

TEMPLETONES

*Templeton Presbyterian Church
monthly newsletter*

FEBRUARY 2021

BE A PART OF
IF:TEMPLETON
MARCH 5TH - 6TH

Virtual and In-person options available



Details page 3

Annual Women's Gathering



Come worship with us—rain or shine!

See page 5

FEBRUARY 17

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

PASTOR'S PAGE

I probably should begin where I left off in the December Templetones, where I ended by saying that 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."

Disappointments were many, to be sure, and embraced without whining (well, mostly), but Advent was still Advent with many of the signs, symbols, and rituals transplanted to the parking lot, and the clear, cold, night air on Christmas Eve added a different kind of beauty and reverence to celebrating the birth of the Christ child. Our tent arrived, was put up, and launched over the course of the last days of Advent through Epiphany, which has had a positive impact on our worship times, most noticeably in our singing. One personal, unexpected joy was our daughter's extended 4-week stay with us, made possible by Covid-related circumstances in San Diego.

Most of all, though, Advent was a coming to terms with the loss of what I imagined my last year with you all to be. I was looking forward to one more walk through the Church year, marking our way with many of the things we do together that are special and dear to us, not the least being our weekly worship times in our sanctuary.

I think many, if not most of us, initially anticipated that life would have returned to some semblance of normalcy by now, including the things we value in our congregational life. That hasn't happened, and will likely not happen until the summer, at the earliest. So for me, probably the most significant aspect of Advent for me was that it allowed (forced?) me to let go of the 'temporariness' of the pandemic, embrace what 'is', and stop looking forward to finishing in a manner that replicates what 'was.' As such, it was both a final, painful loss, *and* a renewed freedom to love and be more present in the 'now' of what is. For that I am grateful, and look forward with a fresh expectancy to whatever the next six months will be.

* * *

This quality to "be more present in the 'now'" was just this past weekend reinforced for me by Pete Scazzero, one of the speakers at the ECO National Gathering. He was the pastor I referred to in my sermon last Sunday who had become so consumed by the 'doing' of ministry – so drained by demands of program, activity, business, planning, leading, organizing, etc., etc. – that he basically burned himself up and had to step outside of ministry in order to heal and find himself anew as a *person* and not a *pastor*. Which, as I also referenced on Sunday, is not that uncommon for those of us in full-time ministry. I know that tension well. I was struck with his emphasis on "being vs. doing" – that we must first "be" in order to "do." We can only give what we have – out of *who we are* – and when our *doing* happens at the expense of our *being* – we soon have little left to give. I know that for myself, keeping those two things in balance operates like an internal thermostat – I have to keep correcting myself from becoming imbalanced in either extreme (mostly having to correct the over-doing).

So, Scazzero's talk was reminiscent of last year's opening night speaker, Ruth Haley Barton, who made a significant impression on me, as she taught and shared personally in a very similar vein. I picked up three of her books, and was prompted this weekend to start reading the one titled, *SACRED RHYTHMS – Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*. It's very much about living in a non-striving approach in our path to growing into the person that God sees and wants us to be. Too often we act as if we are responsible for our transformation, when in fact, we are not. In her introduction, Barton writes what she called 'the most hopeful thing any of us can say about spiritual transformation: *I cannot transform myself*, or anyone else for that matter. What I can do is create the conditions in which spiritual transformation can take place..." Another way of saying we must *be someone in order to do something*.

So – where is all this going? An invitation to engage with me, during Lent, this idea, this task, of 'being' in our longing for God and to be present to his work of transformation.

(continued on page 5)

IF:GATHERING 2021

I don't know about you, but this past year has been HARD. There have been so many balls to try and juggle in the air, and despite my house always having people in it, I've felt alone and overwhelmed for much of it. I know that I haven't really been alone, but Satan has a way of whispering that in our ears, doesn't He?

Perhaps you've felt that way too. Perhaps you need to take a little time away from the pressure of everyday life and plug into Scripture and the body of Christ. The good news is that **IF:Gathering 2021** is not shut down or cancelled. We'll be gathering again in a variety of ways across the globe March 5th and 6th and you are invited to join us.

