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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR KEN

Did you know that people are getting better at... Tetris?

Well, it's true. People are getting better at Tetris, and it's a bit of a puzzle as to why this is. If you haven't played it recently Tetris was a wildly popular a computer game created by Alexey Pajitnov in which differently shaped pieces fall from the top of the screen, and your job is to rotate the pieces so that they fit together to create layers. As you advance in the game the pieces fall faster and faster, until it feels all but impossible to manipulate the shapes fast enough to make them fit.

Now, on the one hand it shouldn't come as a surprise that people are getting better at this game. People have been playing it for thirty years at this point. Generally, people get better at something the longer they work at it. But what's curious is how few people are playing today. Back in the 80's and 90's millions and millions of Tetrisites were being mesmerized by the Russian folk theme song and glowing blocks. Today, only a tiny, tiny number of people are still playing it. And generally one would think that the greatest progress would occur when the greatest number of people are working on the problem.

But according to thought leader John Green in this case people only got better when the pool of players became smaller, and the community of players became more connected. In small, highly connected groups people learned from other. They learned that in the beginning stages for instance you want to create negative space on the right of the screen. But in the later stages when the pieces are falling faster you want to leave gaps in the middle of the screen. And in these small, dense communities they began to see people achieve goals like maxing out the total score or getting past Level 30 once thought impossible. And then, once people saw that these goals were achievable, more and more people put the work in and mastered these goals, too.

Why am I telling you about a video game from the 80's? Because what's true of Tetris is why churches like TPC are so important. In North America midsize congregations like ours are becoming increasingly rare. Current statistics hold that around 90% of churches have 100 or less members, while 90% of people attending churches show up to congregations with 1,500 or more adherents (the technical definition of a megachurch). In other words, the vast majority of churches are tiny, and most of these congregations are struggling just to keep the lights on. But a small number of mega churches have nearly all the people. The main challenge megachurches face is the vast majority of those attending show up on Sunday but make few meaningful connections with others in attendance and are disconnected with the church until the next Sunday. (Obviously, this isn't always true. Many people are highly connected to large membership congregations. I'm referring to statistical realities which don't account for individuals.)

Midsize churches like TPC provide a critical and, increasingly I'm afraid, unique space for people to come together in a space small enough to foster connection but large enough to be self-sustaining. And instead of learning how to manipulate pixels on a screen- people in mid-size congregations practice learning how to be human with one another in the context of faith and hope. In spaces like this we encounter ideas that stretch us. We hear stories from others that touch us in surprising ways and remind us we're not walking alone. And, in what feels like an increasingly polarized time, we can laugh with friends who sometimes hold different views from ours and remember that being part of the body of Christ is more important than how we choose to vote. And, it's a place where you learn new things...like why people are getting better at Tetris. ☺

I hope you'll join my family in continuing to support TPC with our time and our treasure, for the true treasure lies in the relationships we make, the lives we help, and the people we love. I continue to be so grateful to serve as your pastor.

In Christ,





## FAMILY PROMISE OF TUALATIN

**VALLEY** is reaching the home stretch to opening our doors. Our current plan is to begin serving homeless families as soon as January 22nd. The most visible evidence of our progress is the incredible upgrades to our day center, a key program component.

The day center is an integral part of our program. Our families will use the day center for their home base from 7 am to 5 pm. They will be supported by a case worker as they research and apply for benefits and resources, identify housing opportunities, conduct job searches, clear-up paperwork or financial issues and move to quickly regain housing and independence. The center provides a stable location for schools to pick-up school aged children. Younger children will receive childcare while their parents work to regain stability for their families. The center also provides showers, laundry facilities, and homework space.

With the efforts of more than 100 volunteers over the last three weeks, the day center has been transformed from a vacant home in disrepair to a revitalized and inviting home base for our guests. Our volunteers shared their skills and energy and contributed more than 1,000 hour of labor. Many of these volunteers were TPC members. As with prior opportunities to support Family Promise, TPC members exceeded all expectations for participation and generosity. I have never felt more gratitude for the opportunity to be a member of TPC where the Christian values of service, compassion, and creativity are exhibited freely. A heartfelt “thank you” is extended from the Family Promise Leadership Team for every talent you have shared, effort you have made, and dollar you have given toward the success of building our program. TPC has played an integral role in building our program and will soon have the opportunity to work directly with homeless children and their families providing them hope and opportunities for a brighter future. May God bless our collective efforts to serve these families.

Gina Olson





**STEWARDSHIP HARVEST POTLUCK**  
 There will be a potluck after worship on Sunday, **November 4**. An RSVP is appreciated, but not required. All are invited.



**JANUS TREE NEEDS DECORATIONS**

The Janus Tree is set up in the narthex and is ready, willing and able to accept your donations of hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks and related items. What is Janus? It is a Multnomah County based

organization offering a series of programs designed to provide a second chance for at-risk youth with few resources, and no place to turn for help. Broad based activities address homeless and runaway youth, teen parents and residential re-entry programs. Janus' programs are recognized locally, regionally and nationally for building healthy children, healthy youth and healthy families.

