

# ***TEMPLETONES***

***Templeton Presbyterian Church  
monthly newsletter***

***APRIL 2021***

**APRIL 1 6:00pm**

TPC Parking Lot

*Mauudy Thursday*

Soup and bread dinner (provided)  
followed by Communion service

## ***GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION***



THE TPC SANCTUARY  
WILL BE OPEN APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>  
12:00-3:00PM  
FOR PRIVATE MEDITATION  
AND REFLECTION

E A S T E R   S U N D A Y  
H E I S R I S E N

Join us Easter Sunday!

**April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am**

TPC Parking Lot / [templetonpres.org](http://templetonpres.org)

# PASTOR'S PAGE

In many respects, Sunday felt like the most “normal” time of gathering together for worship I’ve had since the lockdown was imposed a year ago. And just saying that feels like the weirdest thing ever, and we’re still a ways away from something that would be considered normal for *everyone*. In fact, to take it a step further, I would say that Lent, in all its manifestations, has been a gift of normalcy for me. Beginning with our Ash Wednesday Service, then actually getting to do a funeral, doing the Lenten Diaries, being able to visit people in their homes and elsewhere, all the planning and preparation for Holy Week, and then with our Palm Sunday service yesterday – I’ve experienced a fresh gift, for lack of a better word, of full *immersion* in my pastoral role. Less distancing ... less bits & pieces ... more continuity and totality ... greater sense of availability and connection ... and, dare I say it, even the increased number and pressure of multiple and successive deadlines feels comfortably familiar, and even welcome. Never thought I would say that!

I believe the thing that has most contributed to this gift of Lent for me has been the rhythm and discipline of my daily Lenten Diary. I’ve never done anything like this before – committing to something with a daily deadline as regular, public, and personal as these diaries have been. Had I realized what it would take before I committed to it, I might have been a lot more hesitant to do it. But I think I knew that, but didn’t dwell on it, because something inside me knew I was supposed to do it, so I just said I would and began doing it. And trust me, after the first few, there was definitely a twinge of uncertainty that I could maintain it for 46 days. But from the beginning, I’ve kept at it with the assurance (very much along the lines of Barton’s chapter on Discernment this week) that I had discerned rightly in the decision to do it. And many of you have encouraged me along the way, which has been one of the gifts of this whole thing. Probably more than anything else, I feel like I’m sitting down in front of each of you every time I write, and as a result, and given me the greatest sense of connection and belonging with all of you since this pandemic began. Were it not so, it could have easily sunk to a discipline of law and not grace. Even when I’ve waited until the very last minute at the end of the day (literally speaking), and finish it in bed at 1:30am with just the light of the computer screen to see by, it’s my time to share my day and myself with people who have grown so dear to me.

Many of you have said you are saving each entry, so that you can read them again, which both blesses me and humbles me. It also surprises me, somewhat, as I don’t generally consider my contributions as having a long shelf-life. I consider myself “serviceable,” but not memorable. I don’t say that to be disparaging, it’s just that I consider myself very much a “regular” guy who gives what he has, and trusts that it will be enough to get the job done in a way that is good, adequate, worthy, and at times excellent, but not flashy, striking, or outstanding. Evan Mason once said about me, not too long after I arrived in 1998, that I was like “a comfortable old shoe.” It was meant as a compliment, and I took it as that. It fit. (pun intended) Old shoes do a job that fancy, new, expensive, and beautiful shoes don’t. But the opposite is also true. So I know I place and I know my role. And I love it.

But back to the diary entries. Since people still seem to be reading them at Day 41, I will take your word for it and believe that they are worth keeping. Julie Bower, who is the one who takes what I send her, edits and corrects any typos and grammatical shortcomings (not uncommon when it shows up in her inbox after midnight), and then sends it out around 6am every morning, is saving them in a format to print a complete diary document in a more organized, and semi-embellished format (which will include the Prayer of Confession omitted in the diary, but printed in the Sunday worship bulletin) available after Easter to anyone who would like a copy.

