

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN



Dear friends,

I trust your 2020 is off to a good start? My decade has not gone...exactly the way I was planning.

Many of you know this already, but in case some folks have missed the details, on December 16th I was headed out to the coast. Around 8:30 PM on Highway 130 that winds and bends its way along the Nestucca River, a deer jumped down into the road in front of me. Just reacting, I swerved to the left. Unfortunately, the road was turning sharply to the right, and I was unable to correct and went down over the edge heading towards the river.

Fortunately, I hit a large fir. (How often do we consider it fortunate to hit a tree?) The tree crushed the right front end of the car locking the vehicle into place at a 90 degree angle. Had the tree not been there I would have likely turned over and rolled into the river below. Less fortunately, the impact of the tree crushed the car around my left leg, pinning it tightly. I had no head injury or damage to my organs. Nothing was bleeding. The impact broke my right wrist, and my left leg was not budging.

I was so far below the road level, cars passed but they could not see me. So, for the next eight hours I worked to free my leg. Many of you have written to me how frightening this must have been. All I can say is that night I didn't feel afraid, and I didn't feel alone. I felt cold, pain, and a pressing sense of urgency to get out of that situation. I don't believe I have ever been so focused in all my life.

And around 5:45 AM the next day, I was able to finally pull my leg free. Only, in the process of freeing it, I wound up breaking it. And the doors and windows of the car were jammed. So, the next task was kicking open my sunroof with the one good leg I had left. After this, I was able to squeeze through and drop down to the ground falling away from me. Somehow, I managed to climb up the bank, lifting myself up using my good leg, and then collapsing my body onto my broken one. After I made the road, I started to limp towards town. Several cars passed without stopping. I made it about 1.5 miles before a guy stopped and let me climb into his truck where I stayed until the ambulance came.

What to make of all this? It's hard to say, really. While I appreciate well intended comments like God putting that tree there and things like that, the truth is people die in car accidents every day. And I have a hard time making sense of a God who places magical trees for some, while letting others, letting children, die. Still, it's actually my job to ask where God was in all of that. My honest answer is I don't know. Right now I don't entirely know. What I do know is I'm grateful for the abilities I had that night to extricate myself. I'm grateful my injuries weren't worse- a slight in any of the variables could have meant a very different outcome for me. And I'm grateful for all of you- your notes, your prayers, and your understanding and love. Is God in all of that- for me the answer is absolutely.

This wasn't the way I was planning for 2020 to start out, but you know what? Our plans are just that- plans. And they are subject to change. So, as you begin your year and make your plans, may you hold them gently. May you give thanks for what is good and let go of that which does not bring you joy. Instead of giving others advice, may we just lift them up to the light trusting that they are well able. And when the plan falls apart, as it surely will, may your senses be alert to who and what is being placed in your path as a blessing, until a new plan becomes clear.

Here is a poem I wrote after this experience- it's for all of us when we experience significant change.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE

This is your life. You don't
get another one. You drove off
the edge of everything you ever
knew lying sideways below the bank.
Others pass by and cannot see
you. They will not stop. You
can blame yourself. It doesn't matter.
You can blame the deer, the gods.
It doesn't matter. You can wait
here and hope help will come,
but you are the one you've
been waiting for, your strength the
strength that counts in this place,
your voice singing the one song
you hear in this pressing darkness.
It will hurt. There is no
escape from the pain. Your choice
whether to lie here in the
uncaring night, the anxious alarm signaling
to no one, or begin the
excruciating work of breaking yourself free-
a work that will kill you
and bring you back from the
dead, a stranger now to those
who thought they knew you, unwelcome
to the ones who longed for
your return. Because we don't walk
back from the land of the
dead the same. We arrive limping
carrying on our shoulders a dangerous,
new, unpronounceable name. This is your
life. There isn't another one. What
will you do? Time to choose.

ADULT EDGE - ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday mornings at 8:30 am, downstairs

To begin 2020, we are going to take a **January walk through Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood** with a four-part video/Bible/discussion series developed by Westminster John Knox Press: *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* We will look at our call to welcome the stranger among us, to create peace, to love others just the way they are, and to be helpers in this world. We will wrap up our time with Mr. Rogers with a February 2 discussion of the film: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. If you have not already seen the movie, perhaps we can arrange a group showing!

