



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KEN



How's it going with your teeth? You heard me. How's it going with your teeth? Like brushing them- how do you feel about this activity we take part in (hopefully) multiple times a day? Me? I mostly view brushing my teeth as a necessary chore. It's something I have to do. It's not something I look forward to doing most of the time. It's not something I particularly enjoy doing. I mean it's even gotten harder over time. When I was a kid all you had were the plastic tooth brushes you just manually scrub back and forth on your own power. It was kind of up to you to decide when you were done. Not today. We've all got those vibrating, electric things that beep when you are done with one section and allowed to move on to the rest. (Do I always obey the beeps? No. No, I do not. But then I feel guilty if I don't, so most of the time I just comply.) For me brushing my teeth...it's just one of many things you have to do to take care of your body and get along with the rest of the world. But what if there's more to it?

I was talking with a friend the other day who shared with me she stumbled onto thinking about brushing her teeth as a kind of spiritual practice. She asked me if I had ever really paid attention when I was brushing my teeth- like really noticed what it felt like rather than just viewing this as a chore to get through. I admitted that while I suppose I had, on occasion, honestly taken some notice, most of the time I just mindlessly endured what I generally viewed as a box to be checked to get on with the rest of my day. For her it has become a little oasis, a small moment of refuge in which she notices her body, feels what the brush is like on her teeth, breathes, and gives thanks for the miracle her life really is.

I was like, "All that from brushing your teeth?"

Of course she's entirely right and found a way to tap into the deep wisdom spiritual tradition around the globe that we have always kept regarding the significance of the mundane.

In the 17th century a dude name Nicholas Herman was born into poverty in Lorraine, France. He joined the army just so that he would have access to food on a regular basis. Once, when he was on patrol in the dead of winter, he was stopped in his tracks by a fruit tree seemingly lifeless and frosted with snow. In a kind of vision Herman saw how the tree had no leaves or fruit but how in the summer it would flourish, and he identified with this tree. He saw himself as relatively lifeless and barren, but that God had an abundance of life waiting for him. It was this tree rather than a sermon, church service, or hymn that awakened a faith that would never die.

After an injury forced Herman to leave the army, he eventually found himself joining the disalced Carmelite monastery outside of Paris. There he took on a new name: Brother Lawrence. Brother Lawrence asked for the lowest, most menial job they had, and he spent the rest of his life serving others in the kitchen. Brother Lawrence's kitchen became his cathedral. Rather than viewing the never ending tasks as burdens that even Sisyphus finds monotonous, Brother Lawrence discovered his salvation. We only know about Brother Lawrence because others noticed the unusual peace and equanimity with which he carried himself. Abbe de Beaufort, envoy to a powerful cardinal, interviewed Brother Lawrence and left astonished to discover a spiritual giant scrubbing pots and pans.

Describing his work Brother Lawrence said: "We don't need to have great things to do. . . We can do little things for God; I turn the cake that is frying on the pan for love of him, and that done, if there is nothing else to call me, I prostrate myself in worship before him, who has given me grace to work; afterwards I rise happier than a king. It is enough for me to pick up but a straw from the ground for the love of God."

And, critical of the complicated and sometimes tortuous spiritual disciplines of the church, Brother Lawrence said: "People invent means and methods of coming at God's love, they learn rules and set up

devices to remind them of that love, and it seems like a world of trouble to bring oneself into the consciousness of God's presence. Yet it might be so simple. Is it not quicker and easier just to do our common business wholly for the love of him?"

January 1st is just a couple of days from now as I write this. Many of us are already thinking about ideas we have to improve ourselves, get back in shape, or at least how to stop eating entire sleeves of Oreos thinking it would be shame to leave them unfinished because you wouldn't want them to go stale. There will be all kinds of expensive plans and programs to help you with everything from being more creative to being more at peace with yourself.

What if Brother Lawrence and my friend are onto something, though? You brush your teeth at least two times a day and pay hardly anything for the privilege. What if this annoying task turns into a gateway of presence and an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of being alive and being able to brush your own teeth? (In both cases there will come a day when it is otherwise.) And what if this tiny practice led you to be more aware of your gratitude for other small things in your day...until maybe it turns out there really aren't small things at all but only opportunities to be thankful.

