

TEMPLETONES

*Templeton Presbyterian Church
monthly newsletter*

December 2020



ANGEL TREE EXPRESS

See page 5 for details



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Info page 3

Christmas
Eve Service
6:00pm

TPC Parking Lot and ONLINE

PASTOR'S PAGE

As we begin Advent, the toll of the pandemic continues to surpass what most of us anticipated when it began, both in its breadth and depth – the length of time we have been in it...and the amount of disruption and damage it has created. I won't rehash studies and statistics that you have been reading elsewhere, but they are sobering.

Whatever inconveniences, adjustments, and losses we have endured as a church, pale in comparison to our nation at large, as we have been able to sustain a worshiping community in a variety of ways, thanks to the innovations of technology and the hard work and decision-making of the staff and ordained leadership, along with so many others who are volunteering to help and lead groups, studies, and ministries, as well as those who are demonstrating acts of care and love for others on an individual basis. I continue to remain grateful to God that thus far, we have (to my knowledge) no known case of Covid-19 from within our congregation, though some have had cases within their own families.

Still, we are feeling the loss of things, in whole or in part, that have been (past), and would have been (future), special events, ministries, and programs of fellowship, growth, and outreach: Palm Sunday processional, Maundy Thursday (with Living Last Supper), Easter Sunday (with all-church pancake breakfast), Vacation Bible School, TPC Kids Time on Sunday Morning, Youth Group *Meetings*, Youth *Events* (e.g. Summer Kick-off, camps, retreats, conferences, etc.), In-Person gatherings of all kinds, Carnival for Trick or Treat on Main Street, Leadership Christmas gatherings, and the Living Nativity – to name what comes right to mind. The IF Gathering may be a casualty of this season as well, after which we may start all over again with no, or limited, Lent and Easter events that are most special when shared in person with one another. And of course, the fact that our worship is still something that is experienced in geographical dislocation, is what affects us *all* to some degree, one way or another, week in and week out. Then, there are things like VBS, Living Nativity, IF, and other efforts toward outreach, which are an especially hard pill to swallow as they exemplify our tag line on our sign out front, *Connection in the Heart of Town*.

So, for me, Advent comes at a good time. Just as we're (or should I say, "I'm") taking stock of our losses and the ways we've had to adapt with a "lesser" product, wondering how much longer this will last, and how harmful the lingering effects will be, here comes Jesus, "*who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*" *Philippians 2:6-7* Loss ... Dislocation ... Adaptation. And then there's Mary and Joseph. Mary certainly never expected to be a mother in that way, and as much as pregnancy and motherhood are great disrupters, hers was magnified by the manner in which it happened and the baby that would be hers. And when they left for Bethlehem, little did they know that their eventual destination would be Egypt – exiled to a foreign land for 7 years.

So this Advent, I choose to embrace the unexpected, the unplanned, the unchosen, the unwanted, the inconvenient, the disappointment, and the loss, and look for the signs of God's presence and faithfulness as he promises to lead and direct my steps ... every step of the way.

This Advent – I choose to be encouraged by the opportunity to be faithful in return – creative, obedient, and Spirit-led opportunistic – willing to adapt, adjust, and love the lesser expressions of the things we miss ... things that we can't do in exactly the same way, but things that are holy and precious nonetheless because they have God as our object of worship and of sacrifice.

This Advent – I choose to *wait*. I will wait expectantly, as long as it takes, for this pandemic to run its course, so as to be able to see the fruit of what God is doing, even now, because of it.

This Advent – I choose to trust in the efficacy of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, and out of my identity in Christ, to root my truth, my joy, and my love in Him.

Faithfully,



CHRISTMAS OFFERING / WORSHIP

Christmas Offering 2020 – **Enrich Lives**, Mbale, Uganda



Our Christmas Offering this year will be in support of Kellie and James Wenzel's **ENRICH LIVES**. They have a long-term relationship with Divine Care Primary School in the Namabasa district of Mbale, Uganda. Through the past few years, **ENRICH LIVES** has been able to raise money to provide teacher's salaries, solar power and student sponsorships.

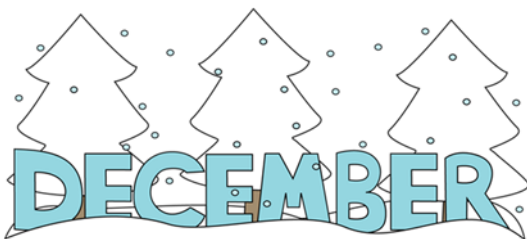
Their greatest need right now is support for students.

There are about **150** students in the school, but **70** of them can't afford to go to school right now. We would like to provide sponsorship for these **70** students. It costs about **\$10** a month for a student to go to school, so we are looking to raise about **\$6300** to cover these **70** students for their **9** months of tuition.

ENRICH LIVES MISSION:

We, at Enrich Lives, are all about enriching lives that are in extreme poverty/or need all over the world and in our local communities by providing, quality and equal educational opportunities to boys and girls and adults, life-changing resources such as clean water, medical aid, food and education.

For more info, visit [*enrichlives.org*](http://enrichlives.org).



WORSHIP PLANS

Throughout the month of December, Sunday morning worship will continue to be held at **10AM** in the TPC Parking Lot as well as being shown LIVE online at [*templetonpres.org*](http://templetonpres.org). Should we find ourselves with a "rainy day schedule", the service will be live-streamed from the sanctuary with no in-person worship.

Thank you for worshipping with us!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



For to us a child is born,
To us a son is given,
And the government will be on his shoulders.
And He will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-Isaiah 9:6

WELCOME to our new Children's Ministry Director!

