



THOMPSON
MEMORIAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TIDINGS

Winter 2024 Edition

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Our Next Sermon Series:

What Can't Wait

Pastor Stephanie Templin-Ashford

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." -- Isaiah 40:31

Waiting feels like a burden most of the time, doesn't it? Who wakes up and says, I hope I get stuck in traffic or become the tenth person in the checkout line today! Waiting often feels like life on pause—helpless, boring, and frustrating. But what if the real issue isn't the waiting itself? What if we've been wasting it?

On December 1, we step into Advent, a season Christians have long held as sacred waiting. While the world leaps into candy canes and wrapping paper, we stand with one foot in the celebration and the other in the patient, hopeful anticipation of what is to come. Advent asks us to wait alongside Mary, counting down the maternity clock to the arrival of the One who changes everything.

But this waiting isn't just about marking days until Christmas. It's an opportunity to turn idle time into holy time. Waiting in line?

(cont'd on next page)

TIDINGS 1

What Can't Wait

Use it to send a quick text of encouragement or gratitude. Stuck in traffic? Maybe it's a time to recite the one or two Bible verses you've memorized or take a moment to learn a new one: *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10) or *"The Lord is my shepherd"* (Psalm 23:1).

Relationally, the waiting can prompt reconciliation or a step toward healing that you've been putting off. And spiritually, Advent reminds us to wait with bold hope, trusting that God is moving even when we can't yet see the outcome.



Some things just can't wait: justice, kindness, forgiveness, love. And thankfully, God didn't wait to step into our world, into our mess, and into our lives. This Advent, let's follow God's lead and make sure we don't waste the waiting.

Some things just can't wait.

Stephanie

Advent Schedule 2024

Advent 1 (December 1st):

9 AM and 11 AM worship services
Advent Workshop at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall

Advent 2 (December 8th):

9 AM and 11 AM worship services
Community Meal at 12:15 PM

Advent 3 (December 15th):

Prayer service 8:30 AM in Sanctuary
Children's Musical at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall

Advent 4 (December 22nd):

Prelude to Christmas (special music service) at 9 AM
Join us for a special musical experience featuring a string quartet, harp, and vocal offerings to prepare you to welcome the Christ child
Contemporary service at 11 AM

ZETEO Winter Retreat

Friday January 31 - Sunday February 2nd

Zeteo is a greek word which means "to seek in order to find." Our annual winter retreat is where we join other youth groups to seek and find the Lord. We will gather in Manheim, PA at The Junction Center, for Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning session! Sessions include worship, a guest speaker, and a full-length, original, drama that unfolds during the course of the weekend.



We'll be spending 2 nights at the Hampton Inn and Suites Ephrata - Mountain Springs. Find the sign up on the website!

5-6-7 Christmas Party

Friday December 20th, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

On Friday, December 20 from 5:30-8:00pm we will host a Parents' Night Out! Drop off your kids and enjoy some time to yourself! We will provide dinner, games, Christmas activities, and more. Have your kids come for the whole time or drop off and pick up at any point during the event. There will be special activities for grades 5-7, and don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas Sweater!

Youth Group Christmas Soiree

Sunday December 15th, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Grades 7-12 will be celebrating Christmas together on December 15 from 5-8 PM. It promises to be a great time full of music, games, prizes (gingerbread house competition, anyone?), and Secret Santa gift giving. Go to www.tmpc.org/students to sign up and let us know your students are coming! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Summer Mission Trip

Summer 2025



Next Summer, grades 7-12 students head to the Navajo Nation Reservation in Arizona for a week of cross-cultural ministry experience. From construction projects to children's ministry, we will stand side by side with Native American Christians as they seek to make the kin(g)dom of God flourish in the Arizona mesa.

This is an incredible chance for students to locate themselves in the larger family of Jesus followers, while drinking in the beautiful scenery and Navajo cultural experiences.



Go to www.tmpc.org/students to fill out and interest form and look for a trip meeting in early 2025.



Upcoming Events

Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 1st at 10 am

Come kick off the beginning of the season of Advent on Sunday December 1st at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. We'll help you create a beautiful centerpiece with four pillar candles representing the four Advent Sundays. There will also be a kid-friendly ornament craft for our younger friends. The suggested donation price is \$15. We recommend one centerpiece per household, but you're welcome to make more than one and give it away as a gift! See the e-news, our website, or check out our app for more information and to register.



| BINGO | | | | |
|-------|----|------------|----|----|
| 1 | 27 | 33 | 48 | 75 |
| 8 | 19 | 45 | 56 | 61 |
| 3 | 18 | FREE SPACE | 49 | 69 |
| 15 | 26 | 41 | 53 | 66 |
| 2 | 21 | 37 | 46 | 65 |

