

TEMPLETONES

*Templeton Presbyterian Church
monthly newsletter*

October 2020

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 4 @ 9:00am

in-person @ The Derby's (1510 Live Oak Rd, Paso)*
online @ templetonpres.org

OCTOBER 11 @ 9:00am

in-person @ The Derby's*
online @ templetonpres.org

OCTOBER 18 @ 10:00am

in-person @ TPC PARKING LOT (610 S. Main St)*
online @ templetonpres.org

OCTOBER 25 @ 10:00am

in-person @ TPC PARKING LOT*
online @ templetonpres.org

*Please bring chair and mask for all outdoor services.

PASTOR'S PAGE

It's hard to believe that it's been 4 months since our last Templetones – definitely a record. We put a pause on the monthly newsletter mostly because of the restriction on our activities (and summer), communication could be handled without it. But with our outdoor in-person worship growing, SLO county now in Tier 3, and Fall upon us – we felt it was time to resurrect it.

I looked back on my last article in June, and at that point of writing it (end of May), we were a bit more than 2 months into the sheltering-at-home. At that point I asked 4 questions (from a recent sermon) about how we could grow during this COVID-19 season of pandemic: *What am I learning? / What am I enjoying? / What is most important? / How can I service others?* I thought it would be worth revisiting those questions as a way for us to do some personal inventory on how we have been living these past 6½ months.

The longer we are in this, I find myself answering the most important question in layers of what is most important for *me ... my family ... my church*. What keeps coming up in this question, especially given our societal division and hostility is our *witness* as believers and as a church to our culture – to the secular society in which we live. It's hard to know precisely what that should look like in terms the church's role in society. How much should our witness be defined by loving our enemies? ... or by our prophetic stance to cultural trends? ... or by our seeking change through the political process? ... or by the quality of our own TPC faith community? ... or by fervent prayer and fasting for our nation? ... or by ???

And do we measure the validity or 'success' of our witness? – by the degree of actual change we help create? ... by our reputation in the public square? ... by the lives of people we impact for the better? ... by our faithfulness to the gospel? That last question is hard to answer for it begs the question itself: we could claim so many of the above options as being faithful to the gospel ... but we could any one of those listed in the previous paragraph and they could *all* be a faithful expression of the gospel, or *none* of them. Faithfulness turns on the question: It is the particular action, approach, or strategy that *God* is directing at that particular time and that particular way?

If we can say that there are times in which the witness is more important than others, which we probably can't, since in the economy of God, *all time* is equally important, except to say that there are times when the trajectory of human history seems to hinge more critically in some moments than in others – then now seems like such a time. And to even answer any of the questions above with any degree of faithfulness, we all need to be "on our knees." Not just in prayer, but in whole-hearted pursuit of God, and God's own heart – through our personal and corporate disciplines and rituals rooted in our fellowship with God and one another. Only then can we hope to recognize God's leading for us personally and as a church.


On a similar note, I need to state the obvious: as we careen our way toward election day, within the body of Christ there is a wide range of belief and conviction regarding our national state of affairs. Bumper stickers such as "Christians for Trump" and "Any Functioning Adult" represent the spectrum of affection for our current president, and the intense emotional investment so many have for the outcome of this election. And our own congregation is spread out on that same spectrum.

The stronger our convictions, the more tempting it is to judge others for theirs when they differ so widely from ours. May we not do that. I personally know people with opposite political convictions who share common values for the good of our country, and have come to those convictions thoughtfully and intelligently. The last thing I want to see is divisiveness in the body because of political party affiliation or we disagree on whom we support for President. I do feel like we're doing fairly well with this, but as D-Day for Decision 2020 approaches, the landscape tends to change, and I hope we can maintain the bonds of fellowship based on our far greater identity as brothers and sisters in Christ, our far greater love as shared recipients of God's grace to us in Christ, and our far greater mission as witnesses to the kingdom of God on earth which has come to us in Christ.

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1–6

Faithfully,



MISSION MINISTRY NEWS

UPDATE FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

Your Mission Committee is still active, even though we are apart!

Thank you for continuing to support our Mission Partners. So far, we've able to help with the following, in addition to our usual giving:

- Providing meals to ZOZU families
- Helping victims of the Beirut Blast
- Supporting the Local Food Banks through cash donations
- Sponsoring walkers in ECHO's Long Walk Home Event
- Helping to keep the lights on at Hume Lake Camp

We are also continuing to serve by providing meals once a month at ECHO. If you aren't involved and would like to help, please contact me.

Coming up:

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be available mid-month at the Sunday service and the Church Office. If you would like one delivered to your home, please contact me. They are due back November 15th. You can also "build" one online.

Instead of providing a Wednesday **Front Porch** Night meal this quarter, I will be collecting dollars and gift cards for local restaurants for the students. They will then be able to tune in virtually with their roommates, while having a meal together. Contact me if you would like to make a donation.

We will be doing **Angel Tree gifts** this year, as well. More information is to come on the timing.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kathy Westphal
Mission Elder
westphalslo@att.net
509-438-6525



It's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox time again and we will have shoeboxes available starting OCTOBER 18th.

Here are a few ways to participate:

- *Pick up a Shoebox at Worship
- *Pick up a Shoebox at the Church Office
- *Call Kathy Westphal at 509-438-6525 or email westphalslo@att.net and she will deliver one to your house
- *Build a box online using the following link:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

Shoeboxes need to be returned to the Church by NOVEMBER 15th!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TPC KIDS



the ARK

A Big **THANK YOU** to all of our TPC KIDS Sunday morning helpers!