Each year as inclement weather sets in, TPC has generously donated clothing to help ward off the chill and damp of Northwest winters. We need your help to make sure the tree is fully decorated. **We will collect donated items now throughout November** and deliver them to Janus' administrative offices after the last Sunday of November. Chip Kyle, Mission Comm Mbr



**TRIENNIUM 2019 IS THIS SUMMER!**

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium** is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland

Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. The 2019 event is July 16-20, 2019 at Purdue University in Indiana. The theme for the 2019 event is "Here's My Heart".

Ages: Incoming high school freshmen to outgoing seniors. **Registration begins: November 5th, 2018**. If any TPC high school students are interested in going, please contact Sarah Beck. More information coming soon!

\*\*A note about travel: participants over 18 will need a form of government issued ID. Since we are going in July, it won't yet need to be a passport; those regulations take effect in October.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**

**WHAT IS HANGING OF THE GREENS?**

It's a family friendly service that starts the season of advent.

During the service we decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. The supplies are organized and spread out in the narthex. As you enter the church you may be given a slip of paper that asks you to do something, such as:

- Bring in the window candles
- Bring in the wreaths and windowsill greens

The service bulletin tells you when to do your task. We sing Christmas hymns and read scripture. The service ends with *Joy to the World*.

Afterward we gather in the narthex for fellowship and a potluck supper of soup and salad. It's a wonderful way to start advent. Again, the date and time are Sunday, December 2, probably at 5 p.m. (Stay tuned for time confirmation.)



**TPC CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE at Sue and John Hayhurst's Home**

Sunday, December 9, 5:30 to whenever. Bring a favorite appetizer and/or beverage to share.



**MISSION SPONSORED COOKIE SALE**

The famous (infamous?) TPC Cookie Sale will be Saturday, December 15, 9 am to 2 pm.

**SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Session met with our seminarian Annica Gage via teleconference and reviewed her progress toward her goals. Session approved her moving forward as a "Candidate," the next step toward her goal of pastoral ordination.

With the advent of the school district's program of offering 4-year old preschool, the Tualatin Valley Preschool that meets downstairs at TPC is encountering serious financial difficulties. Their requested rent relief was granted and a special session meeting is scheduled after worship on Sunday, December 16th with TVPS to review and evaluate their plans for their future success and survival.

The trial program of allowing Family Promise to use the TPC van reported last month is actually for six (not three) months duration. To facilitate that use, a sign will be placed in our parking lot to create a reserved parking slot for the van. Other minor adjustments are being made.

The installation of improved lighting in our parking lot is in progress and may be completed by the time you this read.

The above information has been compiled from meeting minutes. Complete copies of minutes and reports are available in the church office.

Rick Crall, Clerk of Session

## GIVING

### END OF YEAR TAX PLANNING TIPS

Charitable givers older than age 70-1/2 with an IRA account may find it beneficial to make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** from an IRA to a favorite charity. Such a distribution is made directly from the IRA to a qualified charity and limited to \$100,000 annually. A **Qualified Charitable Distribution** from an IRA can be counted as part of the required annual minimum distribution and is excluded from taxable income. This is especially advantageous when a taxpayer is taking the standard deduction. With changes to the tax law, fewer taxpayers will be itemizing deductions, the means by which donations to charity are deductible.

Specific IRS regulations can be complex as to the type of eligible IRA and how the direct contribution is made. If you are older than 70-1/2 with an IRA account, consult your tax advisor as well as your IRA institutional holder to determine if you might benefit by donating through your IRA.

Another tax planning tool is to create a **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**. By creating a DAF, a donor can make a large contribution to a fund but distribute those dollars to charitable organizations over multiple years. This allows the donor to still take advantage of the charitable giving itemized deduc-

tion in the first year, then utilize the larger standard deduction in the following years. Contributions to a DAF are irrevocable but provide a variety of tax advantages. The Presbyterian Foundation offers a DAF; consult your tax advisor for additional options.

If you have any questions about setting up your donations to TPC, please contact our financial assistant, Mike Shiffer (finance@tpcspirit.org).

Happy Giving! TPC Finance Team  
Maureen Wolf, Stewardship & Admin. Elder

### STEPHEN MINISTRY AT TPC

Starting in January, 2019, the Stephen Leaders will start teaching **Stephen Ministry classes to those who would like to train to become Stephen Ministers**. Are you interested? We are currently accepting applications (which can be found on the round table at the top of the stairs.) If you have questions about Stephen Ministry, please talk to any of the Stephen Leaders or one of our eleven Stephen Ministers.

If you feel that life is throwing you challenges and you would like to have a Stephen Minister to talk to, please fill out a pink "Why Meet With a Stephen Minister?" card and let us know. Sign-up cards are on the cabinet outside the church office.

### SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS AND USHERS at 9:30 am

Come hang out at the church on a Sunday morning at 9:30, either at the front door or at the glass doors leading into the sanctuary. Greet your fellow worshipers. No set-up or tear down! Oh, we do ask that you help pass the offering plates and that the bulletin people take microphones around during Joys and Concerns. Would you help? There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex. Choose a Sunday that works for you and write your name. Thank you!

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2018 FINANCIALS	Actuals	Budget	Dollar Difference
Operating Income Year to Date 9/30/18	\$307,692	\$309,374	(1,682)
Operating Expenses Year to Date 9/30/18	\$299,370	\$309,492	\$10,122

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Paul and Linda Fukasawa sold pumpkins as a fundraiser for TPC youth programs. Thank you!



TPC youth made birthday bags for the Tualatin School House Pantry as a community service project.



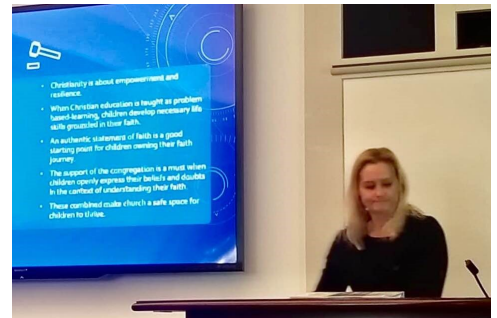
The TPC youth will host coffee hour after worship on the fourth Sunday of every month.

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS WAS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30



## SARAH BECK IN THE NEWS

Sarah Beck completed her 18-month Youth and Theology certificate program at Princeton Theological Seminary on October 17, 2018. Congratulations, Sarah!!!



## LOG CABIN PROJECT GRANT - THE PRINCETON INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



# TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

For the latest calendar updates, go to [www.tpcspirit.org](http://www.tpcspirit.org) and click on What's Happening, then select Calendar from the drop-down menu.

## November, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Chancel Choir rehearsal 9 am to noon
<b>4</b> 8:30 Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Sunday School Stewardship Harvest Potluck after worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7 pm Mission Mtg  7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 am Bell Choir rehearsal
<b>11</b> 8:30 Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	<b>12</b> 7 pm Deacon meeting	<b>13</b> 7 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed and Supervision	<b>14</b> 10 am Loving Stitches  7 pm Chancel-Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 10-11:30 am Book Club #1 at Hagan home  7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast
<b>18</b> 8:30 Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7 pm Tuesdays Treasures  7 pm Session Meeting	<b>21</b> 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> <b>THANKSGIV'G</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> NO Adult Edge 10:00 Worship and Sunday School	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9 am December newsletter deadline 7 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed and Supervision	<b>28</b> 10 am Loving Stitches  7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 10-11:30 am Book Club #2 at Hagan home.  7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01-Carolyn Barker  
01-Karolyn Phillips  
01-Gary Roth  
01-Chuck Spencer  
03-DonnaLee Benner  
05-Patty Farrell  
05-Valerie James  
07-Bruce Benner  
08-Kitty Taylor  
09-Sydney Cameron  
09-Ruth Hormann

09-Adele Pelletier  
09-Kathy Sweetland  
10-Nicholas Sweetland  
11-Heather Bartlett  
12-Pamela White  
14-Susan Fee  
14-Julie Paimore  
14-Adam Winkler  
16-Emily Ricker  
16-Stephen Ricker  
17-Madison Broughton  
17-John Olsen

19-Erin Dwyer  
20-Becky Backen  
22-Cailyn Bowen  
22-Melinda Woods  
23-Bob Bolton  
26-Kendra Sundt  
27-Eva Dwyer  
28-Rene'e James  
29-Denise Collins  
30-Jay Wilcox

**TPC office hours can vary.** Please call ahead to confirm the office is open.  
Monday, 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.



9230 SW Siletz Drive  
Tualatin, OR 97062



**TUALATIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9230 SW Siletz Drive, Tualatin, OR 97062

**Phone:** 503-692-4160 **Email:** [office@tpcspirit.org](mailto:office@tpcspirit.org)

**Web Address:** [www.tpcspirit.org](http://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, Judy Nix, Greg Owen, Emily Ricker, Chris Robertson and Maureen Wolf

**Deacons:** Derrilyn Bayha, Jan Bender, Susan Cameron, Peggy Gibbons, Emily Gibson, Carolyn Hale, Jason James, Gina Olson, Kerry Weaver, Rob Wiesenthal, Pamela White and Chapin Zakrzewski.

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

Hospitality Coordinator: Bonnie Nord

Membership Coordinator: Diane Paetsch

Men's Fellowship Group Coordinator: Mike Weaver

Parish Nurse: Susan Fee

Prayer Chain: Greg Imus

Treasurer: Jennifer Ayers

Tuesdays Treasures Coor: M&M Shiffer, Denise Collins

Webmaster: John Martin

Wedding Coordinator: Stacy Mauer

**Office hours may vary; call ahead to confirm.**

Monday – 9:00 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m., Friday – 9:00 a.m. to noon