

TEMPLETONES

*Templeton Presbyterian Church
monthly newsletter*

November 2020

NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 1: TPC Sanctuary (reservations required)

November 8: TPC Parking Lot (weather permitting)

November 15: TPC Parking Lot (weather permitting)

November 22: TPC Parking Lot (weather permitting)

November 29: TPC indoors (reservations required)

Advent Season begins!

LIVING NATIVITY is happening!

See page 5

PASTOR'S PAGE

As I write this – it's election day. I dropped off my mail-in ballot at the precinct center on my way into work and have my "I Voted" sticker stuck to my shirt. Voting is one of the great gifts and great privileges of a democratic society. And by all counts to date, this looks to be potentially the greatest turnout in recent memory. Regardless of the outcome, may this day, and the ones to follow, represent participatory democracy well. And more than that, may we remain secure and confident in the truth that is bigger than any particular outcome. I came across an article this morning on The Gospel Coalition website by Kevin DeYoung, who, among other things, is Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary. The title of the article is **"What Will Still Be True When the Election Is Over,"** and his opening words express that sentiment better than any I was hoping to come up with:

We may know by early morning who will be president. Or we may not know until the end of the year which side will be celebrating come Inauguration Day. But whether we have hours or days or weeks left, the 2020 election season will come to an end. And when it is over—after countless tweets, posts, articles, and punditry; after being exposed to a steady stream of advertising, befuddlement, and outrage; after all the ballots have been counted, and you feel relieved, grateful, or despondent—don't forget what will still be true:

God will still be on the throne, and he will be working all things according to the counsel of his will (Eph. 1:11). God will be our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Ps. 46:1). God's dominion will be an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom will endure from generation to generation (Dan. 4:34).

Our God is not small, and his providential care cannot be stymied. The king's heart will be a stream of water in the hand of the Lord, and he will turn it wherever he chooses (Prov. 21:1). Not a bird will fall to the ground, or a hair from your head, apart your Father in heaven (Matt. 10:29-30).

There is no guarantee, for good or ill, regarding the future of the United States of America, but there is an unbreakable promise that Christ will build the church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18).

Come tomorrow, all of the promises of God will still be Yes and Amen in Christ (2 Cor. 1:20). Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39). The Lord will still know those who are his (2 Tim. 2:19), and if you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved (Acts 16:31).

And I would add to that, with regard to our particular expression of the body of Christ, that Templeton Presbyterian Church will continue to give witness to all these truths, and more. As we head into the final days of our church calendar year, and begin a new one on November 29 (the First Sunday of Advent), we are doing our very best to do what always do at this time of year – from Thanksgiving Baskets, to Operation Christmas Child, to the Angel Tree, to our Christmas Hope Offering, to the Children's Christmas Program, to The Living Nativity, to Christmas Eve – the ministry and mission of the church goes on.

After eight months of an unrelenting national crisis of health and livelihood, the coming of Advent and Christmas is a powerful reminder of God's identifying and saving presence in the world. The good news of great joy was just a baby, and it would be another 30+ years before the hope of the promise of a savior would be seen and experienced. Indeed, for years nothing outwardly changed for anyone, except Mary and Joseph. How easy for the shepherds, the wise men, and maybe even for Mary and Joseph, to wonder and question as the days and weeks and years would follow with nothing to show for the promise except a boy growing up. How easy it may have been for them to adjust to the normalcy of the human development from baby to boy to man, and not see the promise unfolding before their eyes ... to let the earlier visions and dreams and interventions fade in prominence in the midst of the demands of parenthood and the mundane routines of everyday life. And yet, the promises remained sure. Jesus never stopped being "God with us." God's purposes were fulfilled in the most unlikely of ways.

Could it be that of all the Advents and all the Christmases of the past 50 years or so, *this Advent and this Christmas* may be the most timely and meaningful of them all? How much we believe it, and how well we celebrate it, will give us the answer.

Faithfully,



SHOEBOXES / T. BASKETS



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Please drop off shoeboxes to the church office
by **NOVEMBER 15th**

OR build a box ONLINE:

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



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.

We are still collecting financial contributions for turkeys and other food items through **NOVEMBER 15th**. 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 other food items from our suppliers and unloading them 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.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



TPC Kids just wrapped up their unit on the "Fruit of the Spirit". Each week their trees added another "fruit" that God wants to grow inside of them. Inside each fruit was also a symbol to help remind them of what each characteristic means (heart: LOVE, clock: PATIENCE, happy face: JOY, etc.).

