

TEMPLETONES

***Templeton Presbyterian Church
monthly newsletter***

MARCH 2021

IF:TEMPLETON 2021

March 5 & 6

We hope to see you!



REGISTER AT TEMPLETONPRES.ORG



EASTER OFFERING
"New Pastor Welcome Fund"

Details page 5

PASTOR'S PAGE

This upcoming Sunday will be Worship Service #51 since we last worshiped together in the sanctuary on March 15, 2020. And even that Sunday was sparsely attended as we were all reckoning with the reality of a pandemic shutdown, which came in force in the week that followed. So really, it will be our one-year anniversary of when we worshiped in the sanctuary full of worshippers. As I think back to the various iterations of our attempts to worship together as best and as safely as possible, it's been quite a ride.

For the first 3½ months (mid-March -mid-July) we worshiped exclusively online, pre-recording the service in the sanctuary on Thursday afternoons. John Doughty had done a significant amount of work preparing the sanctuary for recording and livestreaming, which was put to good use immediately. Kellie & the Band, along with John Laird did a terrific job leading us in singing or listening, depending on how comfortable we felt singing along in the isolation of our own homes. We utilized our regular group of worship leaders, who often recorded from home, which gave us an 'up-close-and-personal' feel to the worship. Brendy, Julie, Dave, Marc, James, and I took turns teaching the children during the TPC Kids Time, while *yours truly* preached, discovering the advantages of having to have the sermon done by Thursday! Dylan faithfully ran the sound board, John D. handled the recording early on, but had to step away due to health reasons, and Brian Stith took over after that. Brian is a long-time "friend" of our sound system, having originally installed and then later upgraded it, and has always been ready and willing to help out when needed. Kellie bore the brunt of recording, editing, and uploading, and then handing the almost final product over to John to finish it and get it up on our YouTube Channel, which John created for this very purpose. For about the last six weeks of the above online worship phase, we also had an abbreviated worship time in the sanctuary at 9am. With the social distance protocols, we were limited in size to between 22 and 35 people, and though small in size, it proved to be a meaningful 'first step' back toward worshipping in-person.

For the next 3 months (mid-July – mid-October) we worshiped outside on private property away from the church campus. We were on the grass and under the trees at Robin and Scott Scott's house for the last two weeks in July, and then at Ray and Pam Derby's house & vineyard property from August through mid-October. The band and worship leaders were treated to coffee and donuts every Sunday to take off the chill from their early morning arrival, followed by a lovely garden setting for worshipping out on the lawn in the shade of trees, or under the arbor that shaded the concrete walkway along the border of the lawn. We were treated to a college graduation ceremony for Dave Johnson and a baptism in the Derby's pool for the daughter of a former member of the youth group I led when I served the Orcutt Presbyterian Church. It was during this outdoor phase that we began livestreaming the service, with Jack Hutchison as our videographer throughout. The challenges of livestreaming in remote settings resulted in periodic kinks and glitches that required patience and grace on the part of our online congregation. We were blessed to have both the Scott's and Derby's as terrific hosts, and we remain indebted to their generosity and hospitality.

From mid-October to the present, we've been worshipping in our own parking lot. Though we lost the beauty of a garden-esque setting, we gained the familiarity of our church buildings, proximity and ease of parking, and considerably less hassle in setting up and taking down and storing the sound equipment. It was also at this time that we finally settled our livestreaming approach by switching to a different streaming platform and began to do the recording ourselves with just an iPhone. River Alsop stepped in and now handles that portion of our worship. During this time we also invested in a tent, which has more than proved it's worth both on Sunday mornings with the benefits of warmth from heaters and shade from the sun, and mid-week evenings which allows the youth to meet with similar benefits. The tent also gives greater flexibility for special events such as our Ash Wednesday service, a memorial service, our upcoming IF Conference, and the just-scheduled Templeton High School Baccalaureate Service. Throughout all this (until recently) your Worship Committee, composed of myself, Marc Ristow, Margaret Ybarra, Nancy & John Doughty, Kellie Wenzel, and John Laird, met faithfully almost every Monday evening to debrief the last and plan the next service. It has truly been a labor of many over this past year, including all who have endured the separation from one another for so long.

As we approach the one-year mark, my great hope is that with the vaccines being made available, and the number of recovered cases of Covid thus far, we will reach a level of herd immunity by late spring and be free to re-gather as a congregation for worship and fellowship. I hope you know how grateful and blessed I feel for how we have worked together and endured the challenges and hardships of this pandemic, maintaining a sense of belonging and connection, and awaiting the day when the bonds of our fellowship will be seen and felt anew, and I hope *renewed* by the realization of the preciousness of our shared identity as the sons and daughters of God in Jesus Christ.

Faithfully yours,



IF:TEMPLETON 2021



IF is Right Around the Corner!