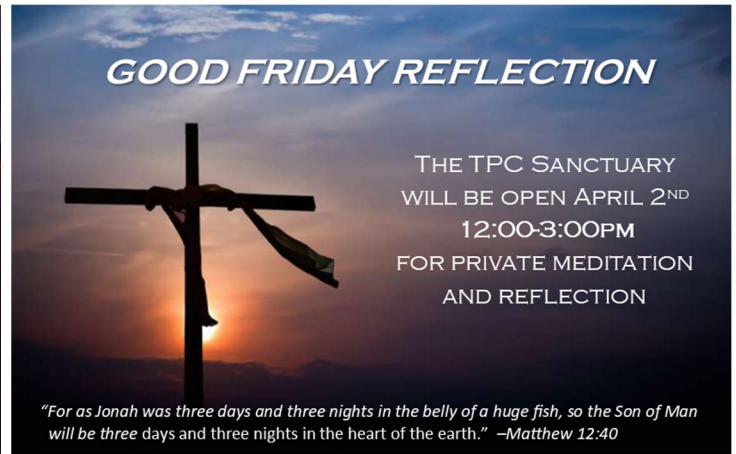
Okay, *way enough* about me. We still have the rest of Holy Week ahead of us. Maundy Thursday will be different this year, and I hope special. Good Friday will be an opportunity for anyone who misses being inside the sanctuary for our Sunday corporate worship, to come inside for a time of quiet personal reflection, prayer, and worship. For those who love our stained glass windows, we’ll have the “Stations of the Windows” booklet available. I hope that many of you who are faithfully worshipping online at home on Sundays, will be able to take advantage of this opportunity. I will be at the welcome table from 12 to 3 to greet everyone who comes. And then, of course, EASTER! That’s where this is all headed, and that’s where the “mystery hidden for ages and generations” was revealed in its fullness and glory. May it be a great day of worship, hope and strength for us all.

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

Charlie



# HOLY WEEK / DEACONS



## GOD BLESSES TEXAS WITH TPC OFFERING

Kim, our TPC Bookkeeper, recently wrote a check for over \$3,000 to World Renew, ECO's disaster relief partner, to help those in Texas and neighboring southern states devastated by the terrible snow and ice storms of February. The funds came from the generous contributions to TPC's Quarterly Deacons Offering in February that was dedicated to this relief effort. Thank you to everyone who participated and prayed for the people in the South affected by these storms! Phil Smart, spokesperson, sent thanks on behalf of World Renew and explained, "After some initial emergency help with lodging and food/water etc., we have begun a longer-term effort of helping with the water pipe issues. Most of that is supplies and coordinating volunteer plumbers to help with the huge number of broken water pipes because of the freeze and some of the water damage that ensued. As we approach Easter, we are thankful for God's gift and for the spirit infused in the resurrection, such as a generosity and compassion for those that are hurting."



In addition, the Deacons fund provided \$194.76 in February through the Templeton Deli and Market for vouchers to needy people for food or gasoline. Please let your deacon know if you or someone you know needs some financial or practical support at this time. And, if you do not know who your assigned deacon is, please let me or Julie in the office know so we can connect you with that deacon.

Thank you for your generosity as a congregation!!

Frank Bush, Deacon Moderator

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## HAPPY EASTER

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Matthew 28:6

## Children's Ministry

### TPC Kids

#### Worship Wednesday...

On Wednesday, March 31, we had another Worship Wednesday. We had an Easter Egg Hunt, fun games, and an Easter story. During our study of the Parable of the Great Banquet, each child made an invitation for our Easter Egg Hunt. They were challenged to invite one friend to our Worship Wednesday.

Our next Worship Wednesday will be Wednesday, April 14. Please email [children@fpctempleton.org](mailto:children@fpctempleton.org) for more information.

#### Charity...

Our Homeless Blessing Bags are in the process of being distributed through our community by Children's Ministry Families. Great Job!

Our Children's Offering jar is at approximately \$28. We have a goal of \$50. Then, we will donate the money to an organization of their choice.

#### Calling all Families...

Don't forget...Mount Hermon Christian Camp is August 8-11. We have two families attending and would love to have you too! Get ready for a Half-Week of fun, adventure, and fellowship. Please email Diane at [children@fpctempleton.org](mailto:children@fpctempleton.org) for more information.

#### Digging Deeper...

As you celebrate Easter this year, let's not forget the true meaning of Easter. We sometimes get caught up in the plastic candy filled eggs, chocolate bunnies, and Easter baskets overflowing with goodies. Take a few moments to read the following stories in the Bible to discover the true meaning of Easter. Also, retell the Easter story with Play Dough. Or, buy a wooden cross at the dollar store and cover with pennies. These coin-covered Crosses are a beautiful way to illustrate the price Jesus paid for us to have eternal life for all who believe in him. (Bible readings...Mark 14:32-51, Mark 15: 25-47, Luke 24:1-12).