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

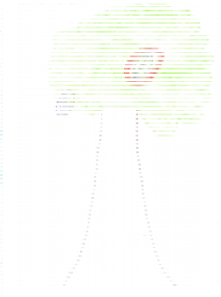
*Taryn Estes *Ashlyn Estes *Chantal Allan
*Camille Hayes *Shad Miller *Abbey Brady

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

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



TPC KIDS Mission Statement:

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



CM Director Update

TPC has officially begun its search for a new Children's Ministry Director. We have listed the job opportunity with several sources, but if you know of anyone who could be a good fit for the needs of our church and families, please encourage them to contact Pastor Charlie or the church office.

Director of Children's Ministry (job posting)

Part-time position directing a vibrant Children's Ministry that includes a Sunday morning nursery program for ages infant to pre-school and a children's program for grades K-5; ministering to families; outreach events such as summer Vacation Bible School, Fall Harvest Carnival, and Christmas Children's Program; as well as other activities based on need, opportunity, and creativity. We are a church committed to raising up the next generation to love Jesus and love the world He came to save. Our ideal candidate has a mature faith, loves kids, has a passion for discipling children and families, is a team player, a good communicator, and relates well to all ages.

22-24 hours per week.

Cover letter and resume should be sent to 610 S. Main St, Templeton, CA 93465 or admin@fpctempleton.org.

LIVING NATIVITY/VOYAGERS/THANKS

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

TPC will once again present the **LIVING NATIVITY**, the story of our Savior's birth, to the North County community for the 14th year in a row. In order to accommodate the "unique circumstances" this year has created, the key scenes of the story will be presented in an ongoing tableau format which the "audience" can walk past and/or stand to pause and enjoy. (No seating will be provided.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LIVING NATIVITY 2020
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

(TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED)

VOYAGERS

Mark your 2021 calendar for **Monday, February 15th** as Voyagers will be providing dinner for ECHO Homeless Shelter. Details coming in December.

Meanwhile, enjoy Fall and the beauty of God's world!

-Jane Jennings



Thank you.

A huge THANK YOU to Ray and Pam Derby for the use of their yard and facilities for several weeks as we worshipped outdoors. Their beautiful property and ongoing warm welcome were greatly appreciated during a time of so much change.

Pastor Charlie preaching on our final Sunday at the Derby's.



STEPHEN MINISTRY / CHATS

CHANGING HOLIDAY TRADITIONS...with a Stephen Minister

As we all continue navigating life with COVID 19, we are entering the year-end stretch of holidays that began for many of us with Halloween. Next comes Thanksgiving, followed by Christmas—the celebration of the birth of Christ. Did you know that Christ is the foundation of Stephen Ministry? Our slogan is ***Christ caring for people through people.***



For most of us, whether we want to think about it or not, our usual holiday traditions and gatherings will be challenged in 2020. I am sure many of us want to continue meaningful family traditions and will struggle with not letting others down, if those traditions cannot be done in a safe manner.

Consider speaking with a Stephen Minister. We are trained to listen without judgment. We can provide a safe confidential space for you to explore your challenges and emotions around changing traditions for a safe holiday season and beyond. We will pray with you and for you as you determine your way safely forward in this difficult pandemic time.

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

ARE YOU WATCHING Pastor Charlie's chats?



Each week (or so) Pastor Charlie shares information about upcoming events as well as reflections on current happenings. Links to the chats are included in the weekly THURSDAY email. If you are not receiving the emails or if you are having trouble with the link, please let Julie know:

805/434-1921 or admin@fpctempleton.org.

We want to keep in touch with you!



YOUTH MINISTRY



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

But godliness with
CONTENTMENT
is great gain, for we brought nothing
into this world and we cannot take
anything out.

1 TIMOTHY 6:7

About our November Series:

Contentment may be more of a struggle for us today than ever before with social media. We scroll through and see people with the friends, clothes, relationships, home, or accomplishments that we want, and—all too often—seeds of discontentment and covetousness take root in our hearts. But how do we avoid it? Can we still desire those things? In this 3-week series, we'll challenge students to not get stuck in *the comparison trap*, to *curb their covetous cravings* and to *keep their eyes on the Cross*.

November Schedule:

Nov 3/4- Week 1- *The Comparison Trap* (Small Group)

Nov 17/18 Week 3- *Keep your Eyes on the Cross* (Small Group)

Nov 10/11-Week 2- *Curbing your Covetous Cravings* (Large Group)

Nov 24/25- *NO YOUTH (Thanksgiving)*

For more info on TPC Youth or to sign-up for monthly updates, email Dave at students@fpctempleton.org.

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