Basic Info:

When: Friday night **March 5th from 6-9pm** and **Saturday March 6th from 9am-3pm**

Where: Friday night will be all virtual, so hide away in your bedroom, invite a few friends over to your couch, or rent an Airbnb and turn up the volume.

Saturday morning we will offer a live event for those interested under our tent in the TPC parking lot from 9:00am-3:00pm, with time for coffee and shopping before and after.

What: We'll be watching the IF Sessions, worshipping with our live band, and offering a simple lunch for sale, as well as shopping options in our Global & Local Artisans Marketplace. If you'd prefer to stay at home, you can continue connecting with us virtually and in our local chat room. Sessions and breakouts will be shorter and broken down so hopefully you won't feel like you are stuck behind your screen all day. Some of the speakers include: Christine Caine, Francis Chan, Jada Edwards, Rebekah Lyons, Sadie Robertson Huff, Latasha Morrison, Bianca Olthoff, Jo Saxton, Lysa Terkeurst, Joni Eareckson Tada and so many more.

Cost: just \$20, register today at templetonpres.org

We will be supplying you with conference information, discussion questions, a take home gift available for pick up the week before, and any other supports you might need to host a small gathering of your own. Please feel free to reach out if you want to host your own subgroup in your home. We are here to help!

One weekend. Thousands and thousands of women all across the world, asking God "*How do you want us to live?*" Jennie Allen reminds us that **there is a God who has a plan for you in the midst of this chaos. Even if, even if the worst happens, we won't lose hope.** Please join us for IF:Templeton 2021 on March 5th and 6th as we remind each other of that!

Leslie Wallace, Debby Price, Camille Hayes, Cady Johnson
IF:Templeton Leadership Team



REGISTER AT [TEMPLETONPRES.ORG](https://templetonpres.org)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Ministry

TPC Kids

Worship Wednesday...

On Wednesday, January 20, we had our first "Worship Wednesday". Children's Ministry met at Templeton Park for a fun of hour-long activities. We played duck-duck-goose, capture the flag, tag, and read a story. Our story was called Ronnie Wilson's Gift. A story about a little boy who learns of Jesus' sacrifice and wants to give Jesus a gift in return. With each attempt to give a gift, he performs a simple act of service for someone in need.

Our next get together will be the week of February 3-7. I will send an email to coordinate the date and time.

Charity...

We have started an offering jar in Sunday School. Once we reach our goal, we will donate the money to a charity of their choice.

Shout-Outs...

Happy Birthday to...

Tanner on January 5, 2021

Maddy and Debbie on January 15, 2021

I hope your day was special in every way! :)

Digging Deeper...

During Sunday School we have been discussing how to show God's love, and being a good friend. Below is some Bible stories to explore as a family. Maybe have a fun evening together and begin with a scavenger hunt in the dark. Give each person a flashlight and a list of items to find. On the items, attach the following Bible verses. Each night, try to find and read the Bible verse. What does the verse mean? How does it relate to you and your friendships?

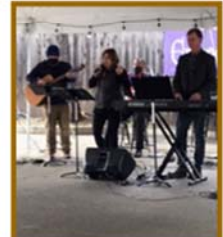
Proverbs 17:9, Proverbs 27:10, 1 Samuel 18:1, Proverbs 27:17, Proverbs 27:6, Ecclesiastes 4:10

SUNDAY WORSHIP / LENTEN PROJECT



The new tent survived the winds and rain!

Worshiping outdoors with shelter and even a little heat!



(Pastor's Page continued)

The Pastor's Lenten Project

One of the things that we, as a session, staff, and deacons are trying to address is the lack of interpersonal connectedness that the pandemic and its accompanying restrictions have inflicted upon us. Deprived of our being able to be together in any comprehensive, consistent way eats away at the fabric of our fellowship, gnawing at the relational threads we previously took for granted – the blessed 'ties that bind' as the old hymn goes.

I'd like to take a stab at repairing some of those threads. I haven't thought through all the pieces yet, but here's what I have so far:

Invitation to read with me Ruth Haley Barton's book, *Sacred Rhythms*. It has 9 chapters, 7 of which introduce a spiritual practice and the invitation to consider it and practice it. The idea is to read a chapter a week and do the suggested practices, and not rush, which means it will be something that will take us past Easter before we're done. The book is \$13.39 (hardback) or \$12.72 (Kindle) on Amazon. You can check it out at:

https://www.amazon.com/Sacred-Rhythms-Arranging-Spiritual-Transformation/dp/0830833331/ref=sr_1_3_crid=3GHO9MCT36IQD&dchild=1&keywords=ruth+haley+barton&qid=1612277459&srefix=ruth+hale%2Caps%2C223&sr=8-3

You don't have to read the book to participate in any of the other opportunities below.