Our 4th Annual IF:Templeton women's gathering is almost here! Activities will take place March 5th–6th. Friday night's program begins at 6pm with everyone watching online, individually or gathered together in small groups of friends and family. Saturday morning kicks off at 9am with the option of continuing online or joining us in the TPC parking lot. A morning of amazing

speakers will be followed by Kellie Wenzel leading our worship time just before our lunch break and plenty of time for connecting with each other.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER at templetonpres.org—or just show up!

IF:Templeton has been a wonderful outreach for the women in and around our community for the past few years, and we have high hopes that it will be again this year—so we ask for your prayers to help make it so. Please pray for ears to hear. Please pray for the health and wellness of everyone involved. Please pray for all the little details that come together to make the event a success.

We are always so thankful for your faithful support in helping us make this program happen.

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

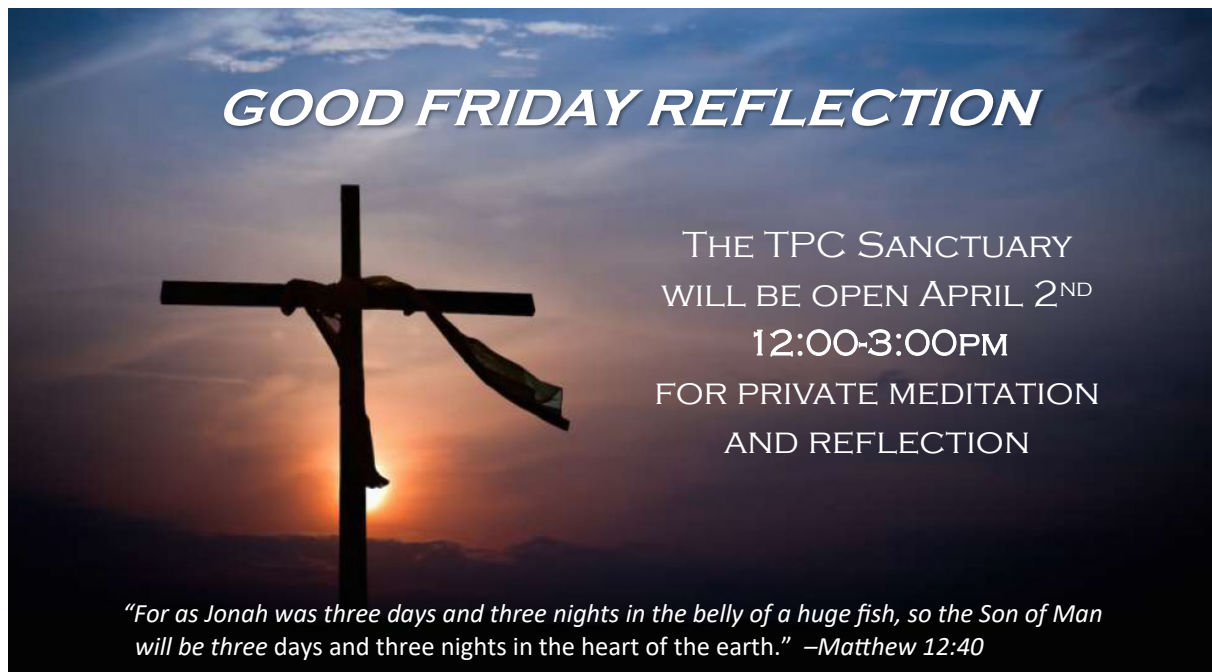
IF:GATHERING 2021

JOIN US MARCH 5-6

Both Virtual and In-Person options available.



EASTER / GOOD FRIDAY



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

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TPC KIDS

Small Group Time

On Thursday, February 18, we met at the church parking lot for an hour of fellowship and fun. We played four-square, basketball, corn hole, relay races, read a book, and prayed. Our story was The Never-Forgotten Doll, which demonstrates the power of determination, sacrifice and any goal is within reach.

Blessing Bags

Sunday, February 28, the children put together blessing bags for the homeless. Each bag contains toiletries, a few snacks, Bible Verse, and a sweet note.

Digging Deeper...

In Sunday School, with the beginning of Lent, we have been studying The Parable of the Good Samaritan and The Parable of the Sower. These stories are great for learning about giving, which is an important part of Lent. Also, for National Send a Friend a Card Day, many students sent cheerful notes to others.



Show time!

On Sunday, February 21, we had our first puppet show. Our puppets, Bob and Carol, performed a skit called, Lent or Lint? The puppets taught the children the meaning of Lent.

Lent: Pray, Give, and Fast

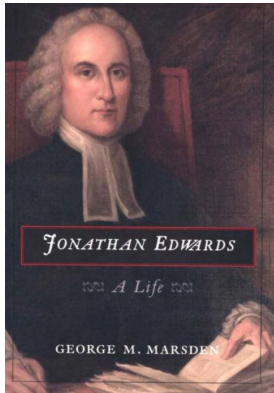
In Sunday School, we are observing Lent through 40 days of activities. Each day, the children can do a variety of activities. The activities include, praying for someone or reading a Bible story, giving up electronics or a sugary treat for a day, and giving to others through thoughtful gifts and compliments.