Pastor Ken



SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAYS JANUARY 16TH & 23

Happy New Year! It's an important time of year when we gather to share our 2022 budget plan and hear from you! Please mark your calendar for these two important meetings:

January 16 Budget Review (aka the Meeting Before the Meeting) – an opportunity to look at the 2022 budget proposed by the Finance Committee and to ask questions before the Session meets to approve it.

January 23 Congregational Meeting – a review from the Church leaders and committees of TPC life in 2021, and most importantly, the Congregation will vote on Pastor Ken's "Terms of Call".

Both meetings will be held after worship. The Congregational Meeting will be streamed on Zoom so those watching from home can participate in the voting.

Lynne Neilson, Finance Admin. Elder



WHY PLEDGE?

The definition of pledge is to commit to a person or organization by a solemn promise. A pledge is a promise, not a contract. A promise to help fulfill the visions of the community called Tualatin Presbyterian Church for 2022. There are many variables in this crazy COVID world and that makes extra challenges for those pledging and for the Elders

preparing a budget. The pledges are a foundation that the Finance Committee can build on to predict how much money is available to continue and grow the programs of TPC. Thank you to all who have pledged already. For those who haven't made that promise yet, there is still time to make a pledge at tpcspirit.org/pledge, or by mail.

Lynne Neilson, Finance Admin. Elder



EMAIL FROM SUSAN FEE, OUR PARISH NURSE, REGARDING COVID

Susan (Springer), I was going to try to write something for the newsletter. Unfortunately we are having a 20% positivity rate with Covid right now. I'm too busy at work and too fried after work. I would just tell people to stay home. If you can't stay home, limit the number of people you are with. Avoid crowds. Wear your mask (or 2) over your mouth and nose. Get vaccinated and get your booster. We are running out of doctors, nurses and tests. I still think we are close to working our way through this, but we are not there yet.

Happy New Year 🍷 Susan (Fee)



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 CAROLING

The Lessons and Carols program on December 19 was great fun. We sang several Christmas carols and listened to readings telling the story of Jesus's birth. It was outside for safety, and we had a small but enthusiastic group so the singing was joyous and good cheer plentiful! Coffee and cookies were provided at the end as well. Thanks to all who made it a success!

Emily Bavaro



Many thanks to all who responded to the recent Women's Ministry Survey on ways you would be interested in being more connected to other TPC women. Overwhelmingly, survey results indicated you would be interested in these activities:

- Coffee Connection: small groups gather for socialization only – held either in a member's home or a coffee place.
- Lenten Bible Study, which would consist of small groups gathering for a defined Bible Study during the 2022 season of Lent.
- Finally, there was good interest in the Women's Retreat, tentatively planned for June 3-5, involving at least one night stay at Menucha Retreat Center in Corbett, OR.

The Women's Ministry Connections Team will take those inputs and roll out some plans for getting us together in 2022.

Judy Nix

MISSION COMMITTEE

A HUGE thank you to the congregation for their response to the Giving Tree and the Cookie Sale.



Despite given a narrow window to respond, all 5 families and 9 children were fully subscribed and contributions for Winco food gift cards were over subscribed. We had planned to provide \$100 to each family, but thanks to your generosity, each family received a minimum of \$150, with larger families receiving more. Packages were delivered to the families on Sunday afternoon, December 19th. Thank you for your prompt and generous response to this TPC tradition.



Our own Carolyn Hale and Judy Nix did a superb job of channeling Russ Carlin in their appeal for the TPC Holiday Cookie Sale, Saturday, December 18. And what an effective job they did! The congregation responded enthusiastically and we had six tables stacked full of home made goodies. The total income from the sale was \$1,230 - the highest on record! Proceeds will go to Compassion International in support of the two children we sponsor: Estalin in Ecuador and Sarah in Uganda. Yet another TPC tradition could not be overcome by a mere pandemic.

On behalf of the Mission Committee, thank you for your generous support to those less fortunate than we. You, truly, are a caring congregation.

Chip Kyle. Mission Committee



THANK YOU!!

We are so grateful for everyone's donations to Family Promise during this Christmas Season. All the families received Christmas packages containing coats, hats, gloves and each family member received a personal gift.

We continue to shop for groceries for the families, so donations will continue to be helpful. The cold weather shelter continues to succeed for 22 families.