Our plan is to follow Mr. Rogers with a 9-week in-depth study of *Waking Up White*, a book recommended by the 2016 General Assembly of the PC (USA). The author, Debby Irving, shares her personal story of moving from white oblivion to white awareness and invites all of us to join her on this journey into our own unconscious/implicit racial bias. It will be helpful to share the leadership for this study so we invite you to prayerfully consider signing up to lead a week or two.

Our final 6-week DVD course, Amy Jill Levine's *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, will take us through the second week of June (our traditional time to break for summer sabbatical).

Join us downstairs at 8:30 on Sunday mornings in the Adult Education Room.

Jean & John Martin

WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

We are pleased to have Melanie Mock, author and Professor of English at George Fox University, as our speaker for the Saturday, January 18th Women's Ministry Program. Melanie is the author or co-author of five books, including most recently *Worthy: Finding Yourself in a World Expecting Someone Else*. Melanie will be speaking on a number of feminist issues, including the messages we hear while growing up. This will be a topic for all ages and we will provide child care to allow younger members to easily attend.

Join other TPC women for brunch on **Saturday, January 18, at 10:30** in the narthex. Bring a

brunch item or money for the kitty and enjoy what will surely be an interesting speaker. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board and watch for an email reminder.

Judy Nix, Communications Coordinator



FELLOWSHIP DINNER GROUPS

We are about to begin the winter phase of Fellowship Dinners, so this is a good opportunity to begin participating, if you haven't been.

Fellowship Dinners are groups of 7 to 9 people who meet four times in four months for a meal and fellowship. The hosts provide the main course and others bring side dishes, dessert, etc. Sometimes games or activities are included. Each group decides the times that work best for all to gather. While most groups meet in the evening for dinner at someone's home, a brunch has sometimes worked best and other venues, like restaurants or TPC, are also used.

The winter phase goes from February through May. After each four-month phase, the computer comes up with new random groups. This computer algorithm avoids forming groups that put folks together who have recently been together. This gives everybody the chance to connect and know even more people in the church. New church members will find this a great way to get better acquainted and longtime members find it a way to expand their relationships with other church members.

If you were participating this fall, you are automatically signed up for the winter phase, and you don't have to do anything to continue. If you wish to opt out of the winter phase, please do so by January 19th. Current and recent participants may sign up or opt out by replying to the email you received in early January. Or, you may sign up or opt out on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex, or email Rick Crall, re3ric @ gmail . com by January 19th. You will receive an email with your group information about January 23rd, and the groups will be posted in the narthex on Sunday, January 26th.



Once again, Scott Cameron is organizing a blood drive here at TPC. The date is:

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 1 to 6:30 pm

Scott will be looking for people to donate blood, to bake

cookies for refreshments, and/or to work the day of the blood drive. Please mark your calendar and save the date if you would like to participate.

TPC SHUTTLE TRAINING

The TPC first-Sunday-of-the-month shuttle needs drivers and helpers to stay operational. On Saturday, February 29th, at TPC, from 9 am to 11 am,



shuttle driver training will be offered. If you can dedicate a few Sundays a year to drive the shuttle, please attend this training. No training is required if you are willing to help load

and unload shuttle passengers. If either of these volunteer opportunities appeals to you, please email me to let you know you would like to help.

Thank you, John Casebeer
casebeer58@gmail.com



Family Promise of Tualatin Valley (FPTV) is grateful for the role TPC has played in making the program successful in its first year of existence. TPC joined 19 other local congregations to work together on the common goal of making a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate. Guests in the Family Promise program are not chronically homeless, but have been affected by a job loss, medical bills, or other circumstances that have caused them to lose their home. Guests are willing to do the work necessary to get back on their feet.

The intensive case management provided to families has made it possible for 56 people (34 children and 22 adults), who were previously living in cars,

tents or sheds, to find housing. Amazing! FPTV has only been in operation for nine months!!!

It has taken a village to make Family Promise successful at TPC and much of that success lies with the dedication of TPC's Host Coordinators, Derrilyn Bayha and Pam Bowen. They are two of the strongest Host Coordinators of all the Family Promise congregations, and families love to stay at TPC because they know that the volunteers will be well-trained and things will go smoothly. Many thanks to the 30 to 35 people who volunteered each quarter when TPC was the Host Church.