# EASTER OFFERING

## EASTER OFFERING

### “New Pastor Welcome Fund”

We are planning to do something different for the Easter Offering this year – a “Welcome Fund” for our new Pastor who will take over when Pastor Charlie retires at the end of June. This fund would be designed to help the Pastor and his family get settled in the church and community.



The funds raised will be used for:

- Outfitting the Pastor's Office: Each person has his or her own way of making that space personal and functional in terms of the type of desk, storage, filing, seating, computer, décor, etc. It's a positive statement to the new person to give them the freedom and resources at the outset to make that space their own.
- Hotel accommodations for the first few nights
- Gift cards to various places: Food (Restaurants/Eateries/Coffee Shops/Wineries/etc.); Retailers that reflect the ethos of the Central Coast (Boot Barn, Farm Supply, etc.); Entertainment activities (movies, mini golf, Zoo, Zoo-to-You, waterslides, Cal Poly PAC, etc.); Hardware stores (Home Depot, Lowe's, Hewitt – moving into a new house always involves multiple trips to them), Grocery stores (TJ's for sure), etc.

We will also be putting together a “Welcome Book” with the following:

Recommendations for ‘things to do’ such as sites to see, hikes to take, events not to miss, reputable auto repair shops, doctors, dentists, etc.



**If you would like to make a gift of your suggestions** to the welcome book, please email your contributions to Kathy Westphal at [westphalslo@charter.net](mailto:westphalslo@charter.net)

**Financial contributions** for the Easter Offering can be made online at: [templetonpres.org/giving](http://templetonpres.org/giving) or by check to TPC (please indicate “Easter Offering” on the memo line).

# PALM SUNDAY



## CELEBRATING PALM SUNDAY



Thanks to John Doughty  
and Kate Ristow  
for the pics!



*So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" ~ John 12:13*



# IF:2021 WRAP-UP



IF:Gathering March 5 & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021

"The church is big, the church is fierce, the church is not going to die, and the church is on the move in bigger ways than it has ever been." ~Jennie Allen

"We have to name our trauma, bear our shame, recognize what's true, and receive His Redemption" ~Dr. Anita Phillips

"Community is where healing begins, a group of people who aren't going to leave the room" ~Dr. Curt Thompson

"You need to build relationships where it's safe enough to fall apart." ~Jo Saxton

"Steward well the challenges God has given you" ~Joni Earekson Tada

"Fire is the place where your faith is transformed, not where it is destroyed. When you know who you serve it changes everything." ~Bianca Olthoff

"The Western Church is under a Satanic lullaby and has fallen asleep. The Western model is 'come and see' but Jesus told us 'Go and find.'" ~pastor in the Middle East

"You need an anchor. You have an anchor. You are an anchor." ~Mike Todd

"Historically we categorize people so we don't have to listen to them." ~Matt Chandler

"America has been ordered by a racial cast system: it's a spiritual principal, manifested economically, legislated politically, and affects us all relationally." ~David Bailey

"Courageous love should catch someone by surprise." ~Jada Edwards

"We worship the God who turns tragedy into triumph, sorrow into singing, who turns brokenness into beauty, death into life." ~David Platt

"God needs laborers, He doesn't need influencers. It's harvest time." ~Christine Caine

"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love O LORD, and grant us your salvation." ~Psalm 85:6-7

This year our church came together to make it possible to share these words and many more with our community. If you missed it, these speakers and more will be available on Right Now Media at the end of the summer.

A deep felt thanks to each and every person who helped make this possible. We were reminded that "Even if the worst happens, we won't lose hope." May we each continue to shine our light of Jesus love for the world to see, one step at a time, one person at a time, one prayer at a time. Save the date for 2022, March 4 & 5<sup>th</sup>; you won't want to miss the next IF:Gathering!



# STEPHEN MINISTRY



## Stephen Ministry...What's in a Name?

Every month, all Stephen Leaders receive an email called, *Care Mail*, from Amity Haugk, daughter of the founder of Stephen Ministries. It always contains lots of great information—updates on a new Zoom training program, suggestions for trying times like the COVID, and some history, like the following:

People sometimes ask, “Why is it called Stephen Ministry?”

I recently spoke with a woman whose story about how she learned about Stephen Ministry gives a great answer:

*“I’d been noticing how our pastor has been struggling to meet all the needs for care in our congregation by himself. It was a challenge before, and the pandemic and social distancing have only made it harder. I knew he needed some help, and that got me thinking about Stephen in the Bible. I thought, we need a ministry like what Stephen did. Maybe there’s something like that already. So, I went online and searched ‘Stephen + Ministry’ and that’s when I discovered a ministry with that name already existed!”*

I thought it was neat that she discovered Stephen Ministry through its namesake—Stephen, one of the first laypeople commissioned by the apostles to care for the community of believers in Acts 6.