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING

Dinner - Bingo - Prizes

Friday, December 6, 2024

5:30 pm

Snowball BINGO

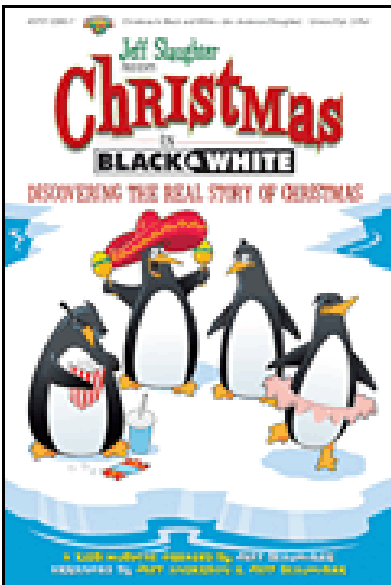
*Friday, December 6th at 5:30
in Fellowship Hall*

ACT 2 is hosting a fun evening of dinner, BINGO, and prizes! Please visit our website, app, or see the e-news to sign up

Upcoming Events (cont'd)

Kids Musical

December 15th at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall



Come take a visit to the Polar Pet Park along with Miss LaToe from the Blue Spruce Middle School for a fun "holiday" school trip. What the penguins at the park don't understand is why the school kids don't mention or understand the real meaning of Christmas, when Jesus was born.

Join us for an adorable and fun musical put on by our TMPC kids on Sunday, December 15th at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall that's sure to delight!

Red Bag Christmas —

due Sunday, December 15th

**TMPC is providing gifts for 100
students at UrbanPromise Trenton!**

THIRD ANNUAL RED BAG CHRISTMAS



VISIT THE RED BAG TABLE THIS SUNDAY!

- Simply grab a bag (or two!), an envelope with all the donation information inside, and the child's name on the outside, fill out the tracking form and off you go!
- Each child receives a pair of Crocs, socks and snacks for the Christmas break.
- Red Bags are available on Sundays beginning November 17 until December 8.
- **Return your bag(s) by Sunday December 15.**

Thank you for your support of the great kids at UPT!



It's back! Our Red Bag Christmas event is a simple and impactful way to enrich Christmas for our local youth. Grab a bag, fill out the tracking form, and return the bag by December 15th! See the red bag table during the Common Hour for more information or email office@tmpc.org.

Thank you for your support of the great kids at UPT!

Upcoming Events (cont'd)

Prelude to Christmas

Sunday, December 22nd during 9 AM worship service

Join us for a special musical experience featuring a string quartet, harp, and vocal offerings to prepare you to welcome the Christ child.

Musical selections include:

- **A Christmas Canon** (Arr. by Michael Green)
 - featuring string quartet Asela Zomberano (violin), Annabella Murphy (violin) Tricia Murphy (viola) and Alex Zomberano (cello)
- **Trio from A Christmas Oratorio** (by Saint-Saens)
 - featuring Rebecca Simpson (harp), Amanda Pfannienstiel (soprano), Peter Heckman (Tenor) and Rob Stetson (baritone)
- **Silent Night** (Arr. Roy Phillippe)
 - featuring string quartet Asela Zomberano (violin), Annabella Murphy (violin) Tricia Murphy (viola) and Alex Zomberano (cello)
- **Brandenburg Concerto No. 3** (by J. S. Bach)
 - featuring string quartet Asela Zomberano (violin), Annabella Murphy (violin) Tricia Murphy (viola) and Alex Zomberano (cello)



harpist Rebecca Simpson

Upcoming Events (cont'd)

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

3:00 PM **FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE**

WITH A CHILDREN'S POP UP PAGEANT WHERE EVERYONE GETS A PART! - FELLOWSHIP HALL

5:00 PM **LESSONS AND CAROLS**

TRADITIONAL SERVICE - SANCTUARY

7:00 PM **CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

FELLOWSHIP HALL

9:30 PM **CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**

TRADITIONAL SERVICE - SANCTUARY



Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday December 24th

Prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ as we celebrate Christmas Eve at TMPC. With several different services, there's something for everyone and every family to worship on this most special night!



Upcoming Events (cont'd)

Pop-Up Pageant

*Tuesday, December 24th at 3 pm
during Family Traditional Service*

A 'pop-up' pageant requires no rehearsal ahead of time, so everyone is invited to participate! As we worship together, kids will be invited to choose what part they'd like to play.

Costumes will be distributed to all participants and simply stand up when their character is called. Bring you family and friends for this wonderful celebration of the Christmas story!