Merry Christmas, Templeton! With excitement and enthusiasm, I am proud to be a part of the Children's Ministry at Templeton Presbyterian Church. I would like to take a moment to introduce myself to you. First off, my name is Diane Terrell. I am a mother, wife, Christian educator, and the past Templeton Elementary School Performing Arts Teacher. I have two children, Hailey and Caleb. Hailey is 14 years old and Caleb is 11 years old. They both attend Youth group on Tuesday nights at TPC. Hailey attends Solid Rock Christian Academy and Caleb is homeschooled. I have been married for 17 years to my college sweetheart, Matt. As a family, we have lived in Templeton for 12 years and have a small ranchette of horses, dairy goats, chickens, a cat and a dog, Trigger. On our weekends, you can catch us camping, 4-wheeling, fishing, riding horses, or participating in 4H.

I come to your congregation to serve as your Director of Children's Ministry with a love for kids. For the past three years, I worked as a teacher at Trinity Lutheran in Paso Robles. I understand the importance of Jesus in the lives of our children. I look forward to serving, leading, and worshipping with you and your family. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any suggestions of what you feel is really important to you. I hope to bring some creativity and excitement to our program.

Lastly, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas. This month our TPC Kids will present the Children's Christmas Program. I am excited to share *Our Simple Christmas Story* with you, through the eyes of our children.

Blessings to you and your family,

Diane Terrell

Children's Ministry Director



HOLIDAY GIVING

Angel Tree EXPRESS!

Christmas outreach in our community



November 29 – December 10

CHOOSE A TAG from the tree in
**Butler Hall (or call/email the office
to have one sent to you).**

DECEMBER 14th

**Last day to return wrapped gifts
(with tags attached) to Butler Hall.**



On behalf of the Deacons it is with joy that I report that **over 60 families** from the Paso and Atascadero Head Start programs were provided a complete Thanksgiving dinner through our annual Thanksgiving basket program. Many of you provided prayers, donations and time to make this event a success. Generous donations were made by Atascadero Grocery Outlet and the Templeton Trader Joes. These two businesses have been faithful partners of TPC for many years and have been a huge blessing to the families that are served. It's certainly a mutual blessing to us that get to be a part of the program. One mom from our church shared that her daughter said on her way to the church to assemble the baskets, "this is my favorite part of Thanksgiving." What a joy to be a part of God's blessing during this Thanksgiving season! -In Him, Mick Lebens



THANK YOU
for packing
42 shoeboxes
and for building
boxes online!!!

samaritanspurse.org

STEPHEN MINISTRY / L.N. / PRAYER

STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING

It was with great joy, that on November 18th, our Stephen Ministry team participated in a commissioning ceremony for Carrie Brightwell. This Fall, Carrie and our Stephen Ministry team completed nearly 50 hours of training using all new materials developed by Stephen Ministries of St. Louis, Missouri. Carrie, along with Lois Ecklund, Frank Bush, Susan Hayward, John Laird, Beverly Parr, Betsy Beatty, and Dena Watt are prepared to work with anyone who is experiencing health conditions, a variety of family concerns, financial setback, retirement, loss of a loved one, and other issues that people encounter in their daily lives, especially in this time of upheaval in our lives due to Covid-19.



As Stephen Ministers, we are available to increase the overall ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ at Templeton Presbyterian Church and in our local communities. Stephen Ministers are skilled at being patient listeners in a hurried world. We use our talents to support those people whom we serve and to pray with them and for them.

We ask you, members of Templeton Presbyterian Church, to open your hearts to our ministry and reach out to us when you want help, to allow us to be with you, as you face any challenges in your life. We will walk alongside you non-judgmentally and confidentially witness your journey of healing.

For more information about Stephen Ministry in general, or to request a Stephen Minister to meet with you, call Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (c) or (805)461-1470 (h).

LIVING NATIVITY...

After much discussion, the decision has been made to cancel this year's annual Living Nativity presentation. There is hope, however, that the manger scene may still appear on the front lawn of 610 S. Main in some form...Stay tuned!



*How Can We
Pray For You?*

Our Prayer Team IS meeting!

Submit prayer request cards on Sundays
or by email at admin@fpctempleton.org

YOUTH MINISTRY



For the month of December we are inviting all of our students to join us on Sunday mornings from 10:00-11:15AM at TPC. Starting December 6th, TPC Youth will be starting a series called ***"Unwrapping A New Season's Greetings"***.

Although we are not having our usual meeting times, be on the lookout for invites from youth leaders who will be trying to meet up with your students for different hang-outs throughout the month.

In addition to this, we will be putting most of our efforts into hosting Christmas parties for Middle School and High School students.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Tuesday, December 15th- Middle School Wednesday, December 16th- High School

TPC will be providing pizza, but **we are hoping that you will help provide Christmas cookies, snacks and drinks!** Please send Dave a message if you are able to provide anything for these parties!

Thanks for all you do to support the ministry of TPC Youth as we navigate our current season of ministry!

Dave Johnson

Director of Student Ministries
students@fpctempleton.org



Templeton Presbyterian Church
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

Children's Ministries Director, Diane Terrell

children@fpctempleton.org

Administrative Assistant, Julie Bower, ext. 0

admin@fpctempleton.org

Worship Director, Kellie Wenzel

kellie@fpctempleton.org

Plan to join us...

6:00pm

Christmas
Eve Service

In-person: TPC Parking Lot Online: templetonpres.org
610 S. Main Street