Just as Stephen helped to meet the growing needs of the early church, Stephen Ministry expands the caring capacity of congregations. And just as Stephen shared the spirit of Jesus, so Stephen Ministry brings Christ’s healing love to those who are hurting.

That’s where Stephen Ministry gets its name, and that’s what it’s all about—carrying on the spirit of Stephen. May God bless your Stephen Ministry team as you share that spirit of care with those who are suffering.

In Christ,  
Amity Haugk  
Program Staff

### Stephen Ministry at TPC:

We continue to provide quality care (by phone, on Zoom, 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. Contact Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (cell) or (805)461-1470 (home) to find a Stephen Minister for yourself or a friend.



# PRAYER SHAWL



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

In 2006 I was presented with a beautiful yellow prayer shawl. It had been knitted and prayed into while I was receiving chemotherapy and radiation for breast cancer. Although it was given to me after the treatments it was very moving to think that Mary and the prayer shawl group at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church had been praying for me. I really did not know what the Prayer Shawl Ministry was until then. I had heard of it but thought it was about knitting shawls used by people like Rabbi's and Priests. Was I wrong!!!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at Templeton Pres has been one of the most moving and inspiring groups I have been involved with. I cannot believe how many shawls have been made, blessed and given to those who need comfort. We hope they will wrap themselves in the shawls and remember how much they are loved and comforted by God. These shawls are tangible evidence of prayer.

The group meets at 1:00 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month. We meet in the church library. The meetings are 90 minutes long. The first 15 minutes are for fellowship, the next 15 minutes is spent in silent pray and knitting, the last 60 minutes could involve sharing but most importantly the shawls that are completed are passed about the table. As we lay our hands on the shawl we ask God to especially bless each shawl for the person who will receive it.

Over 300 shawls have been delivered since the group of nine women started in September of 2008. They have been shared with those who need healing, comfort for the loss of a loved one, someone under stress, or even someone who is a caregiver in a stressful situation.

If you would like to be a part of this caring ministry or would like to request a Prayer Shawl for yourself or someone you know, please contact Lois Ecklund at [lecklund514@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lecklund514@sbcglobal.net) or call me at 805 461.1470.



# 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](mailto: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.**

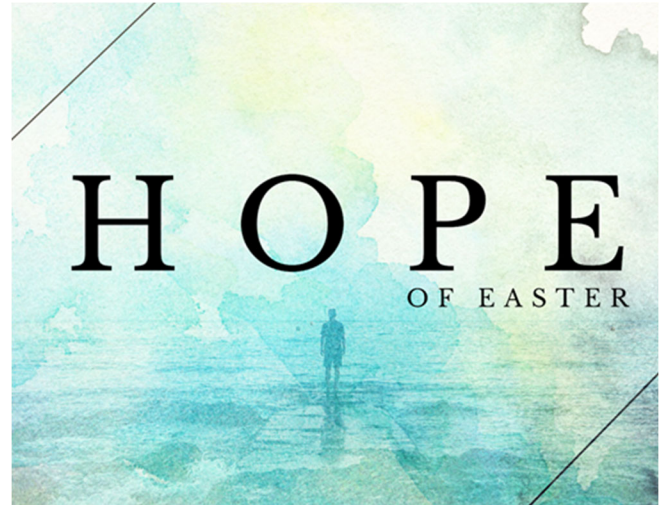


# YOUTH MINISTRY



## GET INVOLVED:

TPC Youth is committed to serving the needs of the students in our community! Our mid-week gatherings serve as our launching point to engage not only the students in our church but also the students outside of TPC. Each week our desire is to provide a comfortable space for students to come and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and be challenged to grow in their walk with God. Part of this space includes things like Snacks & Drinks. This might seem insignificant to many, but if you've ever had a high school or middle school student, you know, food is their primary love-language. Would you consider supporting our ministry by providing a monetary donation or a pre-packaged snack for our youth nights? If so, contact Dave Johnson or Kerry Estes!



## MID-WEEK MINISTRY:

We are about to embark on a 2- Week Easter series called "THE HOPE OF EASTER". This series is based in John 20, and our desire for this series is that it helps students understand that a resurrected Jesus changes everything. Students Can Join Us...

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

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

## SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY:

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

*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](mailto:students@fpctempleton.org)!*

*In Christ,*

*Dave Johnson*

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