Pam Bowen and Derrilyn Bayha
pamelaabowen@gmail.com dabayha@mac.com



HOW FAMILY PROMISE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

You really are making a difference when you support Family Promise as evidenced by this guest's story:

"This Christmas is so much better than the last one. I was in a really tough place and didn't even have a tree. My son had just been born and I bought a plastic one at the Dollar store and put it on my dashboard to remind me that this was the bottom and that things would only get better. While we lived in my car, I stared at that tree everyday. I kept the faith in that tree all year while struggling to get on my feet.

I finally found Family Promise and my life changed. I have this beautiful real Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments that I love and now gifts under the tree. My son is safe and warm in this beautiful motel room. I'm surrounded everyday by you guys who support me in every way.

I have a path forward for a better life and I am ready for it. Thank you so very, very much."

Article submitted by Judy Nix



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES at the Good Neighbor Center (GNC) homeless shelter

GNC is asking our community more than ever before for help this holiday season. The pandemic has been a challenge, and they are unable to find enough paid workers to successfully fulfill their mission.

The GNC needs volunteers to work in shifts alongside their Resident Support Staff at both locations: either the GNC – Tigard location at 11130 SW Greenburg Road in Tigard, or 3333 SW 198th Avenue in Aloha. They are asking for folks to volunteer in, at least, 4 hour blocks.

Duties would include greeting donors and other volunteers, guests and residents, letting residents into their rooms, signing off chores, answering phone calls, sorting donations and other front desk duties.

Time blocks would look something like: 6AM – 10AM; 10AM – 2PM; 2PM – 6PM; 6PM – 10PM.

We welcome your support for as long as you are able. We also need overnight host volunteers who can stay overnight at the GNC-Tigard location from 10PM – 6AM.

If you want to help out, please contact Sarah Beck. She is putting together groups of volunteers through the church, ages 12 to 100. If you haven't physically volunteered with Good Neighbor Center before, you must complete a volunteer application at goodneighborcenter.org/volunteer-application. Please list days you are available and in the "Reason for Volunteering" section please list "Sarah's group."

GNC now requires all volunteers who serve on-site to verify COVID-19 vaccination.



ART SHOW EXHIBIT IN JANUARY, 2022

January, 2022, will be the two year anniversary of the start of the pandemic. The new year represents the resurrection of the church. Five pieces of original art on the theme of the miracles of Jesus will hang in the sanctuary windows, as they will help mark the beginning of our transition from a season of grief, trauma and isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, to a recovering, changed congregation moving forward in faith.

Sunday, January 16th through Sunday, February 7th, Tualatin Presbyterian Church will host an art exhibit of works created during the pandemic. If you have created some form of meaningful art during this time, and would like to display it in the TPC art exhibit in January, please contact Sarah Beck for more information.

We are also asking folks to share photos of family and loved ones who passed away during the pandemic. Please email photos to Sarah Beck at dyfm@tpscspirit.org. The deadline for photo submissions is Sunday, January 9th.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS CARETAKER

With the resignation of Bob Paetsch, our very capable former Building and Grounds Caretaker, we are looking for someone to fill this position.

An abbreviated job description is below.

Provides general care and maintenance of church building and grounds. Responds to written building and grounds maintenance requests as approved by the Building and Grounds Elder.

Primary Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Supplement Janitorial Service: Spot clean carpet, as required, make minor repairs, empty trash, as needed, restock paper supplies in restrooms, check and adjust thermostats on a regular basis, maintain uncluttered inside storage areas.
2. Exterior Care: Supplement landscaping contractor services, set out garbage, yard debris and recycling bins for weekly pickup.
3. Lighting: Replace failed light bulbs, adjust time for exterior lighting.
4. Painting: Touch-ups, as needed
5. Sanctuary and Narthex: Coordinate chair arrangement in the sanctuary with volunteer help, assist Art Director in changing and displaying seasonal art
6. Safety and Security: Meet with fire inspector during annual safety inspections, as directed by Building and Grounds Elder.
Provide backup to the Building and Grounds Elder in securing the church after Sunday services.

If you are interesting in applying for this position, please contact Greg Owen 503-819-5303, GLO.Consulting@comcast.net



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT TUALATIN PRES. CHURCH

Registration is requested to attend in-person worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. To register, go to the church website, tpcspirit.org and click, on “Registration is requested to attend in person. CLICK HERE to register.” For those who don’t register ahead of time, there are sign-in sheets to record attendance. We need to know who is present each Sunday in case we need to do contact tracing. Thank you.