- *Taryn Estes
- *Chantal Allan
- *Abbey Brady
- *Ashlyn Estes
- *Shad Miller

We can always use more teachers and assistants. Please contact Julie in the office to help.

the **ARK** 

Pre-school Child Care

available Sunday mornings
in the TPC Nursery

Drop-off opens @8:30am

Reservation required by 12:00pm Friday
805/434-1921 admin@fpctempleton.org

MEMORY VERSE

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

-Galatians 5:22-23

This Fall, TPC KIDS has been discussing "Fruit of the Spirit"—the good things God wants to grow inside of us. Each week, the kids have been adding a new "fruit" to their tree: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, and many more to come!



TPC KIDS Mission Statement:

Partnering with parents to make disciples by teaching and encouraging kids towards a lifelong, joyous relationship with Jesus.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS / GROUPS



The Deacon Board of Templeton Presbyterian Church, with your help, will again put together and distribute Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need from within our community.

October and November are donation collection months. Our plan is to collect financial contributions for turkeys and other food items during the coming weeks. Donations can be made by marking “Deacons” on your check or by choosing “Deacon Fund” in your online giving.

On **Friday, November 20**, we will be picking up turkeys and food from our suppliers and unloading items at the church. We will need help setting up tables in Butler Hall with items organized in assembly line fashion for easy packing the next morning.

On **Saturday, November 21**, we will need volunteers to pack the boxes for distribution starting at 8:30am.

Please pray for this valuable community outreach.

Contact Mick Lebens at (805)674-2902 if you have any questions.

Let's Stay Connected...

***Monday Night Co-Ed Bible Study 6:30pm (online)**

Contact: Donna McDonald 626/483-7016 docanddonna1@gmail.com

***Monday Men's Book Club 7:00pm (online/in-person)**

Contact: Steve Pointer 224/715-0429 sandjpointer@yahoo.com

***Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study 11:00am (in-person)**

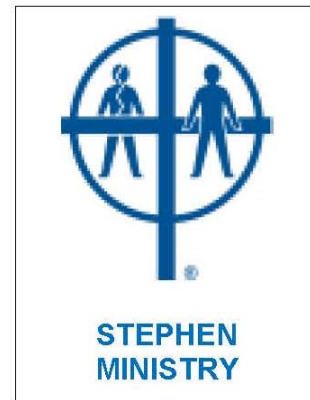
Contact: Debby Price 805/215-6915 tprice4947@aol.com

***Tuesday Morning Prayer Group 9:30am (in-person)**

Contact: Ric Gahm 805/237-1490 richardgahm@charter.net

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you Experiencing Pandemic Fatigue?



Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- **Isolation and loneliness**
- **Anxiety over health**
- **Grief due to many different kinds of losses**
- **Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling**
- **Financial strain or job loss**
- **Uncertainty about the future**
- **Other unexpected life challenges?**

If so, you don't have to face it alone. **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.**

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person—to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. You will meet weekly with a Stephen Minister for a few weeks, several months, or longer—you decide.

For more information, call Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (c) or (805)461-1470 (h).

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

YOUTH MINISTRY



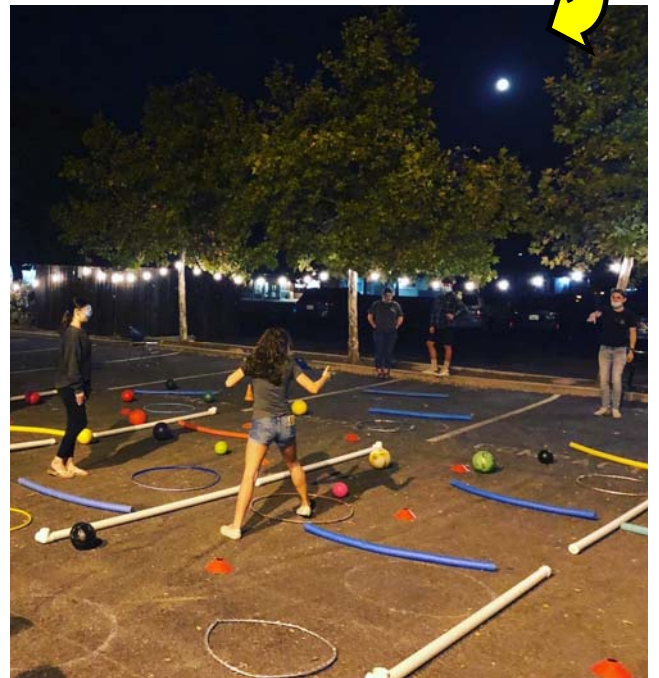
YOUTH GROUP 7:00—8:30pm TPC Parking Lot
MIDDLE SCHOOL: TUESDAYS
HIGH SCHOOL: WEDNESDAYS

Youth Group Fall Series:

- ***MORE THAN A HASHTAG*** -

"Our world is not as it should be. There is pain, evil, and injustice all around us. In the age of social media, it is easier than ever to stay informed about all sorts of injustices, but is sending a tweet, posting a selfie, or sharing a video about an inspiring cause really all it takes to make a difference in the world? Or is it possible that justice is about something much more than a hashtag? In this 4-week series, we'll challenge students to not just post about the injustices around them, but to actually do something about them by **loving mercy, acting justly, and walking humbly.**"

Youth working together, having fun on the blindfolded obstacle course!!!



CONGRATULATIONS to Dave and Cady
and big sister, Harper, who welcomed
Ryleigh Mae into the Johnson family
on September 14th.



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610 South Main Street
Templeton, CA 93465
805.434.1921
templetonpres.org

Pastor Charlie Little, ext. 2
pastor@fpctempleton.org

Youth Ministries Director, Dave Johnson
students@fpctempleton.org

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

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



WORSHIP with us in October!
ONLINE and OUTDOORS
Times and locations on page 1