time and Talent sheet to offer gifts of service to our community. Thank you for your contributions that glorify God at TMPC!

What a beautiful thing,
God, to give thanks,
to sing an anthem to you,
the High God!

To announce your love each daybreak,
sing your faithful presence
all through the night.

Psalm 92:1-2 (MSG)

Church Life



Adult Education

Sermon Talks

Every Thursday - 9:30am

Join Pastor Stephanie every Thursday morning for a bible study focused on the upcoming Sunday's sermon topic.

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

Men's Study Group

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday - 9:30-11am

Currently meeting in-person at the church. Contact Mike Wert for more information at mikewert@tarpfarm.com.

Theology on Tap

Every Other Wednesday Starting 9/29

Join us for another round of Theology on Tap, with this fall's focus text You Lost Me by David Kinnaman. This book takes a deep dive into the challenges many face trying to keep youth in the church, and looks at the many sources of why young people are making the choice to leave the Church.

Grace Groups

Each Grace Group has a leader has an assigned group (members) and will reach out to each household 2-3 times per year.

Monday Morning



Monday Morning Women's Ministry

1st Four Mondays - 9:30-11am in person at the church

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.

Contact Sue Wert at suewert@tarpfarm.com. if you have any questions. We now meet in person at the church.

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.

TMPC Members Hub



Church Leadership

NEWLY ELECTED ELDERS

CLASS OF 2023:

Katherine Lyons - Christian Ed
Rick Schaub - Long Range Planning
Trish Chinoy - Worship & Music

Volunteer Needs



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!**
Email Pat at youth@tmpc.org

SUNDAY COUNTERS

We need your help on Sundays to be a counter for our weekly collections after the worship service. We need 2 people each Sunday. Sign up on at www.tmpc.org/sign-ups

Welcome New Members!

We are so excited to welcome our new (and returning) members into our TMPC community!

Our new members:

Peter Heckman Bonnie & Bob Austin
Lenore Bowne Richard Vestel
Eric & Stacy Hill

NEWLY ELECTED DEACONS

CLASS OF 2023:

Cheryl Boyle
Jo Ann Alberts

CLASS OF 2024:

Susan Achenbach
Sandy Barford
Bill Clark
Bruce Stevens

2022 TMPC SESSION

Judy Cronise	Clerk of Session
Chuck Green	Mission
Melissa Callans	Christian Education
Colin Jenei	Worship and Music
Tom Barford	Personnel
Bruce Stevens	Business & Finance
Kurt Thompson	Business & Finance
Melissa Michael	Membership Development
Fred Wustholz	Property
Anita Campbell	Nominating
Jeff Campbell	Stewardship
Chuck Napier	Inclusivity
Marci Capel	Communications
TBD	Long Range Planning

TMPC Members Hub

Worship Service Info

9:00am & 11:00 am

Indoor Worship

We are currently meeting in-person and have a livestream option. For up-to-date info and any changes in our in-person worship, visit our website www.tmpc.org.

Online Worship

We are currently offering live streamed services online every Sunday, which can also be viewed at a later time. Our livestreamed services can be found both on Facebook and on our website. For more information on our online worship, visit www.tmpc.org/sunday-worship

Tithes & Offerings

We thank you for prayerfully considering what God has called you to give during 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 Worship Director
Organist/Accompanist
Fall Intern
Church Accountant
Business Administrator/Treasurer
Sexton

Stephanie Templin Ashford
Bailey Pruner Heckman
Pat Kelly
Melissa Bottelier
Patricia Murphy
Bill Stauffer
Dorothy Fine
Jamie White
TBD
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