Picture (Small group time; Dexter, Tanner, Wyatt and Easton playing 4-square.)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

BOOK CLUB / PRAYER SHAWL



Men's Book Club will resume meeting on Monday, March 8 at 7pm, hopefully at Ray Derby's home. We will be starting a new book by George Marsden, ***A Short Life of Jonathan Edwards*** (the first two chapters), so this would be a great time to join us! Contact Steve Pointer (224/715-0429) if you need a copy of the book or have any questions.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

MARCH 10
(2nd Wed. of the month)
1:00pm
TPC Library

Newcomers welcome! We can teach you!
If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving one of these beautiful gifts, please contact the church office or Lois Ecklund at (408)718-8613 (cell) or (805)461-1470 (home).



Celebrating the Season of Lent
during Sunday morning service

Photo courtesy of Kate Ristow

STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Six Word Stories” by Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers meet as a team 2 times per month for supervision, continuing education, and team building activities. Last month, our team building activity was to write and share “Six Word Stories”. We found it amazingly powerful to share our “stories” with one another. And so, we share them below with you. Enjoy!

We wrote about what it means to be a Stephen Minister:

- Praying. Caring. Listening. Supporting. Celebrating. Praying.
- Reaching out. Supporting. Not fixing! Encouraging.
- A vessel to share God’s love.
- Well trained, giving comfort to others.
- God’s ministers reaching out to need.
- Helping people. Feeling useful. God’s hand.
- Looking back. Seeing God’s plan and comfort.
- Helping people. Feeling useful. God’s hand.
- Caring and sharing. Trusting and giving.
- Tears in eyes. Joy in prayers.

We wrote about prayer:

- Talk to God. Feeling peaceful response.
- Unburdening my mind. Seeing new direction.
- Thanking God for blessings. Identifying blessings.
- Intimate, secure, challenging, rewarding, vital, privilege.
- God’s greatest gift after his son.
- Bow head. Clasp hands. Praise God.
- Thanking God. Asking for help. Listening.
- On my knees. Help me please.
- Share my heart with the Lord.
- Listen long, speak well, give praise.

Stephen Ministers are trained to walk with and witness others in their faith journey and their relationship with God, especially when facing a challenge. We provide a safe, confidential space for conversation and prayer. The foundation of that space is Grace-based Acceptance. The walls are Listening and Empathy. The roof is Confidentiality. And the door is Trust.

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).



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

STAYING CONNECTED / PRAYER



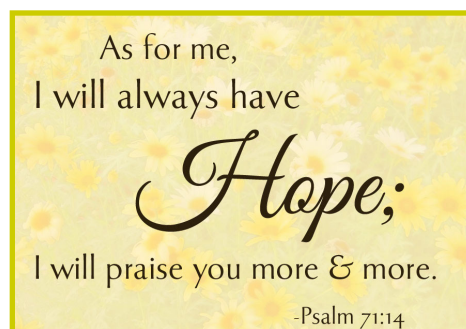
The "Staying Connected" outreach ministry is up and running! Our hope is to keep in touch with some of the folks and faces we haven't seen for awhile. We could use a few more volunteers to help make occasional visits or phone calls. For more details, please contact the church office or Nancy Doughty at 310/503-0111.



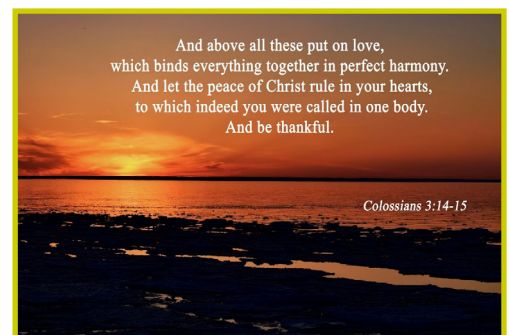
Our Prayer Team IS meeting! Prayer requests can be turned in Sunday mornings or can be emailed to admin@fpctempleton.org.



Faith



Hope



Love

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



VIRTUAL CAMP SCHEDULE

MIDDLE SCHOOL: TUESDAY 7-8:30PM

HIGH SCHOOL: WEDNESDAY 7-8:30PM

FEBRUARY 26TH-KICKOFF

MARCH 2 & 3 SESSION 1

MARCH 8 & 9 SESSION 2

MARCH 16 & 17 SESSION 3

MARCH 23 & 24 SESSION 4

EVERY WEEK WE'LL HAVE GAMES, FOOD, MESSAGES & SMALL GROUPS
TO REMIND US OF OUR TIME AT HUME LAKE EACH YEAR!

Recap:

On Friday February 26th, we hosted our Hume Virtual Camp Kick-Off! We had over 40 students come out for a time of fellowship as we started our March series!

Join Us:

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

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

Sundays:

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!

In Christ,

Dave Johnson

Director of Student Ministries

March Series:

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! Both Middle School and High School students are invited to meet us 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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