Currently on the church website, tpcspirit.org, there are links to view the recorded memorial service for John Martin and the memorial service for Art Barry.

If you scroll to the bottom of the website home page you will find a link to the Daily Morning Prayer at 9 am PDT. You are invited to attend.



TUALATIN VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE

TVF&R’s Fire & Life Safety Division presents its winter edition of the “[Safety First](#)” online newsletter for residents, businesses, and families.

This edition offers holiday and winter storm safety tips, advice on how to prevent fall injuries, insight on the importance of ensuring firefighter access to structures and water sources in the event of a fire, electrical safety, as well as consumer product safety recalls.

If you have ideas on topics you would like to see covered in future editions or have questions, please email SafetyFirst@tvfr.com.

TPC 2021 FINANCIALS	Actuals	Budget	Dollar Difference
Operating Income Year to Date 11/30/21	\$356,477	\$367,083	(\$10,606)
Operating Expenses Year to Date 11/30/21	\$339,553	\$376,907	\$37,354



Most photos by Sarah Beck.



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
2 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube	3 9 am prayer on Zoom	4 9 am prayer on Zoom	5 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am Loving Stitches 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	6 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm bell choir	7 9 am prayer on Zoom	8
9 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube 4 pm Special Session Meeting	10 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Deacon Meeting	11 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Stephen Ministry/Zoom	12 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	13 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am TPC Readers/Zoom 7 pm bell choir	14 9 am prayer on Zoom	15
16 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube Meeting before the Meeting	17 9 am prayer on Zoom	18 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Session Meeting	19 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am Loving Stitches 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	20 9 am prayer on Zoom 10 am TPC Readers/Zoom 7 pm bell choir practice	21 9 am prayer on Zoom	22
23 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube Congregational Mtg	24 9 am prayer on Zoom	25 9 am prayer on Zoom 9 am February newsletter deadline 7 pm Stephen Ministry/Zoom	26 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal	27 9 am prayer on Zoom 7 pm bell choir practice	28 9 am prayer on Zoom	29
30 10 am in-person, and on-line worship at www.tpcspirit.org Also on Facebook and YouTube	31 9 am prayer on Zoom					

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

04-Eleanor Damiano
04-Mary Shiffer
06-Rosemary Willis
07-Riley Reding
08-Deb Carlson
09-Steve Olsen
12-Jeff Cameron



12-Wendy Love
12-Susan Springer
15-Karen Jones
16-Herb Richardson
17-Joen Morris
18-Mary Maleta
19-Scott MacHaffie
20-John Collins
21-Pam Bowen

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

The church office is closed due to COVID-19.

Worship with us on line, Sundays at 10 am.

Go to the church website, www.tpcspirit.org, or Facebook, or YouTube.

To leave a message, call 503-692-4160.



9230 SW Siletz Drive
Tualatin, OR 97062



2022

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 a.m. in person, and on line at www.tpcspirit.org

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Ken Hood

Parish Associate: The Rev. Dr. Richard Wiggers

Elders: Dave Backen, Russ Carlin, Sandy Gurney, Lynne Neilson, Judy Nix, Greg Owen, Carolyn Pursinger, Patrick Ramos, Ian Swanson

Deacons: Derrilyn Bayha, Susan Cameron, Linda Fukasawa, Carolyn Hale, Jason James, Dianne Lemmon, Karen Ramos, Herb Richardson, Sheri Schipporeit, Beth Schulke, Kerry Weaver, Rob Wiesenthal and Rosemary Willis.

Director of Family Ministries: Sarah Beck

Financial Assistant: Mike Shiffer

Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor: Susan Springer

Director of Music Ministries: Emily Bavaro

Accompanist: Dr. Ron Fabbro

Bell Choir Director: Debbie Ivanov

Building and Grounds Caretaker: Open

Art Director: Chris Robertson

Bereavement Committee Chair: Barbara Crall

Blood Drive Coordinator: Scott Cameron

Clerk of Session: Craig Bowen

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

Technology Chair: Open

Treasurer: Chip Kyle

Tuesdays Treasures Coor: M&M Shiffer, Denise Collins

Video Editor: Rob Thompson

Wedding Coordinator: Stacy Mauer

The office is closed. Can leave voice message at 503 692-4160. We will get back to you.