Attend, in person or online, our Ash Wednesday service on February 17. I'm tentatively planning for it to go from 11:15 – 12:00, under the tent, depending on the availability of people to help lead it. We may have a second service either earlier or later, depending on the need. We'll get the specifics out next week.

Receive a daily email from me. Again, the specifics of what that will entail are still forming, but as of now I plan to share something to help start your day – a thought, a prayer, a quote, or ????. Lent, being a time of preparing for finishing of Christ's work – his death and resurrection – and *all* that it means for our salvation and transformation, don't be surprised if you see a prayer of confession more often than not. Also, I would like the email to be a forum for those who are reading and working through the book *Sacred Rhythms*, to share our own thoughts and reflections on what we are reading and how we are experiencing it. If the church doesn't have your email address, and you'd like to be included, be sure to get it to Julie.

Attend, in person or online, our Maundy Thursday service on April 1. I doubt we'll be able to have our usual bread and soup supper, but we'll gather in the parking lot and have whatever other aspects of the service that will be doable under the tent.

Attend, in person or online, our Easter service on Sunday, April 4.

That's it for now; more to come!

Faithfully, Charlie

FINANCIAL UPDATE / DEACONS

MID-YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE

Wow! What a year! This pandemic has been a major challenge for all of us; some more than others. Who would have ever thought that we would see our church closed to worship, but it was. As we slowly moved toward a way to worship within the confines of the regulations that came down from the state, we got our rhythm, and worship continued at the Scott's, Derby's, our church parking lot, and now a tent. Thank you to our Worship Committee for their faithful efforts to keep us connected in worship.

These changes were not without consequence, however, and we did see our contributions fall off by October. Year-end, one-time, and quarterly contributions boosted our December numbers to bring us close to our projected income. Historically, contributions tend to decline during the first quarter, but we are trusting that God is in control and He will bring us through this stronger, not only as a church family but financially.

Thank you for your generous support during these difficult times.

The Finance Committee

*the Deacon's Fund * Quarterly Offering **

February is a designated month by Templeton Presbyterian Church to collect a quarterly offering that goes towards those in need in our church and in the North County community. In recent months, the Deacons helped with food needs by giving \$500.00 each to Paso Robles Loaves & Fishes and Atascadero Loaves & Fishes. The Deacons also gave \$500.00 to the El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO) to support help for those who are homeless during this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Deacons have funded more than \$450.00 in recent months for food and gasoline vouchers to needy persons through our partnership with Templeton Deli and Market. Finally, several TPC members have received benevolences to assist with their family needs. If you know of someone who could benefit from our Deacons' Fund, please let me or your deacon know so that we can review the request.

The February Deacons' Offering is your opportunity to contribute to the fund so that TPC can be of service in the name of Jesus to our community and church. When you make a contribution, please note that it is for the Deacons' Fund or use one of the Deacons' Fund envelopes. The Bible teaches us that we are blessed when we act as in Matthew 25:35-36 and 40 – "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, and I was in prison and you came to visit me"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" In service to Jesus Christ, your Board of Deacons.

Frank Bush, Moderator

STEPHEN MINISTRY / PRAYER

Stephen Ministry ZOOM Christmas Gathering

We enjoyed a delightful Christmas Party on December 8th. It was our first time on a Zoom meeting, and it was not without a few hiccups! However, we are learning to step into this technological world and have continued with Zoom meetings for our twice a month Supervision meetings.

Christmas Gathering on Zoom:



L→ R: Lois Ecklund, Susan Hayward;
Dena Watt, Carrie Brightwell & Kathy Loeschner,
Renee and Frank Bush; John Laird, Betsy Beaty

We gathered, each with our favorite holiday dessert/beverage. We shared memories of strange/funny gifts we have ever received. Frank led us in fun holiday trivia. John played the piano and sang *Deck the Halls*. We shared stories of our favorite Christmas memories/ornaments. We read the Christmas story from the gospel of Luke, with John singing *O Little Town of Bethlehem* and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. We ended by each lighting a candle and singing *Silent Night* followed by the customary holiday wishes!

