

Templeton Presbyterian Church monthly newsletter

June 2020

TPC SUNDAY SERVICE UPDATE

JUNE 7: 9:00am Prayer & Teaching session

TPC Sanctuary Registration required, seating is limited *Watch your email for details*

10:00am Online Worship templetonpres.org



TempletonPres

TPC Call to Prayer

JUNE 4—6 6:00am-6:00pm

Praying for our communities, our leaders, and our nation.

PASTOR'S PAGE

As I write this, our congregation has been engaged in a 3-day, 12-hour-a-day prayer vigil for our nation during this national outcry that has erupted over the senseless death of George Floyd. It is a challenging endeavor to both *lament* what is, and *hope* for what can be, while trying to *contain* the worst of the current crisis. Like many of you, I have been watching and listening to the news coverage, as best I can, appalled at much of what I've witnessed, as people wantonly steal, break, burn, and destroy; and deeply moved by the deep, painful demand for change in what feels like a rising up to finish the work of racial equality and reconciliation that has been going on for over 200 years. Clearly, though our laws say "equal", the experience of millions of black lives says otherwise. Too many people do not feel that they live in a just society when it comes to how they are viewed and treated by elements within our society. To fail to hear and see that ... to fail to acknowledge there is pain and alienation ... to fail to do the hard work to examine our systems and make whatever change is needed ... is to fail to live in the realm of the kingdom of God that Jesus announced by saying,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim

good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19

It has been gratifying to see every prayer slot filled, and to know that we are serving our culture in the one way we *must* – *through prayer*. It doesn't stop there, to be sure, but if it doesn't *start* there, we offer the world only what our flesh can give. My heartfelt thanks to all who are giving their time, heart, and faith for the sake of a righteous cause.

I wonder how different what we are experiencing would be if we had not been in the midst of a prolonged period of national shutdown. With so many out of work and disadvantaged by all the losses that have resulted, people have had much more "free" time to give to protesting every day, along with plenty of pent-up frustration and anger. Time and history will tell whether or not that will prove to have been a good thing.

Correlating the pandemic with the protests coincides with my own reflecting about this season, and the questions presented a few weeks ago in a sermon that we would do well to ask ourselves as we go through seasons in life. So I thought I would share with you some of my attempts to answer them.

What I am Learning: 1) My daughter seems to have surpassed me in mental agility. We started playing "Words with Friends" as a way to spend fun time together over our phones. Well, after 7 games, I've lost them all, and all but two have been by more that 100 points. 2) Worship planning is more productive with a team. As we debrief every service and plan for the next one on a Monday Zoom meeting, anywhere from 7-9 of us put our heads and hearts together. My intent is to see how that kind of collaboration can continue even after our online worship season is over. 3) I can actually get my sermons done *before* Saturday night (and, if am completely honest – Sunday morning). Deadlines are deadlines, whether it's a *live* worship service or a *pre-recorded* one. The question is - Can I make a *self-imposed* deadline stick?

What I am Enjoying: 1) A taste of more time at home – which may be a bit of a foretaste of one aspect of "retirement." It's been a productive period of working hard in my "office" (aka tiny desk tucked in the corner of our guest bedroom), and then taking periodic breaks to go outside for "exercise" (aka – working on projects around our house). 2) Saving money on gas. 3) Zoom meetings with our kids every Sunday night – another thing I hope I've discovered is worth continuing. 4) Spending more time with Laura and our dogs (in that order!)

What is Most Important?: THE CHURCH. This is a multi-layered answer, which can't be adequately answered briefly. 1) But it has to do with defining *"Essential,"* which our government clearly thinks we are not. God would disagree. 2) It has to do with *Worship,* which oddly (and surprisingly) has made a greater impact on me as we have been making sure it happens online. Even pastors can take worship for granted when the routine of Sunday morning is a "sure thing." Doing what we've been doing has made worship even more precious to me – and I hope for all of you. 3) It has to do with *the Body of Christ,* and how non-negotiable the essentiality of relationships is. Being apart makes us realize how being together is so important for our lives, our health, our faith, and our community. I hope we become even more intentional about that when this is "over." ... Much more to say on this, but that's enough for now.

Continued...



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

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FAMILIES with kiddos, please check your email for the TPC Family Survey (sent June 2nd) that will help us get a better idea of what you need and how we can connect in the future.



Be on the lookout for an exciting announcement about our Summer Series "Why Church?" We hope to see you and your whole family in the very near future. To give you a better idea of what to expect...we'll have 5 gatherings, each focusing on a different one of our "I" statements...so basically, a worship night, a fellowship night with pool, games, and food; a night focused on missions; a night focused on Jesus and Bible teaching; and a night or day focused on serving others. We hope to get times and feedback from the TPC Family Survey and then get them on the calendar and in the planning stages ASAP!