Christmas Day Brunch

*Wednesday, December 25th at 11 am
in Fellowship Hall*



On December 25, You are invited to a special edition of our Community Meal—a Christmas Day brunch—at TMPC. A hearty brunch will be served in Fellowship Hall from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. Everyone is welcome, so invite a neighbor or a friend and join us! Come share your fellowship and enjoy a great meal!

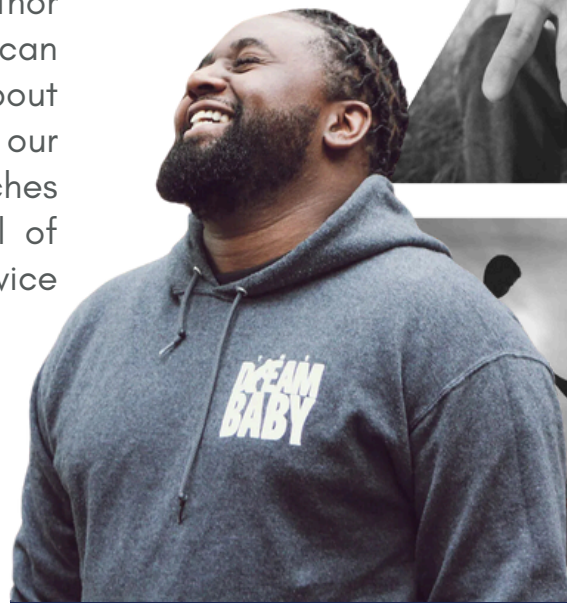
MLK Day of Service

Monday, January 20th from 9 am - 1 pm

Upcoming Events (cont'd)

This year's MLK Day event is poised to be the best one yet! We will welcome guest preacher, speaker and musician CW Allen who led our youth during the 2024 Summer Mission Trip. CW has a degree in communications and Bible and is passionate about music, justice and the gospel. CW Will lead a movie discussion Sunday, January 19th and be our keynote on Monday, January 20th.

In addition, to CW Allen, we will host an author in conjunction with the African American Museum of Bucks County who will speak about the stops on the Underground Road in our backyard and share how the churches contributed to the freedom of slaves. All of this will pair with our Burrito Bonanza service project and a children's MLK Day program.



Jazz Sunday

Sunday, February 9th during both services

Every year in the winter we have the Warren Cooper Jazz ensemble for a special worship service filled with incredible jazz music! Our jazz Sunday this year will be held on February 9th. Set the tone for your week with a morning of captivating live jazz. Don't miss this special event!



Youth Ministry & Kids

Drop off your kids and enjoy some time to yourself! We will provide dinner, games, Christmas activities, and more. Have your kids come for the whole time or drop off and pick up at any point during the event. Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas Sweater!

Parents' Night Out

Friday December 20th, 5:30 - 8:30 pm



Sunday School



held during both 9 am and 11 am worship Sundays
Following the Children's Message during worship, children go to Sunday School where they learn their own small lesson and do an activity and craft! There is also nursery care provided for infants and toddlers during services.

Thompson Student Ministry

High School Ministry

High School youth group meets Sunday nights from 6-8 PM. We eat, play games, get to know each other, and dig into our faith. We also have regular "fun to us" outings as well as numerous service opportunities throughout the year.



Middle School Ministry

Middle School youth group meets on the 3rd Fridays of each month, from 5:30-7 PM. We eat pizza, play games, and study the Bible. There are also be periodic service opportunities AND fun outings.



Introducing Faith Macwana, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

We are thrilled to announce that after an extensive search, Faith Macwana has joined the TMPC team as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry! Faith holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from Virginia Wesleyan University and has experience working with preschool-age children all the way through college-age young adults, including leading multiple mission teams in cross-cultural service alongside Cheyenne River Sioux tribal members in South Dakota. Along with her experience, Faith brings a heart to help everyone she meets know that they are loved by God. We're so excited to see how God will work through Faith to help Thompson's Youth and Children's ministry soar!

Office Updates



There will be an opportunity for all TMPC families to meet Faith at 10 AM on Sunday December 8, downstairs in the youth room. Just grab a coffee from Fellowship Hall and come on down! We're sure that you'll give Faith a loving TMPC welcome!

Staff

Senior Pastor (Sabbath: Friday)
Associate Pastor (Sabbath: Friday)
Administrative Assistant
Director of Music
Ministry Associate
Organist/Accompanist
Business Administrator
Director of Youth and Children's Ministry
Facilities Manager

Stephanie Templin Ashford
Bailey Heckman
Julie Perri
Patricia Murphy
Bill Stauffer
Ariana DuPont
Amanda White
Faith Macwana
James Daily



**THOMPSON
MEMORIAL**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church

1680 Aquetong Road, New Hope, PA 18938

Office: (215) 862-2440

www.tmpc.org

Office Hours: M-F 9 AM - 3 PM