On-going Stephen Ministry work:

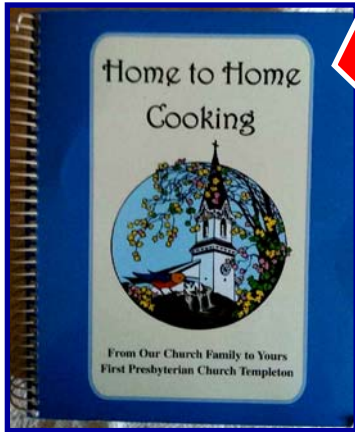
We continue to provide quality care (by phone, on Zoom or Facebook, and in person) to our care receivers from our church and local community. Now more than ever, we are ready and eager to serve others in this most challenging time we are experiencing.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone you know, please contact Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (cell) or (805)461-1470 (home).



COOKBOOK CHALLENGE / VOYAGERS

Ladies and Gentlemen, START YOUR OVENS!!!



Does this book look familiar? It's the official TPC "Home to Home Cooking" collection put together a few years ago, featuring all kinds of yummy recipes by all kinds of great cooks. We may not be able to meet for big get-togethers just yet, but that doesn't mean we can't look through the book and find something new and tasty to try.

HERE'S THE CHALLENGE: This month, pick one recipe (at least) from the TPC cookbook (or another cookbook if you don't have a TPC one), prepare it, try it, and let us know what you thought:

- Quick & easy or a little tricky?
- Did you change anything?
- Did you get to share it with anyone?
- On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to make it again?
- Anything else you'd like to share?

Please be sure to include the NAME of the recipe you tried!

Send your recipe reviews to Julie at admin@fpctempleton.org or mail them into the church office. We hope to include them in the next *Templetones*. We look forward to hearing from all of you—both new and experienced cooks alike!

VOYAGERS



Voyagers will be preparing **dinner for ECHO** on **Monday, February 15th.**

We are planning to prepare and deliver a delicious ham dinner for the guests at ECHO Homeless Shelter. (ECHO does not need us to stay and serve.)

Please call Jane at 805/462-2016 if you are able to help.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED / ASH WEDNESDAY



We are in the beginning stages of our "Staying Connected" outreach ministry, with the hope of keeping in touch with some of the folks and faces we haven't seen for awhile. We are looking for a few volunteers to help make occasional visits or phone calls. For more details, please contact the church office or Nancy Doughty at 310/503-0111.

Children's Ministry is looking to revive its puppet ministry! No experience required! If you would like to lend a hand (or TWO), please contact Diane Terrell at children@fpctempleton.org or leave a message for her with the church office 805/434-1921.



FEBRUARY 17 11:15am*

In-person: TPC parking lot

Online: templetonpres.org

*Tentative time. More details to come.

ASH
WEDNESDAY

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP



Templeton Presbyterian Church Academic Scholarships



Session and covenant partners in our congregation have helped create a supportive ministry for graduating high school, community college and graduate students – **TPC Academic Scholarships** – to encourage and support students attending four-year accredited colleges/universities or graduate schools, whose life accomplishments have demonstrated their commitment to Jesus Christ as reflected in the stated mission of our church (below).

If you would like to add to the TPC Academic Scholarship Fund, please designate your contribution on the subject line of your check. It will be very gratefully received!

Presbyterians have a history of placing a high value on higher education, and have been instrumental through the ages in establishing colleges, universities and seminaries. As the hostility to church and faith in general continues to grow in academia, and the culture at large, it becomes even more imperative for the church to lift up a generation of students who can give an intelligent, vibrant witness for Christ during their years of higher education study.

We have 3-5 graduating high school and community college students this year who may be eligible for a TPC Academic Scholarship! We want to tangibly show our students our support – let them know we have their back as they embark on this new, sometimes daunting, college adventure. We also want to underscore our support for their families, some of whom are not eligible for significant government programs to help offset the increasingly high cost of a college education.