I look forward to more positive Family Promise experiences in 2020, as we put our faith into action helping to end homelessness, one family at a time.

Judy Nix

THE MISSION COMMITTEE THANKS YOU



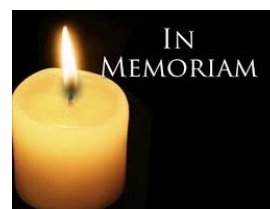
Thank you so very much for supporting The FAMOUS TPC Cookie and Bake sale! This season we earned \$979.26, a mere 3.5 pounds of cookies shy of \$1,000. Thanks to the shoppers, bakers, taste testers, volunteers and buyers!! Until next year!

The Mission Committee
Scott and Kathy McClure



We just love to buy presents and share the love at TPC. This year The TPC Giving Tree supported five local families with over 60 presents and helped to ensure a joyful Christmas morning.

Each family also received a \$100.00 gift card for holiday food. Merry Christmas!!
The Mission Committee /Stephen & Emily Ricker



Thank you for Supporting the Christmas Memorials. This year \$1,115 was distributed between Family Promise and the Coffee Creek Puppy Program.

Thank you for remembering your loved ones this holiday season.

With love and remembrances,
The Mission Committee/Julian Awdray

YOUTH MINISTRY



The Middle School Students wrote a modern-day nativity play of our Lord Jesus Christ with the guidance of Family Ministries Elder, Jeff Engh and Director of Family Ministries, Sarah Beck. The play offered parts to any child or young person who wanted to participate. Our goal was to meet each child, or young person, where they are in their faith journey.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTER



LITTLE WOMEN AT BRIDGEPORT VILLAGE

On Friday, January 3, Karen Ramos, Jeff Engh and Sarah Beck took seven youth to see the movie, *Little Women*. It was so good!



LOG COLLEGE GRANT PROJECT

The Log College Team continues to work on their project which is to turn their Dreamer-sicle vision into a ministry. Their initial plan is to create, and either sell, or give away, paletas, reaching out to people they might not otherwise meet or get to know.

To move forward the team wants to find a vending/delivery bike for frozen treats. They found a company in Portland that builds such bikes; they plan to meet with company representatives.

In the meantime, the team will continue to create and taste a variety of paleta recipes.

What exactly is a paleta? A paleta is an ice pop made from fresh fruit, sugar, water and lime that is blended together, poured into ice pop molds and frozen. Yum.



**SUNDAY MORNING
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

Greeters...

Would you like to greet at the front door as people arrive? Come to church about a half hour early, stand by the front doors, greet people as they arrive, help pass the plates during offering, and you're done. That's it! Select a date that works for you and sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Ushers/Bulletin People...

Stand near the glass doors to the sanctuary and pass out bulletins. Arrive about a half hour early, stand by the doors, pass out bulletins, take microphones to individuals during Joys and Concerns and help pass the offering plates and you're done. Select a date you like, and sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen in the narthex.

Coffee Servers...

You can volunteer to serve coffee and cookies after worship on Sunday, and help with clean up.

To volunteer, talk to Bonnie Nord or sign up on line at (<https://goo.gl/9imGAU>)

Thanks for your help.

FINANCE

Thank you, everyone, for your donations to TPC this past year. 2019 Contribution statements will be distributed by the end of January, 2020.

Mike Shiffer, Finance

ANNUAL PER CAPITA

Per Capita in 2019 was \$35.50 for each member.

Per Capita in 2020 is \$36.50 for each member.

TPC COOKBOOKS

In 2009 members and friends of Tualatin Presbyterian Church assembled a cookbook entitled "Cooking With Soul." We shared some of our favorite recipes. It was a labor of love.

Copies of this unique cookbook are still available. You can find them on the cabinet outside the church office or on the bookcase inside the office. If you would like one, please help yourself.



By Katherine Preston, author of *Out With It*

When was the last time you truly listened to someone?

I'm not talking about the listening that you do as you jot down your shopping list, or the listening that you do while you prepare what you are going to say in response. Rather I'm speaking about the experience of listening to someone without any distractions or any impatience. Listening with the express purpose of bearing witness to their story.

Can you remember how you felt the last time you really listened? Can you remember how you felt the last time someone really listened to you?