VBS UPDATE

With great sadness, we must announce that we won't be hosting VBS this summer. We hope to bring you the Rocky Railway in 2021.





TPC would love to help families have access to **"Mount** Hermon Family Camp in a Box". To see more about it, visit <u>https://www.mounthermon.org/athome/</u>. If you would like one ordered for your family, please contact Leslie with the ages of your children and the address you'd like it delivered to.

(Pastor's Page cont'd)

How Can I Help Others? 1) Mainly, keep doing what I do as best I can from a "distance," being creative when I can, responding to unexpected needs as they arrive, and learning new and better ways to work as a team. Knowing that I don't have all the answers ... that I don't have the best answers ... that I don't have the complete answer – I need the wisdom and insight and ideas of others. Trust the decisions of others. In short – get a renewed grip on humility. 2) Take advantage of being more visible in my neighborhood. It's been a time of meeting more neighbors, helping them and letting them help me with projects, inviting them to check out our online worship, and probably most noticeable was providing a welcome for a little 8-year-old boy whose being staying with his grandparents across the streets. He comes over to play with our dogs, walk our dogs, help me with yard work, or, and this is his favorite, talk to Laura. We hear "Hi Laura!" shouted from across the street pretty much every morning.

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Well, those are some of my answers - what about you?

Faithfully, Charlie

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



The COVID-19 sheltering-in-place restrictions have hit our Children's Ministry the hardest. The one time during the week that the children would gather all together has been taken away. Lacking the ability to dismiss our children to their normal weekly upstairs weekly teaching time, we've tried to give them the next best thing – a time especially geared for them during the worship service. Not the same, obviously, but it's been our attempt to let the children know they are no less important to us than anyone else. As we've been worshiping together online, we've been blessed to have several people leading the TPC Kids time during worship, and we've all enjoyed the variety and creativity each have brought to that moment in our worship.

One of the challenges to our re-opening of worship is that the guidelines strongly advise against separate group gatherings with children. That means that when we do start worshiping again in our own sanctuary, depending on what the guidelines are at that point, dismissing the children upstairs may be delayed. We are considering other options, such as reopening outdoors, which will not have the same restrictions as indoors, and will give us other options to be creative with the children. Please know that we are doing what we can to insure that they feel included and are being fed the Word of God.

Please check out the Family Ministry page from the Children & Families Task Force to see the other things we are working on to reach out to, include, and facilitate connection with each other.

OK, so I presume that you are wondering why I, your pastor, am writing this letter. So here goes. It is with no small degree of sadness that I must share with you the news that Brendy Alsup has resigned as our Children's Ministry Director. During this season of COVID-19, it became increasingly evident that she simply could not sustain her commitment and focus on this ministry that she loved serving. She knows what this job requires, and that it deserved someone who can give to it the full measure of dedication that it requires. My sadness comes from how much we will miss her love for our children, her ability to recruit and equip, her relational giftings as a communicator and teacher, her natural propensity for networking, her creativity, and the deep well of her love for Jesus that motivated and informed all that she did. She was a terrific staff member and wonderful collaborator, and I know that I, along with our other staff members, will miss her dearly.

All that being said, though she is stepping down from her *leadership role*, she is not disappearing! She plans to volunteer in Children's Ministry and help orient and support whomever will succeed her as the next director.

Speaking of which, with all that the church is engaged in regarding the pandemic and its impact on our congregational life, and the pastor succession work to prepare and search for a new pastor, we are not in a position to immediately begin a search for a new Children's Ministry Director. We do have an Interim Children's Ministry *Facilitator*, who will function in a modified director's role. You've seen her give a few TPC Kid's time teachings – our own Office Administrative Assistant, Julie Bower. Julie was a teacher at King City High School for many years and also at Cappy Culver School in the upper grades for a couple of years prior to coming to work for us, so she understands the importance of teaching and the nuts and bolts of what goes into it. She is active in her own church and has volunteer leadership responsibilities there, so she won't be available to teach on Sunday mornings, but will handle all the behind the scenes work to help plan lessons, schedule teachers, and make sure everyone is covered from the nursery on up. Brendy will also be working with her to help get her started, as well as being available for ongoing support.

So, for the short term, we are in good hands. But we ask you to be praying for whomever it is that God has planned next for us and our children. AND... be *thinking* about who that might be. It may be one of you reading this right now, or some-one you know who has the faith and gifts for this kind of ministry, but has yet been able to express and develop them.