The TPC Academic Scholarship/s will be awarded based upon student commitment to the TPC Mission Statement; merit and/or financial need will also be considered. Applicants must be TPC covenant partners, children of covenant partners, students active in TPC's youth group, or students active in TPC's ministries. The number and amount of awards are variable. Renewal applications will be considered. Scholarship checks will be distributed upon proof of college/university registration.

Application process:

- Complete the TPC Academic Scholarship Application which can be found at: <https://templetonpres.org/ministries/tpc-youth/>. Download this file to one's computer, complete the application, save, and email it to the church: admin@fpc templeton.org Attention: TPC Academic Scholarship Committee.
To the application, attach the following:
 - Essay (1 typewritten page): demonstrate how you have lived, and will live, a life consistent with the TPC Mission Statement.
 - Two letters of recommendation: one that addresses academic accomplishments and one that addresses character
 - Transcript: an unofficial copy of your transcript
 - Copy (if available) of your FAFSA confirmation page indicating your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- **April 23, 2021** is the deadline for receipt of application submissions by the church office.

TPC MISSION STATEMENT: Introduce people to Jesus, Include them in His church, Imitate His life, Ignite service in His name, Inspire glory for God.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Last Tuesday we hosted our first Youth Group under the tent with our Middle School students and it was amazing! With our tent in place we are back to meeting at our regular days and times.

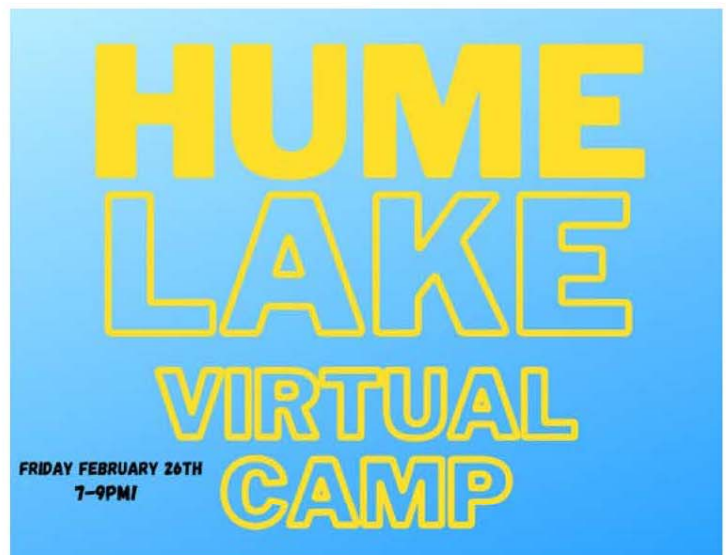
Tuesday @ 7:00PM-8:30PM | MS Students
Wednesday @ 7:00PM-8:30PM | HS Students

Our students also meet on Sundays during the worship service that starts @ 10:00AM! We are in the middle of a new series called *MADE NEW*.

Thank you for all you do to support the Students of Templeton Presbyterian Church! If you have any questions or need more info, email me at students@fpctempleton.org!

In Christ,

Dave Johnson, Director of Student Ministries



Since we cannot take students to camp this year, we are partnering with Hume Lake to bring camp TO our students! We are kicking-off a 4-Week Hume Lake Virtual Camp Series on February 26th! Both Middle School and High School students are invited to the Kick-Off on February 26th! The rest of the series will take place during our regular youth group meeting times, Tuesday nights for Middle School students and Wednesday Night for High School students!

Each week we'll watch an engaging video and message produced by the staff at Hume Lake. We'll have activities that bring us back to camp and of course have built in Small Group time with our youth leaders! Come be a part of Hume Lake Virtual Camp with TPC Youth!

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Children's Ministries Director, Diane Terrell
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Administrative Assistant, Julie Bower, ext. 0
admin@fpctempleton.org
Worship Director, Kellie Wenzel
kellie@fpctempleton.org



IF:GATHERING 2021
Templeton

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 5-6, 2021

EVEN IF.

MARCH 5: online 6:15-9:30pm
MARCH 6: online or in-person 9am-3pm (with a lunch break)
\$20/person
Register: templetonpres.org

COME JOIN US FOR

**Sunday
Worship
Service**

10:00am

in-person: TPC Parking Lot
online: templetonpres.org