There is something about being heard that fulfills a heart-seated human need for connection. And it seems to go both ways: the experience of telling someone vivid stories about our life changes us, and it changes the perspective of the person listening.

Can you think of someone in your life who you can give the gift of listening to?

TPC 2019 FINANCIALS	Actuals	Budget	Dollar Difference
Operating Income Year to Date 11/30/19	\$354,353	\$362,939	(\$8,586)
Operating Expenses Year to Date 11/30/19	\$360,802	\$371,999	\$11,197

JANUARY TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

For the latest calendar updates, go to www.tpcspirit.org and click on EVENTS.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office closed.	2 10 am Project Linus	3	4
5 8:30 am Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Kid's Sunday School	6	7	8 10 am Loving Stitches	9 10 am Book Club at Hagan home 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 8:30 am Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Kid's Sunday School	13 7 pm Deacon Mtg	14 7 pm Stephen Ministry Class Continuing Ed and Supervision	15 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 10 am Book Club at Hagan home 7 pm Bell Rehearsal	17	18 Women's Ministry 10:30 to noon
19 8:30 am Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Kid's Sunday School Meeting Before the Meeting after worship	20	21 7 pm Tuesdays' Treasures 7 pm Session Meeting	22 10 am Loving Stitches 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 8:30 am Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Kid's Sunday School Congregational Meet- ing after worship	27	28 9 am February newsletter deadline. 7 pm Stephen Ministry Class Continuing Ed and Supervision	29 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 1 to 6:30 pm Blood Drive at TPC 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	31	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

03 Cathy Lambeth
04 Mary Shiffer
06 Rosemary Willis
07 Riley Reding
08 Deb Carlson
09 Steven Olsen
12 Jeff Cameron
12 Wendy Love
12 Susan Springer

15 Samuel Corona
15 Karen Jones
16 Herb Richardson
17 Joen Morris
18 Mary Maleta
19 Scott MacHaffie
20 John Collins
21 Pam Bowen
21 Bill Thomason
24 Greg Sundt

28 Nicholas Dannemiller
28 Erin Hagan
28 Mark Hansen
28 Ted Miller
29 Janet Winterrowd
30 Pam Cameron
31 Annica Gage
31 Neil Olson

OFFICE HOURS may vary in the months ahead. If you plan to come by the church and need a door to be unlocked, please call ahead to be sure someone is here.
503-692-4160

Vacations happen. Life happens. Typical hours are:
Monday, 9 am to noon, Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm., Friday, 10 am to 1 pm



TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062

Phone: 503-692-4160 Email: office@tpcspirit.org

Web Address: www.tpcspirit.org We're also on Facebook.

Worship Service – Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Ken Evers-Hood

Parish Associates: The Rev. Charlie Brown, The Rev. Dr. Dick Wiggers

Elders: Craig Bowen, Russ Carlin, John Casebeer, Jeff Engh, Greg Owen, Carolyn Pursinger, Ian Swanson, and Maureen Wolf

Deacons: Derrilyn Bayha, Susan Cameron, Peggy Gibbons, Emily Gibson, Carolyn Hale, Donna Hammersly, Jason James, Julie Nader, Karen Ramos, Herb Richardson, Sheri Schipporeit, Kerry Weaver, and Rob Wiesenthal.

Director of Family Ministries: Sarah Beck
Administrative Assistant: Susan Springer
Financial Assistant: Mike Shiffer
Director of Music Ministries: Gary Young
Accompanist: Dr. Ron Fabbro
Bell Choir Director: Debbie Ivanov
Building and Grounds Caretaker: Bob Paetsch
Art Director: Chris Robertson
Bereavement Committee Chair: Barbara Crall
Blood Drive Coordinator: Scott Cameron
Clerk of Session: Rick Crall

Cookie Coordinator: Sue Hayhurst
Fellowship Director: Barbara Crall
Hospitality Coordinator: Bonnie Nord
Membership Coordinator: Diane Paetsch
Men's Fellowship Group Coordinator: Mike Weaver
Parish Nurse: Susan Fee
Prayer Chain: Greg Imus
Treasurer: Chip Kyle
Tuesdays Treasures Coor: M&M Shiffer, Denise Collins
Webmaster: John Martin
Wedding Coordinator: Stacy Mauer

Office hours may vary; call ahead to confirm.