Faithfully,

Janlie

BREAKFAST/ELECTION/FELLOWSHIP

Save the DATE!



Details to come ...

ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who mailed in their Congregational Meeting Ballot for the Election of Church Officers. All of the nominated candidates were elected by UNANIMOUS agreement!



Welcome to our new officers and **welcome** *back* to those returning for another term!

Elders: Steve Pointer, Kerry Estes, Marc Ristow, Scott Scott Deacons: Betty Blote, Alyson Brady, Mary Faller, Maryann Berry Nominating Committee: Camille Hayes, Kate Ristow, Ray Derby, Jane Jennings





Well, we are worshiping and fellowshipping quite differently these days. Some people are very frightened, some are finding isolation lonely, some are using these days to accomplish other activities – reading, cleaning out cabinets, and working long-neglected hobbies. My belief is that our congregation is adapting to what is safe for each of their lives and trusting God to work things out.

As to fellowshipping together - my goodness what opportunities we have at this very moment. Although we cannot congregate in a large group, we can pick up a pen and write a note, make phone calls to friends, text, Zoom, join in small groups to worship together on Sunday morning. In fact, our fellowship centers around our worship service. Even though we are in our homes on Sunday morning watching the worship service unfold we are fellowshipping together as well. We are all in the Spirit thinking about others that we miss seeing in person but who we are thinking of and praying for.

It will be so wonderful to all gather together over coffee and a snack again, but those days are not quite here, however it will certainly be a happy, happy reunion.

Nancy Jo Doughty Fellowship Elder 805.286.4461 happycats.njd@gmail.com

YOUTH MINISTRY

Good Evening Session! This time of year is always a bittersweet time as we celebrate the accomplishments of our High School Seniors in our Youth Group. This year is particularly hard as we navigate Covid-19 while we plan our celebrations with each student. This year we are graduating 15 students from our ministry, here is the list of our 2020 High School Seniors:

Taryn Estes Keli Janzen Peyton Hardy Hope Erwin Michaela Frismodt Ali Skinner Grace Thayer Megan Murray

Caroline Alaniz Isabelle Van Os Emily Heckman Rain Alsup Clayton Eisenbrand Aldo Viveros Ethan Oppedahl

To celebrate them this year, each student will be receiving an ESV Journaling Bible, along with a note from myself and other leaders, and a Starbucks gift card. To provide this gift our youth team will be doing a Car Train, where we show up together in separate cars (all decorated of course) to each of our Senior's homes and provide them with their gift and their very own celebration! In addition to their gift we will provide some kind of fun snack, (think donuts or cupcakes) for them to celebrate with their families.

We are still meeting weekly with our students! Here is what we are doing:

ZOOM Live Hangouts: Inductive Bible Study

HIGH SCHOOL: The Book of Ruth/The Book of Romans

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Book of Luke



Thanks so much for all that you do for our students! God is certainly at work in their hearts.

Dave Johnson Director of Student Ministries

STEPHEN MINISTRY / DONUTS!

Christ caring for people through people



Mark your calendars: Stephen Ministry Training in September 2020

<u>Training:</u> Our Stephen Leaders, are planning a training for new Stephen Ministers in September 2020. We are very excited that we will be using a totally new set of Stephen Ministry materials— Stephen Ministry 2020. This resource includes a new Leader's Manual, a re-written Stephen Minister Training Manual, a redone Stephen Ministry Training Video Collection...to name just a few of the improvements and new resources. Stephen Ministry is a rewarding way to serve our church members and local community—praying with and witnessing God at work in everyone's lives.

For more information: about Stephen Ministry training, please contact, Frank Bush at (805)466-6012, Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613, or Susan Hayward at (917)613-9903.

<u>Current need:</u> We live in a very different world now than just a few months ago. People are experiencing all kinds of losses—their health and well-being, loved ones passing away, financial struggles, job loss and layoffs, limited contact with family and friends. The list goes on! There's probably never been a crisis in our lifetime that's affected the emotional and spiritual well-being of so many people all at once. Stephen Ministry is needed now more than ever to help meet this challenging situation. **Please consider joining us!**

<u>Contact us:</u> To request a Stephen Minister for yourself or someone you know, contact Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (cell) or (805)461-1470 (home).



The "Donut Fairy" visited some of our TPC KIDS families in the early hours of May 31st. Many thanks to TEMPLETON DONUTS and all the folks that made it happen!



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Administrative Assistant, Julie Bower, ext. 0 admin@fpctempleton.org.

Worship Director, Kellie Wenzel, call/text 805.538.3271 kellie@fpctempleton.org

Music Coordinator, John Laird, ext. 0 (mssg)

